

FINITE

ZINE

QUARANTINE DEBUT ISSUE

ANDY CIZEK

INSIDE MODERN METAL'S MOST VERSATILE VOCALIST

KAMPON

EXTREME METAL AND FILIPINO POETRY'S LOVE CHILD

ISOTOPES

ON HONESTY AND INTRUSIVE EXPRESSIONS



New Release

LIVE!

EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS FROM HALFNOTE MUSIC KICK OFF PARTY AND MORE!

PLUS

- TROPHY KNIVES
- TRVGEDY
- ANNE APOLINAR
- BJORN SANTOS
- AND MORE!!!

ARIEL LUMANLAN

TALKS ABOUT SUCCESS AND SIGNING WITH HIS DREAM BRAND



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EDITOR'S NOTE

issue # 001 may 2020



Karen González
President/Editor-in-Chief

My team over at Finite Fam had a HUGE year last 2019, with us bringing over Australian heavyweights Alpha Wolf here in the homeland, as well as launching our first ever Finite Fest with one of our favorite bands Of Virtue all the way from Michigan, and we partied. We partied hard. Today, we are currently facing an unfortunate worldwide pandemic; shows are getting cancelled, and we are also taking a break just like everyone else until further notice, however, we won't allow this to hinder us from bringing you quality entertainment with the safety of being in our own homes, and so with this, I proudly present to you--the first ever issue of THE FINITE FAM ZINE.

Finite Fam takes pride in always showcasing the best in both the local and international alternative music, and we have all of that in store for you here. In the IN DEPTH segment, you will find new featured artists; rising bands and also creatives who work behind the scenes and are part of what makes things happen in the scene. We also have an exclusive interview with vocal extraordinaire Andy Cizek and local guitar icon Ariel Lumanlan in CENTERSTAGE, as well as some recent LIVE events that took place before the community quarantine.

Again, on behalf of the team, thank you for the consistent support you shower us, thank you for allowing us to do what we love. We do this for you, always.

See you all soon, don't text your ex, and wash your hands frequently!

President



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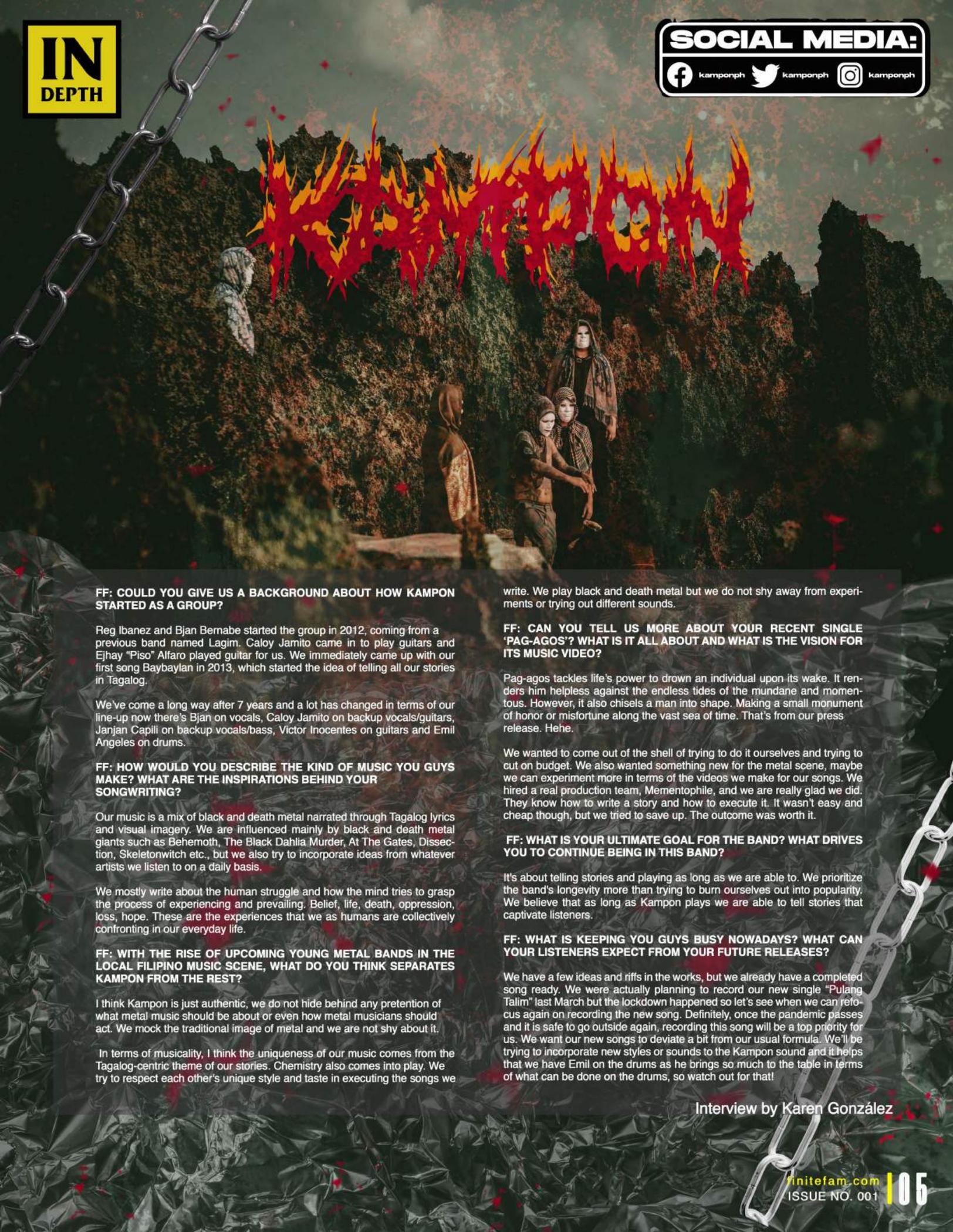
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FF: COULD YOU GIVE US A BACKGROUND ABOUT HOW KAMPON STARTED AS A GROUP?

Reg Ibanez and Bjan Bernabe started the group in 2012, coming from a previous band named Lagim. Caloy Jamito came in to play guitars and Ejhay "Piso" Alfaro played guitar for us. We immediately came up with our first song Baybaylan in 2013, which started the idea of telling all our stories in Tagalog.

We've come a long way after 7 years and a lot has changed in terms of our line-up now there's Bjan on vocals, Caloy Jamito on backup vocals/guitars, Janjan Capili on backup vocals/bass, Victor Inocentes on guitars and Emil Angeles on drums.

FF: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE KIND OF MUSIC YOU GUYS MAKE? WHAT ARE THE INSPIRATIONS BEHIND YOUR SONGWRITING?

Our music is a mix of black and death metal narrated through Tagalog lyrics and visual imagery. We are influenced mainly by black and death metal giants such as Behemoth, The Black Dahila Murder, At The Gates, Dissection, Skeletonwitch etc., but we also try to incorporate ideas from whatever artists we listen to on a daily basis.

We mostly write about the human struggle and how the mind tries to grasp the process of experiencing and prevailing. Belief, life, death, oppression, loss, hope. These are the experiences that we as humans are collectively confronting in our everyday life.

FF: WITH THE RISE OF UPCOMING YOUNG METAL BANDS IN THE LOCAL FILIPINO MUSIC SCENE, WHAT DO YOU THINK SEPARATES KAMPON FROM THE REST?

I think Kampon is just authentic, we do not hide behind any pretention of what metal music should be about or even how metal musicians should act. We mock the traditional image of metal and we are not shy about it.

In terms of musicality, I think the uniqueness of our music comes from the Tagalog-centric theme of our stories. Chemistry also comes into play. We try to respect each other's unique style and taste in executing the songs we

write. We play black and death metal but we do not shy away from experiments or trying out different sounds.

FF: CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR RECENT SINGLE 'PAG-AGOS'? WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT AND WHAT IS THE VISION FOR ITS MUSIC VIDEO?

Pag-agos tackles life's power to drown an individual upon its wake. It renders him helpless against the endless tides of the mundane and momentous. However, it also chisels a man into shape. Making a small monument of honor or misfortune along the vast sea of time. That's from our press release. Hehe.

We wanted to come out of the shell of trying to do it ourselves and trying to cut on budget. We also wanted something new for the metal scene, maybe we can experiment more in terms of the videos we make for our songs. We hired a real production team, Mementophile, and we are really glad we did. They know how to write a story and how to execute it. It wasn't easy and cheap though, but we tried to save up. The outcome was worth it.

FF: WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL FOR THE BAND? WHAT DRIVES YOU TO CONTINUE BEING IN THIS BAND?

It's about telling stories and playing as long as we are able to. We prioritize the band's longevity more than trying to burn ourselves out into popularity. We believe that as long as Kampon plays we are able to tell stories that captivate listeners.

FF: WHAT IS KEEPING YOU GUYS BUSY NOWADAYS? WHAT CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM YOUR FUTURE RELEASES?

We have a few ideas and riffs in the works, but we already have a completed song ready. We were actually planning to record our new single "Pulang Talim" last March but the lockdown happened so let's see when we can refocus again on recording the new song. Definitely, once the pandemic passes and it is safe to go outside again, recording this song will be a top priority for us. We want our new songs to deviate a bit from our usual formula. We'll be trying to incorporate new styles or sounds to the Kampon sound and it helps that we have Emil on the drums as he brings so much to the table in terms of what can be done on the drums, so watch out for that!

Interview by Karen González



QUEB

GREYHOUNDZ

VALLEY OF CHROME

TYPECAST

SKYCHURCA

The Republicals

— COMING SOON —



trvgedymhc



trvgedymhc

TRVGEDY

FF: WHEN AND HOW DID YOU FORM TRVGEDY? WHAT INSPIRED YOU GUYS TO MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER?

The band started wayback 2016. It was founded by Robin Cablayan (Vocals) and Kenneth Alindo (Lead Guitar) along with our former members named Menard Dela Cruz and Mark Repuya. We started to jam out some stuff on a small studio and eventually formed a band. Our original band name was We Found Tragedy but we eventually landed as TRVGEDY. We made it as "V" instead of "A" cause we think it looks cooler (lol).

After playing some shows, some of the members departed from the band until we've got Aya Ignacio (Drums) but he needs pursue his studies so he step down as a drummer and then we added Vinvin Del Rosario (Bass) and Yhan Delfin (Guitar) who came from the extended circle of friends. That was the time we finished our first single called "Deadlocked" and released it wayback 2018. At that time, we don't have a permanent drummer for a while and we tried some friends to jam with us but it didn't ended well.

Lastly, Kenneth decided to recruit Ian (Drums) cause they've known each other for a while and Ian was very known about his drumming ability and we think that he saw something in us and joined the lineup shortly afterwards. We think we pull inspiration from the bands that we listen so it only felt natural to kind of draw from that inspiration but make it our own.

FF: DO YOU HAVE A BRAND LOYALTY WITH YOUR INSTRUMENTS OR WILL YOU PLAY WHATEVER IS AVAILABLE? WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE THE INSTRUMENTS YOU HAVE NOW?

KENNETH, YHAN, VINVIN: As the guitarists and bassist of this band, we decided to use maple fret guitars and bass cause we feel that this is the best instrument that is fit to the music that we are playing and we are comfortable using this kind of guitars and bass. When it comes to the branding, Kenneth is using Fender Telecaster guitar, Yhan is using ESP LTD TE-212 guitar and Vinvin is using sterling sub by musicman for bass.

IAN: I am using Hickory, size 2B for my sticks. I also use Gibraltar Double Pedal 1st gen for my pedal. For cymbals, I use Arborea Cymbals, it was made in China and those B20 cymbals is perfect for my style. They were sound fantastic and versatile. For my drum kit, lately, I'm in love with Ludwig, it was given by JB Music when I won the Dutdutan Drum Duel 2019. For my snare 14x6.5 Tama SLP Figured Birch.

ROBIN: I prefer using AKG mic.

FF: IS THE SOUND YOU HAVE RIGHT NOW SOMETHING YOU'RE CONTENT WITH OR ARE YOU STILL OPEN TO DISCOVERING A DIFFERENT ONE?

We are very in love with the sound that we are creating cause this is the tone or style that we are digging and the band have always had a passion for playing within this kind of music specifically melodic hardcore music. However, we don't want to put our music in a box and refer to it as one thing cause we are influenced by a wide range of different artists so as much as possible, we try to combine these within our own sound, in that way we feel that it makes us different and the best part about being in a band is exploring and finding yourself, not only as a musician but as a person.

FF: THE MUSIC VIDEO FOR 'APART' WAS RELEASED A FEW MONTHS AGO, WAS THE FEEDBACK FROM LISTENERS SOMETHING YOU ANTICIPATED? TELL US MORE ABOUT WHAT THE TRACK AND VIDEO IS ALL ABOUT.

This track is actually an old song and we didn't really expect anything when we released Apart, all we want is to share it and it blows our mind when we've got a lot of positive feedbacks and appreciation in our music. We are just thankful for all the people who helped us in making this music video specially Paul of Lostthreads who directed it cause everything was made out of a tight budget.

This song is all about the feeling of being hopeless, the feeling of giving up from something you want to achieve or accomplish. As a person, we're all struggling at some point of our lives and we think people can relate from it. From the lyrics "Love is enough to tear us apart" We meant to say that sometimes, your love for someone or something you thought that could make you a better person is the one will destroy you instead, so that is the time for you to give up and just let go.

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT OUR LOCAL UNDERGROUND MUSIC COMMUNITY?

There's a lot of good bands in our local underground music community right now and we loved that you support old or upcoming new artists music, gigs and give us a voice to let people know why we do this. It would be tough to do what we do without people like yours and we're super happy we have such a supportive friends in our scene. And we also have a few weeks of studio time booked in for mid year. Covid-19 has obviously put a lot of delays on a heap of our plans but we are doing our best to work around everything.

Photo by Paul Layacan

Interview by Jam Oliver



ISOTOPES

FF: WHEN AND HOW DID ISOTOPES BEGIN? WHAT INSPIRED YOU GUYS TO MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER?

ISOTOPES came together approx late 2013, although we underwent consistent member replacements in the beginning to find our path and our direction. It was a very experimental experience at the start with our idea being to write about positivity and our song names to be nothing but movie quotes. Which eventually hit a point where I refused to continue to try and force out songs that meant nothing to me. So we feel as if the band never really formed til around mid to late 2015.

FF: WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL AS A BAND? WHAT DRIVES YOU TO CONTINUE BEING IN THIS BAND?

The ultimate goal is to continue to write with honesty, having our music define a piece of ourselves on a personal level. That basically keeps us going and keeps us pushing to want to tour more and travel. We feel the biggest goal is to continue to connect with our fans through our lyrics in hopes to help those who feel the same as we do.

FF: IS THE SOUND YOU HAVE RIGHT NOW SOMETHING YOU'RE CONTENT WITH OR ARE YOU STILL OPEN TO DISCOVERING A DIFFERENT ONE?

We definitely love our sound and the direction we are taking, but that's not to say that we aren't always switching it up and continuing to play around with it.

FF: IN YOUR SINGLE "R.I.P.", HOW DID YOU GET TOGETHER WITH EMAROSA VOCALIST BRADLEY WALDEN? HOW DID HE FIT INTO THE SONG?

Funny story, I had actually gained Bradley's contact email about a year before hand and while I was getting tattooed prior to being in the studio to record our 'Fractures' EP I was speaking with my friend Bree about how a previous friend of mine (who I wrote the song about) absolutely loved Bradley as a vocalist and of course I've always idolised his amazing vocal range, and I thought to myself wouldn't it be cool to get him to feature on a song that I wrote about this person out of spite to really bring more meaning to the song for me personally. So I emailed Bradley obviously on a professional level. And we kept it contact throughout the whole studio process and the rest is history.

FF: WITH THE RISE OF HEAVY/ALTERNATIVE BANDS IN AUSTRALIA, WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES ISOTOPES DIFFERENT/STAND OUT FROM THE REST?

There are so many amazing bands coming out of Aus that it's always hard to keep up, and it's amazing to see so many friends killing the scene. We feel that we keep our own by bringing the mix of heavy and clean, but keep that raw connection of emotion at the same time.

FF: ASIDE FROM RESCHEDULING YOUR 'FRACTURES ASIA TOUR', WHAT ELSE CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM ISOTOPES IN THE NEAR FUTURE? ANY NEW TRACKS IN THE WORKS?

We will definitely be working on getting our Asia tour back on track ASAP, we plan to attack more festival shows, more international touring which if this pandemic halts we will be potentially hitting the States before the year is out. And we also have a few weeks of studio time booked in for mid year. Covid-19 has obviously put a lot of delays on a heap of our plans but we are doing our best to work around everything.

Interview by Karen González

NEVER RUN

FF: WHAT'S THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME 'NEVER RUN'? HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN EACH OTHER AND WHAT MADE YOU FORM THE BAND?

Well, the three of us (Mark (drummer), Pat (guitarist and I, Ferd's (vocalist) came from the same band. We've known each other way back 2014, but we decided to leave the band and form a new one.

Most of the members left the band, which is where I got the idea of changing the band name to Never Run. Jay (bassist) and Bok (guitarist) are the latest addition to the group!

The love for music is the main factor that brought us together.

FF: WHAT GENRE OF MUSIC DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR WORK TO BE? WHO ARE YOUR MAJOR INFLUENCES?

Alternative rock genre is the most suitable for us, in our opinion.

We have various musical influences ranging from friends and peers in the music scene, to well-known artists such as Paramore and many more.

FF: BEING A FAIRLY YOUNG BAND IN THE SCENE, WHAT ARE THE EFFORTS YOU HAVE BEEN PUTTING UP TO GET YOUR MUSIC OUT THERE?

We accept and find gigs as many as we can; as long as it fits on our schedules. Also, we take advantage of every social media platform, bringing our music closer to people who share the same passion as we do.

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK IS YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR AS A BAND?

It was when we launched our first single. We really didn't expect that almost 250 people went and that's a lot! (at least for a young band like us) and we're always honored that we are able to connect with people through our music, it's always a great night/time whenever we see our friends and new people singing along to our songs!

We value and treasure every moment that we share and has happened to our band.

FF: DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR REAL "SOUND", OR IS THIS SOMETHING YOU ARE STILL OPEN IN DISCOVERING?

Yes, but with our different tastes on music we are still open to finding more sounds/influences that we can add up to the base of our signature sound.

FF: LASTLY, WHAT'S IN STORE FOR NEVER RUN? ANY MUSIC VIDEOS, NEW TRACKS TO BE RELEASED? WHAT'S BEEN KEEPING YOU GUYS BUSY DURING THIS QUARANTINE?

We've already planned on some things. We are going to record our remaining songs and hopefully we get to release a music video and an album this year! But with the situation, this delayed a bit of our plans.

We are trying to come up with something we can post on our social media and we are trying to write new songs as well.

Photo by Raph

Interview by Jam Oliver

TROPHY KNIVES



SOCIAL MEDIA

 TROPHYKNIVESBAND  TROPHYKNIVESBAND

FF: WHEN AND HOW DID TROPHY KNIVES START? WHAT INSPIRED YOU GUYS TO MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER?

Thank you for having us! It's truly a pleasure.

Trophy Knives started out in 2016. All of us were in other bands before and we just got along really well as friends and when those bands ended, we just had an itch to put out new music so we started writing some songs together which eventually translated to the first E.P we put out in 2017.

FF: WHAT IS THE MAIN GOAL YOU HAVE AS A GROUP?

I suppose one of the main goals that we set for ourselves early on was to tour as much as we can, while we can. Each and every time we leave our area codes and play shows in a new town, city or country and still get positive feedback we are extremely humbled by those experiences. We've been extremely lucky enough to play a couple of international shows and tours so far therefore, the goal now is to stick to that pattern and tour further.

FF: HOW IS THE LOCAL MUSIC SCENE IN KUALA LUMPUR LIKE? WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT IT?

There's definitely been a huge change in the local music scene in Kuala Lumpur. Over the past 3 years or so, there has been an influx of new bands and prior to the quarantine, it's not uncommon to have at least 5 local shows happening on a weekend. This may be due to the fact that we are slowly but surely eradicating the pay to play culture over here in southeast asia.

FF: IS THE SOUND YOU HAVE RIGHT NOW SOMETHING YOU'RE CONTENT WITH OR ARE YOU STILL OPEN TO DISCOVERING A DIFFERENT ONE?

When we started this band in 2016, we just wanted to play loud 4- chords punk rock which is always fun, but we wouldn't want to write the same E.P. or album twice. In terms of the sound, I believe sonically there has been a departure from our early days but we are extremely happy with the progression.

FF: WHAT HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN UP TO DURING THIS QUARANTINE?

We had to keep ourselves sane during the quarantine so we started demo-ing a few songs which might see a release date later this year or early next year. Besides that, we have something really special in the works but we can't quite announce it yet.. so keep your eyes peeled for that!

FF: WHAT CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM TROPHY KNIVES IN THE NEAR FUTURE? ANY NEW TRACKS IN THE WORKS?

Well we released our debut full length, "Glass Ceiling" in November last year so that is fairly new, so if you haven't had the chance to hear it, please give it a spin! We are in the midst of writing a few songs right now so hopefully we will put at least one track out at some point, later this year.

We are also in the midst of rescheduling a few festival appearances and tours that were postponed due to the pandemic, so as soon as we get the greenlight we will be back on the road again.

PROMOTION - Not For Sale



FRAGMENTS

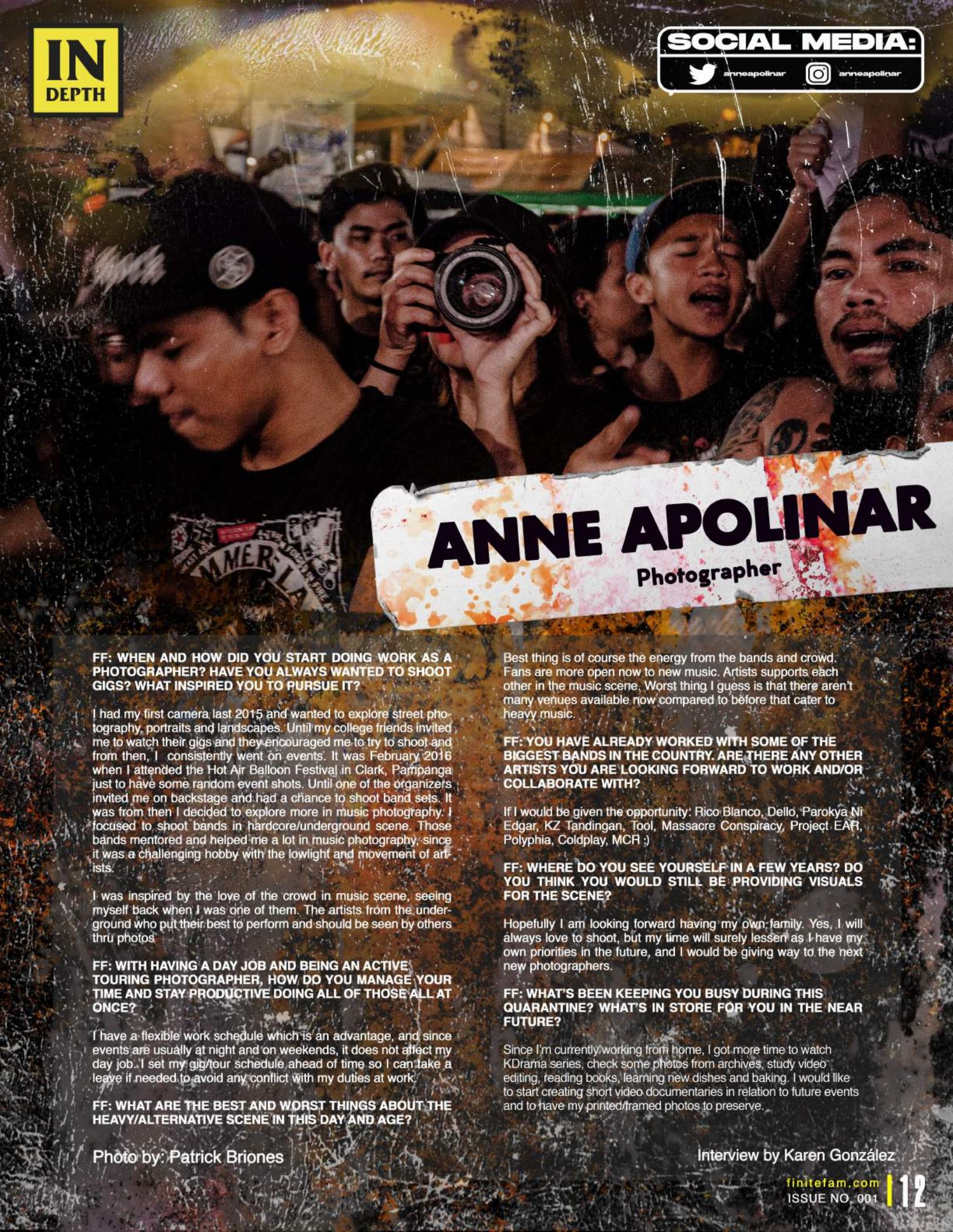
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HEAVEN'S GATE
FEAT. KENTO KOSHIKAWA OF FOAD

FRAGMENTS
OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE
COMING SOON

FRAGMENTSCULT



ANNE APOLINAR
Photographer

FF: WHEN AND HOW DID YOU START DOING WORK AS A PHOTOGRAPHER? HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO SHOOT GIGS? WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE IT?

I had my first camera last 2015 and wanted to explore street photography, portraits and landscapes. Until my college friends invited me to watch their gigs and they encouraged me to try to shoot and from then, I consistently went on events. It was February 2016 when I attended the Hot Air Balloon Festival in Clark, Pampanga just to have some random event shots. Until one of the organizers invited me on backstage and had a chance to shoot band sets. It was from then I decided to explore more in music photography. I focused to shoot bands in hardcore/underground scene. Those bands mentored and helped me a lot in music photography, since it was a challenging hobby with the lowlight and movement of artists.

I was inspired by the love of the crowd in music scene, seeing myself back when I was one of them. The artists from the underground who put their best to perform and should be seen by others thru photos.

FF: WITH HAVING A DAY JOB AND BEING AN ACTIVE TOURING PHOTOGRAPHER, HOW DO YOU MANAGE YOUR TIME AND STAY PRODUCTIVE DOING ALL OF THOSE ALL AT ONCE?

I have a flexible work schedule which is an advantage, and since events are usually at night and on weekends, it does not affect my day job. I set my gig/tour schedule ahead of time so I can take a leave if needed to avoid any conflict with my duties at work.

FF: WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT THE HEAVY/ALTERNATIVE SCENE IN THIS DAY AND AGE?

Best thing is of course the energy from the bands and crowd. Fans are more open now to new music. Artists supports each other in the music scene. Worst thing I guess is that there aren't many venues available now compared to before that cater to heavy music.

FF: YOU HAVE ALREADY WORKED WITH SOME OF THE BIGGEST BANDS IN THE COUNTRY. ARE THERE ANY OTHER ARTISTS YOU ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORK AND/OR COLLABORATE WITH?

If I would be given the opportunity: Rico Blanco, Dello, Parokya Ni Edgar, KZ Tandingan, Tool, Massacre Conspiracy, Project EAR, Polyphia, Coldplay, MCR ;)

FF: WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN A FEW YEARS? DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD STILL BE PROVIDING VISUALS FOR THE SCENE?

Hopefully I am looking forward having my own family. Yes, I will always love to shoot, but my time will surely lessen as I have my own priorities in the future, and I would be giving way to the next new photographers.

FF: WHAT'S BEEN KEEPING YOU BUSY DURING THIS QUARANTINE? WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

Since I'm currently working from home, I got more time to watch KDrama series, check some photos from archives, study video editing, reading books, learning new dishes and baking. I would like to start creating short video documentaries in relation to future events and to have my printed/framed photos to preserve.

Photo by: Patrick Briones

Interview by Karen González

OLIVER KAMYSZEW

Artist Manager, Scarim Management

FF: WHEN AND HOW DID YOU START OUT DOING WORK AS AN ARTIST MANAGER? HOW DID YOU END UP MANAGING OF VIRTUE AND FOR THE FALLEN DREAMS?

I informally started managing bands around 2013 after my musical projects had disbanded and my previous band members asked for my help. I was always the one booking shows, finding merch designers, printing, getting endorsements, booking studio time and so on so they trusted me to help get them organized while they kept creative.

I started managing Of Virtue in 2017 after re-discovering their music and bringing it to Gino Scarim (co-founder of Scarim Management). He mentioned that I should work with them, we discussed that idea, how to grow the band and so on - from there everything is history!

With For the Fallen Dreams - Gino had been working with them for a while - he was looking for a partner to team with and with them being a legacy act I've always respected I was happy to join!

FF: HOW CAN BANDS BENEFIT FROM WORKING WITH A MANAGEMENT TEAM/MANAGER?

One major benefit is that a manager can allow a band to focus on their creativity while bringing opportunities to the band. This can double the amount of things a band has going on versus before.

SO FAR, WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT AS AN ARTIST MANAGER?

Either signing my first record deal (Of Virtue with SharpTone Records) or confirming King 810 to play Pulp Summer Slam with Iron Maiden (unfortunately, due to Coronavirus this show was unable to happen but the sentiment remains).

FF: WITH THE RISE OF A LOT OF NEW ACTS, WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR A BAND TO "BREAK OUT" IN THE SCENE TODAY?

Creativity, ingenuity, and adaptability.

FF: WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES/ASSETS THAT BAND MEMBERS SHOULD POSSESS IN ORDER TO HAVE A GOOD DYNAMIC IN THE BAND?

As a whole, the ability to delegate.

As individuals, I think it's important to have someone who's well versed in the arts who can help with things such as graphics or visuals. This can help create a brand. Even someone who is a director and has a vision.

Following that, someone, ideally the people in the limelight such as a lead vocalist, to be extra social and interact/engage with fans.

Next, someone who can maintain and manage the social media and e-commerce platforms.

And obviously someone who's great at writing and recording!

Something like that would be ideal in my opinion.

FF: WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT THE HEAVY/ALTERNATIVE SCENE IN THIS DAY AND AGE?

Best, oversaturation. It's leading to creativity and experimentation - either different music or different marketing or whatnot. Worst, oversaturation. Bands having less opportunity for shows, sales, etc because everyone is competing for the same fan, amount of time, etc.

FF: HOW HAS IT BEEN WORKING WITH SCARIM MANAGEMENT?

I am extremely happy with the team. Gino, Jeremiah, Toyman and everyone involved are incredibly knowledgeable and supportive. I am glad to be a part of Scarim Management and have my bands here.

FF: LASTLY, WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE TO ASPIRING BANDS?

You will hear "NO" many times before you hear "YES". Don't let that discourage you. Don't let this make you afraid or bitter either. Instead, use this as a motivator and keep growing, learning and keep trying. Persistence is key.



jos.santos.320



santobjorn



santobjorn

BJORN SANTOS

TOUR MANAGER, ARCANERIO.TOURING

FF: CAN YOU TELL US A SUMMARY OF HOW ARCANERIO TOURING STARTED? WHAT DO YOU DO AND WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

The 'Arcane Riot Touring' idea started when my Sydney band Vanity Riots went on tour in the Philippines 5 years ago (2015). Because I used to tour with my former band Arcadia and Slapshock (as a sessionist), and with the help of my experience promoting Moshpit Sundays, I started to organize, book, promote and facilitate my first tour with Vanity Riots with the help of local organizers in the Philippines (Shout outs to all of em you know who you are). It was a very successful and amazing tour experience.

Word quickly got out here in Australia and I got messages from local Aussie bands who were interested in touring Philippines, and then I had to establish my own independent company called Arcane Riot Touring. The main idea of ART is for Australian music to be exposed in the Philippine scene and vice versa. Also, I wanted to show Australian musicians that the Philippines has a supportive, rich and wide variety music community, and therefore when they come back here in Au they will tell their friends and HOPEFULLY would create a Domino effect towards a good cross culture music scene.

FF: ASIDE FROM BEING A TOUR MANAGER, YOU ARE ALSO IN A BAND (THE WEIGHT OF SILENCE), AND IS WORKING AS A REGISTERED NURSE. HOW DO YOU MANAGE YOUR TIME?

Yes, being a Registered Nurse is tough especially at these times. It's all about priorities. With my band 2 of us are from Sydney and 2 are from Melbourne (basically 1.30 min flight away) So we basically jam online and make songs and get together once a month or if there's a show. We book our flights and plan ahead of time.

FF: YOU HAVE SINGLE HANDEDLY BROUGHT AUSTRALIAN BRED ACTS TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND VICE VERSA. HOW DO YOU CHOOSE WHICH ARTISTS YOU'RE BRINGING? DO YOU CHOOSE ARTISTS YOU WANT TO WORK WITH OR DO THEY COME TO YOU?

Normally when some of the bands here get a glimpse of our tour videos, they automatically message me to tell how amazing the Philippines scene looks like and then they express their interest to tour. I can say that I am very particular with the Artists and luckily MOST if not all the artists here in

Australia are really passionate about their craft so I didn't really have any issues touring them in the Philippines, every single town that we hit was blown away with the bands here and these Aussie bands were also blown away with what Pinoy Artists had showcased. As for Philippine bands coming over here in Australia, I share the promotions with some productions here such as Variant, Avid fan and BC Promotions.

FF: SO FAR, WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT AS A TOUR MANAGER?

Personally every tour that I make is a great accomplishment for me. But if I would consider as a legacy is the idea that when Australian bands had amazing tours in the Philippines and talk how WONDERFUL our country is and how good the people are, it LEAVES a sweet mark in my heart and that's what I'd consider my greatest accomplishment, to be proud of what my country has to offer beside all the shit that's happening.

FF: IF YOU CAN COMPARE THE AUSTRALIAN LOCAL UNDERGROUND MUSIC SCENE TO THE PHILIPPINES, WHAT ARE THE MAIN DIFFERENCES?

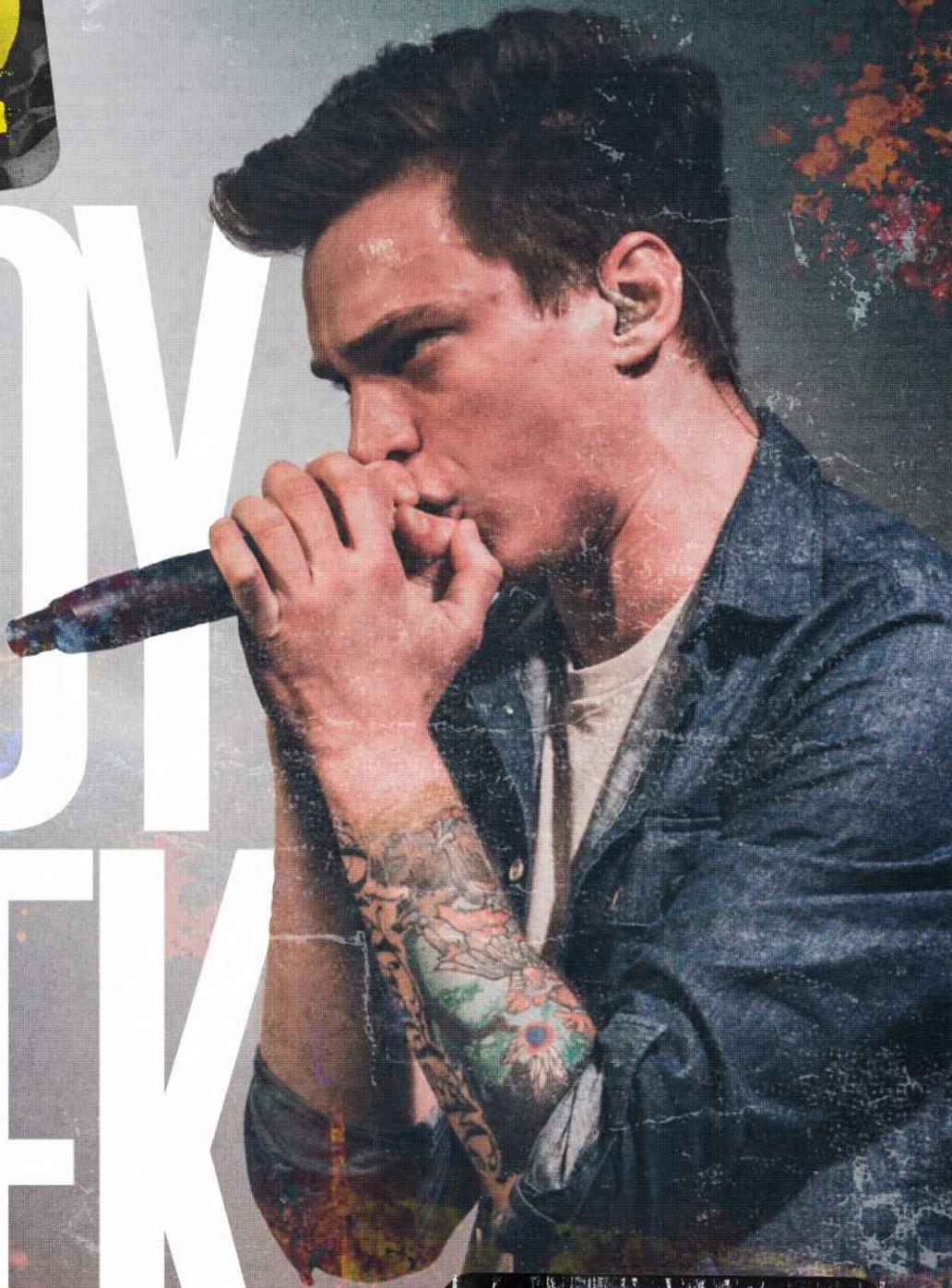
Both countries have wild crowds. Philippines scene has packs of underground community and are very supportive in terms of local talent and probably the main reason why Aussie bands wanted to come back there: in terms of audio and venues, Australia is way ahead. Small venues here have world class audio and structure designed to cater underground heavy music and I think Philippines will get there soon.

FF: LASTLY, WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AND ARCANERIO TOURING IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

I was about to tour with Isotopes and had them lined up at Wagayway Fest in Manila and Heartown Festival in Thailand but you know, Covid happened so we will reschedule it for next year whenever it's safe to travel. Also my band The Weight of Silence will be definitely be touring Philippines again and Asia next year so fingers crossed.

**FEEDER
STAGE**

ANDY GIZEK



**BREAKING
THROUGH
THE CURRENT**

Words and interview by Karen González

You have probably first heard of vocal powerhouse Andy Cizek through one of his well-received covers on YouTube ranging from alternative rock with the likes of Linkin Park and My Chemical Romance, to post-hardcore anthems by Dance Gavin Dance, and metal takes on hits of Post Malone, The Weeknd, and many more. After years of showcasing his insane vocal capabilities online, Cizek earned more recognition through his re-imagined Sumerian Vocal Audition entry that has currently earned more than a million views as of this writing.

Andy Cizek can not only do clean and unclean vocals smoothly and sing pretty much any song ever, he also records and produces music, puts out solo projects, does vocal features frequently, and is vocalist to four (Yes, FOUR, you read that right!) bands--ambient rock acts **Makari** and **WVNDER**, progressive metal trailblazers **Monuments**, and his modern metal project with fellow musician/YouTuber Nik Nocturnal they called **Termina**. Needless to say, Andy Cizek is limitless.

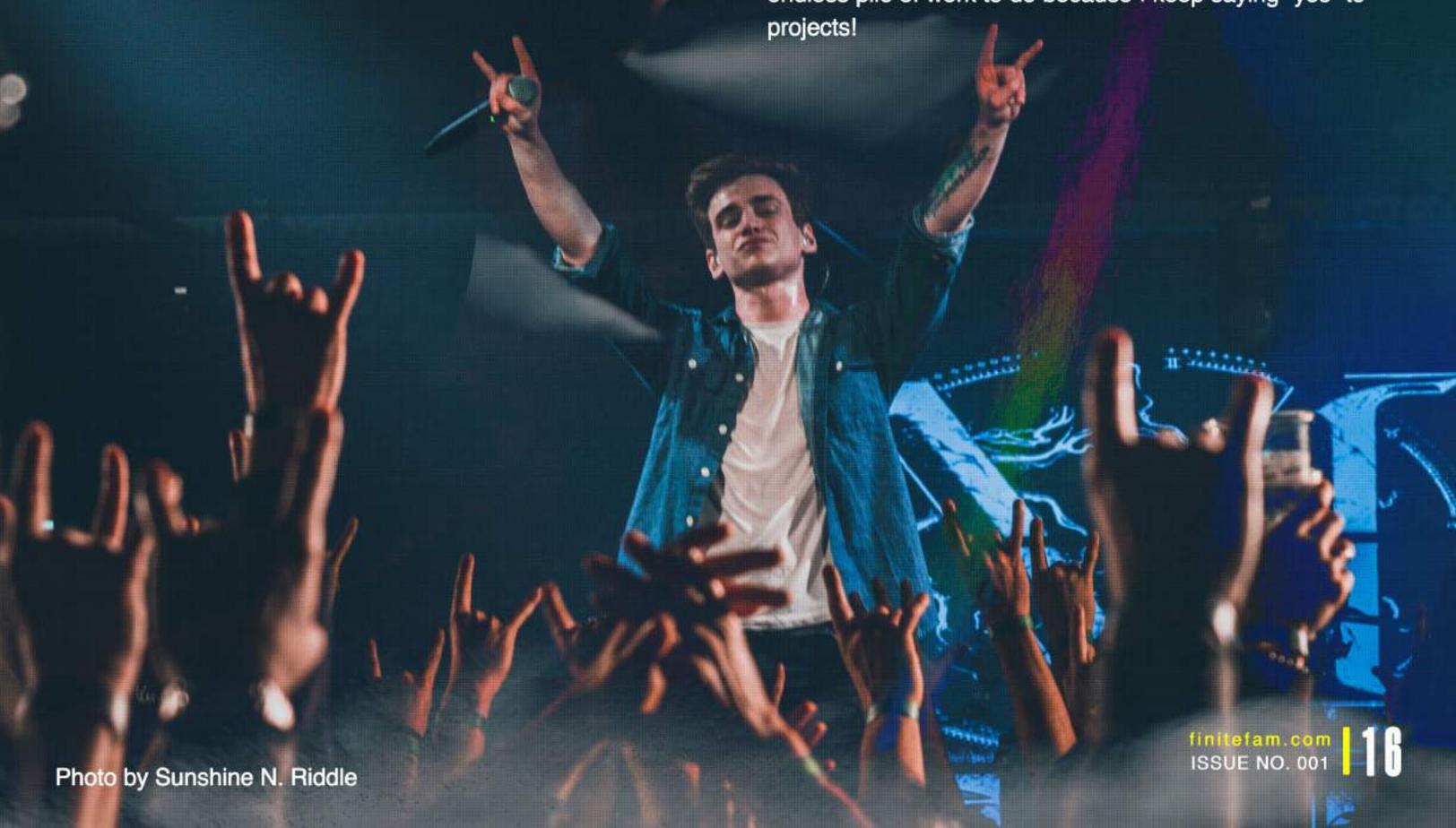
Recently, we had the pleasure of picking Cizek's brilliant mind to discuss how he does it all. Check out our exclusive interview!

FF: YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN FOUR ACTIVE BANDS, AND THIS IS ON TOP OF YOUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL AND FREQUENT GUEST VOCAL FEATURES, HOW DO YOU EXACTLY MANAGE YOUR TIME? HOW DO YOU STAY INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU DO?

ANDY: Over the years, I've been fortunate enough to build up to the point where music is my full-time job. In other words, it's pretty much all I do nowadays. I enjoy a lot of different styles of music, and my mentality is if I can participate in something cool, then why not? It can be difficult at times to juggle everything and stay focused, but as long as I enjoy the music I'm creating, the energy to work is there.

FF: COULD YOU GIVE US A LITTLE SUMMARY OF WHAT A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ANDY CIZEK IS LIKE? WHAT KEEPS YOU BUSY?

ANDY: My daily routine can be pretty erratic, it depends on the tasks I've set for myself prior. If I have to write, I often feel most inspired in the morning. So I'll wake up and start writing. If I have to record vocals, I'll give myself some time for my voice to warm up during the day and shoot for an afternoon/evening session. There's always editing/mixing work to be done as well, so I just fit that stuff in whenever I have the time. I usually have an endless pile of work to do because I keep saying "yes" to projects!





“That first leap is the hardest, but once you’ve put yourself out there once, it becomes easier and easier over time.”



FF: YOU HAVE CONSISTENTLY SURPRISED YOUR FANS AND FOLLOWERS BY PUTTING OUT ALL KINDS OF HIGH QUALITY MUSIC IN DIFFERENT GENRES (AND BANDS!). WHAT MORE CAN WE EXPECT FROM ANDY CIZEK IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

ANDY: Music from Makari, Monuments, Wvnder, and Termina is all currently in the works! As long as I'm inspired and people are listening, I'll keep on writing and experimenting with music. Expect tons of new stuff this year!

FF: LASTLY, WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE TO ASPIRING MUSICIANS WHO LOOK UP TO YOU?

ANDY: Don't let fear and anxiety keep you from following your passion. I have always considered myself to be a timid, awkward, nervous person. Creating and performing set me free. If I can do it, so can you. That first leap is the hardest, but once you've put yourself out there once it becomes easier and easier over time. Everyone has to start somewhere, so just go for it, right now.

FF: HOW DID YOU COME ABOUT AS BEING THE NEW PERMANENT VOCALIST OF MONUMENTS? HOW HAVE THINGS IN THE BAND AND PERSONALLY WITH YOU CHANGED UPON YOU JOINING THEM?

ANDY: Basically, the guys found me on Youtube. I had been online friends with Olly Steele (guitar) for a while, and he had made the rest of the band familiar with my work. When they were in need of a new vocalist, I was an immediate contender. I filled in on a couple tours and the chemistry was great all around so here I am!

FF: WE HEARD THAT YOU ARE PUTTING OUT A SOLO PROJECT SOON. CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT IT?

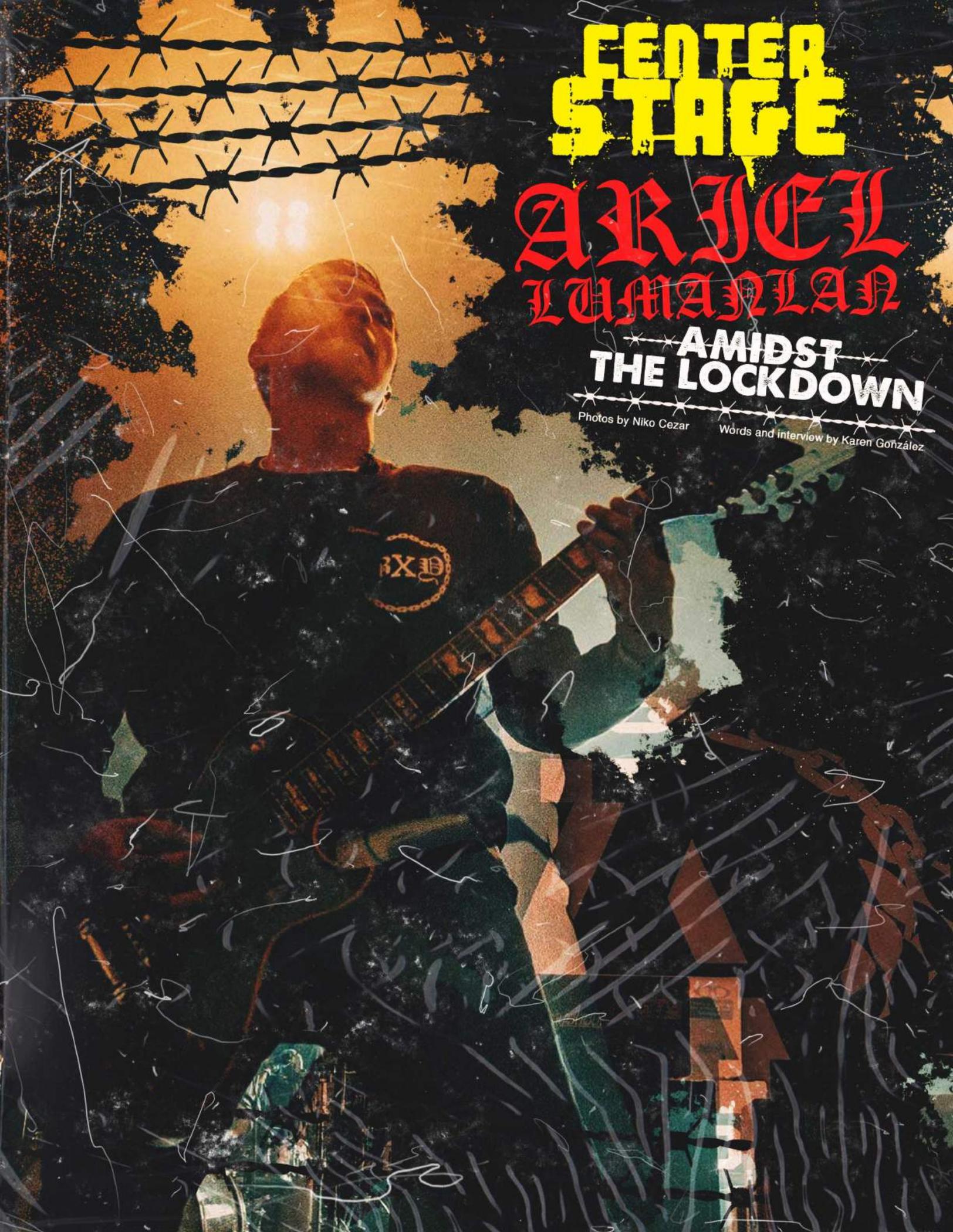
ANDY: I have had loads of song ideas stored away on a hard drive, collecting virtual dust for a number of years. I'm just now getting around to recording some of it. I work on the material whenever I can, and release the songs whenever I can. I don't have a clear cut plan to release everything, it's just whenever I have the time. I record/program all the instruments myself, so can be VERY time-consuming. Most of it is pretty aggressive/heavy music, but that's just what happens to come out when I'm writing. I like to describe it as "angry, with OCD."

Photos by Karolina Malyan





ORCA
THE
INVITATION
05 2020



**CENTER
STAGE**

**ARJEL
LUMALAN**

**AMIDST
THE LOCKDOWN**

Photos by Niko Cezar

Words and interview by Karen Goñzález

It is without a doubt that Ariel Lumanlan is known as one of the guitarists that many Filipino musicians and listeners look up to, with him being known in iconic OPM act Chicosci, as well as in metal/hardcore bands Arcadia and Til' Kingdom Come. Aside from being actively touring and making music, his day job includes being a financial consultant, managing his own business, and his newly released clothing line Reverse Ltd. Co. On top of it all, Ariel just got announced officially as an endorser for ESP guitars; a dream of most guitarists of this day and age.

In this interview with Ariel, we caught up with him to discuss his work, his recent signing with his dream guitar brand, and the state of the Filipino heavy music scene.

ARCADIA
ARCADIA
ARCADIA

DO WHAT YOU
REALLY LOVE

FF: BEING A MUSICIAN FOR MANY YEARS, HOW DO YOU STAY INTERESTED IN BEING IN A BAND AND MAKING MUSIC? WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

ARIEL: I just want to write and play my kind of music with friends. Looking back, I remember telling my mom that I wanted to be a recording artist someday. Other musicians who I look up to inspire me to continue with my craft. All the things that are happening around me play a part in inspiring me to push through.

FF: HOW DO YOU MANAGE YOUR TIME WHILE BEING IN A BAND, HAVING YOUR OWN BUSINESSES, AND HAVING A FULL TIME JOB?

ARIEL: For me it's not that hard to manage my time because I have a flexible corporate job and playing music is really what I want to do so I'll find time no matter what :)

FF: CONGRATULATIONS ON SIGNING WITH ESP GUITARS! COULD YOU TELL US HOW YOU BECAME ENDORSED BY THE BRAND?

ARIEL: Thank you! Actually, it was a blessing in disguise. 10 years ago, I tried reaching out to them but I got rejected. Some years after, a local distributor signed me to endorse the brand for a while until the contract ended. I tried reaching out to ESP again and got rejected for the 2nd time haha. That was it, I thought, it was not for me. Then late January 2020, I received an email from their A&R asking me to send my EPK. And then the dream was fulfilled hehe

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE LOCAL FILIPINO HEAVY /ALTERNATIVE MUSIC SCENE TODAY?

ARIEL: Scene today is very different in a good way. Many bands are putting up their own shows and that's good! Lots of good bands to check out! TNG, Similar Intents, Fragments, Deadyears, Denounced...just to name a few. You should check out some local shows because there are so many good bands out there!

FF: WE SEE ARCADIA PLAY EVERYWHERE, WHETHER IT'S A SMALL LOCAL SHOW, OR A HUGE FESTIVAL. PERSONALLY, WHICH DO YOU PREFER MORE, SMALLER OR BIGGER VENUES?

ARIEL: Intimate shows are the best!

FF: LASTLY, WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE TO ASPIRING MUSICIANS WHO LOOK UP TO YOU?

ARIEL: Do what you really love. Be resilient and tenacious. *Enjoy the moment.*

LIVE! LIVE! LIVE!



HALFNOTE MUSIC KICK-OFF PARTY

Words by Jam Oliver
Photos by Pandachoco Photography & Halfnote Promotions

Halfnote Music, a record label in Manila focused on bringing Filipino independent music to a wider audience, kicked off the year and reveled as they usher in the future with a swirl of pop and alternative rush last January 25th at Sagujo Bar, Makati!

The event was a huge success with performances by Join The Club, Jana Garcia, Chiquerella, Where's Ramona?, Shutter Tones, Carmen, Baluarte, Write Turn and The Lock Pickers.



LIVE! LIVE! LIVE! LIVE!

LIVE! LIVE! LIVE! LIVE!



BOYS LIKE GIRLS X A ROCKET TO THE MOON COVER NIGHT

Words by Jam Oliver
Photos by Romz Martillana

Before the quarantine started, Purple Cat Events, APXXXX, Leister Music And Events, & iMob Productions gave us a tribute night for the late 2000's favorite emo/alternative/pop punk bands Boys Like Girls & A Rocket To The Moon.

Fans of both bands were gathered at Tomato Kick Tomas Morato as they sang their hearts out to their favorite songs performed by local acts including

My ex-Girlfriend, Wishbone Wednesday, Weathervains, Ernest:Hope, adieuluna, IRIS, & Hide At Six.

The tribute night main goal is to celebrate the music of both bands but most importantly, Boys Like Girls who are set to hold a three-day concert in Manila and Cebu this April but moved to a later date in September to ensure the safety of the fans and the band during this pandemic.



LIVE! LIVE! LIVE! LIVE!

PROJECT
BE-GONE

ABOUT

Street fashion brand based in the Philippines for the non-conforming, mecha, cyber-punk-ish, and tech loving citizens of Earth.



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**BLESS
THE
VOID**



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! QUARANTHINGS

with finite fam roster



ORCA

ZOREN: Making ScreamerSupreme videos and family time
ZYME: Work from home, pubg, songwriting, Kdrama, post-production
ATOM: Pubg, sunbathing, watching ScreamerSupreme and DrasticDanny
GELO: Work from home, pubg, learning new songs, anime
KIKO: Fasting from vices and meditation

IVAN: Drawing new designs for Project Be.Gone
CLARENCE: Working, studying, Netflix
DERRICK: Work, Netflix, studying guitar related stuff, songwriting
JAY: Donating to families affected by ECQ and raising my son



LOSTTHREADS



FELIX: Working from home
CARL: Working as a frontliner, and songwriting
DUNN: Working out and PS4
NIKO: Graphic design, video editing, songwriting, working
ELIJAH: Vlogging

FRAGMENTS

BANJONE: Practicing a different art medium and more game time
PAUL: Practicing what we're recording soon, re-watching HIMYM
THOMAS: PS4 all the way!
YONG: Watching movies, playing DOTA, and doing groceries



FALSE CONTENDER



JOEMEL: Work from home
ENRIQUE: Work from home and playing PS4
RAMON: Playing Online Games, Taking care of my car
BOK: Making music, Recording, Work from home
BON: Work from home, New business
EMIL: - Recording, Mixing, opportunity for new music to listen to

SIMILAR INTENTS

FINITE FAM REVIEWS



TRIVIUM | WHAT THE DEAD MEN SAY

SCORE: 

WHAT THE DEAD MEN SAY TRIVIUM

Review by Micah Go

"What The Dead Men Say" takes everything you love about Trivium's previous works and puts them all into each song which results in an album that greatly exemplifies the band and rides on the boundary-breaking momentum they created with their critically-acclaimed previous release, "The Sin and The Sentence".

While evidently not as immediately catchy as their previous album, "What The Dead Men Say" ages like a fine wine the more you listen to it; with every song taking you back throughout the band's entire career yet also presenting Trivium in its most mature form; holding nothing back in giving their fans an album that is heavier, faster, and is essentially Trivium right down to the very core.

Favorite Tracks: *What The Dead Men Say, Catastrophist, The Defiant, Sickness Unto You, The Ones We Leave Behind*

THE DEATH OF ME POLARIS

Review by Micah Go

The Death of Me lives up to what made Polaris' previous release, "The Mortal Coil" a huge success in the underground metal scene: fast-paced and intricate guitars, heart-pounding rhythms and the melancholic tug of the mixture of harsh and clean vocals which the band has clearly crafted to perfection with their own signature sound.

In this album, Polaris continue to showcase this and make it even better; every line helping the listener see into their inner demons and the unseen battles that many go through each day. Coupled with instrumentals that perfectly match the rising emotional tension, "The Death of Me" is sure to be one that will resonate in the hearts of those longing for inner peace and liberation.

Favorite Tracks: *Pray For Rain, Masochist, Landmine, Vagabond, Above My Head*



POLARIS | THE DEATH OF ME

SCORE: 

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FINITE FAM REVIEWS



AFTERBURNER DANCE GAVIN DANCE

Review by Max Pigott

Teeming with infectious hooks, serene beauty and controlled chaos, *Afterburner* marks a new high in the Swancore pioneers' repertoire, seeing the group branch into exciting new territory, all the while further refining and building upon the sounds that made them so engaging to begin with. The gorgeous flair of clean vocalist Tillian Pearson returns in full force on tracks like 'Prisoner' and 'One In a Million', whereas the frenetic style and lyricism that mainstay unclean vocalist Jon Mess brings to the table on tracks like 'Say Hi' and 'Born To Fail' prove to be some of the most masterfully crafted and chaotic this group has seen, all the while providing some surprising convergence between their highly contrasting styles, through Pearson's (for DGD) newfound unclean vocals, and Jon Mess' 'pitched screaming' style found littered throughout the record.

Instrumentally, the record ventures out further into the unexpected, with 'Calentamiento Global' being a Latin-tinged romp (featuring full Spanish lyrics from Pearson), and while funk influence has been a part of Dance Gavin Dance's musical palette for a while, Matt Mingus' groovy drumming and Tim Feerick's funk-driven basslines take much more precedence than ever before, especially on tracks 'Three Wishes' and 'Parody Catharsis' wherein Feerick produces some infectiously dance-able riffs. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Andrew Wells' (of Eidola) vocal feature on 'Nothing Shameful' too, which proves to be one of the most beautiful and catchy parts of the band's career. All in all, *Afterburner* is a masterclass in how to expand an already unique sound, while refining your established elements to be better than ever before.

SCORE:

Favorite Tracks: Prisoner, Calentamiento Global, Three Wishes, One In a Million, Strawberry's Wake, Born To Fail, Say Hi, Nothing Shameful (ft. Andrew Wells)

GUARDIANS AUGUST BURNS RED

Review by Jarod Vermilyea

August Burns Red has returned with a banger of a record for 2020. *Guardians* is yet another example of the band continuing to perfect their craft while also adding nicer touches, like Jake making use of clean vocals of which we haven't really seen anytime before. It's an easier listening album to some degree. The cleans immaculately mix with the message being brought, while still being ridiculously heavy on the flip side. They've even made an embark into deathcore territory with the song *Bloodletter*, which should definitely turn some heads (in a good way).

You'll find yourself mesmerized by the differences, and happy with the clear, but not so surprising old school sound that still shines. For any early to mid-2000s metalcore fan that was there in the beginning for *ABR*, should enjoy this album just as much because just when you think the band could reach their peak in the past it just keeps rising.

Favorite Tracks: Bloodletter, Lighthouse, Empty Heaven



SCORE:

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LOSTTHREADS SIMILAR INTENTS FRAGMENTS ORCA FALSE CONTENDER



LISTEN TO FINITE FAM BANDS ON VARIOUS MUSIC STREAMING PLATFORMS

FEATURING LATEST ALBUMS FROM:
LOSTTHREADS - AFTERMATH
FALSE CONTENDER - SKINNED KNEES & BROKEN BONES
ORCA - ENGENDER

PLUS RECENT SINGLES FROM:
FRAGMENTS - HEAVEN'S GATE (Feat. KENTO KOSHIKAWA)
SIMILAR INTENTS - GHOST (Feat. JUMAR CORTES)

