

IN REAL LIFE

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WITH BOY BAND IN REAL LIFE, the word “humble” is almost an understatement. Take five boys who entered a competition show (*Boy Band*) solo for the entire purpose of being paired with other boys to make the ultimate boy band. You’d suspect drama, and a decent amount of ego, but for *In Real Life*, it’s anything but. Comprised of Brady Tutton, Chance Perez, Drew Ramos, Sergio Calderon, and Michael Conor, this boy band is a reminder of what makes young people so passionate about good hearted young men, who are happy to share their gift with the world.

“The show itself was about 10 weeks, we worked for about 10-11 hours a day and on our off days we had a new song to learn. So there wasn’t really an off day,” Brady commented. The boys slowly got to know each other as each week went on and new groups were formed, and in the end wound up getting to know one another extremely well. According to Chance, “You know, in most singing competitions there was only going to be one winner, but in this one we knew there was going to be five. So we all tried to get along... The competition was about being the best at your vocals live.”

And while the competition itself was a challenge, there is a definite pay off for the quintet of kindness that is *In Real Life*. “It’s actually really crazy,” Drew explains, “Because you never actually

experienced the fans. I mean, we did during the show; there would be fans that came out to the show, but it wasn’t until really we started traveling from state to state we saw the crowds that we’re showing up.” The craziness though, doesn’t leave a bad taste in the band’s mouth. “It’s a really good feeling,” Drew continues. “People really care about the music that we’re putting out.”

Beyond their vocals, the music they put out is truly from the heart. “We’ve been recording nonstop since we got together,” Sergio confesses. “That’s been very special to us because each song is very unique and we’re looking forward to putting an album out next year.” It’s hard to imagine anything but uniqueness as each one of the boys personalities shines so brightly through their spoken word, as much as their singing. Each one brings a different element to the group that you may not be able to place, but understand. “We’re very involved in the process, it’s all us,” Sergio continued. And although the first couple songs were a bit more put together by the label, as the boys truly got to know each other, they were able to insert themselves much more into the music. “The songs are very us,” Sergio insists.

And a part of being an “us” is recognizing that individuality in the band. When they won, they felt like they won both individually and

as a band. “Honestly, you go through the process just wanting to have that chance. We were all solo artists before this, and we just wanted a shot,” Michael says. For each member, it was a cool experience getting to know a different group of guys every week, but they ended up with the right group, according to Michael. “Like, my life has changed, but I get to experience it with four of my best friends, he says.” And the rest of the boys completely share the sentiment. “After the show it’s kind of just like... there’s no way you felt like it was a solo thing. You’ve been through everything together,” Drew says. For example, their performance at Universal CityWalk which drew about 1,300 fans when their debut single “Eyes Closed” had just been released the day before. “We didn’t have any idea what we were doing. Everything we’ve been doing we’ve actually been doing together and figuring out together,” Drew adds.

“Whenever people talk to us, they always ask us if we’re looking to be as successful as One Direction, and that’s not really a thought of ours,” confides Brady. “We’re just trying to do all we can. We’re trying to make the music we want to make and have fun making it. So it’s not really like we’re trying to be any other boy band that has come before us.”

And what does *In Real Life* do... in real life? According to

Chance, not much. “We don’t have like, a huge amount of time. When we do, we try to get dinners together. We have AirBNB houses so we try to do whatever at the house. Like, we had a pool table at the houses.” “We also nap,” Brady interjects. “Yeah we nap a lot.” And for five boys who had the entire world watch them for 10 weeks, it’s a pretty chilled out and quiet lifestyle. However, they do have their fun. Drew made known the wooden swords he and Chance like to play around with which has video proof but might take a bit of detective work to find.

For the boys, having fun with this is a top priority. Advice given to Michael from rapper Logic has stuck with him pretty hard. “He told me that it’s important to always make music that makes you happy, to write from your heart, and have fun doing it,” he says. Not unlike the heartwarming advice Sergio received from the Latin *Boy Band* champion, CNCO, “I’ve looked up to them for a very long time,” Sergio says, “The night we won I got a message from one of the guys in the band: ‘Always stay grounded, stay humble.’” And while most boy bands their age might see this advice as standard, In Real Life has truly taken it to heart. They’re looking to do this as long as they can, and as long as it’s fun for both them and their fans all the while appreciating every step of the way. NKO



