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The cleaner needs a cleaner head
Automatically adjusts for carpets and hard floor sealing in one: No bending down, no awkwardly...

Twice the power
Motorized brush bar. An independent motor drives the brush bar, which beats the dust from deep pile carpets.
Jack Johnson’s Good-Life Recipe

The Hawaiian singer on surfing with his fans, gardening at the recording studio, and wiping out in front of Kelly Slater.

by ROB TANNENSAUM

On your new album, there’s a song called “Tape Deck” that seems autobiographical.

It’s the story of my high school punk-rock band. We played a lot of Minor Threat songs, and also Fugazi, Descendents, Bad Religion — stuff like that. The band name would change from month to month. We were Stony Dog Fish for a while, and then we became Limber Chicken.

Sounds more like the names of jam bands.

It’s true — we were probably the most un-punk punk rocker you ever saw. We wore surf kits, still wearing flip-flops — dippers, we call them here — and boardshorts. Fugazi had great lyrics, like “You are not what you own,” and I was heavily influenced by them and by Minor Threat.

Did punk rock’s DIY ethos influence you?

Yeah. In fact, when I A&R record producers first heard my music, they asked to speak with my manager. So I asked my friend from — a well-known video — to pretend to be my manager. He read this book How to Be a Music Manager and then just stood there through the entire interview with this producer who had worked with artists like Cillan Dion and Michael Jackson. Emnett is still my manager.

What’s your favorite thing to do when you get back to Hawaii?

The first thing I do — even before I walk into the house — is spend a half hour checking out my garden. I grow taro, spinach, kale, eggplants, peppers, and a lot of different herbs. My recording studio is a quick bike ride away, and I raise a garden with chickens and eggs. When we’re recording, the band can pull plants and make a salad.

Is it fair to say that you love surfing more than you love music?

Yeah, that’s probably accurate. Surfing is more ingrained in who I am. It’s what my family does together. The waves are a social place where we meet up with friends, and where I go to visit my father, who’s passed on. Whenever I go out on the ocean, I feel like he’s still with us. And he still is, in certain ways.

What was a defining moment of your surfer career?

At 17, I’d made the trial finals of the biggest surf event there is, the Pipeline Masters, which was a really big deal. I was feeling invincible. A week later, Kelly Slater and I were surfing together on the Pipeline, which is a very extreme wave. The sun had set, and as a wave came, Kelly said, “You won’t go,” which is a thing our friends say to dare one another. I rode the wave for a while and jumped off, as I’d done a million times before, but it was low tide, and I dove straight into a coral head. I knocked out my front teeth and needed 150 stitches in my face. I ran up the beach to my house, and a family friend was sitting on the front porch — he happened to be a paramedic. I had blood gushing from my head down to my feet, and he covered my mom. I was always my mom’s boy, and I kept telling her, “It’s OK.”

What’s your dad say?

“Chick’s dig scars. Don’t worry about it.”
CHAOS & HEROISM
Inside the Arizona Blaze That Killed 19 Firefighters

DUCK DYNASTY
From Hell-Raisers To Redneck Moguls

Damian Lewis
The Troubled Heart of Homeland

The $500 Home Gym
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Perfect Coffee at Home
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Fall Yard Cleanup Tools