

= Grandaddy =

Grandaddy is an American indie rock band from Modesto , California , formed in 1992 . The band consists of Jason Lytle (vocals , guitar , keyboards) , Kevin Garcia (bass guitar) , Aaron Burtch (drums) , Jim Fairchild (guitar) and Tim Dryden (keyboards) .

After several self @-@ released records and cassettes , the band signed to Will Records in the US and later the V2 subsidiary Big Cat Records in the UK , going on to sign an exclusive deal with V2 . The bulk of the band 's recorded output was the work of Lytle , who worked primarily in home studios . The band released four studio albums before splitting in 2006 , with band members going on to solo careers and other projects . Grandaddy reformed in 2012 and have since made a number of live appearances .

= = History = =

= = = Formation and early releases = = =

Grandaddy was formed in 1992 by singer , guitarist and keyboardist Jason Lytle , bassist Kevin Garcia and drummer Aaron Burtch . The group was initially influenced by US punk bands such as Suicidal Tendencies and Bad Brains . Lytle was a former professional skateboarder , who had turned to music after a knee injury forced him to stop skating , working at a sewage treatment works to fund the purchase of equipment , and several of the band 's early live performances were at skateboarding competitions .

The band members constructed a studio at the Lytle family home , and the band 's first release was the self @-@ produced cassette Complex Party Come Along Theories in April 1994 . Singles " Could This Be Love " and " Taster " followed later that year . In 1995 , guitarist Jim Fairchild (another ex @-@ pro @-@ skater who had guested with the band before) and keyboardist Tim Dryden joined the band . A second cassette , Don 't Sock the Tryer was withdrawn , with the band instead releasing debut mini @-@ album A Pretty Mess by This One Band in April 1996 on the Seattle @-@ based Will label .

In 1997 they released their debut full @-@ length album Under the Western Freeway , and with the help of Howe Gelb , signed a UK deal with Big Cat Records (by then a subsidiary of V2) , who reissued the album the following year . The album included the single " A.M. 180 " , which was featured during a sequence in the 2002 British film 28 Days Later , and is also used as the theme song for the BBC Four television series Charlie Brooker 's Screenwipe , and for an advertisement for Colin Murray 's BBC Radio 1 show . " A.M. 180 " was also used in television commercials for the Dodge Journey automobile . One of the album 's singles , " Summer Here Kids " , was awarded ' Single of the Week ' by the NME . " Summer Here Kids " is also used as the theme music for another Charlie Brooker @-@ fronted show , BBC Radio 4 's So Wrong It 's Right . The album led to an increase in the band 's popularity in Europe , and a main stage performance at the Reading Festival in 1998 , although it was only a success in the US when later reissued by V2 . With the band busy touring in 1999 , their next release was the compilation The Broken Down Comforter Collection .

= = = V2 record deal = = =

Unhappy with the efforts of Will Records , the band signed a worldwide deal with Richard Branson 's V2 Records in 1999 , their first release on the label being the Signal to Snow Ratio EP in September that year . In May 2000 , they released their second album , The Sophtware Slump , to critical acclaim , with popular British music magazine NME later placing it number 34 in their " Top 100 Greatest Albums of the Decade " list , and The Independent describing it as " easily the equal of OK Computer " . The album reached number 36 on the UK Albums Chart , and the band 's fanbase increased , including celebrities such as David Bowie , Kate Moss and Liv Tyler . By early 2001 the

album had sold 80 @,@ 000 copies worldwide . " The Crystal Lake " , although not a hit when released as the first single from the album , gave the band their first UK top 40 single when reissued in 2001 .

Around the time that The Sophtware Slump was released , Grandaddy was invited to open for Elliott Smith on his tour for Figure 8 . On some nights , Smith would join Grandaddy onstage and sing lead vocals on portions of " He 's Simple , He 's Dumb , He 's the Pilot " . The band later opened for Coldplay on their US tour in mid @-@ 2001 . Also in 2001 , the band 's version of The Beatles ' " Revolution " was used in the film I Am Sam .

Their third album , Sunday , recorded in Lytle 's home studio , was released in 2003 . The band promoted it with a pre @-@ release US tour with Pete Yorn followed by a three @-@ week European tour (including a performance at the Glastonbury Festival) and a larger US tour . Lytle described the album as " Grandaddy influenced by Grandaddy ... the ultimate Grandaddy record " .

In 2004 and 2005 , Lytle recorded what would be the last Grandaddy album , Just Like the Fambly Cat , although by the time of its release the band had decided to split up . The title is a reference to Lytle 's desire to leave Modesto , a town which he complained " sucks out people 's souls " . The album was largely the work of Lytle , who created the album over a year and a half in his home studio in Modesto , fuelled by alcohol , painkillers and recreational drugs , with only Burtch from the remainder of the band playing on it . It was preceded by the band 's final release while together , the Excerpts From the Diary of Todd Zilla EP .

= = = Split and post @-@ Grandaddy activities (2006 ? 2012) = = =

In January 2006 , after a meeting the previous month , Lytle announced that the band had decided to split up , citing the lack of financial income from being in the group as a reason . Just Like the Fambly Cat was released later that year as a farewell album . Lytle spoke to the NME :

It was inevitable ... On one hand our stubbornness has paid off , but on the other hand refusing to buy into the way things are traditionally supposed to be done has made things worse for us ... The realistic part is it hasn 't proved to be a huge money @-@ making venture for a lot of guys in the band .

Lytle had called the meeting in a hotel in Modesto , the first time the band had been in a room together for two years . The feeling at the meeting was described by Lytle as the result of a breakdown in communication among the band members . According to Lytle the decision was not a surprise :

Everybody knew , but we needed to make it formal , we needed to make it official . We needed to pay some respects to what we 've done , just make it real .

Lytle also stated that he was " burnt out on touring " and cited his fears over his drug and alcohol problems as a factor in the band 's split , and in 2009 he expressed his preference for being solo , saying that he was " a bit of a loner " , and , referring to his former bandmates , stated : " The main thing is not having four girlfriends to lug around with me all the time . "

The band did not tour after the release of Just Like the Fambly Cat , though Lytle continued to make music , embarking on a couple of small solo tours , and working with M. Ward on Hold Time . In 2009 Lytle moved from Modesto to Montana , and released his first solo album Yours Truly , the Commuter . In late 2009 Lytle formed the band Admiral Radley with former Grandaddy drummer Aaron Burtch , alongside Aaron Espinoza and Ariana Murray of Earlimart . Admiral Radley 's debut album I Heart California was released on July 13 , 2010 via Espinoza 's label The Ship . In June 2011 , Burtch was also reported as being a member of a band called The Good Luck Thrift Store Outfit . Lytle 's second solo album , Dept. of Disappearance , was released in 2012 .

Jim Fairchild 's first solo album , Ten Readings of a Warning , was released in April 2007 on Dangerbird Records , under the name All Smiles . A second All Smiles album , Oh for the Getting and Not Letting Go , was released on June 30 , 2009 . In 2010 , he was selected to lead a project at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art , and in 2011 he released his third All Smiles album , Staylow and Mighty . Fairchild has also played for the bands Giant Sand , Great Northern , Lackthereof and Modest Mouse , having first played guitar with the latter in 2005 . He currently lives

and works in San Francisco , California .

= = = Reunion and new album in the works (2012 ? present) = = =

In March 2012 , it was announced that Granddaddy had reformed and were to play a limited number of shows , including London on September 4 , and headlining the End of the Road Festival in the UK . Granddaddy also played San Francisco 's Outside Lands Music and Arts Festival and Paris 's Rock en Seine Festival in August 2012 . On August 7 , 2012 , to kick off their reunion tour , they played two small , " secret " shows to a crowd of roughly 250 friends , family and fans at the Partisan in Merced , California . They were billed as " Arm of Roger " .

Regarding the band 's reunion , Jason Lytle noted , " The bargain I made myself regarding the ' brief reunion and couple of shows ' situation was that I wasn 't gonna talk too much about it . I was just gonna stew on it , and then do it . That 's the good thing about festivals . No need for me to sell anything here . Get in , rock out , get paid , get out . There are just going to be a few shows . Festival @-@ type thingies . Perhaps the odd ' warm up gig ' in someone 's hair salon or something . Money was a motivating factor (resurfacing my indoor tennis court , oil change for my 4 x 4 Ferrari) but the idea of playing and hanging out with each other is something all of the guys are pretty stoked about . "

Lytle later noted , " It was actually Jim [Fairchild] ' s fault . He suggested that we consider playing some shows , and I went , ' no ' , [but] he convinced me it might be a good idea . We talked about it for a little while . I didn 't think anyone else in the band would be into it , [and] he checked around and it turns out they were all enthusiastic . I think I was the last one to say yes . [...] I was actually blown away that they even wanted to . Once I found that out , I said ' OK , let 's start doing the work , figure out how to play the songs . ' The weird moment was when he had the first rehearsal ; I had no idea how it was going to turn out . After five days of playing together it actually sounded really good . It was too easy , and we were actually really having a good time together . "

Lytle also noted that he is likely to record a new Granddaddy album , stating , " It 's probably going to happen . [...] If anyone knows anything about Granddaddy , they realise that my [solo] music and Granddaddy 's music is slightly interchangeable . I think if I were to focus on making a Granddaddy record [it would be] a full @-@ blown Granddaddy record , and I like the idea of that . I 'd like to give it a shot . " In early 2013 , Lytle elaborated : " I love the idea of making another Granddaddy record , but I wouldn 't want it hanging over my head like ' Okay , you made this record , now are you guys going to get out there and tour in support of it ? ' [...] I 'm hoping for this dream scenario where I can make Granddaddy records every so often and not have all this messy stuff that goes along with it . I already did that and it 's just not appealing to me anymore . "

In 2014 Granddaddy collaborated with Band of Horses for the single " Hang an Ornament " .

In September 2015 Lytle tweeted that the band is working on a " new GD LP " , which was interpreted by the media and fans as confirmation that a new Granddaddy album is being recorded .

= = Musical style and influences = =

Much of the band 's music is characterized by Lytle 's analog synthesizer and the fuzzy guitar , bass and drums of the rest of the band . The band has variously been described as " bittersweet indie space rock " , " neo @-@ psychedelic , blissed @-@ out indie rock " , " dreamy , spacey psychedelic pop " , and " an uneasy combination of warm , tactile guitars and affectless electronics " . Jon Pareles of The New York Times described the band 's songs as " stately anthems orchestrated with full late @-@ psychedelic pomp : fuzz @-@ toned guitar strumming , rippling keyboards , brawny drumbeats " .

While the band have sometimes been described as ' alt country ' , in Lytle 's view it is the sentiment of country music that the band embraced rather than the musical style . In their early days , the band 's lo @-@ fi sound was compared to Pavement . The band has also been compared to Radiohead (even described as " the next Radiohead " in 2001) , Weezer , The Flaming Lips and Elliott Smith . With Sumday , the band were compared to the Electric Light Orchestra and The Alan Parsons

Project .

Lytle has cited both The Beatles and E.L.O. as influences , stating in 2003 : " I 'm completely in tune with E.L.O. and Jeff Lynne ? I know that guy like the back of my hand . " He stated in 2009 : " I think the majority of my musical influences were set in stone when I was five or six years old . " Lytle 's vocals have drawn comparisons with Neil Young .

= = = Lyrical themes = = =

Common lyrical themes include technology and a resistance to change . Adrien Begrand , writing for PopMatters , described the lyrics on The Sophtware Slump as " one 's attempt to transcend the glut of technology in today 's urban lifestyle , in search of something more real , more natural , more pastoral " . Ben Sisario of The New York Times stated that the band " provided the soundtrack to dot @-@ com @-@ era alienation , singing in a cracked yet still innocent voice of life spent staring into a computer screen " . Ross Raihala , reviewing Sumday for Spin , identified what he called Lytle 's " geeky identification with technology " . On The Sophtware Slump , CMJ writer Richard A. Martin commented on Lytle 's " sympathy for the lost souls and machines of the high @-@ tech dot @-@ com landscape " . Lytle described his empathy with machines in 2003 , stating " I find it easier dealing with certain things by living through inanimate objects " and how the song " I 'm on Standby " is about Lytle relating to a mobile phone : " I was spending so much time learning the art of turning off , while still being ' on ' " .

Lytle said of the tracks on Excerpts from the Diary of Todd Zilla : " For some reason , they are tied together by the idea of being fed up with your environment . " He stated in 2001 : " I have a growing appreciation for that which is simple and natural . I get that from the outdoors , and seeing the accumulation of clutter and waste and not being too happy about it . "

There is also much humor in Lytle 's songwriting , including the band 's promotional Christmas single released in 2000 , " Alan Parsons in a Winter Wonderland " , which was also included on the charity compilation It 's a Cool Cool Christmas , described by AllMusic 's Tim DiGravina as possibly " the funniest song from 2000 " .

= = Recording techniques = =

The band 's releases were generally recorded and mixed in makeshift studios based in homes , garages and warehouses , although the last two albums were mixed in a dedicated facility . Although live performances used a full band , much of the recordings were done by Lytle alone using analog recorders and Pro Tools . He recorded basic drum tracks in a soundproofed room and overdubbed cymbals and tom toms . He recorded his vocals close to the strings of a piano for what he described as a " ghostly effect " .

Lytle described how the Granddaddy recordings became more of a solo effort and the right conditions for recording :

Earlier on I tried to include people as much as possible . Then I realised the magic is me really prying stuff out of my head and getting it on to tape , and that stuff doesn 't happen unless I 'm completely alone . Sometimes it 's about the right amount of blood sugar , just slightly hungover . And I 'm really affected by the weather . If it 's too nice outside it 's insane for me , the concept of being inside . Everybody talks about this whole technology versus nature thing and if it 's anything that is it : look who my best friends are , a bunch of plastic and circuitry and electricity , when I should be running around getting chased by bumblebees .

= = Discography = =

Studio albums

Under the Western Freeway (1997)

The Sophtware Slump (2000)

Sumday (2003)

Just Like the Fambly Cat (2006)