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### Chat With Wayne Static of Static-X

# wayne static



At the 2004 Winter NAMM show, Epi representative Will Jones got the chance to sit down with Wayne Static of [Static-X](#). At the show to help introduce his new [Epiphone Wayne Static Flying V](#) model, he shared some of his influences, early band experiences and thoughts on the new guitar that bears his name

**EPI:** Wayne, how did you get started on guitar?

**WAYNE:** I grew up in a musical family and I just gravitated to the guitar. I discovered KISS at an early age and that made me wanna play guitar and do

what I do. They played Gibson's, so I had to play a Gibson. I couldn't afford a Gibson so I got my parents to pony up for an Epiphone junior-size acoustic.

**EPI:** Tell us about your first band experience.

**WAYNE:** I was in my first band in 7th grade; I got together with a couple of neighborhood kids and played KISS songs. There was no other band other than KISS up until I was about 15 years old! We played 'Hotter than Hell' at a school talent show, my first gig. The principal heard us practicing and said 'you can't say hell'...so we substituted a cymbal crash whenever we got to the part..."hot, hot, hotter than CRASH! We were so nervous we messed up several times.

**EPI:** Aside from KISS, who are some of your musical influences or guitar heroes?

**WAYNE:** Alex Lifeson - Rush, Tommy Victor - Prong, and James Hetfield.

**EPI:** What kind of things would you like to do musically that you haven't done yet?

**WAYNE:** At this point, I've explored all the music genres...acoustic, electric, industrial, thrash metal, that kind of shit....I just want to focus on songwriting and specific technicalities of songwriting.

**EPI:** So you mentioned different kinds of music...how about country?

**WAYNE:** I don't feel it. I don't think I could write a country song. I think I could become a rapper...I could groove on that.

**EPI:** What do you try to accomplish when you write?

**WAYNE:** It's a feeling that you get. If I get goose bumps when I'm writing and playing then that's it. It's not something you can easily describe...it's about the feeling, the chord changes, vocal melodies.

**EPI:** Let's talk about your new guitar. How did your new Wayne Static Flying V come about?



**WAYNE:** Well, Gibson came out with the Gothic flying V back in '98 or so and when I saw it for the first time I said that's the guitar I gotta play...so I talked to Gibson Artist Relations and asked to borrow it for a while...they never asked for it back! When I got it I took off the pick guard and one of the knobs...I wanted to minimize, simplify... make it clean and sleek. On the new Epiphone V, I even took out the neck pickup, toggle switch...so I just have the bridge pickup and control knob...that's all I need...for what I do.

**EPI:** So what do you think of your new Wayne Static Flying V?



**WAYNE:** It turned out great...exactly what I wanted it to be. It's a very reliable touring guitar...stays in tune...neck stays straight...good solid guitar, night after night. It's not thousands of dollars...it's a quality, affordable guitar...great to tour with.

**EPI:** What advice would you give aspiring players?

**WAYNE:** Have fun! That's what playing guitar is all about. Don't take it too seriously. Don't worry about being the fastest guitar player in the world, just have fun.

**EPI:** Any other advice on gear?

**WAYNE:** I'm all about cheap gear. Get the cheapest head you can buy...

minimalize...less shit to go wrong...I go guitar, noise gate, amp...all I use. The less crap in the line, the more pure the sound coming out of the speaker. Having a simpler setup forces you to rely on your playing than on your effects unit.

**EPI:** Tell us about your new record.

**WAYNE:** It's called Shadowzone...it came out in October, our third record...and it's good...now go buy it... ha ha!