



Fitting In By Standing Out

joe pagetta

by Whitney Sandford

New Jersey native Joe Pagetta has found his place in the hearts of folk-lovers, rock enthusiasts, and college students everywhere with his sophomore album, *Joywood*, released last year. Currently a resident of Tennessee, he returns to his old stomping grounds this month for two shows, one in Asbury Park and one in New York City.

Initially unsure of where his music would fit in, Pagetta's own amalgamation of intellectual folk-rock is quietly receiving recognition all over the U.S. and England for being not only original, but also inspiring. He moved from Jersey City to Tennessee in 1998 and released his 1999 EP *Recollections Of Maybeville*. His first album, *Small Worlds*, was released in 2001 on Fully

Dressed Records.

Pagetta's next album, *Joywood*, however, has been getting a significant amount of attention—especially on college radio stations. The reason for the sudden increase in interest? A more evolved sound. While Pagetta's musicianship and lyrics were never lacking, his move from mostly acoustic to slightly more electrified arrangements as well as his ever-developing storytelling lyrics have only improved with *Joywood*.

On Aug. 4, Pagetta plays at The Saint in Asbury Park, N.J. The Saint is located on 601 Main Street and is \$7. Doors will open at 8 p.m. and the show is 21+. Pagetta's show on Aug. 9 is in New York City at The Cutting Room on 19 West 24th Street. The show is \$10 and doors open at 7 p.m.