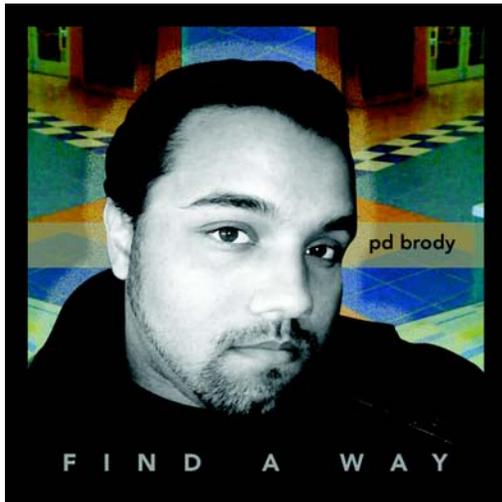


Man connects with his Bloomfield roots on EP

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BY CHRISTOPHER RENDA, STAFF WRITER | BLOOMFIELD LIFE



Bloomfield High School alumnus P.D. Brody records a song penned by his father Don, a Hoboken musical luminary, who died when P.D. was 5.

Perry "P.D." Brody, who graduated from Bloomfield High School in 2010, is out with his first EP.

"Find A Way" consists of a block of originals, with some co-written tracks, and ends with the song "99 years," which was originally penned by his father Don, a Hoboken musical luminary, who died when P.D. was 5-years-old.

"It took about a year to get it done. I wanted it to be the best it could be, and that's why it took so long to get it out," said Brody. His mother and step father, of Bloomfield, helped. She designed the cover (in addition to doing web design) and he took charge of recording.

The sound is a "little bit of rock, a little bit of pop and folk. I write all my own and add a lot of covers as well," he said.

"It was a lot of failed experiments," Brody continued. "We'd try a setup - try an

arrangement - and for whatever reason it just didn't sound like I wanted it to."

"Eventually, we decided we'd keep it simple, just me and my guitar, and that's what the final product ended up being."

He said in terms of performing his "first bite of the apple" was in a second-grade talent show. While he's still in school at Kean University in Union, his horizons have expanded in recent months. His gigging is "sort of a weekend warrior type of thing."

At a young age, Brody watched his father play local restaurants, and after his father's death, began taking guitar lessons from a family friend who owned a Hoboken music shop. "Jim Mastro at the Guitar Bar in Hoboken gave me free piano lessons," he said.

"I've been on the open mic circuit in New Jersey for years."

He plays each weekend, mostly coffeehouses and bars, around the tri-state area.

In 2013, Brody was nominated for "Best New Male Act" at the Jersey Acoustic Music Awards in Ocean Grove. He did not win, but described it as a "cool experience" and a chance to network.

In addition, he is involved with United Methodist Church in Bloomfield and recently took part in a mission trip to Haiti. They helped a schoolhouse build a bathroom.

Brody confirmed that he brought his guitar with him, and the children "seemed to enjoy it."

"I'm still trying to hone in on my sound and my genre and things. It'll come in time, I believe."

Information on his music and performance dates can be found at www.pdbrody.com and on Facebook.