

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS: VILLAIN OF THE STORY, ASSEMBLY GENERALS, PATRIOTS, AND MORE!

ISSUE NO. 02

JUNE 2020

FINITE

FINITE ZINE



WWW.FINITEFAM.COM



LOATHE

AS ONE

INSIDE 'I LET IT IN AND IT TOOK EVERYTHING' AND THE WORD OF LOATHE



CHICOSCI
EVOLVED, EVOLVING

New Release

FINITE ZINE

ANNALYNN
THOSE AND BEYOND!

ROAM
THAT'S ABOUT SHAKA WIFE

BOYS OF FALL
ON CHASING BETTER MEMORIES

NICLO NIMOR
THE BARK

THE BARK

NEEDLE SALAM
THE SHELL IN SOCIETY

02



EDITOR'S NOTE

Issue No. 02 June 2020

Many of you have asked me whether the zine will be a regular thing for Finite Fam, and to be honest, when the idea of making an online zine first came to our discussion, I thought we'd just do it since we're on quarantine and I said we'd give it a trial run and see where it goes, but when we launched the debut issue, y'all really didn't let it flop--thank you so much for all the positive feedback! As long as you keep reading it, we will keep making it! I want you to know that all the messages we get, even if it's just a simple congratulations, never go unnoticed and it motivates us to create more and bring you even better content. With that said, we're back on a second issue! This time, an improved and better version.

In this sophomore release, you will find in the cover two of my favourite bands ever: Liverpool, UK metal act LOATHE, arguably the freshest, most unique band to ever come out of the modern metalcore scene in years, as well as Filipino rock icons CHICOSCI, a band I've enjoyed since I was 10, need I say more?! Aside from that, you can get to know and discover your next favorite band in IN DEPTH, while learning about the geniuses in our music community at COMMUNE. All these and brand new segments for your reading pleasure!

I want to end this note by saying I'm so proud of what my team has become. When this production outfit started in 2017, I had NO idea what to do, no friends or connections, no balls to risk anything. If you told me back then that by 2019 I would've brought some of my favorite foreign acts to Manila, curated my own music festival, be able to manage some of my favorite bands in my own roster, and basically earn the level of respect and support that people give me now, I would not believe you. So thank you to my hardworking team of 4, Jam, Niko, Pat, and Enrique, and everyone who have and continue to support and help us wholeheartedly, I am so proud to be living the dream with all of you. We will never stop doing what we love, and we are yet to achieve more. I'm getting emotional 'cause I miss doing shows, drinking beers whilst exchanging hugs and kisses with everyone. I miss you all! Also remember, if you're neutral in situations of injustices, you've chosen the side of the oppressor. Resist. Always.

Thank you forever,
Resistant



Karen González
President/Editor-in-Chief



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ESCAPE ESCAPE ESCAPE



THIS AIN'T SERENDIPITY
THIS IS FUCKING SUFFERING

ROAM



SOCIAL MEDIA:



FF: WHAT'S THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME 'ROAM'? HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN EACH OTHER AND WHAT MADE YOU FORM THE BAND?

AHHH the band name question! Great question! Choosing names for things is always the hardest. I think every band would agree. You have to sum everything in one line or word. As nothing really came to our heads to what to call the band we decided to scroll song names on an ipod. That's when we came across the word "Roam" from The Story So Far. We really felt like that this word matched who we were, and matched the ambition of what we wanted to do with the band. Me and Alex Adam have known each other for ages! From the age of 13 I think! We met in school, the other band members came later when we got into college years. Miles is a new addition to the band from 2016.

FF: WITH LOTS OF UK POP PUNK BANDS IN THE SCENE RIGHT NOW, WHAT ARE THE EFFORTS YOU HAVE BEEN PUTTING UP TO GET YOUR MUSIC OUT THERE?

I think there is alot of great UK bands at the moment each with their own sounds. I really think that you can tell apart most bands by their sounds and vocals. A british accent helps haha!

COULD YOU DESCRIBE THE MUSIC-MAKING PROCESS FOR YOUR THIRD STUDIO ALBUM 'SMILE WIDE'?

Chilled! We started writing the record about 3 or 4 months before going into the studio to track. We had the most we've ever had written for an album prior to studio time, which was a lot of progress. The studio we recorded in was in the middle of nowhere in Texas, a great environment to record. So yes the writing and recording was a very chilled process, which was great! We captured something really special in this record. We started out with a theme and wrote from that. It was something we had never done before. It was a great way to stay on track lyrically. We just put out a documentary, "The making of smile Wide" on YouTube, if you want to have more of a in-sight.

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 always trying to discover new sounds and new directions for ROAM. It doesnt stop at Smile Wide. Music is so great and its always evolving!

FF: What do you think is your biggest achievement so far as a band?

I think the biggest achievement so far as a band is the fact that we actually get to play shows worldwide and it still blows my mind when we are all the way on the other side of the world playing our music AND the fact that people know who we are and know our work. It's such a blessing! Hopefully we can make it over to you guys very soon!

FF: WHAT HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN UP TO DURING THIS QUARANTINE? AND WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM ROAM IN THE FUTURE?

We've all been away from each other separate in our own houses. As for me I've writing quite a bit. I think for a creative person, this quarantine time isn't a bad thing. It's time to work, work, work and write, write, write! I've been writing a few ROAM ideas and few other ideas too. I've also been writing with other people which is great fun, and really eye opening too. We're missing touring and playing shows so much! Missing chatting to people at our shows! Hopefully we will be able to do it soon!

FF: LASTLY, ANY MESSAGE TO YOUR FILIPINO FANS?

YES! We love you guys! Thank you to anyone who has listened to ROAM or has supported us in any way! Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts! We cannot wait to have our first ever show there! Hopefully you will be there! We will see you soon!

ANNALYNN

FF: How was Annalynn formed? What inspired you to be musicians and work together as a group?

ANNALYNN: It started when we joined a music contest at the university, then we realized that we're totally into the music. We love to meet our audiences, fans, and performing on stage. All these reasons keep us continue the band and write the songs.

FF: Having been around in the industry for 10 years now, do you think you have found your real "sound" or are you still actively discovering it?

ANNALYNN: It took almost 10 years to find what Annalynn sounds like. Until now, we are still looking for new materials to combine them into our style. We love finding something new and seeing what fits our songs the most.

SOCIAL MEDIA:
@ANNALYNNBAND

FF: What do you think is your biggest achievement as a band so far?

ANNALYNN: We don't plan each step of the band. We just concentrate step by step. Our biggest one is our World Tour.

FF: What is the local music community like in Bangkok?

ANNALYNN: Most Thai people don't listen to heavy music, they love party, chill-out music, or any kind of easy listening music. Recently, Hip-Hop and EDM trends became mainstream in Thailand and all over the world. It's a super tough time for the local heavy music scene right now but we have to get through it.

FF: ANNALYNN has collaborated with many international artists before. Are there any other musician/s you want to work with?

ANNALYNN: Absolutely, there is a ton of new artists these days. We couldn't count on our hands how many of them we'd love to work with. Collaborating with international artists always fuel our fire to creating new music. It gives us an amazing experience. Please stay tuned and let's see what comes.

FF: What is in store for Annalynn in the near future? Any new tracks or perhaps an EP/album in the works?

ANNALYNN: We will release a new full-length album this year if the situation of the virus gets better. I think it probably will around the end of this year. I can guarantee that there are more new things coming. Then make sure that you tightly catch up with us. *LOVE!*

WELCOME TO THE CREW!

ANNALYNN





BRACE X YOURSELVES



FF: WHEN AND HOW DID YOU FORM YOUR BAND? WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE BAND NAME?

Brace Yourself was formed in mid-2016. We usually like to go on road trips on weekends, then one Saturday night in Tagaytay, we talked about why not forming a band since we all have the same taste in music. It was just three of us then (Edy, Lala, and Adrian). We shared our insights that night then the following week, all we know is we're already in this rented studio, rehearsing some tracks. James then joined the band as well as Jung.

The name Brace Yourself is more of a statement. It was actually a band that Edy tried to form when he was in highschool, but it never really turned out what he wanted it to be. So we have decided to pursue it and to put all what we can for this band.

FF: HOW HAS YOUR MUSIC EVOLVED SINCE YOU FIRST BEGAN PLAYING MUSIC TOGETHER?

When it comes to our music, we try not to change a lot to the sound we're creating. The second EP that we are currently working on still has that distinct BXY sound that our listeners heard in our first EP "D I V E", but with just a little extra flavor as you might say. We added a second guitar to add an extra layer and punch to the sound and bring in new elements to the songs we are currently writing.

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

We don't have any brand loyalty. We use what is comfortable to use for each of us. We are currently using 7-strings ESP-LTD Guitars and a DEAN 5-strings bass for our axes and a couple of distortion pedals. During live situations, we use what amplifiers and drum kits are available in the venue. We just bring our own set of cymbals, hardwares, snare and double pedals.

What made us choose the instruments we have now, as for our guitars, we are more into riff-based and low tuned chug sounds that's why we prefer the ESP's style of body and neck stringed with 12-60 heavy gauge 7-strings sets. For the bass, James uses an active 5 string Dean Guitars bass and a pedalboard for that punchy bass sound that compliments the guitar sounds. When it comes to drums, we never really bring a whole set on our gigs. We just carry what is essential for our sounds. Snare, cymbals, and other hardware is enough for us. For vocals, Lala uses an SM58 Shure microphone.

FF: YOU ARE CURRENTLY ONE OF THE AMBASSADORS OF DYSE ONE PHILIPPINES. CAN YOU TELL US HOW YOU BECAME A PART OF THE BRAND AND HOW IT CHANGED THINGS FOR THE BAND?

We were invited to play for one of their events and after that, they contacted us and gave us a proposal to represent the brand. Next thing we knew, we are signing the contract to be part of the roster of artists Dyse One Philippines is supporting. Becoming ambassadors for Dyse One PH really helped us take what we are doing to a much higher level. Imagine a brand known for supporting underground artists that only a few knew! That's something! Also, we didn't have to think about what we will wear in gigs ;)

FF: AFTER THIS QUARANTINE, ARE YOU PLANNING TO GO ON TOURS OR WILL YOU FOCUS ON CREATING NEW MATERIAL?

We're currently working on our new materials. It was supposed to be released this mid-2020 but sadly, this pandemic affected that also. But after this quarantine, we're planning to take it all out so we can release our 2nd album. Tours are also on our bucket list. If we'll have the chance for that after this lockdown, why not?

FF: LASTLY, WHERE AND HOW CAN LISTENERS GAIN ACCESS TO YOUR MUSIC AND SUPPORT YOU MOVING FORWARD?

You can listen to us on Spotify, Apple Music & Youtube Music. We also have our Youtube Channel and you can follow us on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter. Our Merch is available at Shopee.ph. All our other links you can find in this site: allmylinks.com/braceyourselfs

Thank you Finite Fam!

Interview by: Jam Oliver

Photo by: Brace Yourselfs

SOCIAL MEDIA:



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**IN
DEPTH**

BOYS OF FALL



SOCIAL MEDIA



WEBSITE: WWW.BOYSOFFALLBAND.COM

— Interview by Karen González
Photo by Max Bender



FF: WHEN AND HOW DID BOYS OF FALL START AND DECIDED TO MAKE MUSIC AS A GROUP?

We started my senior year of colleges late 2011. I went to a small private college in Michigan in a town called Adrian. There was many line up changes but Eli and I are the OG members and the band was originally formed by our first drummer. We spent a lot of time figuring out what kind of band we were gonna be and what we wanted to sound like and how to write a good song and from there, it was just a long slow process of being a new band and making every bad decision you can make, meeting great people, meeting horrible people, jumping on any show we could or whatever line up we could, having the best times of our lives creating together, all the typical woes of a new band. Overtime we realized we couldn't just pick one style and that's why our catalog has been so diverse and it comes from all of us having such different but similar taste.

FF: WITH EACH RELEASE, BOF HAS A DIFFERENT APPROACH—YOUR MUSIC RANGES FROM POP PUNK/ROCK, TO ALTERNATIVE. HOW DO YOU GUYS FORM YOUR SOUND?

Before it was never really a conscious decision. We've always just met and started an idea and went with it. This album we had a serious conversation about the overall tone and sound we wanted to go for. It was so amazing to be on pretty much the exact same page and meet everytime and write something cool.

FF: WHAT IS THE LOCAL SCENE LIKE IN MICHIGAN? IS POP PUNK/ROCK HIGHLY ACCEPTED THERE?

The local scene is very diverse. Very heavy all the way to underground electro and R&B. I think bands that are talented usually shine through no matter what. I do think pop punk and rock is highly accepted here and Detroit is normally a great place show wise compared to a lot of places so we're happy to call it home.

FF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEWEST SINGLE 'OVERTHINKING'. WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Overthinking was about how someone's personality can start to weigh you down. It dives deeper into the part of the relationship where the person starts to resent the other and that one person is miserable in their own life and tried to bring you down. It's differentiating yourself from them and who you are.

FF: YOU'VE GIVEN YOUR FANS PLENTY OF RANGES OF YOUR MUSIC, FROM BOUNCY, UPBEAT TRACKS, TO SOMETHING THEY CAN HEADBANG TO, AS WELL AS SOME ACOUSTIC GOODIES. WHAT'S NEXT FOR BOF? WHAT ELSE CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

I think it's safe to say on this new record, we hit a wide spectrum of styles of music. Our band has always written music that we wanted to hear and play regardless of style. The 5 of us have written collectively the last two 2 albums so any idea that is put on the table, we always find a way to blend it into our boys of fall sound. Expect us to always push our boundaries and try new things while still always trying to keep that nostalgic vibe.

FF: LAST BUT NOT LEAST, WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO ASPIRING BANDS? WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BREAK THROUGH INTO THE SCENE?

Hard work, patience, ability to take and learn from criticism and constant progression of your self and being real with your expectations are all super important.

Most importantly, be yourself and take it all in because it doesn't last forever. Enjoy the moments of fighting to be heard because those will be some of the most fun times you'll ever have.



PATRIOTS

Photo by: James Farmer

FF: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE MUSIC THAT PATRIOTS MAKE? WHAT/WHO ARE YOUR MAIN INFLUENCES AS A GROUP?

We're a band consists of five members who makes rock music that you might or might not be familiar with. We use Malay, English and Japanese in the lyrics of our songs. When you listen to our songs for the first time, you might be confused by the foreign language, but also you can expect to be brought back in by the familiar sounds and tunes of rock music in your ears. What you may not know will always be a mystery, so we encourage people to look us up and explore our music, themselves.

All five of us are active members of the band and we have different influences. Individually. Some of the bands that we look up to as a whole are our local band, Hujan, Japan's One OK Rock and A Day To Remember from the United States. They are a big part of our musical journey and we aspire to make music that could reach out to different parts of the world, like they did.

FF: COULD YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR DEBUT ALBUM THAT YOU JUST RECENTLY RELEASED? WHAT IS THE THEME BEHIND IT?

Our debut album called 'Separation' was released on the 1st of January 2020. We made 10 new songs for the album and added two bonus tracks as an element of surprise, from our previous releases. The album was entirely produced by a well-recognized studio in Malaysia called 'SOG Productions'. As for the theme of the album, we wanted to portray a dark and mysterious first impression. The girl on the cover symbolizes a free spirit who roams on those who suffers from regrets and past tragedies in their life and in order for them to move on from it, they need to separate themselves from what had been. In order for them to live to their fullest in the present. All of the lyrics in the album represent their thoughts. It suits the theme of our album too.

The music for this album is entirely rock/post hardcore. We have always been known as a band that fuses our native language (Malay) with English. We think that by mixing it up, we will not only be relatable to other people but also give the opportunity for us to express ourselves more naturally. One of the songs in our album that is doing well since it's released has a mixture of three different languages and is called 'Sumire'. It's very exciting to experiment on how certain language gives the listeners a different feel to the music they're listening to. Eventhough the song was quite a challenge for us as it is different than the other tracks in the album, we're happy that it is well received by our listeners.

FF: HOW DOES THE SONG WRITING PROCESS WORK WITHIN YOUR BAND ESPECIALLY WITH WRITING 'SEPARATION'?

The song writing process usually starts with one of us coming up with the basic form of the music and I will come up with different melodies and lyrics for the band to listen to first. Once all of us have come to an agreement of how the melodies and lyrics should sound like, we will then proceed to sending them to our producer for him to work on the final arrangements for the song. It took us almost eight months to finish 10 pre pros for the album before actually starting the recording process. Roughly, it took us around a year and a half to finish everything from the song writing, pre productions to the final recordings.

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE LISTEN TO PATRIOTS? WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES YOU STAND OUT FROM MOST BANDS IN THE SCENE TODAY?

We welcome all curious listeners who had never heard of a Malaysian rock band. We assure that if not ten, either one of the songs on our album will make you stay and listen to more of what we have in store for our future releases. We have never considered ourselves as a band from any scene and we realized that if we try too hard to stand out, it will only limit ourselves towards our creativity. What we are doing now is for the love of making music and live performances. We believe that if we do it right, the recognition will come along naturally.

WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL AS A BAND? WHAT FUELS YOU?

Our ultimate goal is to be on par with our favorite bands in Asia. There are a lot of factors that affects the slow growth of certain genres in Malaysia. One of it is because of the really small population we have in the country. Aside from the population, most bands that we have met here still think that it is impossible for them to expand their music and that leads to the lack of drive and also the fear of risking their career. All of these are what's been keeping all the good music here in Malaysia from being exposed to the world. However, as fellow performers, it is very understandable considering how sensitive the industry and media when it comes to failure. It is another topic of its own that us Malaysian performers should be more open to ponder on.

Thankfully for us, we had been given the opportunity and privilege of touring with bands from overseas and represent Malaysia in various music festivals all thanks to our label 'SKESH ENTERTAINMENT'. They have been a consistently helping us as we pave our way towards what may seem impossible to many. We will utilize every single opportunity given to us and proceed into making more good music in hopes that it will reach out to more people in the world while representing our country's name on our back. The native language in our songs will be the root to grow our music to the world and hopefully will stick until the end our career.

WHATS NEXT FOR PATRIOTS? WHAT ELSE CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

Despite of having to limit our promotions because of the COVID19, we are still very active on our social medias (@PatriotsMY). We are keeping all our listeners in touch with new updates on the daily. We have also released our band merch recently that can be purchased on merchcoo.com. Keep tabs on our social medias and look forward for our upcoming music videos that is currently in the making. Our tour plans and upcoming releases will be announced when the timing is right.

Interview by: Karen González

SOCIAL MEDIA:

PatriotsMY



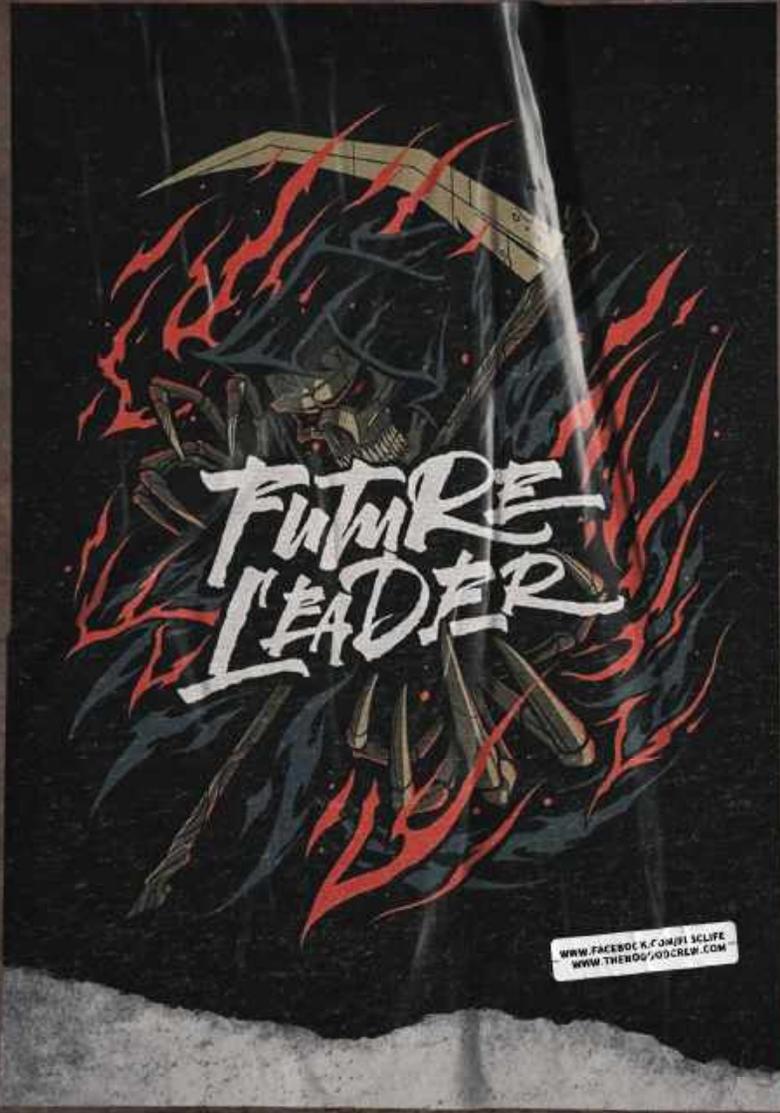
OKUO
ON

THE NO GOOD CREW

TINEL

NOVA

Large white graffiti tags on the brick wall to the left of the poster.



Vertical yellow graffiti tag on the right side of the poster.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/13CLIFE
WWW.THERNOGOODCREW.COM

Large white graffiti tags on the brick wall below the poster.

FF: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE MUSIC THAT ASSEMBLY GENERALS MAKE?

PEACEFUL GEMINI:

Experimental hip hop with a punk attitude. Music that speaks on realities. Raymund recently tweeted that your latest music video 'Hands Off' is 'not about Covid-19, but another kind of disease'.

FF: CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THIS SONG? WHAT IS IT REALLY ABOUT?

PEACEFUL GEMINI:

It's about taking a stand for women who experienced some form of harassment in their lives; we are saying that their safety and protection is important to us. It's a reminder to stay vigilant about the people who we surround ourselves with, because the nicest fronts could have the cruelest intentions. It's about holding those who've violated and wronged us accountable for their actions. Lastly, it's about healing and resilience.

SWITCH:

It's about respect. Respecting private spaces – whether physical, emotional, and beyond. Respecting identities and preferences. Respecting who I am, as I respect who you are. And you can't touch that without my consent. It's speaks to the violators – those who harass, and force themselves on others.

FF: COULD YOU DESCRIBE THE MUSIC-MAKING PROCESS FOR YOUR SOPHOMORE ALBUM 'FATIGUE'?

SWITCH:

It was very organic, more collective, and a lot more creative. After being together and knowing each other better after the first album, we were able to flex our process and possibilities more on this one. More concepts and crafting. More brainstorming and random "what-ifs". Each song has more purpose from the message, to the musical arrangement, to where it lands on the album. The first album started with the beats, then came topics and the words. But 'Fatigue' started more with concepts, ideas, and themes that we brought to life.

FF: HOW HAS YOUR MUSIC EVOLVED SINCE YOU FIRST BEGAN PLAYING MUSIC TOGETHER?

SWITCH:

It's constantly evolving. It never stops changing and shifting – adjusting and growing. We've had several member adjustments, plug and play, and also different configurations of our sets to match whatever live setting we want to play in. It gets assembled, disassembled, and reassembled, again and again. Now we know each other a lot better too. We can anticipate and back up each other more naturally. Also, we're more comfortable and closer as a family, so we get to talk more openly and freely about ideas, or what we want to say. This reflects in how tighter the music is – concept-wise and arrangement-wise – and also how tighter our live sets are. The music is tight, because we're tight.



Photo by: Assembly Generals
UNFOLD 2010TX

ASSEMBLY GENERALS



SOCIAL MEDIA:

 [assemblygenerals](#)  [Assembly_sabte](#)  [assembly_general](#)

FF: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT AS A GROUP?

PEACEFUL GEMINI:
Growing a big family.

SWITCH:
Being a unit even beyond the music.

LASTLY, WHAT IS ONE MESSAGE YOU WOULD GIVE TO YOUR FANS?

PEACEFUL GEMINI:
Thank you for the support! We appreciate it and we'll keep pushing the craft.

SWITCH:
Keep on.

Interview by: Jam Oliver





ASH KENTO PHILIPPE HAYAO

SOCIAL MEDIA
 YOUTUBE TWITTER INSTAGRAM
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FF: COULD YOU GIVE US A BACKGROUND ABOUT HOW FOAD STARTED AS A GROUP? WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CREATE MUSIC TOGETHER?

FOAD: We established FOAD eight years ago when we were in high school because we wanted to play The Red Hot Chili Peppers. After a few years we started composing our own songs. Last year, the original bassist and guitarist left the band and we regrouped with two new members. Our new vocalist Philippe who is a close friend of FOAD, not only share our vision but his voice is a perfect match to our sound. Ash, our new guitarist, came to us from the band Paledusk. Originally from Taiwan, he wanted to continue his career as a musician in Japan and we were thrilled he joined FOAD.

FF: YOU RECENTLY RELEASED YOUR EP "RETURNER". WHAT IS THE VISION OR THEME BEHIND THE SONGS ON IT AND THE EP AS A WHOLE?

FOAD: The new EP Returner is a totally new style for FOAD. We combined various genres such as 80's pops, nu metal and traditional Japanese instruments. Returner is a landmark album for us because as the title suggests, we are back after a hiatus of two years.

FF: WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL AS A BAND?

FOAD: First of all we want to be on stage, at the frontline, as long as possible. Of course playing alongside big names and big venues is a huge goal for us. We want to be together as FOAD and produce our music until the day we can't grab our instruments anymore. That was our running theme from the beginning and it won't change.

FF: WHAT IS THE LOCAL MUSIC COMMUNITY LIKE IN YOKOHAMA?

FOAD: The heavy metal music scene in Japan, including Yokohama, is still undeveloped in both a good and a bad way. Nowadays, numerous young bands are coming up to the scene with very good quality music. To be honest, it compares favorably and equally to other countries such as the US, UK, AU. Thanks to top Japanese bands already gaining fame all around the world, the number of listeners is increasing and the number of venues is now at a thousand.

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

FOAD: Our biggest weapon is the originality of our songs especially for the new EP. It was certainly was not an easy task to mix so many different genres of music with the metalcore foundation of FOAD to create our sound. It is worth noting that half our members hold nationalities other than Japanese and we all have very individual backgrounds of life and music. We merged our cultural identities and our experiences to build our new style of music. Like we said, our new EP is a new challenge for us by combining so many diverse sounds into a distinctive one. More specifically, now that we have two vocalists who perform differently for the vocals, it which gives our pieces a huge range and depth. I'd just like to draw your attention to one of our new songs called Grey Goo which was strangely prescient:

*"We already knew it'll come to get us
It doesn't feel real
This is a disaster"*

*Completely out of control
We all have been caught off guard
We need an antidote before it eats us alive"*

FF: WHAT CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM FOAD IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

FOAD: Due to the virus spreading around the world right now, we can't tell you exactly when we'll be back on stage but we can guarantee that it will be as soon as we can. When restrictions are finally lifted, we have firm and definite plans to perform our music not only in Japan but all around the world. We've just released an EP but we are already working on the next album so stay tuned and be ready for it.

Interview and Words by Karen González Photo by Shumpel Kato

Interview by: Jam Oliver

FF: HOW LONG HAVE YUNG KNOWN EACH OTHER AND HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER?

Logan and I have been step brothers since we were both 2 years old so we've known each other whole lives haha. We played music growing up for fun and had a previous band. When VOTS was originally starting up our friends Sam Fassler and Andrew Bart were gathering members to create a group they could manage and start an initial push with. They brought Cody into the mix and that's where Logan and I first met Cody, when linking up to work on some demos we had written for the project.

We met Page when our first drummer Sam Bonati came out for a try out/practice. Page was his ride so we've been friends with him since the beginning. When we needed a bassist later it only made sense because we've been friends for awhile and he's a super dedicated dude. Logan and Page lived in the same town so they were really close.

FF: WHO ARE THE MAJOR INFLUENCES FOR VILLAIN OF THE STORY'S SOUNDS?

My favorite kind of music comes from albums like Reckless & Relentless by Asking Alexandria. There's a ton of great bands that were killing it with that general sound and expanding on it in their own ways, like I See Stars with Now Demons. AA was the first band to get me into "breakdowns", so I can almost attribute all of our heavy songs to the inspiration I get from their older records. Though I love a lot of 'older' style metalcore like Bobcat for My Valentine and All That Remains. I feel Miss May I was a favorite of mine with their Monuments album due to blending both of those styles of metalcore into one.

Outside of metalcore I'd say Breaking Benjamin is my main influence. Though I listen to all kinds of electronic music and chill relaxing instrumentals.

FF: COULD YOU DESCRIBE THE RECORDING AND SONGWRITING PROCESS FOR YOUR LATEST ALBUM 'ASHES'?

For Ashes I mainly wrote a handful of instrumentals and Logan made voice memos on his phone of lyric and melody ideas. The both of us drove out to Johnny Franck's studio in Ohio to record and finish the writing. I felt like the songs were already stronger from a demo standpoint and only needed minimal adjustments, however we really wanted to make that album on par if not better than the previous so we re-worked and spent more time on melodies. I love both records equally, we just write music we enjoy listening to.

The experience of recording the album was fun as always. We had a great time hanging with Johnny and recording music there's a lot of laughs. It was tricky toward the end because to fill the last couple springs for the recording sessions we felt like we needed something fresh. All of the remaining demo ideas didn't feel good enough and we were down to our last few days in the studio so there was some pressure. Luckily working with Johnny always pays off as we were able to finish the songs and be happy with the end result.

Though a side note is for Too Far Gone and Decay we actually flew out to LA to record with Noah and Joakim of Bad Omens. That's a story in and of itself haha but the recording side of things was fun and I'm really glad we did that. The touches they were able to bring to the table really brought those songs together.

FF: YOU'VE ALSO RECENTLY RELEASED AN ACOUSTIC EP 'ALONE IN THE DARK'. WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE BAND AFTER THE QUARANTINE IS OVER?

We had a lot planned for the year as far as music goes, we were hoping to be releasing the next album in June but that's unfortunately not happening haha. The virus caused issues with our personal lives and in other areas, to where we kinda needed to buckle down and just focus on being okay. Things are looking up but the whole thing really slowed us down to where we either didn't have much time to focus on the album or when we did we were just feeling drained and couldn't find the passion to create music.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

[villainofthestoryofficial](#) [villainofthestory](#) [villainofthestory](#)

As of now we are getting closer to being done with the writing process however. This time around we want to come to the studio with full songs done, not just guitars/drums and then vocal ideas on voice memos. We're having a full production and I'm really proud of how much we've stepped up as writers completely on our own. Excited to send these to the people we're going to be working with on the album and see where things go.

The generalized plan is to release this 7 song album, and to release another 7 song album as soon as possible, hopefully before the end of the year. But at this point we're just taking things day by day and trying to plan how we're going to record the album with things being shut down. We will work it out. Hopefully a cover and possibly remakes of a couple songs off our debut ep.

FF: LASTLY, ANY PLANS ON COMING OUT TO ASIA, FOR MAYBE A TOUR? WE COULD LOVE TO SEE YOU IN THE PHILIPPINES!

Currently we don't have plans of touring anywhere. We had already decided to take 2020 off from touring as on the business end of things it was clear it was not the right move. Financially speaking we could create more music and promote it online to see some return on the investment, whereas touring just drained our pockets. We want to become a sustainable business that can become all of our full time jobs so we needed to make moves that pushed in ahead rather than holding us back despite how much fun shows are and how badly we want to be playing live.

That being said we would absolutely love to play there. All we want to do is tour and play our music for people across the world so hopefully over time we can make that happen. It will just start with getting ourselves off the ground to be in a position to afford those kinds of endeavors haha.





MÈMOIRE

FF: WHEN AND HOW DID MÉMOIRE START? WHAT MADE YOU GUYS WANT TO MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER?

We started MÈMOIRE in late 2018, we had all been in previous bands with each other beforehand so it was easy to work with each other and get everything done efficiently. We just all love making music and performing together it comes so naturally!

FF: YOU RECENTLY RELEASED YOUR EP. WHAT IS THE VISION OR THEME BEHIND THE SONGS ON IT AND THE EP AS A WHOLE?

The E.P. is about recognizing your struggles and moving forward instead of constantly letting it take a toll on yourself. Everyone has had something at one point that hurt them so much they don't know if they'll ever get over it and that's okay as long as you try to move on and learn instead of sitting in it. All the songs reflect the struggle of introspection, it's a healthy but difficult thing to do, you don't have to let your past define you.

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

We try to make every song sound completely different from the others, while maintaining a common theme. For us writing is about having that "hit" in every song whether it's a really heavy part or a buildup, we really want to be diverse but still make every song as perfect as possible!

FF: WHO/WHAT ARE YOUR MAJOR INFLUENCES WITH YOUR SOUND ESPECIALLY WITH WRITING THIS NEW EP?

We have a diversity of influences whether it's from hardcore, metal, punk, Lofi, or synth wave. We all listen to everything! Writing wise we try to be very open minded instead of stubborn with songwriting!

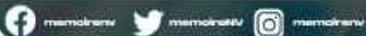
FF: WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL AS A BAND?

The goal is to get to the point where we can tour and write music full time, we love what we do and can't wait to get as many people as possible to listen to it!

FF: WHAT CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM MÉMOIRE IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

We have new music coming before the end of this year, probably just a few singles! We're also planning more giveaways and hopefully shows & tour dates! We've got a lot planned and can't wait to see how it turns out!

SOCIAL MEDIA:



Interview by: Karen González

Photo by: Dustin Bowles



YISMAEL SALVADOR

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?

A friend of mine is always sharing photos of live music; he also shares who took these photos and videos, and what gear did the photographer used. One day, I got intrigued and asked him what budget-friendly DSLR would he recommend for beginners and he helped me to find one. October 2018, I got my first DSLR camera and the first live music I photographed was Mayday Parade live in SM AURA and the second one was Escape The Fate. I've always wanted to shoot gigs because that's the reason I bought a camera in the first place. Art and how art makes me feel inspired me to pursue this career.

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?

At first, it was really tough but as the time goes by, I managed to forget how tiring it was to have a job and being on tour. My day job was not that toxic at all and being on tour is the best experience for me as music photographer.

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

The best thing is there are a lot of talented people/artists on this scene but worst is they don't get the support they deserve.

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?

I would love to work with all the bands out there! Underrated or overrated bands, old or bands that are just starting out. Just e-mail me at... (just kidding, peace!) I've been wanting to work with Slapshock, Greyhoundz, Kamikazee, Arcadia, Valley of Chrome, Piledriver, 123 Pikit, Similar//Intents, Palépaths and a lot more.

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

Still the same I think, having a day job and yes I'm still providing Visuals to the scene. Creating and sharing visuals is therapeutic and brings happiness to me.

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

I've been busy watching tutorials for bettering my crafts and been working out for improving myself. Expect more visuals in the near future! Thanks Finyte Fam!

Interview by: Karen González

SOCIAL MEDIA:

 [yismaelvteles](#)
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THE ART OF

NICOLONIMOR



Photo by Cyril Borgonia
Interview and Words by Karen González



FF: Could you tell us a short story about when and how did you start doing Nick Automatic? And how did the rest of your endeavors (Threadfest, FLSC, and No Good Crew) followed?

It started when I had to quit school and look for a job when I was 19. I found a job as a graphic illustrator for a book company. On the side I was building my online portfolio. Started to get small design gigs online till Jeremy Mckinnon of A Day To Remember emailed me to design for ADTR. My career kicked off by then. Been designing shirts for bands like TDWP, Suicide Silence, Attack Attack! and more. Also I've been commissioning stuff for labels like Ferret Records, Victory Records, Sumerian to name a few. Along the way I thought about, how about I start my own shirt brand. Then Nick Automatic was born.



FF: As an artist, where do you usually draw inspiration from your designs? Books? Music?

Since my designs are heavily influenced by music, obviously. I get my inspirations from checking out other great artists. Sometimes I stop designing and play retro to modern games.

FF: How has the streetwear culture and community changed over the years since when you first started Nick Automatic?

When I started Nick Automatic, streetwear and street culture wasn't the talk of the town. There's a huge change since Nick Automatic was the pioneer of heavily printed tees and color splashes on apparel. When streetwear came big to the market, it changed the whole game and we learned to tone down to some minimal designs.



FF: What does it take for a designer to have their graphic work break through in this day and age?

It's simple. I don't want to say the word unique since the world is oversaturated with the same things we see everyday. I'd say find a way to make your designs eye-catching. Exert tons of effort on building your portfolio. Come up with your own personal branding and keep your online presence at par with other great artists. Don't be lazy. That's it.

FF: You have and still continue to achieve so many things all at once today. Where do you see yourself in a few years? Do you think you would still be running your clothing companies and Threadfest?

Of course. I took an oath and dedicated my life for this. But of course I've been venturing different stuff lately than just designing. I've been a consultant for startup businesses here in the Emirates and been investing on startup projects especially on apps. Some Elon Musk shit.



FF: What's been keeping you busy during this quarantine? What's in store for you and your brands in the near future?

I've been reconstructing the whole flow of my designing career and also for my brands. Trying to come up with a whole new experience for my design services and been doing blueprints of new products for the next releases. Also been doing podcasts with cool people in the industry.



NADEEM A. SALAM

ARTIST/TOUR MANAGER
SKESH ENTERTAINMENT

Interview by Karen González
Photo by @hotdog_studios



FF: WHEN AND HOW DID YOU START SKESH ENTERTAINMENT? WHAT IS THE VISION BEHIND IT?

I formed Skesh Entertainment officially in the summer of 2012 to create more opportunities for both myself and the bands that I was managing at the time. It was through my early experiences of working alongside the likes of the Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, We The Kings and Scariet Heroes that I realised how the Asian entertainment market was relatively untapped, compared to the rest of the world at the time. It was only after my first set of tours out in Asia where I began to see the potential of Skesh Entertainment and how it could play a vital role in developing the entertainment scene all over the region.

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

It requires creativity, time, knowledge, commitment & investment along with a solid team that believes in your band.

FF: HOW CAN YOU COMPARE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ALTERNATIVE MUSIC SCENE TODAY TO WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED DOING WORK WITH SKESH BACK IN 2012?

The main difference is that we are able to do so much more now. When we made our move from Florida back to Asia in early 2012, we had a small office with a couple of people on payroll and a handful of bands on our roster. Over 500 shows and almost 10 years later we have been far more successful than we could ever imagine. We have a total of 5 offices across the region, 15+ employees on payroll and over 30+ acts on our roster which is continuing to grow more rapidly than we could ever have predicted.

Asia is alive and ready for business and I can't be more excited to have Skesh Entertainment in the position that it is right now. The company will be turning 10 next year and we can't wait to show everyone what we have been working on to celebrate this decade of our existence.

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

It is difficult to single out only one. They include, from founding and producing 4 annual recurring festivals around Asia to sharing the stage with the Red Hot Chili Peppers together with multiple acts of mine; co-writing a #1 radio hit for a Malaysian band; creating a priceless relationship with my brothers in 'I See Stars' to breaking records with arguably the best drummer (Luke Holland), and guitarist (Mateus Asato) of our generation/all time. Directing and producing music videos all over the world with one even premiering on MTV. It has been one hell of a ride! I have that feeling that everything has only just begun so let's see what the future has in store.

FF: WHAT'S BEEN KEEPING YOU BUSY DURING THIS QUARANTINE? WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOUR BRAND AND YOUR ROSTER OF BANDS IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

Flying planes! I have been clocking in the hours for my pilot's license on a flight simulator that I assembled at home of course #SocialDistancing. The plan is to buy a small second hand Cirrus SR-22 plane that I have located in Florida, and fly it myself all over the world, giving seminars and conducting workshops on the importance of travelling. Not only will I be going over how significant and crucial travelling is for one's self-development but I'll also be giving workshops showing ways that even if you don't have the finances that there's countless opportunities out there to travel the world and get paid doing so!

Everything that I've managed to learn or understand about the world and myself has been through being exposed to different cultures, meeting new people and facing the challenges that come with it. I am personally concerned about how the world will prioritize travelling after this pandemic, and want to do my bit to help get things back on track.

Besides that I'm beyond grateful to be working so closely on both I See Stars and Sekumpulan Orang Gila's new records/chapters. Two very different releases that are expected to come out in the next 12 months that I can't be more excited about!

FF: LASTLY, WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE TO YOUNG, ASPIRING BANDS?

Practice every opportunity you have, don't stop educating yourselves on songwriting and music production as your art will only be as good as your craft. Keep the challenge up to write better songs and take every chance to perform to work on your showmanship and eventually if you don't stop you'll get good enough and people will want to start taking you seriously. Then get in touch with me @masternadeem.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: [www.skeshmm.com](#) | Twitter: @MASTERNADEEM | Instagram: @MASTERNADEEM

WEBSITE: WWW.SKESHMM.COM



TAN FLOJO

FF: WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN A FEW YEARS? DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD STILL BE MAKING MOVES IN THE SCENE?

I would definitely be doing my 9-5 job every weekdays. On weekends, will still support and watch local shows and continue to put up my own show or more benefit gigs if I can.

FF: YOUR TEAM HAS BROUGHT SOME OF THE BEST INTERNATIONAL ACTS HERE IN MANILA. WHAT'S NEXT FOR SBC? WHAT CANCONCERT GOERS EXPECT FROM YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

We have plenty of shows already planned out since last year but unfortunately, most of them had to be re-scheduled due to the global crisis (Covid-19). It's also obvious that all of these bands are cancelling shows and just decided to stay at home. We're really unsure at this moment because we have no idea when this pandemic will end. We were mapping out a Southeast Asia tour for these 2 bands but had to postpone it for the meantime. We were also in talks with this band who played a show here last 2018 and they're deciding to do another show. Hopefully we can bounce back to organize things again.

Photo by: Sleeping Boy Collective

FF: WHEN AND HOW DID YOU START DOING WORK WITH SLEEPING BOY COLLECTIVE? WHAT IS ITS VISION?

I got invited by a friend to watch this show, Birds in Row Live in Manila at Mow's back in 2015 and that was also the first time that I went to see an SBC show. I had no idea that Sleeping Boy Collective was a group back then (thought it was just a one-man production). Years after, I was asked by Tim (our head honcho), to give them a hand last Counterparts x Stray From the Path show and it turned out that it would be the first of many shows that I'd do with them. Sleeping Boy Collective strongly believes in the "DIY" spirit and we want all the shows to be accessible for everyone.

FF: WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES YOUR TEAM AT SBC HAS FACED AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME IT?

In my opinion, sourcing of equipment and looking for bigger venues have been our biggest challenges given that we are a small "DIY" collective. Sometimes, we don't break even and we find ourselves reaching in our own pockets to finance those. We are really thankful and humbled that we got friends from the community who continuously support us and the shows we are putting up.

FF: WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT THE LOCAL FILIPINO MUSIC SCENE?

I think people have different opinions and sometimes we don't see eye to eye but at the end of the day, our shared passion for music is what's keeping this community running.

interview by: Karen González



SOCIAL MEDIA:
Facebook: [@sleepingboycollective](#) | Twitter: [@sbc_manila](#) | Instagram: [@sleepingboycollective](#)

OPM



DEFINING AN OPM LEGACY



With decades of bringing intense energy-flowing live performances, dozens of iconic singles and music videos, and still furthering their presence in the scene today, it is without a doubt that every Filipino rock fanatic has heard of Chicosci, or voted for them in music TV shows, have used their tracks on a mix CD they had in the early 2000s, considered themselves a part of the Vampire Social Club, or all of the above.

They are simply one of the most influential acts in the Filipino music community ever since they stepped into the limelight and continue to do so even after undergoing several lineup changes and progressing different styles into their sound.

In retrospect, if you grew up listening to OPM, you grew up listening to Chicosci, and have witnessed the band's evolution, both musically and as individuals.

RECENTLY, WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK SOME QUESTIONS WITH THEIR FRONTMAN NIGGY CHAVEZ AND GUITARIST MONG ALCARAZ ALL ABOUT THE STATE OF THE OPM SCENE TODAY, WHATS NEXT FOR THEIR FUTURE, AND WHAT DEFINES THE ROCK VETERANS CHICOSCI.

IF YOU LOVE THEM, YOU'LL READ IT! PUN INTENDED.

WORDS BY NABER GONZALEZ PHOTOS BY MIKO CERRA



FF: How are things in the Chicოსci camp lately? What have you guys been up to aside from staying at home during this quarantine?

MIGGY: We're good. Just trying to do our part by staying indoors. I've been writing, drawing, practicing guitar, and eating like shit.

MONG: We started right before the lockdown filming rehearsals. Literally the night before they announced the first GCQ. So basically, the start of quarantine, I was trying to learn the finer points of video editing. Quarantine hasn't prevented us from working on our new material—I've been editing and arranging some of the demos we have yet to finish.

I also found an old hard drive that had a lot of demos for our Icarus album. These versions were never released or played live. Maybe we can release it, if people are interested enough. It features pretty sloppy playing and barely passable audio from us (these are home recorded files from 2003 lol)

FF: How has the band's sound evolved over the years? What have been the major changes with your songwriting, if any?

MIGGY: We've always been conscious about not making the same album twice. Back in the day, we used to be heavier, noisier. Then we started adding more melody and dynamics to our writing. We got a lot of shit for it, but we always saw it as exploring different styles of music that challenge us and make us happy.

MONG: I feel like it's very evident that our sound is a product and function of our age. haha

**WE'VE TOLD OURSELVES
THAT WE'D QUIT ONCE IT STOPPED BEING FUN
AND IT'S STILL FUN.**



WE'VE ALWAYS
BEEN CONSCIOUS
ABOUT NOT MAKING
THE SAME
ALBUM TWICE

FF: In hindsight, is there anything you could have done differently with the band over the past 20 years?

MIGGY: There will always be things you'd want to do differently, like if we did this or that, maybe we'd be in a better place in our career. But on the other hand, maybe the band wouldn't exist anymore. We're still making music, so I guess everything worked out.

MONG: I wish I kept all the tapes and documentation we did and had a better system for keeping it all. Some got lost at our label's offices, some got destroyed in Ondoy. I wish we were able to record and demo all rehearsals we ever had.

FF: With all of the iconic songs you have shared with us over the years, which one remains your favourite out of all and why?

MIGGY: I love playing Raspberry Girl live. I'm really proud of that song. From the last few songs we've put out, Buzzin' and Like We Used To are my favorites.

MONG: If I were to recommend a B-side to listen to maybe - Anything for Two

FF: Fans can come out to see Chicosc! everywhere - whether it's at a smaller bar venue or at some of the biggest festivals and events nationwide. Which do you prefer to perform at more? What makes a certain show unforgettable for you guys?

MIGGY: I prefer more intimate shows. It usually means we get to play longer sets, we can play songs we don't usually have on our setlist, and we can road test new material. I also love it when the crowd is in your face. And most importantly I can drink as much as I want.

MONG: Today — I'll play ANYWHERE.

FF: Chicosc! is a staple in the Filipino music scene. What do you think are the qualities of the band that has got you guys to be where you are right now?

MIGGY: I think it's the fact that we genuinely enjoy each other's company. We love playing onstage together, and we have a lot of fun just hanging out.

MONG: We just keep trudging along. It was never a perfect journey, and we've always just rolled with the punches, going through the ups and downs. We've always been proactive in becoming involved with keeping it local. We tried to work with the Senyors of the scene when it was possible or whoever was accepting of us, and as we grew older, we also tried working with the young bands that wanted to take the same journey we did. People always say that there's a cycle in music, but seeing what we've been through, I've come to realize that you have to actively choose to be part of the family to keep the cycle going.

FF: You've been making music for more than 20 years. Back then, did you see this thing lasting this long?

MIGGY: It's not something we focused on. Longevity, especially considering the kind of music that we play is fantastic, but we've always told ourselves that we'd quit once it stopped being fun. And it's still fun.

MONG: Back then I knew I never wanted to stop.

YOU HAVE TO ACTIVELY
CHOOSE TO BE PART
OF THE FAMILY TO
KEEP THE CYCLE
GOING

FF: Is there a specific theme or direction you're going for with the new material you're currently writing? Are there any artists you've been particularly listening to for inspiration for writing?

MIGGY: We've never really set any limits as far as styles or themes go. Right now we're just trying to write the best songs we can, while challenging ourselves as songwriters and performers. That includes not only the music itself, but also the visuals, and the live show.

MONG: We've been working on our instrumentation and I've been personally trying to explore beyond guitars, but at the same time, trying to figure out what context in modern music works for the tried and tested electric guitar. Overall, just trying to use our instrument less like a jackhammer, and like a stylus.

Quarantine has been great to just listen, discover and rediscover music. My recently played list on Spotify points to Teenage Wrist, Cursive, Car Bomb, CIV, Land of Talk, Run the Jewels, APB, Jay Som, Tame Impala, Mobb Deep, MF Doom and Amine.

FF: What do you think of the local music community in this day and age, compared to when the band first started?

MIGGY: I think the community now is very close-knit. Everyone is so supportive of each other. Not to say that people weren't like that before, but with social media, it becomes more apparent. It's great that musical collaborations are just a tweet or DM away. It's a lot easier to get your name out there. But sometimes that can also be a bad thing; there's a lot of hot garbage getting popular, so I guess you have to be a little more wary and try to filter that out.

MONG: There are more pocket scenes now. But not because of "exclusivity", but because there are just so many things going on at the same time now. Labels are less involved in the proliferation of trends, and more kids are able to truly do their own thing and still be heard. It's not the same astronomical numbers for everyone — but the platform is there.

**SOCIAL MEDIA
WE ARE CHICOSCI**

FF: What's next for Chicosci in the near future, aside from new music? Any other stuff in the works that your listeners will be stoked about?

MONG: Once we're all clear and government allows it, we're ready to broadcast our rehearsals.

MIGGY: Before the lockdown, we made all these plans and we were excited about what we considered a new beginning for the band. For now, obviously those plans have been put on hold, but we're taking this time to reassess and regroup. Hopefully we can all get back out there soon, and we're looking forward to showing everyone what we've been working on. Thank you, Finite Fam. *Namaste.*

ORCA

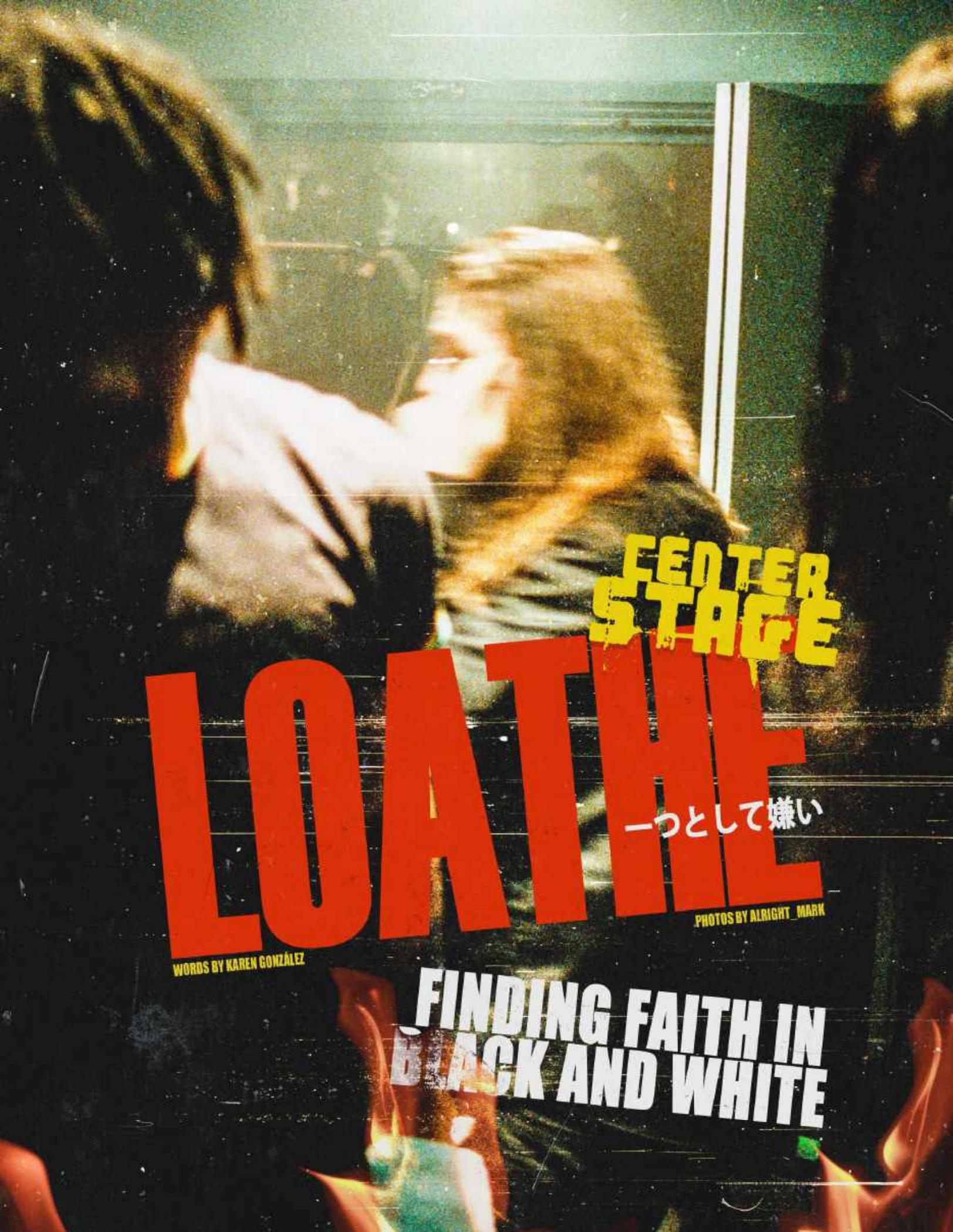
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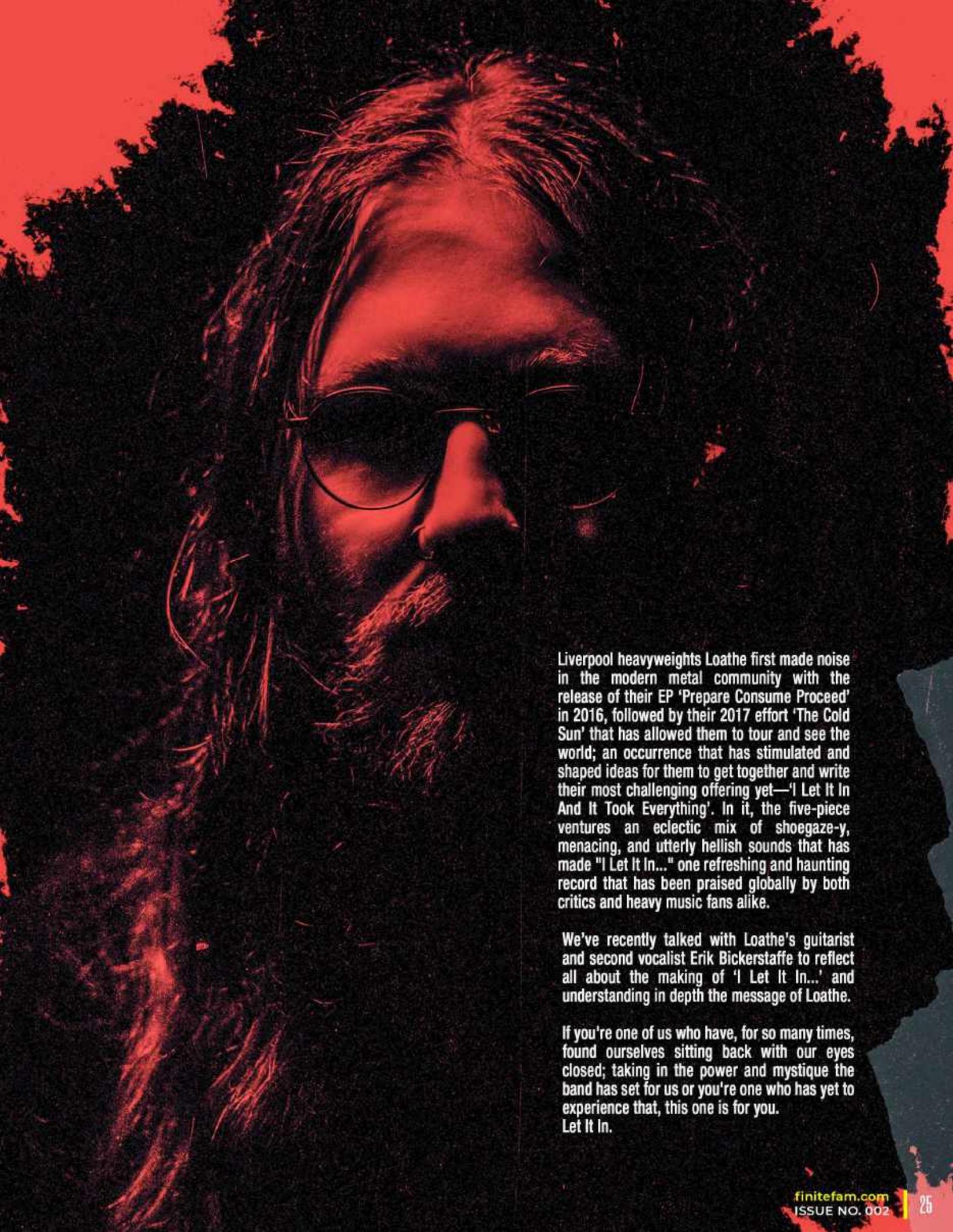
LOATHING

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PHOTOS BY ALRIGHT MARK

WORDS BY KAREN GONZÁLEZ

**FINDING FAITH IN
BLACK AND WHITE**



Liverpool heavyweights Loathe first made noise in the modern metal community with the release of their EP 'Prepare Consume Proceed' in 2016, followed by their 2017 effort 'The Cold Sun' that has allowed them to tour and see the world; an occurrence that has stimulated and shaped ideas for them to get together and write their most challenging offering yet—'I Let It In And It Took Everything'. In it, the five-piece ventures an eclectic mix of shoegaze-y, menacing, and utterly hellish sounds that has made "I Let It In..." one refreshing and haunting record that has been praised globally by both critics and heavy music fans alike.

We've recently talked with Loathe's guitarist and second vocalist Erik Bickerstaffe to reflect all about the making of 'I Let It In...' and understanding in depth the message of Loathe.

If you're one of us who have, for so many times, found ourselves sitting back with our eyes closed; taking in the power and mystique the band has set for us or you're one who has yet to experience that, this one is for you.
Let It In.



FF: Having been around for a few years now, how would you describe your journey as a band in a nutshell?

Very eye opening. It's been a process that has really allowed us to grow as people and as a group. Understanding what it takes and what comes with the territory of "being a band" was something much deeper than most of us anticipated.

FF: It created a big buzz in the whole modern metal community when 'I Let It In And It Took Everything' arrived. Before you released it, did you expect the response would be the same as what it got?

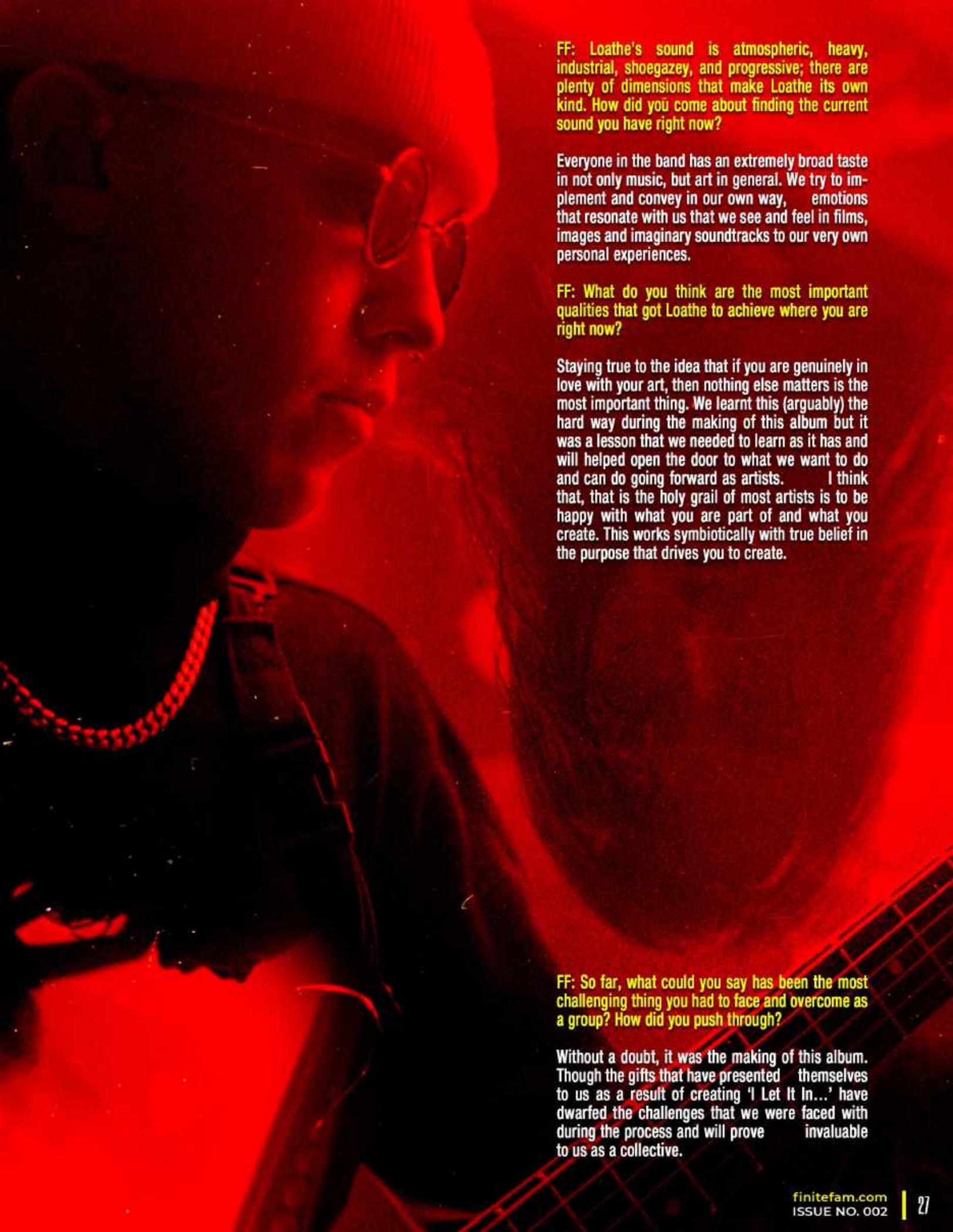
We really had no expectations as to what the reaction to the record was going to be like. The band had stripped itself apart and rebuilt itself multiple times during the making of the record. I'd say there was an element of quiet confidence though. We believed in what we had created.

FF: How was the writing and recording process of 'I Let It In...' go? How did you decide on the theme and name of the album?

It was written and pieced together in a variety of different locations both home and studio with the album title first presenting itself to us whilst in the midst of a month long writing session at a cottage in the middle of the Welsh country-side back in October of 2018. As time went on and the vision for what we wanted 'I Let It In...' became clearer and so did the fact that the title was almost a metaphor for the journey that we had both been on as people and as artists.

FF: How would you compare 'I Let It In...' to your previous releases, 'Prepare Consume Proceed' and 'The Cold Sun'?

I'd say, like most bands, that our music has matured greatly over the course of each release. With each album's completion, we learn more about what our band means and what we are trying to say with our music and with 'I Let It In...' we took a few steps forward.



FF: Loathe's sound is atmospheric, heavy, industrial, shoegazey, and progressive; there are plenty of dimensions that make Loathe its own kind. How did you come about finding the current sound you have right now?

Everyone in the band has an extremely broad taste in not only music, but art in general. We try to implement and convey in our own way, emotions that resonate with us that we see and feel in films, images and imaginary soundtracks to our very own personal experiences.

FF: What do you think are the most important qualities that got Loathe to achieve where you are right now?

Staying true to the idea that if you are genuinely in love with your art, then nothing else matters is the most important thing. We learnt this (arguably) the hard way during the making of this album but it was a lesson that we needed to learn as it has and will help open the door to what we want to do and can do going forward as artists. I think that, that is the holy grail of most artists is to be happy with what you are part of and what you create. This works symbiotically with true belief in the purpose that drives you to create.

FF: So far, what could you say has been the most challenging thing you had to face and overcome as a group? How did you push through?

Without a doubt, it was the making of this album. Though the gifts that have presented themselves to us as a result of creating 'I Let It In...' have dwarfed the challenges that we were faced with during the process and will prove invaluable to us as a collective.

FF: What exactly does 'Loathe As One' mean to you?

Solidarity.

FF: If you were to give advice to the younger version of Loathe, what advice would you give yourselves? What could you have done differently in the band?

Don't lose yourself in the sea of noise.

FF: Tell us about how the metal scene is in Liverpool. How is your relationship with your peers from your local music community?

We've always been quite in touch with the community that Liverpool has, Loathe was born through the community and love that surrounded us. Right now, the scene is thriving - not just in metal but in general, music is alive and well within Liverpool.

**DON'T LOSE
YOURSELF
IN THE SEA
OF NOISE.**

LOATHE



FF: What key differences do you see between playing local shows and playing somewhere far from your hometown, like for example, Asia?

LOATHE: You could see it as you have the pressure of a first impression more when you play outside of your local areas, however, it was always important to us to understand that no matter where we are - we are the same 5 people, we are the same group of musicians and we have a reason for being there and that is to perform and spread the word of Loathe.

FF: Lastly, what's next for Loathe? What's your ultimate goal as a group?

LOATHE: Keep going, keep writing, keep thriving. We aim to see the world and connect with as many people through music as possible.

LOATHEASONE.CO.UK
SOCIAL MEDIA:
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HOW DO YOU COPE WITH MISSING GOING TO AND PERFORMING AT SHOWS DURING THIS QUARANTINE?



I think the weirdest part about the quarantine hasn't necessarily been missing out on shows as much as it's been missing out on having people stay here. My parents' house has always kind of been an epicenter for bands to stay at while on tour over the years, which is really how I got my foot in the door with music in the first place. We've consistently had bands stay here at least once a week for years before the pandemic happened. Even with the fact that I got a real job and was a full time teacher, we still always had people here. My parents love hosting people. So it's certainly weird not to be waking up to random people in my house as strange as that sounds.

It's something I've really grown to miss. Shows too in general, but it's given me a lot of time to settle down with my family, pick up some new hobbies, work on new music and just focus on other things for once. It's certainly scary the fact that the possibilities of concerts seem to be getting farther and farther away, but as much as I miss it, it's been really nice to have the chance to work on other things since so much of my life has been just based around touring for so long.

Nate Blasdel
I Set My Friends On Fire

We take advantage of this time not only by reflecting on our respective individualities and improving ourselves as musicians, but also by relaxing at the comfort of our own homes and bonding with our families. Seeing a lot of old gig photos and videos makes us miss the stage and crowd even more. But we value each and everyone's safety in this tough period we are in despite the urge to perform in front of dozens of people. We hope everyone stays safe and healthy and we will see everyone once the country heals.

We are currently finishing the final song for our first EP. We've managed to merge different styles that mirror each member's different taste and personality. This song will define the revamped look and sound of Full Pledged Revenge.

Renzo Sacro
Full Pledged Revenge

We've been releasing new songs and also doing a couple of covers every now and then. As for me, I sing and practice at home for at least 3 times a week so I don't forget the feel of singing at a hundred percent.

Regarding live shows, we really have been focusing on songwriting over playing gigs since our comeback (or regroup). But we'll still rock it out for the fans once pandemic cools down. Stay indoors for now.

We have a load of songs ready to record and play on shows and we can't wait for you guys to sing along to it.

As for new music videos and all that good stuff. That shit is a given. It will happen.

Christian Tomacruz
Jejaview

Ever since the pandemic, I tend to look back at old video footages and pictures from our gigs just to remind myself of how much fun it is to play in front of a crowd. From time to time me and my bandmates hold an online gig to stay connected to our followers and to relieve ourselves from the itch of playing music.

We're gonna be releasing a music video this June and hopefully we could follow it up with a new song sometime in July or August.

Jose Gaspar
Lunarlights

Due to the pandemic, we stay on our houses doing our own thing as individuals, like Tofi and Eln who are consistently making guitar covers and sharing it on facebook, while Saux is currently focused on his business. However, we're always staying communicated while waiting for the crisis to cease so we can go back to playing at live gigs and record new songs.

Meanwhile, our crew over at Mainland Hardcore has just released two compilations of hardcore and hip-hop records including bands and artists from the Mainland roster as well as some of our friends in the hip-hop community. People can check it out on Youtube at Mainland Hardcore's account.

Dave Pacia
Denounced

Got a question you've always wanted to ask an artist? Let us know and send a message to editor@finitefam.com



ON REPEAT PLAYLIST



with finite roster

ORCA
Finite Fam
18min

ADD SONGS

- Jaws
Sleep Token
- Sino
Unique Salonga
- Re:Re:
ASIAN KUNG-FU GENERATION
- Blood Sport
Sleep Token

FRAGMENTS
Finite Fam
18min

ADD SONGS

- Night Crossing
Bleed From Within
- Boomslang
Kublai Khan TX
- All of This Is Fleeting
Polaris
- Too Young
Post Malone
- Abandoned
Unprocessed

LOSTTHREADS
Finite Fam
18min

ADD SONGS

- Alone & Unafraid
ELIZA
- Dig
Incubus
- Heartless
The Weeknd
- Change Your Life (feat. Jhené Ai...
Kehlani, Jhené Aiko
- Switchblade

FALSE CONTENDER
Finite Fam
20min

ADD SONGS

- It's Only Smiles
Periphery
- When We Were Young
Adele
- Aftermath
The Ghost Inside
- Sunday Best
Surfaces
- Arms Like Teeth
Counterparts

SIMILAR//INTENTS
Finite Fam
17min

ADD SONGS

- Trilogy
Silent Planet
- Swallowing the Rabbit Whole
Code Orange
- Cautious
Emarosa
- Keep It Moving
Turnstile
- WAKE UP
Travis Scott



FINITE FAM REVIEWS



I Let It In And It Took Everything

I LET IT IN AND IT TOOK EVERYTHING Loathe

Review by Joe Hammond

A stand-out sophomore soundscape that rivals the likes of "No Sleep" by Volumes and "Around the Fur" by Deftones, "I Let It In And It Took Everything" by Loathe is set to be one of 2020's most memorable albums.

"Theme" is a hauntingly minimalistic tone-setter, leading swiftly into "Aggressive Evolution". Here, France and Bickerstaffe's vocals intertwine with some utterly filthy guitar work. "Two-Way Mirror" follows with mesmerising shoegaze melodies and vocals so sexy your girlfriend will get jealous. The album flows perfectly between its heavier and softer moments - the transition between "Screaming", "Is It Really You?" and "Gored" is nothing short of stellar musicianship. A journey of melancholy and menace, the album culminates with the final title track, an indescribably heavy frenzy.

"I Let It In..." is inspired, and equally inspiring. LOATHE AS ONE.

SCORE:

Favorite Tracks: Aggressive Evolution, Two-Way Mirror, Is It Really You?

MONSTERS Currents

Review by Micah Go

The countdown to Currents' third studio album, "The Way It Ends" grows shorter and shorter and by the looks of it, the band decided to continue to tick the clock away by releasing a strong final single in the form of "Monsters".

"Monsters" is called rightfully so; it is such a massive-sounding song that starts strong with and is made up of groovy metalcore riffs which Currents have shown flawless mastery over. It is then coupled with raspy growls that frequently interchanges with somber singing that make up one catchy chorus.

Backing all of this is Currents' signature melodic metalcore sound that they display perfectly in the form of atmospheric yet heavy instrumentals along with integrating both a guitar solo and one hell of a djenty breakdown that ends the song as strong as it started.



SCORE:

FINITE FAM REVIEWS



PIXELATE Volumes

Review by Jarod Vermilyea

It's not every day wishes come true, but with Volumes' new song "Pixelate", I think I can speak for every classic fan and say that our wish was granted. Somehow they keep figuring out ways to make the music even better than we already thought possible. It's heavy, bouncy and just an absolute banger.

Michael Barr and Myke Terry have transcended their art of doing vocals together with this one, it's absolutely perfect and if you love "holywater", then there's no doubt anyone wouldn't love this too. They took all the amazing elements of their "No Sleep" sound and blended it with the essence of "Via" which is so nice, and with me as someone who holds Via so close to my heart this was everything I had hoped for, and it shows that producer Max Schad really wanted to make something special with this. It truly is a perfect song.

SCORE:

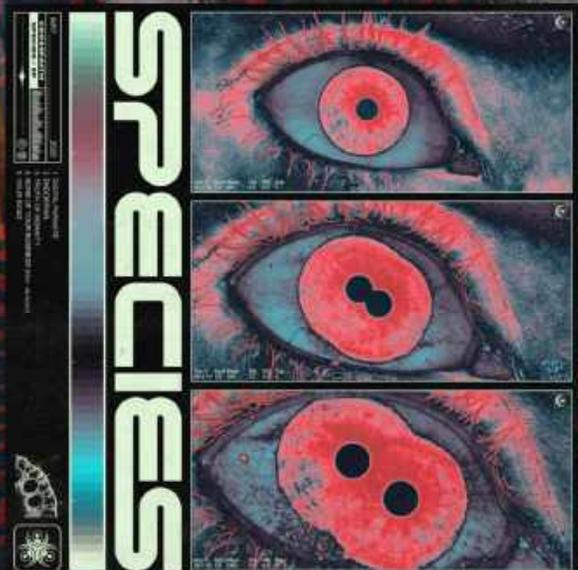
SPECIES Crossfaith

Review by Micah Go

Crossfaith have always been a band that have wildly experimented with their electronicore sound and their new EP is no different.

The "Species" EP sees them take that sound further, incorporating their signature elements of EDM while also integrating unique touches of rap like in "None Of Your Business" while also displaying their more melodic metalcore side in tracks like "Truth of Insanity" and "Your Song".

Overall, "Species" is an absolutely fun listen to anyone looking for a more unique take on heavy music. While perhaps not as immediately catchy as their older releases are, "Species" is still uncompromisingly heavy, offering an array of songs that perfectly define who Crossfaith really are.



Favorite Tracks: Truth of Insanity, None Of Your Business

SCORE:



MULTITUDE

ALL FOR ALL

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IMPORTANT:
FUCK NO TO
ANTI
TERRORISM
BILL
#FUCKTHEORRORBILL
#RESISTANCE

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