

# NEW KIDS tokio hotel OFF THE BLOCK



*So you guys are huge in Germany, how has the rest of Europe taken to your music?*

Tom: It's going great for us, it's really, really good at the moment. We ended our European tour a couple of months ago, France was great. The French tour sold out in less than a day! We've been to Spain and Italy, Sweden, and now we're doing England.

Bill: The English version of the album went to number 1 in Sweden. We're playing the biggest venue in Paris in the autumn. It holds 15000 people, and the tickets were all gone in a day, for us it's a dream come true!

*You formed at such a young age, was it difficult to be taken seriously in the industry in the early days?*

Tom: Yeah, we were treated as the little ones at the start; even the label didn't take us seriously in the beginning. So we had to fight for them to listen and respect us because we don't give things away. However, for us starting so young was a good thing as well, we feel very confident, we're as good as the 30 year old musicians!

*What's been the highlight of your career so far?*

Tom: Beside all of the awards! We all agree that the European tour is the highlight though, travelling all over Europe, playing in front of so many people and just being able to do it. It's amazing.

Bill: For me it's really playing live, and it's the reason that we make music at all.

Tom: Oh and we never miss an after show party!

*What else have you got planned this year?*

Bill: I've kind of lost track of the schedule, I mean, we are so busy, we don't really know where we've been, or where we're going, we've already been to Sweden, Italy, Spain... Now we're in London, then we're going back to Paris again, it's so overwhelming, but we really want to come back to England as soon as possible and continue playing live here.

*Who are your influences?*

Bill: My first idol was Nina when I was about six, but I listen to all sorts of stuff, I like Green Day, Placebo and Coldplay.

Tom: It doesn't really matter that all of us are listening to different stuff, I listen to German Hip Hop, which obviously doesn't fit with playing guitar with Tokio Hotel, but our music is our common ground, we all meet there.

Georg: I listened to Oasis for a long time, and I like Fall Out Boy

Gustav: Iron Maiden, Metalica and Foo Fighters...

*What's the craziest thing you have read about yourself?*

Bill: There's no gossip, or news headline that hasn't been said about us.

Tom: I'm surprised that the press keep managing to come up with something, because surely there is nothing to write anymore.

Bill: Every time we have a break,

like the end of last year, the first thing we hear is that we've broken up. Now we go on the internet and make bets between us as to how long it will take for someone to report that we have split up.

Tom: The funniest thing we heard was that Georg isn't a virgin anymore!

*What's the strangest gift you've been given by a fan?*

Tom: We had a star named after us! It's somewhere out there in the universe!

*'Tokio Hotel?' who chose the name, and what's the significance?*

Bill: We were called Devilish, after everything developed, we tried to find a name more fitting and Tokio Hotel was cool. We all love big cities, and although we had never been to Tokyo, we thought it was the kind of place we would love. Hotel is more of a symbol; we spend all our time in them.

Tom: I think it was my idea, Tokio Hotel sounds so cool, it had to be me!

Bill: I doubt it was him.

Gustav & Georg: Yeah, I doubt it as well!

*Bill, just out of personal interest, what products do you use on your hair?*

Bill: I style it myself, and always have; the fans always send me many hair products, so I just use them.

Tom: He probably should start to use my stuff, then he will get the chance to look as good as I do! ★

**The German invasion is happening, and they have a huge sound to slam at your door. Tokio Hotel are twin brothers Bill and Tom, and friends Gustav and Georg. They sing in English now and after just one rather noisy gig in sleepy Islington they've started selling out all over the UK. Jess Waluga checked in...**