

# G A U G E

Chicago punk band **Gauge** played its final show in 1994, putting an end to a brief, but influential, musical career. The band, which formed in 1991, was highly regarded in Chicago's northwest and western suburban punk scenes.

Playing a style of post-hardcore that combined power and melody, Gauge was known for their intense, cathartic performances. The band inspired and performed with other acts from the same area such as **Cap'n Jazz, Friction, Sidekick Kato** and **Braid**.



Pictured Left-Right:

Photo by Ian Whitmore

#### Scott "Gub" Conway

Gub plays guitar and handles most of the vocal duties for Gauge. He is also known for his abstract, yet thought-provoking lyrics. As Gauge's frontman, Gub's blend of charisma and craziness is the perfect fit. He currently plays guitar for **Even in Blackouts**.

*Gub has played in these bands:*

- Red Villain
- Street Wisemen
- The Aldermen
- Lady on the Five
- Ming
- Screaching Weasel
- Ivy League

#### Kevin J. Frank

Kevin's rhythmic and melodic guitar style adds just the right amount of intensity to Gauge. He also does backup vocals and the occasional lead vocal. He currently plays guitar and vocals in **Haymarket Riot**.

*Kevin has played in these bands:*

- Traluma
- the Sky Corvair
- Radio Flyer
- Sweater Weather
- The Kiwi Waltz
- Chariots Race
- Target

#### Neil Sandler

Neil plays bass, keeping the low end in check. His bass lines provide an anchor to Gub and Kevin's guitar parts. Neil was also responsible for booking all of Gauge's tours from '91-'94. Neil currently plays guitar and vocals in **Rollo Tomasi**.

*Neil has played in these bands:*

- Traluma
- the Sky Corvair
- Red Villain
- Supporting Actress

#### Ryan Rapsys

Ryan plays drums and is the force that keeps Gauge from falling into a chaotic mess. His beats are creative while also maintaining a steady tempo. He currently plays practically everything in **Euphone** and drums for **Das Boton**.

*Ryan has played in these bands:*

- Ambulette
- Five Style
- Heroic Doses
- Joan Of Arc
- Owls
- Noyes
- Radio Flyer
- Sweater Weather

But Gauge didn't just stick to the comforts of their familiar stomping ground. Over the course of several regional tours and two U.S. tours, the band shared the stage with groups such as **Green Day, Jawbox, Jawbreaker, Avail, Smoking Popes, Born Against, Screaching Weasel, Kerosene 454, All, Los Crudos, Lungfish, Pegboy, Shudder to Think** and **Trenchmouth**.

Fast forward to August 2009, Gauge members **Scott "Gub" Conway** (*Even in Blackouts, Red Villain*), **Kevin J. Frank** (*Haymarket Riot, Traluma*), **Neil Sandler** (*Rollo Tomasi, Traluma*) and **Ryan Rapsys** (*Euphone, Das Boton*) gathered for the first time in 15 years. By the end of that night, they decided to play reunion shows on March 5, 2010 at the Bay View Brew Haus in Milwaukee, WI and March 6, 2010 at the Bottom Lounge in Chicago, IL.

In December 2009, Gauge entered **Electrical Audio** with **Greg Norman** to record a new song and updated versions of older material. Additional sessions were completed at **Blam!** with **Sean Morrison** in January 2010. In addition, the band also completed "Gauge : II", the remastered second half of their catalog. Both the new recordings and "Gauge : II" will be made available at both reunion shows.

Gauge is often mentioned in the same breath with bands like **Indian Summer, Hoover** and **Current**, which influenced a crop of bands that came out of the mid to late '90s Midwestern post-hardcore/emo scene. Gauge definitely left their mark.

#### DISCOGRAPHY:

- **"Gauge: II"** 21 songs - *second half of Gauge's catalog* - (Shakefork Records), to be released in 2010
- **"Gauge: I"** 23-song CD - *first half of Gauge's catalog* - (Tree Records), 2000
- **"43"** 6-song 10", (Actionboy Records), 1995
- **"Fire Tongue Burning Stomach"** 10-song CD/LP, (Underdog Records), 1994
- **"Swing"** 2-song 7", (Underdog Records), 1993
- **"Soothe"** 11-song CD/LP, (THD Records & Radius Records), 1993
- **"Blank"** 4-song 7", (Shakefork Records), 1992
- **"Demo"** 6-song cassette, (self-released), 1991

#### Compilations

- *A Very Punk Christmas* (The Rocco Empire & Further Beyond Records), 1993
- *It's A Punk Thing, You Wouldn't Understand* (Shakefork Records), 1993
- *Achtung Chicago! Zwei!* (Underdog Records), 1993
- *Split 7" w/ Grout Villa* (Permanent Satan Records), 1992