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## Theory of Tides

featured [Richie Frieman](#)

Theory of Tides, the husband and wife duo of Rick and Mirana Comstock, have been paying their dues and quietly making a name for themselves on the NYC scene with bands like Sigh Five and Secret Service (a couple of 5-piece dual guitar bands pushing a new breed or rock sound) for years now. With that said, the direction of their Theory of Tides project may surprise you.

"We are a mix of genres...with currents of alt rock/hip hop/house/trance...washing over each other. We have European fans on Myspace who say we've created a new genre, alt dance." With experience of a rock band lifestyle in hand; the couple has taken to the studio to craft "Swept Away" – a fine representation of their new "Alt Dance" style. Mirana says "The way Rick designed and set up our studio in terms of equipment, digital percussion, keyboards, etc. really allowed us to explore music in a different way. This initial period of discovery led to a stage in which we can now further explore the possibilities...but the songs themselves feel more

informed by the sound. Growing out of it in what feels like a natural, organic way."

It's definitely a refreshing treat to sample some of the new tunes coming out of Theory of Tides, but you'll have to wait for the completed "Swept Away EP" until later this fall. What you don't have to wait for however, are the answers to the XXQ's. Read on for much, much more.

**XXQs: Theory of Tides (Mirana and Rick Comstock)**

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(PEV): How would you describe your sound and what do you feel makes you stand out over the others in your genre?

Well, to a certain extent, we stand out because we are a mix of genres...with currents of alt rock/hip hop/house/trance...

washing over each other. We have European fans on Myspace who say we've created a new genre, alt dance. Which can be very cool...or problematic in this cookie cutter world. But we prefer to think that means we appeal to more people. Which is always a good thing!

**PEV: As husband and wife, are you able to vibe off one another much easier?**

Rick and I actually met when I auditioned for a band he was in, so music has been a big part of our relationship from the beginning. We have a sort of musical shorthand between us. Some couples finish each other's sentences, we finish each other's choruses. We also trust each other more. We have a fairly elaborate digital studio Rick built in our house, and if Rick is working on a rough mix and I'm not there, I know he'll "take care" of my voice in a loving way. On the other hand, people can assume I'm always singing about him...which I'm not...which can also get you into trouble!

**PEV: Calling Massachusetts home, what kind of music were the members of the band into growing up? Do you remember your first concert?**

I'm actually originally from New York and Rick is from New Jersey, right down the road from Jon Bon Jovi. We lived in Greenwich Village for years and had a downtown music studio, so we caught a lot of acts live...the Police, Pretenders, the Clash, U2, Prince, Berlin...I can't really remember the first concert. Seems like we were always going to shows. I went to Juilliard and Music and Art, so I was also exposed to classical music and come from a family of artists, writers and



musicians. Rick used to play with rock bands throughout Jersey, including Asbury's Stone Pony. So our tastes are pretty eclectic. But if the song is there, we're both into it, whatever the genre.

**PEV: What was it like trying to break into the music scene when you first started out as a band? What was your first show like together as a band?**

Theory of Tides has been a purely studio band...our studio...up to this point. We previously fronted New York bands Sighs Five and Secret Service, both five-piece, two-guitar rock bands. Our first gig with Sighs Five was at CBGBs in New York. I remember the floors were really sticky, the set went really well, and the crowd was into it. Except owner Hilly Crystal, who thought we were "a little too mainstream." We played the New York club circuit a lot in those days, including opening for acts like the Joe Perry Project, were in rotation on rock radio and had videos on MTV. We put those



Sighs Five videos up on [youtube.com/theoryoftides](https://www.youtube.com/theoryoftides) recently for fans who were interested in our musical beginnings.

**PEV: What can fans expect from a live Theory of Tides show?**

We are a lot about the beat/pulse/groove and listen to dance music more than anything else right now. So, hopefully they will feel that tidal pull...and find themselves dancing in the aisles.

**PEV: What was the underlining inspiration for your music? Where do you get your best ideas for songs?**

It's a mix...partly from personal experience...or sometimes words or ideas trigger a different way of looking at things. For example, "Chemistry of Tears," on ToT's first CD, was inspired by an article about how tears caused by sadness have a different composition than tears caused by getting something in your eye. I thought it was fascinating how your body differentiated those things.

**PEV: What's one thing we'd be surprised to hear about the members of Theory of Tides ?**

That there are only two of us...?

**PEV: You said of your latest release, "Swept Away," that "We feel the new songs are both tighter and freer, more organic." Tell us more about this album and why you feel the way about these songs.**

Our debut ToT CD was a departure in many ways from the way we had recorded and played in the past. The way Rick designed and set up our studio in terms of equipment, digital percussion, keyboards, etc. really allowed us to explore music in a different way. This initial period of discovery led to a stage in which we can now further explore the possibilities...but the songs themselves feel more informed by the sound. Growing out of it in what feels like a natural, organic way.

**PEV: Tell us about the story behind the band name.**

"The dynamics of fluidity, the pull of bodies in motion, the ebb and flow of attraction..." Fluidity seemed to be at the essence of our new music. Researching words and ideas involving that led us to the scientific Theory of Tides, dating back to Newton and Galileo. The definition seemed a perfect fit for our fluid mix of dancey beats, genres and songs. We also liked that it was both scientific and natural, like our combo of electronica with live instruments and vocals.

**PEV: With all your traveling is there one area you wish you could travel around and play that you have not yet?**

We played the New York tri-state area extensively with previous bands. I guess with Theory of Tides, it would be really interesting to get West Coast reactions to the music. And, of course, Europe. They seem to be into the whole trans genre thing.

**PEV: How have all your friends and family reacted to your career? What's it like when you get to play at your hometown?**

We've been musicians for a long time. I think the oddity for people who knew us was that we stopped playing for a while...life as a major distraction, and all that. So the fact that we're back making music seems to inspire a sigh of relief from friends..."Oh good, they're back doing what they were meant to do."

**PEV: What can we find each of you doing in your spare time, aside from playing/writing music?**

Spare time...hmmmm...not sure I can remember the last time we had any of that! But seriously, I'm also a photographer...you can see some of my images at [miranacomstock.viewbook.com](https://www.miranacomstock.viewbook.com). And we both love to dance and get away to the Cape to hit the club scene as often as possible. We also have a fabulous cattle dog/baseni mix, Macs, so lots of long walks by the beach with him.

**PEV: Name one present and past artist or group that would be your dream collaboration? Why?**

For me. Yesterday: Debussy...cool guy, great, fluid music. Today: Lady Gaga. Probably wouldn't be into the meat dress (vegetarian), but it's great theatre and, underneath it all, the songs are definitely there. Plus think of the videos! For Rick. The Clash from the past, Pit Bull from today.

**PEV: So, what is next for Theory of Tides?**

We're still finishing up tracks for our new EP, Swept Away, which is planned for a fall release. And thinking in terms of taking it live...would love to get back out there! There are also a couple of video projects on the drawing board, too, to support the EP. And, as always, lots more songs we're working on.

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