

Senior releases first record as career blossoms

By Frances Michelle Lopez

Guesting on "Boston Public," starring in over a dozen commercials and going on a 15-date tour of the United Kingdom may seem like something out of the ordinary for the average high school student, but for senior Justin Lanning, it's life.

At 17, Lanning has landed numerous roles in television shows, commercials, plays and even a couple of films, but his real focus lies in his work as a professional musician. Having released his first self-titled solo album under his very own Kulprit Productions, Lanning is out to make his mark in the entertainment industry with what he calls "The Beatles meets Metallica."

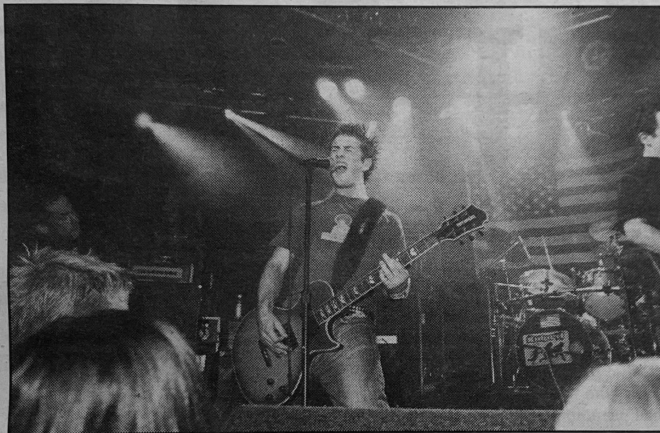
"I played the Whisky-a-GoGo when I was 13 years old, and ever since then, I've had a love for live performances and being in front of a crowd," Lanning said.

Lanning spent nearly a month touring Europe with his former band Kulprit, which decided to break up

after a management deal went sour.

"We went through a bunch of cities in the UK, and that was a blast," said Lanning. "I was in Oxford, England playing to at least 1,500 people at The Zodiac, and the place was moving so much that it actually shook the stage. It was definitely an explosion of energy."

His new album took three months to make and can be found at various Borders Books and Music stores



PLAY IT LOUD—Senior Justin Lanning gives it his all at his concert at the Whisky-a-GoGo. Photo courtesy of Justin Lanning

across California, as well as at his Web site, www.justinlanning.com.

"I played every instrument on my album and wrote every song," Lanning said. "What I value the most

about making music is being able to grow without any boundaries attached."

One of Lanning's younger sisters, freshman Skylar Lanning predicts a promising future for her brother.

"I think it's great that he's making things happen," she said. "He's a very hard-working and dedicated person, and I'm very proud of him."

Lanning came into the spotlight at age six, when he starred in a Pizza Hut commercial that ran for three years. He has many notable acting

credits on his resume including a part in the 1998 Best Short Film winner at the New York Film Festival, "Have a Periwinkle Day." But no matter how many notable acting credits Lanning gains, he will always have a special connection with and an appreciation for making music.

"My songs speak of love and the trials and tribulations of life," Lanning said. "I'm out to send a positive message to my fans and get my music out to the world."

According to Justin, his parents are "the most supportive people in the world." His mother is known for being responsible for starting mosh pits during his shows.

"What can I say? I'm a ham," Lanning said. "I love being in the spotlight."

As a senior this year, the question of whether he will be attending college or further pursuing his musical has come up.

"I would like to see what the world has in store for me," he said, "but I definitely love learning and that will never stop with me."