concert team NRW

Bike Routes

Bike Routes is David Lawrence Osterhout. Deeply intimate, earnest, and heartfelt expressions of anxiety, heartbreak, and acceptance lie within deceptively sugary melodies and hooks. David’s acoustic guitar is the anchor, inviting listeners into a notebook full of emotion and authenticity.

The Garden State gave the world Bruce Springsteen, The Misfits, Lifetime, and The Gaslight Anthem. There’s perhaps a bit of the essence of each of those trailblazers within the Bike Routes sound. While the South Jersey singer/songwriter conjures the spirit of the iconic troubadours of indie rock, classic emo, and postmodern pop-punk, he distinctively carves a singularly unique identity all his own.

Songs like “You Want It You Got It,” “World Apart,” and “Airplane” are modern ready-made anthems. Bike Routes' performances of stripped-down versions of Tigers Jaw, Death Cab For Cutie, and Springsteen songs stretch back to a few years before the arrival of his first EP, *Just Let It Go* (2020).

When asked by *Digital Tour Bus* to name his dream line-up, Osterhout offered up Springsteen, Florist, and Movements, with bonus shoutouts to Full Of Hell, Kendrick Lamar, and the Menzingers. It’s a peek into the mind of a thoughtful young artist who absorbs tons of music (and even more books).

“I suppose I’m more of an indie rock or indie-pop songwriter, but emo and pop-punk are what I was raised on,” David reasons. The songs on his debut album, *Love is an Action* (2022), were warmly embraced by audiences who share his diverse tastes and relate to the passion within the songs.

Love is an Action was written and recorded, at first, as a solely acoustic record. But teaming up with producer Zach Tuch (Touché Amoré, Silverstein, Movements) expanded the Bike Routes sound. The resulting collection is the *Rush of Energy* EP, the first Bike Routes release via Blue Grape Music.

Rush of Energy crackles with new urgency and energy. “It’s kind of a culmination. ‘Let’s show the world what we can do if we’re a full band.’ It’s sort of my proof to the world that Bike Routes isn’t just an acoustic act anymore. It’s a full, ready-to-go rock n’ roll band. There is still an acoustic base layer and songs that bridge the gap between *Love is an Action* and where Bike Routes is going.”

The songs explore questions of meaning with powerfully relatable meaning and depth. “It’s still kind of based on growing up in New Jersey, but also on growing up and realizing that a lot of life is out of your hands,” David says. “Coming to terms with it and coming through it, in terms of choosing how we spend our time on this earth. The rush of energy you get when you’re doing something you love.”

Bike Routes excels in the live environment, as evidenced on a Spring 2024 tour with Hawthorne Heights. “Reading books is my hobby. I’m a big reader, and I’ve always loved writing. Learning how to say what I want exactly the right way throughout the years has been a joy. Playing shows is the payoff. Performing these songs that I feel fully connected to and connecting with the crowd.”