

## MUSIC SCENE:

## MAXWELL PARIS



MAXWELL PARIS IS PLAYING "DANGEROUS GAMES"

BY JOE LIMONGELLI

The bottom line is that when you put your heart, soul, blood, sweat and tears into a personal project, you're going to come out with a winner. Add an abundance of natural talent to it and you take it one step further. From the land of Berwick comes such a fellow who calls himself Maxwell Paris. This is one heck of a record in more ways than one.

Like any local product without a major record company behind it, Paris' "Dangerous Games" release has taken some time to catch on. Released back in April of this year, this 13 song gem is worthy of any music connoisseur's record collection. Within Paris' press pack lies the statement: "Dangerous Games is a culmination of 15 years of songwriting and performing from an artist who can do it all." That's an understatement to say the least. Get this - Paris wrote all the songs with the exception of "Heart Of Ice" which was co-written by Buggy Derr, who provided lead and harmony vocals, played all the guitars, bass, keyboards, drums, and whatever other instrument you hear on Dangerous Games. Oh, and by the way, he also produced and engineered the project. Where? You guessed it, in his own home recording studio. How does it sound? It's a 10 folks.

The collection's opener "Kill me With A Kiss" is an immediate ear catcher, something that could be a part of any radio station's current day playlist. The recording is almost too perfect, which summoned me to talk to Mr. Paris and question the use of computer digital instruments.

"Actually, 99% of Dangerous Games is all me, playing real instruments in real time. I did use some sequences, but for most part what you hear is what I played on a given instrument; just me, only me," says Paris.

Maxwell Paris is actually a pen name, the only comparison to the artist's real name is in the initials. Paris' real name is Michael Plevyak. "I just grew tired of my name being mispronounced and misspelled. In the name Maxwell Paris I found something catchy, memorable, and easy to say," added the artist. A few years back Plevyak started a production/publishing company on which the title "Maxwell Paris" first appeared. Common sense took the name to the music as well. A wise choice indeed.

Since it's release back in April, Maxwell Paris has attained a variety of fans statewide, and has also managed to conquer something in Northeast Pennsylvania that is a rarity; airplay on a number of area stations. Those stations include: Harrisburg's famed WTPA, WHITE in York, WQSU in Selinsgrove, Lehigh Valley's WZZO and our own WVIA FM compliments of the ever so supportive George Graham.

Summing up the entire Dangerous Games package in a nutshell, Paris explains: "Dangerous Games as a whole represents and relates to the risks and rewards of romantic relationships, which is the lyrical essence within each of the songs. Songs such as "The Traveler" will captivate the listener with it's soulful approach, while the eeriness of "I Wanna Make Love" grabs the heart. Best song efforts include "Pressure Zone" and "No Easy Way Out," both easily marketable within today's radio standards.

Maxwell Paris is for real, real in talent and real in authenticity. I've heard some great things come out of Pennsylvania musicians throughout the years, and this one truly leads the pack in the best of the best category. Currently, Maxwell Paris is deep into recording what will be his second release, offering something a bit different than Dangerous Games.

Ultimately, Paris' plans include forming a group of stalwart musicians to take his music to the live stage. That is something I would truly like to see and hear. For now you can pick up a copy of Dangerous Games at The Gallery of Sound locations and The Wall Support a local who really delivers the goods.

ALL ABOUT  
MAXWELL PARIS

**What one line from one of your songs best describes Maxwell Paris?**

From Tower of Love: "I am the hunger, you are desire, we move together like wind and fire."

**How did you arrive at the Maxwell Paris name?**

The initials M and P are from my real name, Mike Plevyak. Maxwell Paris was much more catchy and memorable.

**What is your age?**

I dare not say.

**Who do you site as your favorite band or bands?**

I love Mr. Mister. Also Neil Schon, the guitarist for Journey. He's the best of the best. He also did a great album called "Untold Passion" with keyboard wiz Jan Hammer.

**Where did you give your best live performance?**

A few years back I was in a group called Rocking Horse from the Berwick area. It was in a club there that no longer exists, but I just remember everything being right on that evening. The band, the sound, the lights, the crowd, etc.

**Where's your ultimate dream performance?**

For some reason, I'd get a kick out of doing a major show at one of our area amphitheaters. The Spectrum in Philly is a dream as well.

**What is your favorite original Maxwell Paris tune?**

"The Traveler." It speaks of me, some of my best lyrics.

**Describe Maxwell Paris' style of music?**

Oh, I'd hate to say without it sounding so cliché. I really hate to label myself. The next project may take a complete turn musically. You never know.