

FINITE FANZINE



CRYSTAL LAKE:

ON BREAKING THROUGH THE GLOBAL METAL SCENE

VOID OF VISION:

TALKS HYPERDAZE

PLUS:

OUTLINE IN COLOR
TALATA
WITHIN DESTRUCTION
DEAD CROWN

New
Release



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URBANDUB

20 YEARS OF OPM!

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS:
WINDRUNNER
SAILING BEFORE THE WIND
UNITE ASIA, AND MORE!



JUNE
2020

ISSUE
NO. 03

EDITOR'S NOTE

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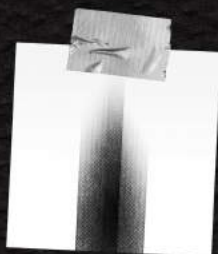


Third time's a charm! You're walking in to the third issue of the Finite Zine, thank you for being here! We hope that you've been enjoying what we've put out so far the past two months, and as promised, here's another big one.

Get ready for our triple CENTER STAGE features: Japan metalcore's finest Crystal Lake, and Melbourne heavyhitters Void of Vision, two of the most talked about modern metal acts, and of course, Filipino rock veterans Urbandub! Plus the IN DEPTH segment where you can get insiders on your favourite/future favourite acts, including some of my personal loves Dead Crown, Outline In Color, Shaded, Windrunner, and so much more! All amazing bands, I promise! So take notes if you don't know any of them and check all of them out, because if you know us, you'd know that Finite Fam strives to be a platform to discover some top tier alternative artists from across the globe!

We are open for suggestions on our future releases. Let us know who or what you want us to feature! Just shoot me a message at editor@finitefam.com. Thanks guys, and hope to see you on the next one!

PRESIDENT RECOMMENDS:



SUNDOWNING by Sleep Token

Please, for the love of all that is good in the world, if you still haven't checked out this band, do yourself a favor. However, ST is an experience. It's either you get it or you don't. Worship.

SLEEPTALK by Dayseeker

One of my newly discovered favourites, an album with all banger no filler! Very difficult to sing-along to though, their vocalist has an insane vocal range! Glad to have stumbled upon this gem during this quarantine. Can't get enough.



Abrazos y besos,

Resilient

Stream the
THIS IS FINITE FAM
playlist on Spotify!



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THE STATE OF THE SCENE



THE ALTERNATIVE MUSIC PODCAST
AVAILABLE ON APPLE, GOOGLE, AND SPOTIFY



SOTSPodcast



FF: COULD YOU GIVE US A BACKGROUND ABOUT HOW WINDRUNNER STARTED AS A GROUP? WHO/WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN INSPIRATIONS?

We were just a bunch of kids who wanted to play some heavy stuff together. We've had a few lineup changes but all of us, old and new members, have known each other for quite some time so the running theme is still the same, to fuse our different musical backgrounds creating some original music. We draw inspiration from all over the place as each member enjoys such a different style of music. But notably, you could say that the djent, progressive metal and metalcore styles played a big part in writing for Windrunner. Besides that, we all enjoy heavy music in all its forms.

FF: WITH THE RISE OF UPCOMING YOUNG METAL BANDS IN THE MODERN METAL SCENE, WHAT DO YOU THINK SEPARATES WINDRUNNER FROM THE REST?

Due to all of us having widely different life/cultural/music backgrounds, perhaps we're able to forge a different approach with new sounds or new elements on top of our metal foundation. But honestly we just try to write music as naturally as we can and luckily it's been pretty well received.

FF: SO FAR, WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES YOU HAVE FACED AS A BAND AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THEM?

The amount of effort needed to run a band is huge, especially in Vietnam where the resources and infrastructure for metal bands are few and far between. But we kept pushing forward and luckily are still here today. Our incredibly supportive label Famined Records as well as our friends in Skesh Entertainment also helped us with

SOCIAL MEDIA:

WINDRUNNERBAND
windrunnerVN

Interview by: Karen González

FF: WHAT IS THE LOCAL METAL SCENE IN HANOI LIKE? IS HEAVY MUSIC SOMETHING THAT IS GREATLY RECEIVED THERE?

The scene is small but definitely growing. We try to help by doing some promoter work as well, with the aim to bring more international bands to Vietnam while also helping local bands showcase their talent and hopefully build a tight knit community along the way. There is a lot of talent out of Vietnam to be discovered!

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

We hope to continue writing and playing music together for as long as we can.

FF: WE HEARD THAT YOU ARE SET TO RELEASE A NEW ALBUM SOON? COULD YOU GIVE US AN INSIGHT ABOUT WHAT YOUR LISTENERS CAN EXPECT FROM IT?

We've spent a whole year writing and will soon go into recording for the new album. The sound is quite a bit darker compared to our previous full-length MAI, and we're incredibly excited for this release. Stay tuned!

#WINDRUNNER



outlineincolor.com

f t i outlineincolor

OUTLINE IN COLOR

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

This is a tough one! We all have very different influences. I (Skaggs) listen to a lot of hip-hop and R&B, but I came up on heavy metal and hardcore. CJ (guitar) loves Poppy, and a surprising amount of top 40 and country music, and Jon (Vocals/Bass) listens to a lot of pop, but also is an avid Core listener. If you were to ask about any band in the scene, he would be the most likely to have the answer. I couldn't even begin to tell you Austin's (Drums) musical taste. He's got his own set of favorites. I know he's a big fan of Run The Jewels though :)

FF: YOUR UPCOMING EP 'IMPOSTER SYNDROME' WILL BE OUT ON JULY 10. COULD YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT IT? WHAT IS THE THEME BEHIND IT, AND WHAT CAN FANS EXPECT FROM IT?

The theme is Imposter Syndrome, which simply explains the phenomena when you are very proficient at something, but for some reason hold strong feelings of self-doubt. Quite literally feeling like an Imposter or a fraud. Music-wise you can expect a wide array of sounds ranging from Pop rock and alt rock, to the heaviest tracks OIC has ever produced, and everything in between.

FF: HOW DOES THE SONGWRITING PROCESS WORK WITHIN YOUR BAND ESPECIALLY WITH WRITING 'IMPOSTER'?

To be honest, it has varied a bit with every album/ep process. This project specifically, we worked with Andrew Baylis. We flew him to Oklahoma, and he lived with us for a month while we produced the EP's. Having a producer work with us at home made the process remarkably simpler than projects passed.

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ALTERNATIVE MUSIC SCENE TODAY COMPARED TO WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED AS A GROUP?

It's really cool to see how everything has grown and how genre's and sub-genre's have diversified. When we started AttackAttack was just getting started and a lot of heavy hitters today hadn't formed yet. It is wild to see who has come up, who has stayed on top, and the new blood that constantly is changing the game. I never thought 10 years ago that the scene would progress to the near mainstream level it is now.

FF: WHAT FUELS YOU TO CONTINUE MAKING MUSIC?

A shared love for making music, and our fans. Our fans are so kind, supportive, and generous. It really fuels us to keep going. We've watched some of our fans grow into adults, and seen a whole new era of concert goers. It's truly humbling that we still have a place in this scene where we can produce music and have a platform to do it on. We couldn't do it without our fans.

FF: WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUTLINE IN COLOR? WHAT ELSE CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

When COVID clears up, you can expect us to hit the road as much as possible. We have a bunch of collaborative works in progress with a variety of artists in several different genres, as well as a super cool cover of a song you've probably never heard before. Not to mention Imposter Syndrome PART 2, and a whole bunch of music videos and content! We don't plan to stop any time soon!

Interview by: Karen González



imposter

SAVE THE YOUTH

FF: HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN EACH OTHER? WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER AS SAVE THE YOUTH?

- We've been somewhat connected with each other ever since we were kids (hehe pun intended, hey kids!). All of us lived in the same small town in Sorsogon a few blocks away from each other. We were acquainted ever since we were around three years old since we pretty much went to the same preschool, plus Kenneth and Luigi are cousins. We all became friends, then the music followed. It all seems like a long time ago and yesterday at the same time. As for what drove us to make music, the idea of making music itself drove us to start. It just seemed like something we all resonated with. It was so easy to fall in love with it. It wasn't even gradual, it went something like 'Hey we should start a band', and we did. Funnily enough, it was pop music that got us started. Our earlier acoustic performances (yes, we were an acoustic band) involved us wanting to mashup popular songs in four chords. Maroon 5, Taylor Swift, One Direction, FloRida, and many more. Nobody was safe. We really thought we were staying in that route until our collective music taste changed and evolved.

FF: MOST OF YOUR SONG TITLES ARE NAMES OF GIRLS. HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THIS IDEA? ARE THESE GIRLS REAL PEOPLE YOU'RE PERSONALLY CONNECTED TO?

Babaero kasi si Luigi, kidding, he's actually single.

The 'girls' names as song titles' thing started as a joke from our friend Clarence, (shout out to you!) He used to always butt in when conversations pause. Like, whenever there's dead air and we couldn't quite remember a person we're trying to talk about, he'd butt in and say "ahhh si Jennifer?" to throw us all off. Say what you will if it's annoying or funny but one time we were thinking of a title to one of our first songs and we were stuck, so in typical Clarence fashion, he chimed in and said "ahhh, si Jennifer", and to Jennifer was born.

We don't personally know anybody named Donna, Jennifer, or Santa Raphaela for that matter, but you could say that they represent people in our lives. Well, not really people, more like situations and stuff we went through. Everyone has their own Donna, Jennifer, and Santa Raphaela, you can also say that.

FF: WHAT IS THE LOCAL SCENE LIKE IN SORSOGON?

It felt pretty awkward to be honest for a band like us.

Sorsogon, Irosin specifically, hosts a slew of bands ranging from Fiesta hitmakers that could take every single request written on a piece of tissue to the heaviest metalheads that seemed to be able to rip your guts out when performing. We were in that pretty awkward in between. We couldn't take requests since we liked playing our own original songs, and we weren't really heavy, heavy. So in the beginning, it felt as if we didn't belong anywhere there. We've managed to find footing in Albay and lately up north in Manila so it's exciting to have that under our belt. At the moment, we still feel like we're trying to find our footing in our own hometown but luckily for us we found many homes in many scenes from many places.

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

Continuing our story about playing pop songs as an acoustic band, we started out being that during our high-school days and the evolution began with that. As we grew older, so did our collective music taste. We gravitated towards alternative rock in general. Our sound shifted to resemble the bands and artists we like listening to. Drive Like I do, Blink-182, Taking Back Sunday, Silverstein, Brand New except for you Jesse, fuck you, and local acts like Typecast, and many more helped mold our sound and what songs we play today. We don't expect to stay and settle for a singular sound any time soon because we're still growing, and so will our music.

FF: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE AS A BAND? HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THAT CHALLENGE?

Being an unsigned independent band = challenge. We only have ourselves to depend on as far as production goes with our music. We're lucky enough to have many friends and kids of all ages that support our craft and are generally excited with each release. With their support and us just wanting to make music because we want to, that struggle turns into motivation to be as good as we can be.

FF: WHAT'S BEEN KEEPING YOU BUSY DURING THIS QUARANTINE? WHAT'S IN STORE FOR SAVE THE YOUTH AFTER THIS PANDEMIC?

-Video games, movies, anime, series, food and what our hands do when we're in our room if you know what we mean. What we mean of course is practicing our craft and improving our abilities during the pandemic with the resources we have. Kabigan, among inisip mo?

This pandemic messed with our planned full length album so expect lots of cool songs once this is over! We can't wait to see all of you kids again on gigs! We're getting thicc and we need to move around on stage again! We love you! We'll see you soon!

Interview by: Jam Oliver

SOCIAL MEDIA:



savetheyouthph
SaveTheYouthPH

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ISSUE NO. 003



FF: HOW WAS WITHIN DESTRUCTION FORMED? WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BE MUSICIANS AND WORK TOGETHER AS A GROUP?

LUKA: Within Destruction was formed by Rok and me, we were very good friends in high school and were already in a cover band together. We started listening to a lot of similar bands like As I Lay Dying, The Black Dahlia Murder, Suicide Silence, etc. which inspired us heavily. I think the primary reason why we wanted to do a band with our own music is the fact that we were watching a lot of tour documentaries from those bands and we were just so excited about experiencing the same.

FF: HAVING BEEN AROUND IN THE INDUSTRY FOR A FEW YEARS NOW, DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR REAL "SOUND" OR ARE YOU STILL ACTIVELY DISCOVERING IT?

LUKA: There was a lot of controversy and long, deep talks on the internet about our genre and so on... I believe people will be even more confused with the upcoming Yōkai album and I love that! To put it simply, we've always had our own sound - we've been playing heavy music ever since and the new album is also heavy. But we do like to spice things up with inspiration from different genres, we've always done this from black metal parts, djent and so on. But this album definitely went overboard in a few songs where inspiration became the base of it so we're super excited to see how people accept it!

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

We're always able to surprise people. I love the fact that you can expect the unexpected from us. There's not a lot of bands like that.

FF: WHAT IS WITHIN DESTRUCTION'S VISION? WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL?

Our goal was always to bring the heaviest possible music to a mainstream audience.

FF: WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT THE ALTERNATIVE MUSIC SCENE TODAY?

I think the best thing about the music is the loyalty and support of fans. We have a lot of people that have been with us from the beginning and have full confidence in what we do. A lot of bands have die hard, very supportive fans, that's not something common in other genres. The worst on the other hand is the fact that people are scared of listening/trying out something new because they do not want to look like "pussies" on social media. Everyone's trying so hard to be tough and keep a certain image... Why? Just admit Justin Bieber and Ariana Grande are awesome cause you always nod your head and sing along when the melody comes on.

FF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR UPCOMING ALBUM "YŌKAI", WHAT CAN FANS EXPECT FROM IT?

Expect everything you don't expect to get from us.

WORDS BY KAREN GONZÁLEZ



FF: WHEN AND HOW DID BIRD. START AND DECIDED TO MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER?

we were formed in early 2018 - maybe around the time eco got married. we went straight to writing songs together. eco had a bunch of songs and he wanted to try working on them with a full band. jr, aaron and i have been friends with him for quite some time as our bands (Jevaview and Save Me Hollywood) would see each other during shows. we've also worked with him prior to bird. as he would session for us sometimes. i think it made sense that we ended up forming this new band together.

FF: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE KIND OF MUSIC YOU MAKE? WHO/WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN INSPIRATIONS AS A GROUP?

as a genre, we'd like to call it "vibecore" - something you can vibe to when you're just hanging out. chill, but not too chill. something that you'd listen to while driving, skating, or even jogging. if our music were a person, it would prolly be your best friend.

we draw inspirations from life, i guess. eco and aaron (our main songwriters) usually think about daily situations and try to create a soundtrack for those moments. We've actually tried putting some of our songs to some movie trailers or sequences to check if we're really giving off the right vibe.

we've actually been lucky to have our music feature in a feature film recently. our song "weekend" was included in the OST for "on vodka, beers and regrets". It played during a scene where the two lead characters were hanging out by a swimming pool. it was literally what we imagined for the song!

go check the lyrics!

FF: HOW DOES THE SONGWRITING PROCESS WORK WITHIN YOUR BAND?

eco and aaron are the really the driving (creative) forces in the band. both of them would come into the studio with a song prepared already and we'd just arrange together - if needed. but it's really the two of them keeping the band moving forward creatively.

FF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR LATEST SINGLE "RIDE". WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

there are things that you just don't want to end. some moments that you'd wanna live through a lil bit longer. it's about those moments. it's about being in, and giving in to those moments.

FF: WITH THE RISE OF MANY YOUNG BANDS IN THE SCENE, WHAT DO YOU THINK SEPARATES BIRD. FROM THE REST?

we're really just here, enjoying ourselves writing, recording, performing, and sharing gvs through our music!

FF: WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST GOAL FOR BIRD.? WHERE DO YOU SEE YOUR BAND A FEW YEARS FROM NOW?

to become part of people's experiences. we want to be that band you want playing on the car stereo during a roadtrip or that band you listen to while hanging out by the beach. we want our music to be the one you remember playing in the background when people think about such moments in their lives.

thank you so much,
bird.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

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ABOUT ROENTGEN CO.

Located in the heart of Gumaca, Quezon Province Roentgen Co. offers customers a place to find unique and timeless fashion pieces. Founded in 2017, we sell quality merchandise to customers across the map. Our main goal is to aware everyone what is the value of medical imaging, radiation, medical concept, Science and more.

Over the years, our company has grown and expanded to offer the most amazing collections. Pop in today and see for yourself.

STAY RADIOACTIVE

SAILING BEFORE THE WIND



FF: COULD YOU GIVE US A BACKGROUND ABOUT HOW SAILING BEFORE THE WIND STARTED AS A GROUP? WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CREATE MUSIC TOGETHER?

We were formed in 2011 as a no-live band. It means we don't play live, just releasing songs. But a year later, we reached a point where we felt like we should do shows, so we started doing that as a band September 2012. Since then, we went through several lineup changes and now I (Bitoku, bassist), I am the only original member left. I do most of the writing/recording/mixing/mastering but with the help of others. I really thank the presence of my current band members, they're the reason why we keep this band alive. Besides metalcore, I also love Hard rock bands like Harem Scarem, Def Leppard, Bon Jovi, and more super underground bands from the 80-90's. I was just a listener before I started the band and I find there isn't a band that combines catchy chorus/guitar melody + metal riffs/Breakdowns. I mean, yes there are catchy metalcore acts but I feel their melody is not influenced by traditional hard rock bands but more like modern pop and R&B, so I decided to create the sound I want to hear on my own. Just writing songs that I want to listen to.

FF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEWLY RELEASED SINGLE 'INTRO'.

Fun fact: we already played "Intro" in a live show back in 2015. At first, we had no plans on recording it but it seemed like people wanted it, so we finally made a recording version. It's just for fun and for the fans.

FF: WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL AS A BAND?

No ultimate goal. I don't want to reach the "goal". Endless self-learning and self-evolution is the way to go.

FF: WHAT IS THE LOCAL MUSIC COMMUNITY LIKE IN TOKYO? IS METAL A WELL-RECEIVED GENRE THERE?

The local metalcore scene is spreading steadily since I started this band. It's not very big but not that small. We have a some kind of metalcore show almost every weekend in local venues, before COVID-19 happened. For Japanese Metalcore lovers, I can recommend some bands, to name a few: Sable Hills, Falling Asleep and From the Abyss. They are all good live bands.

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

We aren't using breakdowns for breakdowns. Our melodic guitar parts stand out because of breakdowns. I always try to construct tracks that contrast between non-melodic and melodic sections. Nostalgic melody is our core element, that's why I stick to melody.

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

One thing I can say is we have some raw new materials. More nostalgic melodies, more breakdowns.

Thank you for having us!

WORDS BY KAREN GONZÁLEZ





DEAD CROWN

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f t i
DEADCROWNBAND

FF: COULD YOU GIVE US A BACKGROUND ABOUT WHEN AND HOW DEAD CROWN STARTED AS A GROUP?

KENDALL: Bryton (Drums) started playing drums in my old band and that's what started our relationship. Him and Eric (Guitar) started writing some demos that I thought were pretty sick. When my old band started to fizzle out I approached them and suggested we do the damn thang. Shortly after we recruited Brent (Bass) and the rest is history.

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

We make heavy ass metal with a lot of breakdowns that you can beat ass to with some splashes of hip hop / rap influence. I'd say we have a very wide variety of inspirations. So it's hard to pin point. But I know we just take influence from all the things around us and things that we like. When writing if there is something we want to do, we do it and will reference stuff similar. But between all of us there is a very wide array of influence and I think that shows in our music and gives us our own kind of "Sound".

FF: WITH THE RISE OF UPCOMING METAL BANDS IN TODAY'S MUSIC SCENE, WHAT DO YOU THINK SEPARATES DEAD CROWN FROM THE REST?

One thing we have been told a lot by people is that people who don't like metal, like us and like our music. We try to make the music heavy as fuck, but still make it assessable to average listeners or people who may not even listen to music. Which I think makes our music funner. You can party listening to us, you can fuck to us and on the flip you can get pissed off, beat ass and even sometimes depressed while jammin' us. We are just 4 real dudes writing music we want to write. I think at the end of the day everyone can walk away with at least something from our band. We are easily relatable because we are just doing us.

FF: SO FAR, WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES YOU HAVE FACED AS A BAND AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THEM?

Out on the road, as a smaller band, tour can be VERY rough. There are some nights that are absolute trash and it's hard to keep morale and heads up. Especially when we are running off no sleep and a shit fast food diet. We are tight knit and best friends so thankfully we all have each other to lean on. If we didn't have that there are probably some situations we've been in that would have broken us.

FF: WHAT'S THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT THE HEAVY/ALTERNATIVE SCENE TODAY?

I think it's cool where technology has come and how accessible it is to make music these days and express yourself. But that's also the flip side. Things are oversaturated at times and it makes it harder and you have to work 10x harder to get noticed.

FF: WHAT DRIVES YOU TO CONTINUE BEING IN THIS BAND?

Call it a reach, but fuck it, we wanna make metal cool again. It would be sick to see our style of metal reach the heights of legends back in the day like Limp Bizkit, Slipknot and Linkin Park. Plus we have fun, we are best friends and we like to party with each other.

FF: LASTLY, WHAT'S NEXT FOR DEAD CROWN? WHAT CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

Well, corona kind of fucked up our touring plans, but we have been at work on our first full length album. So hopefully we will have a new single for people soon!

FF: TELL US ABOUT HOW SHADED CAME ABOUT AS A GROUP. WHEN AND HOW DID YOU BEGIN?

So we started when Cal and I were at University together in 2016. We lived in the same house and pretty much spent that first 12 months really trying to find our sound and what we wanted the band to truly be. We met Dan around a year later and, soon after, started playing live shows and touring.

FF: YOUR DEBUT 'A FAMILIAR LOVE' IS A LOT DIFFERENT MUSICALLY FROM YOUR LATEST RECORD 'TEMPORARY FIX' WHICH GIVES MORE OF AN INDIE POP VIBE. HOW DID YOU FORM YOUR SOUND NOW COMPARED TO YOUR FIRST RELEASE?

When we released AFL, we were a lot 'younger' mentally I think. We had all basically fallen into the rock scene and didn't really know much else when it came to writing and performing. It got to a point where we sort of had to accept the fact that we didn't love the music we were making anymore and decided to step out of our comfort zone. It's funny too, once we stepped out of that comfort zone, we actually felt WAY more comfortable being able to write and create the music we wanted to create.

FF: YOU'VE SAID THAT YOUR LATEST SINGLE 'K.I.A.' IS THE BIGGEST AND MOST CHALLENGING STEP OF YOUR CAREER. CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT IT?

Yeah for sure; so 'K.I.A.' is the start of a really big project for us - I can't really reveal details just yet - and it's the first step in really trying to cement ourselves as a 'pop band'. It's the perfect representation of SHADED right now and we couldn't be more excited to share more with everyone.

HOW DOES YOUR SONGWRITING PROCESS USUALLY GO? DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC RITUALS OR SPECIFIC ARTISTS YOU LISTEN TO FOR INSPIRATION?

I think the best route to go down when it comes to songwriting is just following your gut and keeping it authentic. We don't tend to draw direct inspiration from other songs, but I'd say that artists we're into do, subconsciously, influence our sound. Our process is usually either an instrumental followed by lyrics, or lyrics stripped back with a guitar or piano that we then flesh out into a full production. We know each other's writing styles from front-to-back too so when we're in a session, everything gels super well.

FF: ULTIMATELY, WHAT IS YOUR GOAL AS A GROUP? WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE IN A FEW YEARS?

We just want to feel like our music has helped and/or touched people. We want people to be able to relate to our music because, just like everyone else, artists and writers do what they do as a means of expression. Every lyric that I write is drawn from an experience and it's my way of venting or getting things off my chest. In terms of where we'd like to be in a few years - I think touring the world. Playing for different people in different cities, surrounded by different cultures. It's a big goal of ours to travel the world.

FF: WHAT'S NEXT FOR SHADED? ANYTHING YOUR FANS COULD LOOK FORWARD TO IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

MORE SONGS. We're so excited to share everything with you guys. And hopefully next year we'll be out on the road again to see you all!

SHADED

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SHADEDUK

TALATA



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

September 2007 when we started to jam and make original music. When I came back to the Philippines from performing abroad with a cover band (show-band), Jomal & I decided to form a group that would allow me to compose original songs. So we asked his cousin James Roy and our friend Dacky to join us. Then we met Anton in 2008 before we had our first gig in Mayric's in February of that year.

FF: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE MUSIC THAT TALATA MAKE?

A fusion of hard rock and romance, because we draw our inspiration of writing songs and arranging music based on some of our friend's relationship experiences.

FF: CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR LATEST MUSIC VIDEO "CONFESSION"? WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE TRACK AND THE CONCEPT OF THE VIDEO ITSELF?

It's all about a boy who confesses his admiration to this girl he knew for a long time. The girl never showed any sign of encouragement for the boy but it turns out she secretly desires him as well.

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

Like most people, we now work from home. We also make some time to write new songs and practice on our own. From time to time we make "quarantine jam" videos to entertain our beloved supporters.

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

We started trying to express our different music preferences and tried to make it work. What came out was somewhat confused. We eventually discovered what makes us jell and we are all happy with the outcome. We continue to practice and experiment to produce more songs that we can play happily together.

FF: LAST BUT NOT LEAST, WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO ASPIRING BANDS?

Don't quit! Push yourselves to be better and at the same time enjoy what you are doing! Making music should be fun, always keep it that way!

SOCIAL MEDIA:

f t i talatamusic

Interview by: Jam Oliver



AIZ FORAQQI

-UNITE ASIA-

INTERVIEW BY KAREN GONZALEZ

I think as most places the people who are impacted the most are the people who run venues/bars and all the production people whose lives and salaries depend on events and shows happening. From a band perspective, I come from the world of heavy music and as mentioned above, most heavy bands don't play very often anyway, so in that regards the virus has not really been anything more different than what we're used to. Heavy bands only play like maybe 3 or 4 times a year.

And actually, for us in Hong Kong, the virus has been NOTHING compared to what's been going on in Hong Kong for the past year with massive protests against our government. A government that bends over backwards to appease their CCP masters. It's been hell here watching protestors get beat up and killed by the police. So the virus ain't shit compared to all that...

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

Dude...ALL bands need to understand that there are BILLIONS and BILLIONS of bands on this planet - anytime you release music you MUST keep that in mind. How is your song, your art, going to break through the billions of releases every day so people will actually check you out? I can't begin to tell you how many bands have submitted stuff that has been lackluster not just musically, but even visually - press photos, music videos, lyric videos, etc. They either already sound and look like a million other bands OR is just not up to par. Bands really need to think about all of this stuff. It's not just your music has to be good, but you have to really think about the whole package. Even if you're a super underground DIY-as-fuck punk band, you still have to think about how your music and the visuals that go with it cut through all the shit that's out there. Unless of course you create music for yourself only - but then why would you be promoting it through Unite Asia? hahahaha...

FF: WHEN AND HOW DID YOU START UNITE ASIA? WHAT IS THE VISION BEHIND IT?

The website started 5 years ago and was really just a reaction to me being tired of checking out music-related websites that I love going to (stuff like Metalsucks, Metal Injection, Punknews, Blabbermouth, etc) and never seeing much about Asian bands. I've been involved with bands from out here for 20 plus years with my own touring with a band I used to play in called King Ly Chee and all through my travels I've come across PHENOMENAL bands from right here. So I wanted to know what THOSE bands were up to but all I could find was info on bands from the US or Europe. So I was literally just like "Fuck it, let me start my own website". And here we are 5 years later...I had NO idea that it would resonate so well with others in Asia and around the world for that matter.

FF: HOW DO YOU MANAGE YOUR TIME BEING IN A BAND, HAVING A DAY JOB, AND RUNNING UNITE ASIA?

It's actually not that hard...my dayjob is the only thing that I have to make sure I don't mess with so there's money to put food on the table for my wife and daughter and so that she gets to continue to go to a great school. Everything else is incredibly manageable because I just do it all at night after she's asleep. Playing in a heavy band in Hong Kong means I have PLENTY of free time - we rarely play shows here, practice maybe once a week, so playing in a band (Dagger) doesn't really take up much time at all.

My daughter gets to see me do all this so that's really special to me. She sees me wake up every morning and update the site or work on the site before she goes to bed. So she gets to see me take time to help other people get their art out there - hopefully that'll inspire her to be involved in similar ways to help others.

FF: HOW CAN YOU COMPARE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ALTERNATIVE MUSIC SCENE IN THE ASIAN CONTINENT TODAY TO WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED DOING PRESS AT UNITE ASIA BACK THEN?

That's a good question...I think from a personal standpoint I'm still so jealous about what bands in scenes like the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal have compared to what we have (I'm speaking specifically about heavy music). I mean look at this great interview I'm doing right now in this KILLER zine! The last time I got interviewed in Hong Kong was maybe 10 years ago? So the only thing I've experienced these past 5 years is further affirmation that scenes all around Asia are doing profound stuff to help their own communities - from bands to record labels to record stores to venues to recording/practice studios to photographers videographers to zines/magazines - it's SO cool to see this beautifully passionate ecosystem that places have all over Asia. All of these people are the unsung heroes keeping Asian music thriving, and continues to be why I keep wanting to run Unite Asia even through all the social/political turmoil and tragedy here in Hong Kong this past year.

FF: WITH THE CANCELLATION OF LIVE EVENTS FOR MONTHS BECAUSE OF THE VIRUS SITUATION, HOW IS IT AFFECTING THE MUSIC COMMUNITY?

UNITEASIA.ORG
UNITEASIA





MARVIN CONANAN PURVEYR



FF: WHAT'S NEXT FOR PURVEYR IN THE NEAR FUTURE? WHAT CAN YOUR FOLLOWERS EXPECT FROM YOU?

We will continue to grow our dimensions to be able to reach more of the creative community. Digitally we have expanded to podcasting, and worked harder on putting out better video content, so expect more of those in the future. In addition, we are looking to provide better stories and more information on how to thrive and live a creative life.

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

Two things. First, they should understand that they will never know everything, so learning and studying is something we should do consistently. Second, they should execute. Thinking and conceptualizing is easy, anyone can have an idea within a few minutes, but most won't see their ideas come to life because they don't know how to execute them. If you are passionate about an idea, work on it. Whatever happens in the journey, successful or not, you will learn a lot in the process of execution that will be helpful in your future — the growth of your current project or even the next projects or ideas you will have.

FF: WHEN AND HOW DID PURVEYR BEGIN? WHAT IS THE VISION AND MISSION BEHIND IT?

PURVEYR was established in 2012 with the purpose of showcasing Filipino street and creative culture. I started it in September 2012 with three contributors — Oleg De Leon, David Villania, and Chip Esguerra.

What started as a blog promoting culture, is now a full-fledged, multi-dimensional media brand that aims to be a 'Creative Life' resource through our different dimensions — digital, print, retail and events. At the core of it, we envision a world where every person finds value in creativity.

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

I think it's just being able to conceptualize, create, and execute a brand like PURVEYR. Thinking of and conceptualizing brand ideas are not that difficult, but to be able to work on it enough to see and hear a brand ingrained in people's stories, experiences, imaginations, and ideas is a feeling that's out of this world for a brand-builder.

As little as a comment like, "I'm inspired to do this because of PURVEYR," is already a great accomplishment for me. To create something of enough relevance for people to actually embed it in their lives is surreal.



FF: HOW DOES AN ARTIST GET THEIR ART/PRODUCTS NOTICED? HOW CAN THEY ACHIEVE SUCCESS TODAY IN THE DIGITAL AGE?

There are a lot of tips out there, and maybe some even better than what I can recommend. But for me, the best one is to stay consistent and persistent. Be consistent in what you want to do. People have short spans of attention nowadays, so repetition of one vision or message is a strong way to make them remember. And because (most types of) success do not come easy or quick, you have to keep at it even if as of the moment the future looks bleak, here persistence is key.



DADDY RAKISTA



FF: WHEN DID YOU START TAKING PHOTOS AND AT WHAT POINT DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU WANTED TO DO MUSIC PHOTOGRAPHY?

It started way back 2013, when my wife (a local fashion designer by trade) asked me to take behind the scenes photos during a photoshoot of her designed clothes for a catalogue. With regards to music photography, that passion started 5 years ago, when I took photos of Wilabaliw and Kjwan at Tiendesitas. And then I was hooked, what started out as just being a fan turned out to be my passion up until now.

FF: WHAT GEAR DO YOU USE WHEN YOU'RE DOING A CONCERT PHOTOGRAPHY? IS IT DIFFERENT THAN WHAT YOU WOULD TAKE IF YOU JUST WENT OUT AND SHOOT RANDOM PHOTOS?

I use an old Fujifilm XT-1 with the 18-55mm f2.8-4 kit lens, a Fujinon 23mm f2 and a 90mm f2 as well for that mid-range telephoto portrait shots. Yes, for general purpose photography, I would use the 23mm f2 mainly because it offers the 35mm field view which is highly used for street photography, candid shooting and even portrait photography. In real life use, I would just look for a scene, look at the viewfinder of my camera, focus and shoot. That's just how simple it is to use.

FF: HOW DO YOU POSITION YOURSELF IN A SHOW? DO YOU CARE ABOUT BLOCKING THE VIEW? DO YOU GET CLOSE WITH THE BAND DURING A LIVE PERFORMANCE?

I would shoot different spots during a concert or a bar gig, I would either be at the front of the stage, at the sides, even at the back, or near the front of house for the wide crowd shots. You should always be aware if you are blocking someone else's view kneel down or shoot at a low angle to get the shot that you want. If I am allowed to, sometimes I would go up the stage to shoot up close.

FF: WHAT TIPS CAN YOU OFFER TO BEGINNER PHOTOGRAPHERS SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARDS TO CONCERT LIGHTING?

With regards to shooting in low light, I would recommend using a fast lens with a bigger aperture, always shoot wide open. Use Manual Exposure mode. Use higher ISO and a shutter speed of 1/250 or faster.

FF: WHAT KIND OF TOOLS DO YOU USE FOR POST-PROCESSING? CAN YOU EXPLAIN YOUR WORK FLOW?

I always shoot RAW so for post-processing my photos, I use Lightroom 5.7. I usually start by choosing which photos to post process, and then start my work flow by adjusting Curves, and then checking on Exposure, Saturation and Sharpness. Sometimes I crop and straighten the image if I have to.

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'm looking forward to be working with the emerging and new talents in our local music scene.

FF: LASTLY, WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO CONTINUE TAKING PICTURES?

Do what makes you happy. Taking photos makes me happy. And that's what keeps me motivated.

Interview by: Jam Oliver



SOCIAL MEDIA:

f t i DaddyRakista

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CRYSTAL LAKE ASIAN METALCORE TO THE WORLD

Upon almost more than 15 years of being a band, Japan metallers CRYSTAL LAKE are finally getting the global reception that they truly deserve, and being one of the acts that are putting Asian heavy music on the map for international fans, especially in a scene that usually forgets Asia. The release of their third studio album 'True North' was a record that started to allow them to be more noticed globally, got them signed to SharpTone Records, and paved the way for them to tour all over the world. Today, with their latest effort 'Helix', Crystal Lake is arguably one of the biggest heavy acts not only in Asia but around the world introducing the power of Asian metal.

In this interview with them, we asked the trailblazers all about their success in the modern metal scene, plus insights on their highly received record 'Helix'!

FF: HOW IS THE DYNAMIC BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE BAND? WHAT HAS KEPT CRYSTAL LAKE AROUND AND MAKING MUSIC ALL THESE YEARS?

We've done thousands of tours the past few years. Luckily we got a good reaction to not only our music but our live shows from our fans all over the world. They always want our new stuff and I'm so happy with it. That keeps us alive and gives us a strength to move on. We don't want to be bands that only their old songs are wanted such as Metallica and Kiss.

FF: CRYSTAL LAKE IS ONE OF THE FIRST BANDS WHO PAVED THE WAY FOR ASIAN BANDS TO BE MORE NOTICED IN THE INTERNATIONAL MODERN METAL SCENE. WHAT, IN YOUR OPINION, DID IT TAKE FOR A JAPANESE ACT TO BREAK THROUGH A SCENE THAT IS MAINLY DOMINATED BY AMERICAN/EUROPEAN GROUPS?

The key is "Originality" the way Westerners can never do like unique melodies or unique composition etc.. We clearly realized it when Apollo became our most viewed video on YouTube. Some young Japanese bands shows their originality and I guarantee that their quality is insanely good like Paledusk, Sable Hills and Graupel.

FF: YOU HAVE BEEN ON TOUR WITH MANY BANDS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. WHICH TOURS WERE YOUR FAVORITES AND WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO TOUR WITH NEXT?

The first US tour with August Burns Red, Fit For A King and Miss May I and the Never Say Die Tour in Europe we headlined. I never imagined how people were excited about us. I got goosebumps when I hit the stage on the first day of the tour. They were chanting our name! That was unbelievable. It would be awesome if we can tour with my childhood heroes like Machine Head and Slipknot.

FF: HOW DO YOU GUYS FEEL ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION YOU HAVE GOTTEN SINCE YOU STARTED TO PERFORM MORE AROUND THE GLOBE?

It's crazy that a band from a small asian island headlined one of the greatest tours in Europe and is going to be on tour with Parkway Drive. I want to know what we will get when we reach as far as we can as Asians.



FF: WHAT KEY DIFFERENCES DO YOU NOTICE BETWEEN PERFORMING LOCALLY IN JAPAN AND PERFORMING SOMEWHERE FAR, LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE UK?

I think every city has its uniqueness. Even in Japan they are totally different. Some can go nuts and others can't but have enthusiasm for our music and show us respect. But I'm sure Japanese crowds are the craziest in the world. They do a lot of stage dives and mosh as well.

FF: HOW HAS WORKING WITH ONE OF THE BIGGEST LABELS IN THE METAL INDUSTRY (SHARPTONE RECORDS) IMPACTED THE BAND?

They are working so hard to push us to the next level. When we met Shawn the president of Sharptone Records, he told us like "Do whatever you want to! I believe you guys." They signed a lot of great bands and I'm really proud to be part of the Sharptone family.

FF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR HIGHLY RECEIVED LATEST RECORD 'HELIX'. WHAT IS THE THEME BEHIND IT? HOW DID ITS SONGWRITING PROCESS TAKE PLACE?

We focused on our "heavy" side. Of course the sound of the songs are heavier than the previous ones but even non heavy sound songs have the heavy lyrical theme which came from my personal experience like about life-and-death, agony and hatred. The process of writing was so smooth. YD wrote riffs and I sang on it. Just like that. Nothing particular changed but I felt we grew up as musicians through many tours.



FF: HOW DOES 'HELIX' DIFFER FROM YOUR PAST RELEASES
"TRUE NORTH" AND "THE SIGN"?

True North was the most diverse album. We tried a lot of things as a Rock band. I like the melodic approach on the album so original no pop shit. Looking back, Helix was the evolution of The Sign. They still are diverse albums but so consistent.

FF: IN 'HELIX', YOU FEATURED ARTISTS WITH THE LIKES OF AJ REBOLLO OF ISSUES AND DANIEL MCWHORTER AND TYLER RILEY OF GIDEON, ALL FROM VERY WELL-KNOWN METAL GROUPS OF TODAY. CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT MORE COLLABORATIONS IN YOUR FUTURE RELEASES?

Guess who's next! We are always thinking about guest vocals. It's fun to see a song evolving like magic when a guest sings on it.

**FF: WE'RE SURE EVERYONE IS DYING TO KNOW.
WHAT'S NEXT FOR CRYSTAL LAKE?**

A two songs EP and a re-recording album are coming up. We re-recorded our old songs. Some of them still show the hardcore side of the band and the others turned totally anew. If we said those were new ones, you wouldn't think one of them were originally recorded in 2003.

This album shows the 17 year history of Crystal Lake.
I can't wait to let you guys hear.

CRYSTAL LAKE IS:
RYO KINOSHITA - VOCALS
YUDAI MIYAMOTO - GUITARS
SHINYA HORI - GUITARS
MITSURU - BASS
GAKU TAURA - DRUMS

WORDS & INTERVIEW BY:
KAREN GONZÁLEZ

PHOTOS BY:
JOHN GYLLHAMN
RAY DUKER
TAKASHI KONUMA
NIKO CEZAR

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CRYSTAL LAKE
CRYSTAL LAKE

CRYSTAL LAKE



MUNNOCS



VIRTUAL TOUR

COMING SOON





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VOID OF VISION

On Melancholic Melodies



It is without question that Australian heavy acts have been dominating the international modern metal scene for years now, and one of most talked about bands are Melbourne metalcore four-piece VOID OF VISION. The band has built momentum upon their first debut studio album *Children of Chrome* back in 2016, followed by their 2017 EP *Disturbia*, the 2018 single that has been a staple for them 'Kill All My Friends', and very recently, their hellish full-length *Hyperdaze*, their musically and lyrically darkest offering yet.

We had the chance to pick the brain of guitarist James McKendrick for a little more insider on *Hyperdaze*, the band's progression, and the state of the scene today.

WORDS AND INTERVIEW BY KAREN GONZALEZ

FF: WHAT HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN UP TO LATELY ESPECIALLY IN THIS QUARANTINE? PICKED UP ANY NEW HOBBIES, OR MAYBE WRITING NEW SONGS?

Yeah we've been trying to write a bit! I'm trying to learn more about producing different genres of music (mainly electronic), just to get a different perspective on song-writing. We've all been working at our day-jobs throughout this though, so we're pretty lucky in that sense.

FF: WITH THE RISE OF MANY YOUNG BANDS IN THE MODERN METAL SCENE ESPECIALLY IN AUSTRALIA, WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES VOID OF VISION STAND OUT?

Whilst it's hard to stand out in the music scene at the moment, we pride ourselves on our live shows, and strive to be a band that can sound better live than on record. Our newer music is also taking on elements of electronic music and trying to integrate them in different ways.

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE HEAVY/ALTERNATIVE MUSIC COMMUNITY IN THIS DAY AND AGE COMPARED TO WHEN THE BAND FIRST STARTED?

There's a lot more bands now, because it's never been easier to create music, with software and hardware being (relatively) so cheap and accessible, for decent equipment. Which is fantastic, we get to hear so much music, but it just means that the scene is now saturated with different bands for people to go see and listen to, which means that it's more important than ever to make yourselves stand out.

FF: WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER AS YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT AS A GROUP?

Hard to choose one! Playing Good Things Festival in 2018 was incredible for us, growing up we all wanted to play at Soundwave Festival, but that having folded, Good Things is basically the replacement for it, so it was cool to play that! Getting to tour Europe multiple times is also incredible, and getting to tour in a bus over there just makes it pretty much what you would dream of as a kid!

FF: YOUR SOPHOMORE ALBUM "HYPERDAZE" SPEAKS OF THEMES RELATING TO RAW ANGER AND NIHILISM. HOW DID THE CREATIVE PROCESS GO WHEN YOU WERE WRITING THIS RECORD?

We really just channelled all of the negativity within our own personal lives, and tried to express it through this record. There was a bit that went on personally for each of us, so it wasn't necessarily hard to do, but it was definitely cathartic for all of us to get something coherent out in the end, that people would be able to relate to.

FF: WERE THERE ANY ARTISTS YOU'VE PARTICULARLY LISTENED TO FOR INSPIRATION FOR WRITING "HYPERDAZE"?

We were listening to some electronic and industrial music at the time from memory, stuff in the vein of Nine Inch Nails, and how they made grunge-y music with a lot of electronic sounds. We also had some more modern electronic music with a darker vibe going, like Golden Features.

FF: HOW WOULD YOU COMPARE "HYPERDAZE" TO YOUR 2016 EFFORT "CHILDREN OF CHROME"? WHAT ARE THE KEY DIFFERENCES OF THE TWO?

Children Of Chrome was definitely an experimental record for us, it was something we thought we needed to do at the time, which we found out (the hard way) that was not the case. Hyperdaze is very much our sound but trying to push our barriers more, and incorporating different elements, as opposed to experimenting with genres as a whole.

FF: VOID OF VISION HAS ALWAYS INCORPORATED EXPERIMENTAL ELEMENTS TO YOUR SOUND. TODAY, WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU'VE FOUND YOUR SIGNATURE SOUND IN YOUR LATEST RECORD OR ARE YOU STILL OPEN TO DISCOVERING A DIFFERENT ONE?

We definitely feel like we have our sound now, like we can listen to a demo of ours and say "that's not a VOV song", or "that's a VOV song". But we still intend to push ourselves to find different ways to innovate our music.

FF: WHAT'S NEXT FOR VOID OF VISION IN THE NEAR FUTURE? ANYTHING YOUR FOLLOWERS WILL BE STOKED ABOUT?

We're lining up different touring plans in Australia and overseas, but it's all dependent on how the pandemic plays out! We obviously have heaps of time to write at the moment, so that's what we're doing. We're not sure what we're working towards, but we're just trying to write as much as possible and see where it takes us! You can expect new music from us by the end of the year. :)



VOIDOFVISION.COM



VOIDOFVISION

PHOTO BY CIAN MARANGOS

URBANDUB

Endless Firsts

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For about 20 years now, OPM rock icons URBANDUB have flourished from being a local band from Cebu into emerging to the Filipino rock music scene as the first indie band in the Philippines to release albums nationwide with the assistance of a record label, and being one of the most respected acts that shaped the OPM rock community of today. Upon releasing six widely successful albums throughout the years, in 2015, The Giant Sound of the South said farewell for a while due to the stresses of band and touring life, but to the surprise of their loyal followers or Dubistas, as they like to call them, the original group reunited together to come back strong in 2018.

Until now, Urbandub hits are timeless to most of us--and it is proven each and every time we witness a show with them, whether it may be a smaller, intimate show, or a huge festival, you will find every Filipino rock fan belting out each Urbandub track. If you're one of us, check out this interview we had with the legends themselves!

FF: HAVING BEEN AROUND FOR MORE THAN A DECADE NOW, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR JOURNEY AS A BAND IN A NUTSHELL?

GABBY - ROLLERCOASTER

JOHN - EXTRAORDINARY

LALAY - IT WAS AMAZING! WE WERE JUST AMONG THE REGULAR BANDS, DOING OUR OWN THING IN CEBU. MOST OF THE TIME WE'RE IN REHEARSAL STUDIOS, MAKING SONGS COZ THERE WEREN'T SO MUCH GIGS THAT TIME. WE GOT INVITED TO PLAY IN MANILA, TRIED OUR LUCK AND THE REST IS HISTORY.

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES THAT GOT URBANDUB TO ACHIEVE THE LEVEL OF SUCCESS YOU GOT IN THE OPM SCENE?

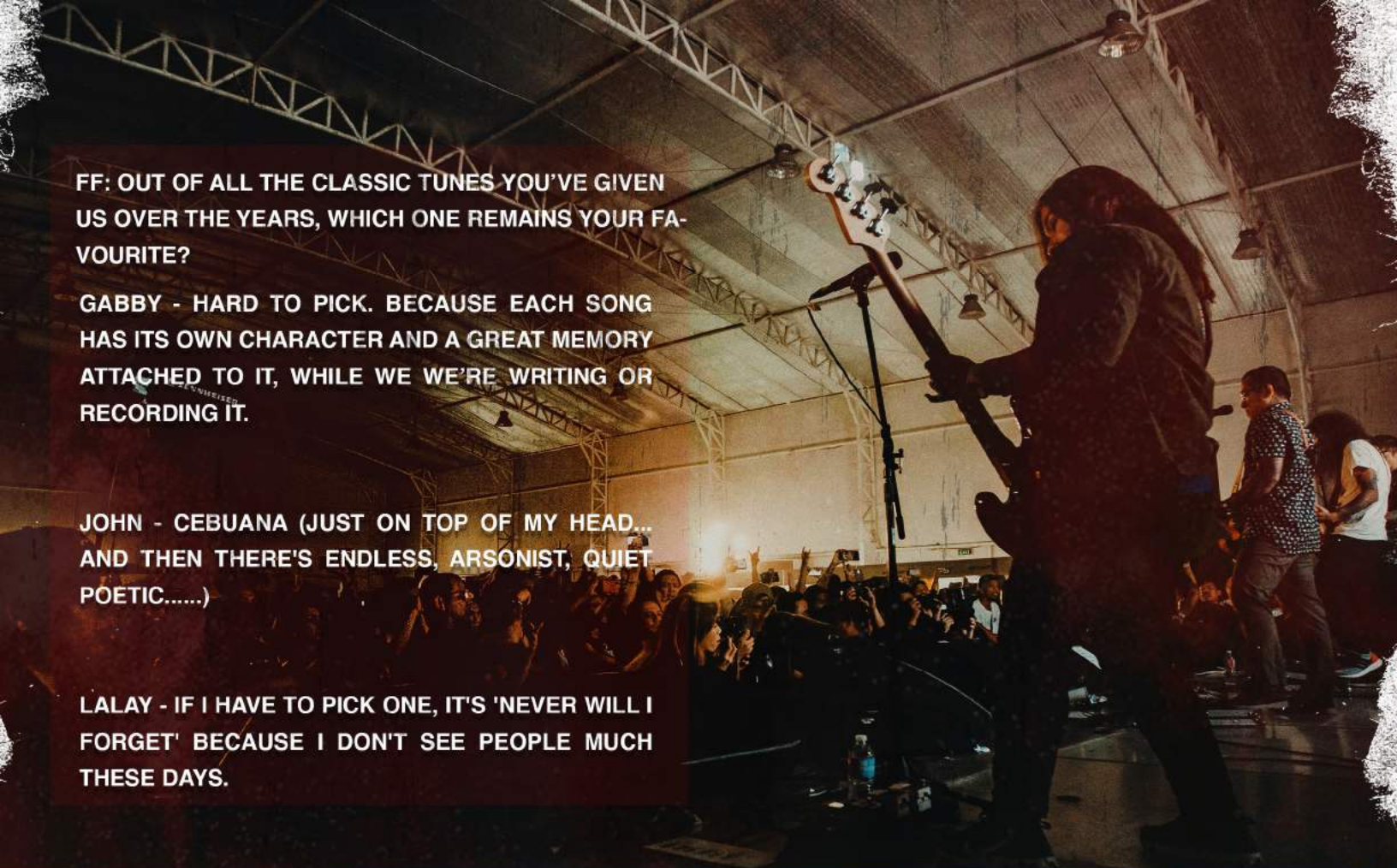
GABBY - WORK ETHIC. WE ALL CAME INTO THIS NOT SEARCHING FOR FAME OR MONEY. WE ALL JUST GENUINELY WANTED TO CREATE AND PLAY MUSIC. EVERYTHING THAT CAME AFTER THAT WAS JUST A BONUS AND BLESSING.

JOHN - OUR WORK ETHIC

LALAY - BEING ON THE SAME PAGE, WE JUST WANT TO PLAY AND MAKE MUSIC.

**SOCIAL
MEDIA:**

 [urbandub](#)
 [urbandubph](#)




FF: OUT OF ALL THE CLASSIC TUNES YOU'VE GIVEN US OVER THE YEARS, WHICH ONE REMAINS YOUR FAVORITE?

GABBY - HARD TO PICK. BECAUSE EACH SONG HAS ITS OWN CHARACTER AND A GREAT MEMORY ATTACHED TO IT, WHILE WE WE'RE WRITING OR RECORDING IT.

JOHN - CEBUANA (JUST ON TOP OF MY HEAD... AND THEN THERE'S ENDLESS, ARSONIST, QUIET POETIC.....)

LALAY - IF I HAVE TO PICK ONE, IT'S 'NEVER WILL I FORGET' BECAUSE I DON'T SEE PEOPLE MUCH THESE DAYS.

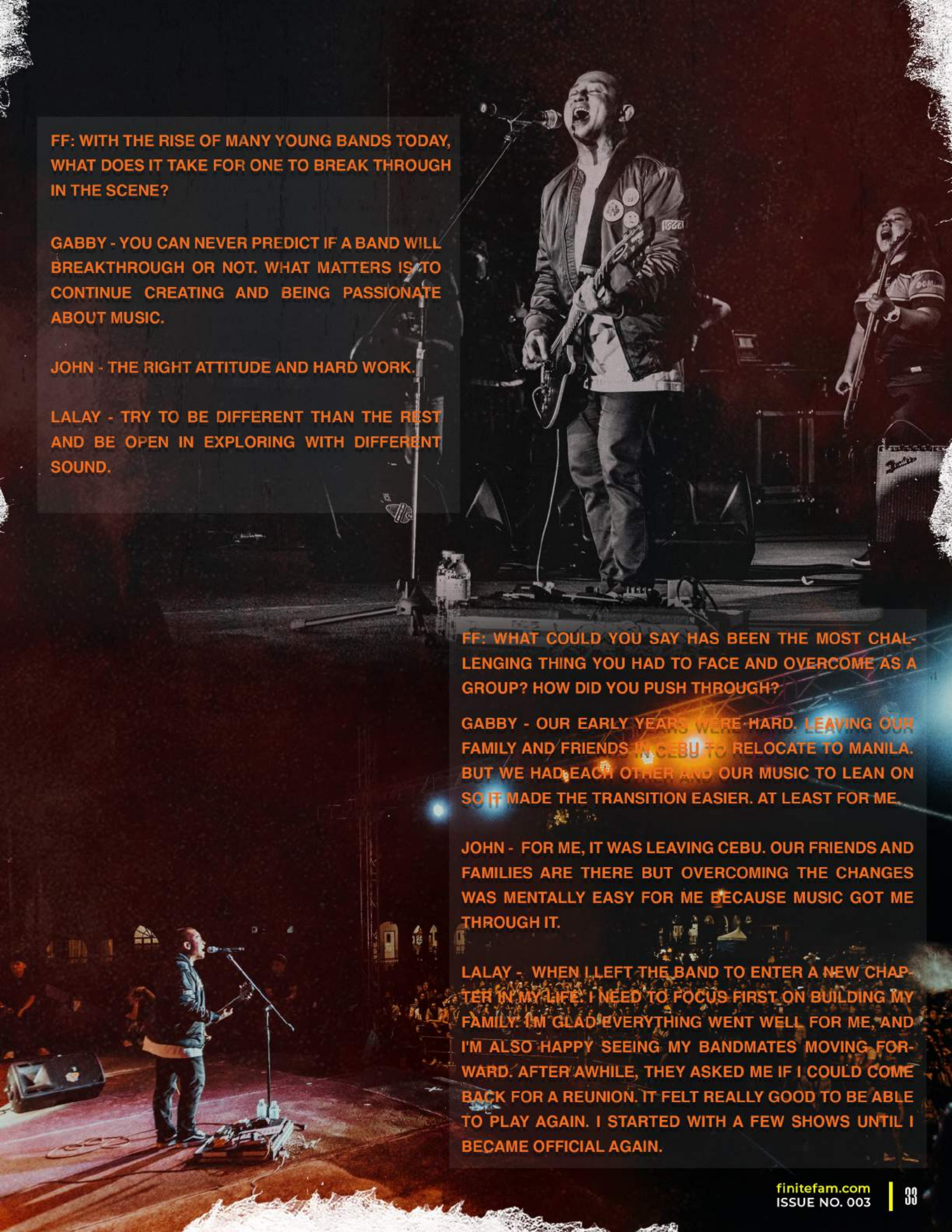


FF: WHAT ARE THE KEY DIFFERENCES YOU NOTICE ABOUT THE FILIPINO ALTERNATIVE MUSIC SCENE FROM WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED IN 2001 TO TODAY?

GABBY - THE INTERNET. EASY ACCESS TO MUSIC AND ARTISTS. BECAUSE OF STREAMING SITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA. ALL WE HAD BEFORE WAS YAHOOGROUPS.

JOHN - THE INTERNET'S SOARING BREAKTHROUGHS WHEN IT COMES TO SHARING MUSIC. A LOT OF PLATFORMS NOW FOR ARTISTS (SIGNED OR NOT) TO SHARE THEIR MUSIC.

LALAY - EVENTS ARE MORE ORGANIZED AND MUSIC IS EASIER TO ACCESS.



FF: WITH THE RISE OF MANY YOUNG BANDS TODAY, WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR ONE TO BREAK THROUGH IN THE SCENE?

GABBY - YOU CAN NEVER PREDICT IF A BAND WILL BREAKTHROUGH OR NOT. WHAT MATTERS IS TO CONTINUE CREATING AND BEING PASSIONATE ABOUT MUSIC.

JOHN - THE RIGHT ATTITUDE AND HARD WORK.

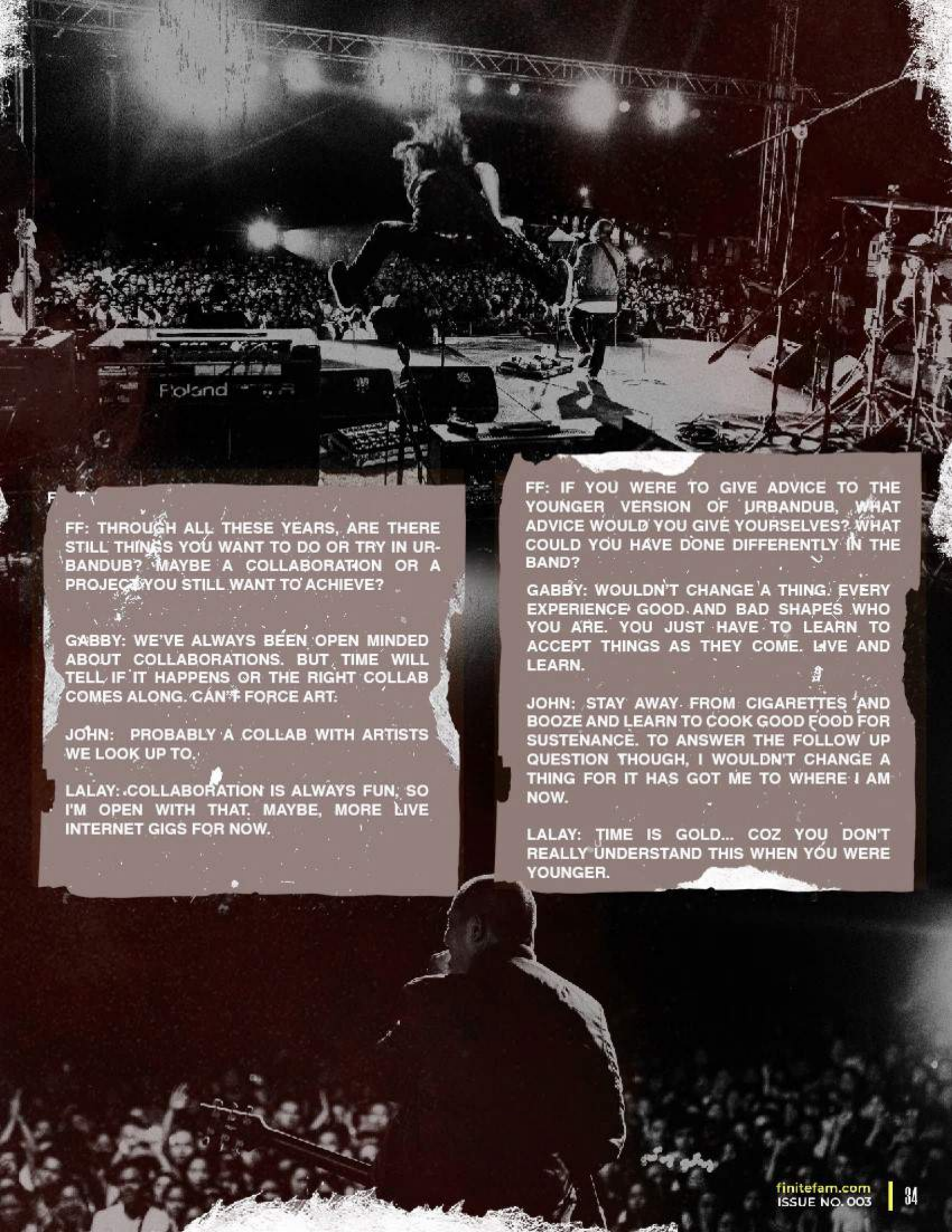
LALAY - TRY TO BE DIFFERENT THAN THE REST AND BE OPEN IN EXPLORING WITH DIFFERENT SOUND.

FF: WHAT COULD YOU SAY HAS BEEN THE MOST CHALLENGING THING YOU HAD TO FACE AND OVERCOME AS A GROUP? HOW DID YOU PUSH THROUGH?

GABBY - OUR EARLY YEARS WERE HARD. LEAVING OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN CEBU TO RELOCATE TO MANILA. BUT WE HAD EACH OTHER AND OUR MUSIC TO LEAN ON SO IT MADE THE TRANSITION EASIER. AT LEAST FOR ME.

JOHN - FOR ME, IT WAS LEAVING CEBU. OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES ARE THERE BUT OVERCOMING THE CHANGES WAS MENTALLY EASY FOR ME BECAUSE MUSIC GOT ME THROUGH IT.

LALAY - WHEN I LEFT THE BAND TO ENTER A NEW CHAPTER IN MY LIFE, I NEED TO FOCUS FIRST ON BUILDING MY FAMILY. I'M GLAD EVERYTHING WENT WELL FOR ME, AND I'M ALSO HAPPY SEEING MY BANDMATES MOVING FORWARD. AFTER AWHILE, THEY ASKED ME IF I COULD COME BACK FOR A REUNION. IT FELT REALLY GOOD TO BE ABLE TO PLAY AGAIN. I STARTED WITH A FEW SHOWS UNTIL I BECAME OFFICIAL AGAIN.



FF: THROUGH ALL THESE YEARS, ARE THERE STILL THINGS YOU WANT TO DO OR TRY IN URBANDUB? MAYBE A COLLABORATION OR A PROJECT YOU STILL WANT TO ACHIEVE?

GABBY: WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN OPEN MINDED ABOUT COLLABORATIONS. BUT TIME WILL TELL IF IT HAPPENS OR THE RIGHT COLLAB COMES ALONG. CAN'T FORCE ART.

JOHN: PROBABLY A COLLAB WITH ARTISTS WE LOOK UP TO.

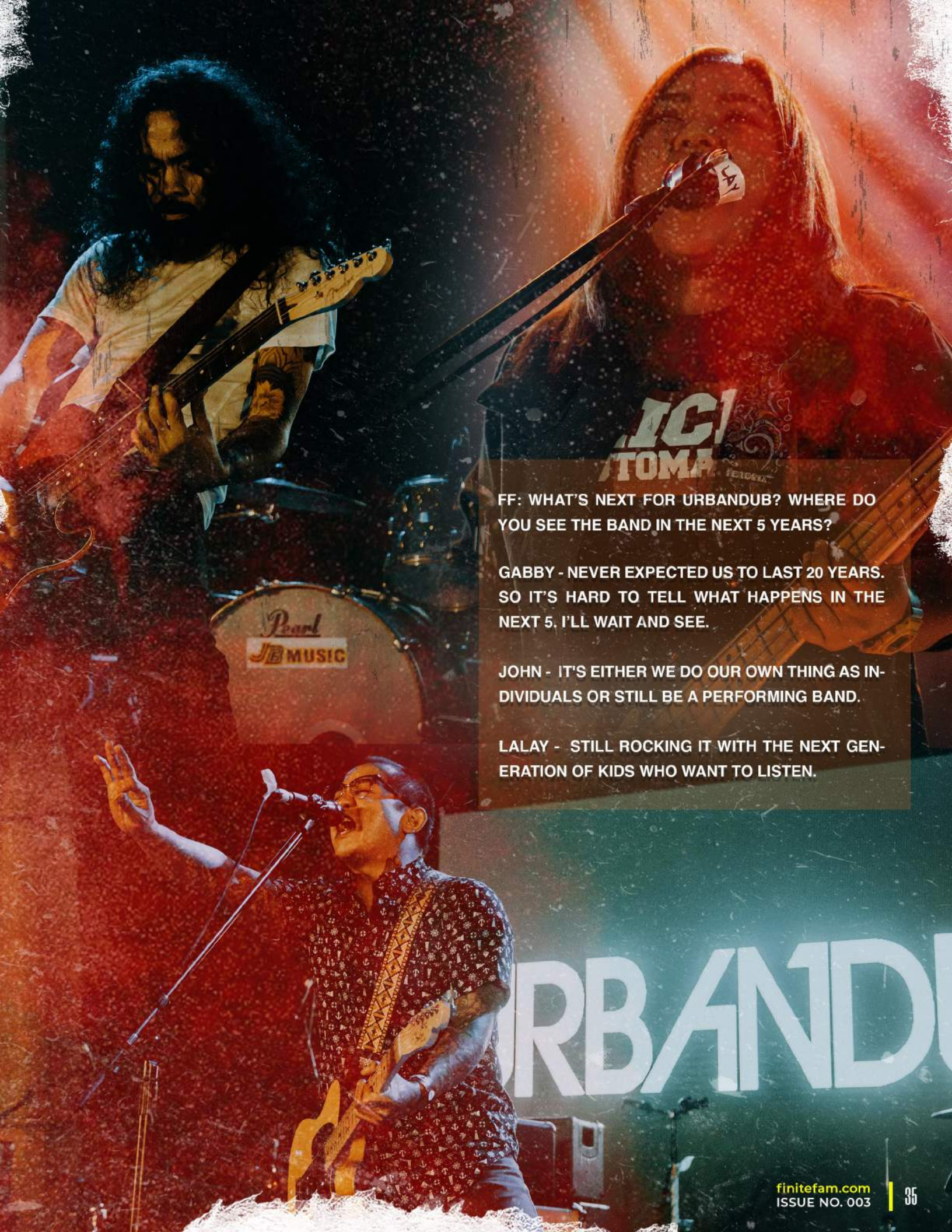
LALAY: COLLABORATION IS ALWAYS FUN, SO I'M OPEN WITH THAT. MAYBE, MORE LIVE INTERNET GIGS FOR NOW.

FF: IF YOU WERE TO GIVE ADVICE TO THE YOUNGER VERSION OF URBANDUB, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOURSELVES? WHAT COULD YOU HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY IN THE BAND?

GABBY: WOULDN'T CHANGE A THING. EVERY EXPERIENCE GOOD AND BAD SHAPES WHO YOU ARE. YOU JUST HAVE TO LEARN TO ACCEPT THINGS AS THEY COME. LIVE AND LEARN.

JOHN: STAY AWAY FROM CIGARETTES AND BOOZE AND LEARN TO COOK GOOD FOOD FOR SUSTENANCE. TO ANSWER THE FOLLOW UP QUESTION THOUGH, I WOULDN'T CHANGE A THING FOR IT HAS GOT ME TO WHERE I AM NOW.

LALAY: TIME IS GOLD... COZ YOU DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THIS WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER.



FF: WHAT'S NEXT FOR URBANDUB? WHERE DO YOU SEE THE BAND IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

GABBY - NEVER EXPECTED US TO LAST 20 YEARS. SO IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT HAPPENS IN THE NEXT 5. I'LL WAIT AND SEE.

JOHN - IT'S EITHER WE DO OUR OWN THING AS INDIVIDUALS OR STILL BE A PERFORMING BAND.

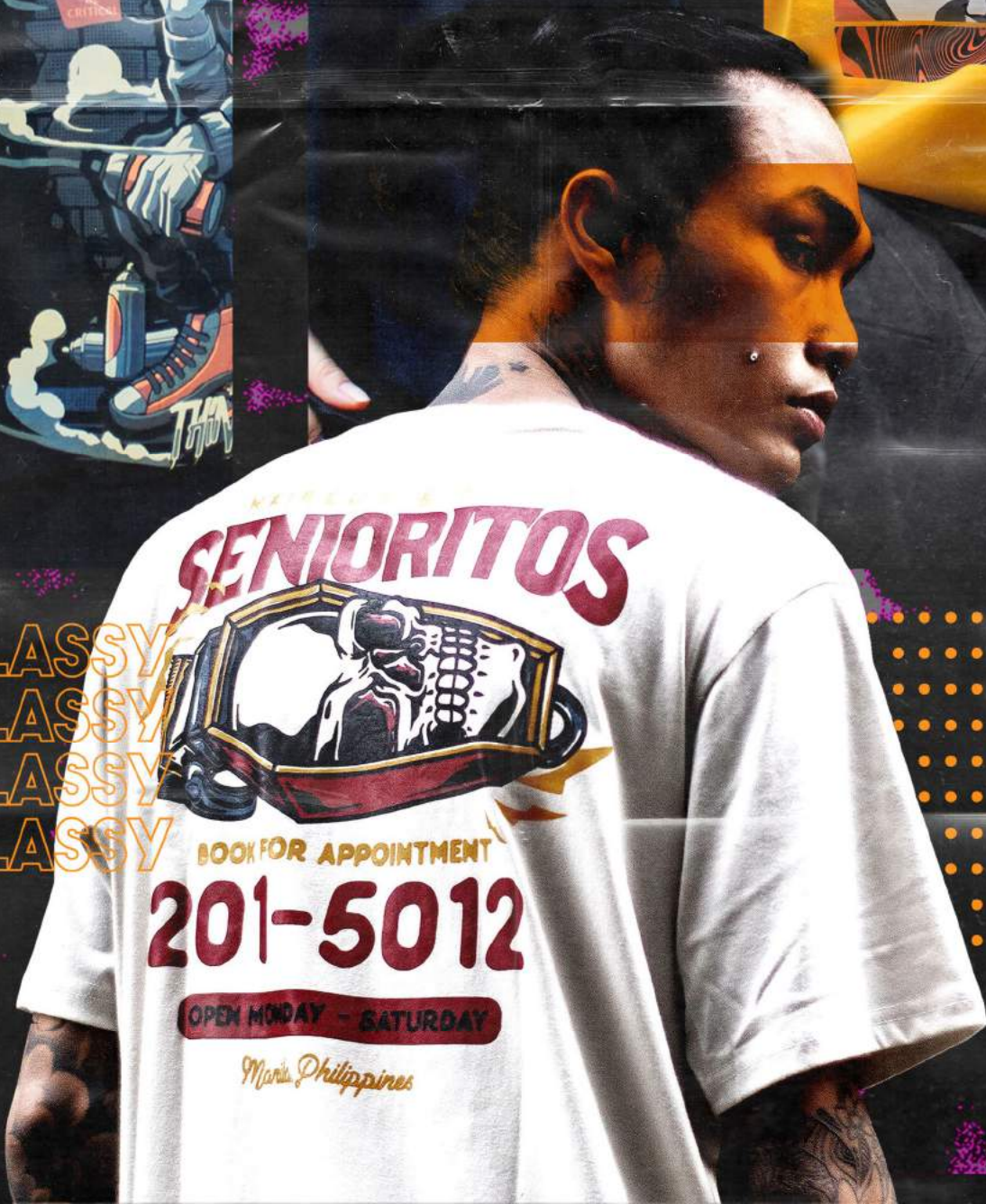
LALAY - STILL ROCKING IT WITH THE NEXT GENERATION OF KIDS WHO WANT TO LISTEN.

URBANDUB

CLASSY • SENIORITOS • STAY CLASSY • SENIORITOS • STAY CLASSY • SENIORITOS • STAY CLASSY • SENIORITOS • STAY CLASSY • SENIOR



STAY CLASSY
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STAY CLASSY
STAY CLASSY



SENIORITOS



WHAT'S AN ALBUM THAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU GREATLY?



One album meaningful to me is a somewhat controversial release from one of my favorite bands, Sick Of It All. It's a live record called *Live In A World Full Of Hate*. Listening to it over and over, showed me how hardcore takes influences from rap music which is something that's a big part of my life. That live record was said to have been recorded in Jersey but was said to have been recorded in Europe. I read an article about it in 97 or 98 that it was a combination of two shows. Back then I didn't know for sure. One thing I was certain of was that I loved it.

Because of that record, it was ingrained in my mind to not remove myself from being influenced by different music and at the same time, since it was a 24-track record, it helped prepare my mind to eventually want to play that many songs in one set. It also spoke to me in terms of how to write songs that matter to me because the words on every track on there hit me like lessons you should learn from a father or older sibling. When I met Lou Koller, I told him about how that record made an impact on me, he looked at me as if he was saying, "what the fuck man?" and started to laugh and eventually went on to say, "you like that shit?" and we went on to talk about something else.

Marben Romero
Badburn



Sick Of It All's *Live In A World Full Of Hate*.

My first time to hear a live hardcore record back in the 90s. The energy and rawness are captured perfectly on this album. I love all the songs played here.

By the time I saw Sick Of It All live, it was like the *Live In A World Full Of Hate* is playing in my face. My all time favorite album.

Howell Casacop
Piledriver



The biggest impact one that I can think of is *Master Of Puppets* by Metallica.

I had a big Metallica phase after that for years.

Max Georgiev
Falling In Reverse



Mahirap sagutin kung isang album lang. Madami kasi. Pero yung mga pinakatumatak sa'kin ng sagad. Thursday - *Full Collapse*, The Ataris - *So Long Astoria*, at Taking Back Sunday - *Tell All Your Friends*. Pantay yang tatlo. Siguro pinakamalaking rason dahil soundtrack ng pagbibinata ko. Haha! Sobrang madaming memories kasi na nabuo sa tatlong album na yan. Tsaka sila yung mga album na nagdefine din ng style ko sa pagsulat, lyrically and sonically. Tipong kahit gaano ko iiwas, talagang lumilitaw pa rin yung style nila minsan kahit pa Filipino yung language na ginagamit ko. Yun.

Teng Martin
123 Pikit



Looking back and going through all the records that went along with you, there have been 2 albums that changed everything in the second I got to them. The first one was Metallica's *Ride The Lightning*. I knew from the first second that I want to play the guitar absolutely. There was no other way from that point. That led to years of practicing, going through different genres, and somewhere wanting to record your own riffs and songs.

Thousands of records later, I got a very widespread taste in music. Lots of scoring records. But then I discovered *Four Seasons - Recomposes* by Max Richter. That changed everything regarding my own music creations. I felt that I may have understood how to produce music for bands, films, advertising or just for yourself. But that record opened my eyes on how to develop your really own sound. It somehow gave me the tools to discover a whole new way of making music and afterwards my tracks became way better with a lot more, vision, emotions and clearness.

Marcel Neumann
We Butter The Bread With Butter

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

GEAR TALK

with Finite Roster

Fragments

CARL: LINE 6 HX STOMP
FELIX: ALPHA OMEGA ULTRA V2
NIKO: SHURE SM58
DUNN: AXIS DIRECT DRIVE
DOUBLE PEDALS



ORCA

ATOM: KORG PITCHBLACK TUNER
ZYME: EPIPHONE LES PAUL CUSTOM
GELO: VIC FIRTH 5A AMERICAN
CLASSIC

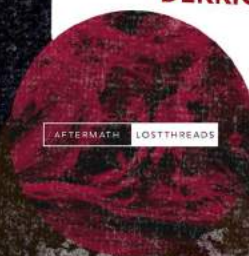


THOMAS: PEAVEY 5150
YONG: JCM 900
PAUL: RIMSHOT DRUMSTICKS
AZE: ROWIN GUITAR TUNER

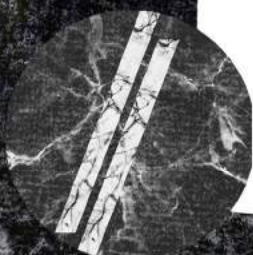


LOSTTHREADS

IVAN: VIC FIRTH 2B DRUMSTICKS
PAUL: .75 GUITAR PICK
DERRICK: 4X 6L6GC TUBES



JOEMEL: TAMA SPEED COBRA
910 DOUBLE PEDAL
RAMON: SHURE SM58
EMIL: ZOOM MS-60B PEDAL
BOK: LINE 6 M13 PEDAL
BON: LINE 6 HD500X



SIMILAR//INTENTS

FINITE FAM REVIEWS

SUPREMACY Fever333

Review by Micah Go

Fever 333 have constantly been defying expectations and raising the bar whether it's with their live performances or their releases and their latest single is no different.

"Supremacy" is quite unique. It touches on the more hip-hop-oriented side of the band while still maintaining that overall FEVER 333 feel fans know and love.

As with any 333 song, it is a track that taps into happenings regarding social and political issues specifically the human rights of persons of color. To call it "relevant" right now would not be enough. The song is a looking glass into how messed up our world is today and why it would be a sin to ever close our eyes again.

The song evokes a feeling of a rallying call (which it is and should be) brought about by the catchy chorus and instrumentals that lead to a finale that instills a fighting spirit and leaves the listener wanting for more.



SCORE:

THE ABYSS Termina

Review by Micah Go

Like your metal diverse in sound and all the while maintaining its heaviness? Then perhaps Termina's new single is for you.

"The Abyss" is a track that got my expectations sky high. I mean, who wouldn't? It's another song from Nik Nocturnal and Andy Cizek; two of the most talented songwriters in modern metal right now. And putting them together? Man, that makes for one hell of a masterpiece.

This track showcases the endless talent of these two with Andy's vocals perfectly showcasing his range and prowess as well as Nik's guitar work that has constantly captivated my attention with how diverse and catchy it is. It's a perfect blend that gets stuck in your head and leaves you in awe at how much power this one song holds.

THE ABYSS

TERMINA

SCORE:

FINITE FAM REVIEWS



OUTSIDER Veil of Maya

Review by Micah Go

Veil of Maya have come a long way since their early deathcore roots. Their 5th album, "Matriarch" saw them dive into a more metalcore sound which they then refined into a more mature form with their last album "False Idol". Now, their latest single, "Outsider", is nothing but perhaps Veil of Maya in their purest form.

Taking their melodic djent sound and pushing it even further would be an understatement with "Outsider". The new song sees them take full control and display complete mastery of who they are as a band: the perfect blend of clean vocals and distinct raspy growls and the intricate heavy rhythms coupled with punch-you-in-your-face drumming makes for one atmospheric and breakdown-filled track that is sure to cement itself into the ears of every listener.

SCORE:



FRACTURE Bleed From Within

Review by Micah Go

Nowadays, it is often a rare sight to see bands that have been active for more than 10 years still keep up their pace or even push their boundaries further compared to when they started.

With their latest release, Bleed From Within shows us that that is not the case for them.

At 15 years old, the band proves that they are stronger than ever with their new album "Fracture".

"Fracture" is aptly named. It is an endless barrage of face-melting metal that will leave you in pieces from the very start. It flourishes a classic metalcore sound with a modern touch that showcases a masterfully-written album which leaves a strong and lasting impression from start to finish.

It is tastefully diverse in sound with guitar-driven instrumentals that provide an endless assault of breakdowns as well as headbang-inducing melodies. Co-powered by a wonderful harmony of clean and harsh vocals as well as tight rhythms, "Fracture" is without a doubt Bleed From Within's best work yet and is, without question, a top contender for album of the year.

Favorite Tracks: The End of All We Know, Into Nothing, Night Crossing, Ascend, Utopia, A Depth That No One Dares



SCORE:

