



NEW HOPE CLUB



Photography, Interview, and Article written by: Samantha Toy in San Francisco, CA

George Smith, Reece Bibby, and Blake Richardson lounge on a beige couch in their dressing room at August Hall when they stopped by the other month with their label mates, The Vamps. Just a few minutes before the interview, they wrapped up a meet and greet with their lovely Bay Area fans. For these guys, it's a nonstop schedule; for example, they have to adjust to time zones and jet lag constantly, in addition to maintaining relationships with their families back home.

"We're very good! We flew in... when did we fly in?" questioned Blake. Quickly George chimed in stating that they flew in the previous night. "Yeah, what he said! We LOVE San Francisco, so it's always good to be back," Blake also noted.

For New Hope Club, they are no strangers to the city. I mean they have only been to the Bay Area in four times total and sadly they have only been quick visits, but they pretty much know where to go about in regards to tourist spots. Last year in the summer, they were in San Francisco twice they mentioned. When they were touring around the USA with Sabrina Carpenter, they walked around the streets of the city after their show. George even said that they spent the night next to the legendary Golden Gate Bridge. Now this year, they have been to the area twice so far.

"The last time we were here, we were with Sabrina Carpenter on her tour. After the San Francisco show, we had another gig just a few hours away, so we actually slept next to the Golden Gate Bridge like on our tour bus, and when we woke up, we saw the whole Golden Gate Bridge like in the morning as well," said George.

As much as the guys have toured a lot over the years, they actually don't get to explore as much as you think when they are on the road. If you've been following

New Hope for a while now, you know they have visited some of the most famous spots like the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, Hollywood sign in Los Angeles, and Empire State Building in New York to name a few, but they are mostly playing shows or hanging around airports when they're traveling.

"We actually don't have a lot of time off on tour really because we're always flying to places a lot of the time, but today in San Francisco we got to go to the Golden Gate Bridge and the park because it's so cool," commented Blake. "Early today I went to the same place I took a picture [The Masonic] with Tanner, and I was wearing the same jeans and same shoes. I was like 'oh no!' The only difference is my haircut, but that's it though," chuckled George.

In the comparison of the United States and England, there's a vast difference in show sizes. In the UK, they are greeted by fans at the arena, train station, airport, and hotel, but not as much in America. When they perform in the US, they play at venues with a capacity less than 2500 at the moment, but that number will someday change. I asked the guys if they prefer playing arenas over smaller venues or vice versa.

"We obviously love being on tour with The Vamps, and it's always an honor to be with them because we love those boys, but I think we love every kind of show. Like the big shows are great because the fans are crazy and we always have fans constantly watching us, but like the smaller shows are just as amazing and it's so intimate because we get more personal responses with the crowd and see more of the people. So yeah, I think they are both equally as important, but we love playing shows altogether," Blake commented.

I then asked if they get more nervous playing in front of smaller crowds

than arena-sized ones and they all nodded in unison.

"Yeah like we did a little radio show yesterday in Portland, and like fifteen people were watching us, and I was like 'oh my god' in my head because they're all looking at us and watching every move. I was more nervous because I can easily make a mistake," uttered George.

"So like in school during assemblies and stuff we got asked to play a song, and that was the worst because we could go up to like hundreds of people and be quite okay and not that nervous but like playing smaller gigs at school still were super nerve-wracking," voiced Blake.

At one point throughout the evening, I was chatting with George, and Blake while Reece was listening about how they are always busy, but it's worth it in the end. For instance, before the tour even started, the three had a nonstop schedule. They first came off their UK run with The Vamps, had a few days off, flew New York, and then Mexico for shows in addition to day-long press. Furthermore, they still had to fly out to America for their North American run, but they made a stop in San Francisco first to be at a few radio stations then to Seattle, Washington for promo and topping it off with their first United States show the following night. I don't know about you, but that schedule is pretty hectic, and that's just a few days of their schedule this year that I'm aware of. I give a massive appreciation and applause to New Hope Club's tour team, Ben, Tanner, and Joe for keeping everything organized even when they're at home.

While NHC can be in two different countries on the same day, it's tough to keep track of the time. When they have a few moments to themselves, they spend it either sleeping or talking to their families. I've always wondered though if they ever had

an encounter with their parents calling them while they were playing a show, but they laughed and said no together.

Blake chuckled and said, "Haha no we keep our phones either in the dressing room or with Ben." And George mentioned, "Since we're always so far from home and can't see our families much, we try to call, text or Facetime them as much as possible. Time zones are super hard, but we try to keep our parents or siblings updated as much as we can."

In addition to talking about traveling, playing shows, and time zones, all three of them had the chance to share a few weird stories with me while our interview was coming to a close. While they can't have a tour bus everywhere they are in the world, their go-to transportation is Uber.

George started, "We were driving one time, and one guy was driving with one arm." In addition Reece, who was unfortunately sick and needed to save his voice for his set, had a chance to say, "Yeah, one time a guy had a broken arm and blood was everywhere. Another guy brought children's books and was showing us these array of songs so like the whole journey he was singing them while driving."

While ending the interview on a little laugh, the guys also mentioned that they plan to come back to the United States soon, and hopefully next year in 2019. They even have ideas of a headlining tour in North America...?

Make sure to share New Hope Club with your friends, relatives, and neighbors about their EP, *Welcome To The Club Pt.2*. In the meantime, check out their current tour dates, videos and more. It was a pleasure to speak with New Hope Club before the show, and I hope to chat with the guys again in San Francisco!



Photographs by @joshuatphotos via Instagram
L-R: 2017 & 2018



New Hope Club in San Francisco, CA 2017
Photo credit: @newhopeclub via Instagram



Left: Blake Richardson

Instrument: Guitar/Vocals

Age: 19

Twitter/Instagram:

@newhopeblake

Right: George Smith

Instrument: Guitar/Vocals

Age: 19

Twitter/Instagram:

@newhopegeorge



Left: Reece Bibby

Instrument: Bass/Vocals/Drums

Age: 20

Twitter/Instagram:

@newhopereece



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@ August Hall in San Francisco, CA

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