

GOAT

Remember songs? Those three or four minute things with all the great lyrics, melodies, and instrumentation? Well, Goat does and his stunning new album ***All Of My Friends*** is full of them.

“I just love music. I can’t explain it,” enthuses the New York City-based singer-songwriter. “All I do is play piano or guitar and write songs. I love it. And I thank my stars that I’m able to do this.”

Goat relocated to New York City from Cleveland to actualize his musical ambitions. He quickly picked up a gig at the famed **Power Station** recording studio, which led to playing on a **Nils Lofgren** song “Oh Baltimore.” He began his performing career in earnest, joining local rockabilly revivalist Will Rambeau’s band, pausing only to become the aide-de-camp to **Otis Blackwell**, writer of “**Great Balls of Fire**” and “**Don’t Be Cruel**.” Between albums he worked as the accompanist for the modern dance program at Julliard. Following a showcase at an NYC club, onetime Blondie bassist Nigel Harrison signed him to a deal with Interscope Records.

Music fans may remember Goat from his critically-acclaimed 1998 debut ***Great Life*** (Ruffhouse/Columbia). With no support from the label, Goat scored a hit at radio with the title track, which also landed in the teen slasher ***I Know What You Did Last Summer***, and things appeared to be on the upswing. However, thanks to a bit of corporate shuffling at the label, Goat was released from his contract shortly after the album hit record shelves. While such incidents tend to derail most artists who find themselves in this situation, Goat rocked on undeterred. And he was right recently ***Great Life*** has taken on a life of it’s own backing the most recent Kia commercial with such strength that it has gone worldwide with both a :30 and a :60 second spot.

“I’m one of those fortunate souls that turns all the negatives into positives and that keeps me fruitful,” Goat offers matter-of-factly. “I wanna do something good with my life and sometimes it seems like it takes forever. But I don’t mind if you don’t mind.”

One of Goat’s biggest admirers is **Joe Nicolo**, current president of **Judgment Entertainment**, formerly half of the **Butcher Brothers** production team and president/co-owner of **Ruffhouse Records** (**Lauryn Hill, The Fugees, Wyclef Jean, Cypress Hill, Kris Kross, Nas**, etc.) Joe continued to nurture Goat until he opened the doors of Judgment Records.

Said Joe Nicolo of Goat, "It's not very often you come across an artist that mixes great lyrical sensibility with amazing melodies that absolutely resonate in your head. He is quite the talent."

Goat's Judgement Records debut *All Of My Friends* is an album worth waiting for to say the least. The release fuses Goat's masterful songwriting with playful drum loops and sharpshooter instrumentation courtesy of Goat and friends such as **Chris Whitley**, **T-Bone Wolk**, and **Larry Campell** among others.

Setting the pace for this stirring 12-song collection is the album's title track and single, which features an accompanying video lensed by Goat's pal **Zoe Cassavettes**. Other standouts include the wistful pop of "Dreaming," the loopy spoken word jazz of "Day At The Races" and the acoustic blues of "Star."

"Star came to me at 3:30 one morning," Goat recalls. "I live down in the village and I can look out my window and see a church and hear church bells. I was sitting there in my darkest moment and I looked out at that church and it all just hit me 'Even though I'm bound here by my bones/Flesh and blood will fail some day/I can only kneel and pray/You don't have to be the next big thing/You can be just who you are/Everything is everything/And everybody is a star.'"

With a rock solid new album under his belt, Goat is currently getting ready to hit the touring circuit, an exhilarating task that will no doubt involve spending a few minutes each night explaining that nickname of his.

"I was a kid and went into the corral to pet a goat," he laughs. "In the middle of the corral was a big pile of shit. I thought the goat was tied up but when I got in there that goat knocked me on my ass half a dozen times before I could crawl out of there. The name just stuck. Everybody calls me that now, even my dad."

Goat's sophomore release *All Of My Friends* is being released by Judgment **Entertainment** Records through Lightyear Entertainment, which is distributed by WEA.

The album is set to hit stores on June 28th.