

Andrew W.K. is an intense gentleman. Whether flailing around on stage in a musty white tee or offering anecdotal life advice at a My Little Pony convention, W.K., known to fans as "The Party King," devotes his everything to, well, everything.

In 2001, the singer—his credit card applications read Andrew Wilkes-Krier—released *I Get Wet* (Island), an epic solo debut stuffed with bombastic arena rock cuts, including "It's Time to Party," "Party Til You Puke" and the immensely popular single "Party Hard." W.K., bloodied and deadpan, adorned the album's cover. His long black locks and sober expression read angry punk; his music sounded exactly the opposite—the work of a Michigan-born New York City transplant looking to live life shrouded in shimmering, late night lights. Consequences, and snarky Pitchfork reviews, be damned.

"I am someone who's had serious negativity and anger and rage hidden within me, always," says W.K. "So when it came to deciding what to do with my life, I [chose] to cheer myself up."

W.K., now 33, oversees an empire built upon on a single, unchanging credo: Party hard.

Since *I Get Wet*, the singer has released four studio albums including *55 Cadillac* (Ecstatic Peace!), an improvisational piano album.



# 'The Party King' reigns

Andrew W.K. brings his angry punk to the Lost Horizon

By Josh Breeden

W.K. runs a Manhattan nightclub called Santos Party House, which Zagat named the best dance spot in New York City. He manages his own record label, Steev Mike, and dabbles in film and television.

W.K. hosted the Cartoon Network's *Destroy Build Destroy* during its four-season run. MTV and VH1 are pretty crazy about him, too.

In 2005, the guy added "motivational speaker" to his lengthy résumé with a string of ad-lib lectures at Carnegie Mellon University, New York University and Yale, among others. He's since adopted a regular speaking schedule.

"The best thing of all time is feeling amazing, and music just happens to be a

really great way to feel amazing," says W.K. "[But] sometimes talking and language can help, too."

The singer cites Richard Simmons as a big speaking influence. "He's very powerful," he says.

"The Party King" also offers up regular encouragement to the more than 240,000 digital audience members that follow him on Twitter. His messages can be strange—"PARTY TIP: Edgar Allan Poe."—or strangely uplifting: "PARTY TIP: We're not held back by our fears, because we're propelled by our dreams. Ride them like unicorns."

Basically, Andrew W.K. is positivity personified—his projects, no matter the

medium, are the products of intense joy. Head-banging, throat-shredding joy.

Last month, W.K. reignited his musical fire with a trip to South by Southwest, in Austin, Texas. "Austin was somehow better than ever," he says.

The singer played three shows and participated in a Spin-sponsored wing-eating contest with Queens rapper Action Bronson at Austin restaurant Wingzup. W.K.'s verdict: "Best wings I've ever had in my life." Obviously.

Earlier this month, W.K. kicked off "The Human Party Machine Tour," which runs through June 7. The singer will also join Marky Ramone, the drummer from those Ramones, for a worldwide tour. The joint jaunt begins May 3 at W.K.'s own Santos Party House.

"This [was] one of those opportunities where you don't even have to think," he says. "Everything that has ever existed since the Ramones has been influenced by them. They were one of the greatest achievements of humankind, period. It [was] like landing on the moon or something."

W.K., who hasn't released a proper album since 2009's *Gundam Rock* (Universal Music Japan), says a new record is in the works. He's had trouble fitting the recording sessions into his calendar, though.

"I want [the new album] to be as good as possible, but I have to record it before I can release it," he says. □

IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** Andrew W.K. concert

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20

**WHERE:** Lost Horizon, 5863 Thompson Road, DeWitt.

**TICKETS:** \$20.



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