

BRIAN GOSS • THE FIRING LINE

Brian Goss grew up in the Catskill Mountains outside of Woodstock, New York and released his first record at the age of 17. The youngest of four music-aficionado brothers, whose father left when Goss was 2, he had access to his siblings' vast record collections and began teaching himself guitar at the age of 9. Brother Robert moved to London when Goss was 10 and sent him tapes of Joy Division, Bauhaus and The Birthday Party; when home, Robert took Goss to The Pyramid Club and after-hours parties at Save the Robots. His brother Tom worked at The Ritz and as a roadie with The Ramones. With this experiential impact and familial influence, Goss was almost fated for a career in music.

Goss formed The Warmjets in 1987 with his two brothers Robert and Tom and Mike Billera. The following year, they moved into the abandoned Talking Heads loft in New York City. They released their first 7" single on Bob Mould's (Hüsker Dü) then brand-new label SOL Records. A no-wave explosion of sonic alchemy, it put them on the map, playing shows with Pussy Galore, Circle X and Live Skull. The band's apex was touring with Jane's Addiction on the *Nothing's Shocking* tour in 1989. Thereafter, Tom left to play with Jack Bruce.

Goss reunited with Tom in 1991 to form Dripping Goss, a band that would endure for close to a decade. With their self-released albums, *Flake* (1991) and trippier *The Shifter* (EP, 1993), the band found a large, devoted following. The band signed to Profile/Another Planet Records in 1994 and released *Blowtorch Consequence* (1995), an innovative combination of noise, metal and acid rock. The shows became legendary in part due to fire-blowing Billera, who would paint himself with clay, dance and set himself on fire. The band toured with acts including Mike Watt, Unsane and Fugazi.

During this time, joining in 1994, Goss also recorded and toured with longtime friends, legendary New York hardcore band Warzone, with numerous releases on Victory Records out of Chicago. Goss toured throughout Europe and Japan with Warzone and was with them until frontman Raymond "Raybeez" Barbieri's death in 1997.

Goss and Dan Souza rebuilt Dripping Goss, adding Curt Steyer and Tobias Ralph, and when New York's *IndieCent* magazine started their own Popsmart Records, they released the brutal *Gift of Demise* (EP, 1997). *The Village Voice* proclaimed, "dig the dissonant jiggle of Dripping Goss's "Before the Fall."... [T]he chunky breakdowns and spacey outro jam were smokin'." Hilly Kristal offered the band a deal on his CBGB records. Dripping Goss practically lived in a rehearsal studio where intense emotion would inform the highly conceptual *Blue Collar Black Future* (1999), produced by Genya Ravan (Dead Boys) with a cover shot by Mick Rock. Goss calls the band's fifth album its most mature and expansive.

In 2001, Goss teamed up with then-unknown poet Simone Felice and formed Fuzz Deluxe. Originally a lounge band, they played supper clubs, then Dominic and Stuart's notorious late-night parties at Joe's Pub. Sharing a devotion to '70s AM music, Goss and Felice penned over 50 songs together before Simone moved on to start The Felice Brothers.

Goss then joined Gary Posner (Tom Tom Club) at his company Whirled Music. There he composed scores for The Discovery Channel, History Channel, Nickelodeon and ESPN.

In 2008 Felice called Goss to play guitar on his latest project, The Duke and the King's "Nothing Gold Can Stay." After its release Goss toured with Felice's band through England and Spain.

Goss has returned to the studio to record his first solo record. Set for a fall 2009 release, this latest, introspective album is called *The Firing Line*. Brother Tom returns on drums and Brian adds piano to his list of duties. Goss' favorite musicians provide the eclectic instrumentation to his newest recording, for which he writes his most honest and sincere songs. Goss describes it as a record about heartbreak, perseverance and conciliation. As the title track says, "Everything falls in place on the firing line."