

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH THORNHILL, STAND ATLANTIC, JUSTICE FOR THE GAMBOL, AND MORE!

FINTE

FINTE 05

SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENTS:

FROM THE LAKE DOWN UNDER

New Release

THE AMITY AFFLICTION
TAKE YOU THROUGH THEIR JOURNEY

ALPHA WOLF
TALKS 'A QUIET PLACE TO DIE

PLUS
THE GLOOM IN THE CORNER
GRAVEMIND
ANTAGONIST AD
AND MORE!



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Editor's Note

G'day mates!

The modern heavy and alternative scene has been dominated by Australian bands for YEARS now especially today, whether it may be metalcore to hardcore to pop punk. We thought it was high time to create an 'AUSSIECORE' SPECIAL to commemorate all the madness the land down under has brought into this scene. Upon making this issue, our team made a list of all the Australian bands we love, and I wish we could fit them all in this release because there are so many mind blowing acts out there--we tried though! It's almost unreal how most Aus bands are good, makes you wonder sometimes, what kind of water do they drink down there?!

If you know me or follow my twitter, you'd know I never shut up about them, yes, my favourite band ALPHA WOLF is on the cover! As well as the almighty THE AMITY AFFLICTION. Two iconic bands that best represent this special release. Did I mention we also have THORNHILL, JUSTICE FOR THE DAMNED, and STAND ATLANTIC, among many others, inside the In Depth section as well?! Up until the end of this issue is ALL a big celebration of Aussieland, even the music reviews.. So if you spot a band you haven't heard about yet inside, get to know them right here, and make sure to check them out!

We thoroughly had fun making this concept issue, I'm hoping you enjoy reading too! And as always, thank you so much for patronizing this small project of ours! As a non-profit zine, the best gifts and payment we get from working hard on these issues are your positive feedback and words of appreciation, so do tag/message us on our socmeds: @finitefam on everything if you like this!

Stream Akudama thx love u,
AK / Karen



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Justice For The Damned

FF: WHEN AND HOW DID JUSTICE FOR THE DAMNED START AND DECIDED TO MAKE MUSIC AS A GROUP?

In the southern suburbs of Sydney. A few of the current members and several past members attended school together and around the ages of 15-16 they found each other and began jamming casually which snowballed into playing shows and releasing music. As we grew older we became more serious about it and after many years grinding and learning lessons we are the band you see today.

FF: TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR LATEST RELEASE 'PAIN IS POWER'. WHAT IS ITS MAIN THEME AND HOW DID ITS SONGWRITING PROCESS GO?

Pain Is Power's main concept is that of taking negative aspects in your life and using that energy to make something positive out of your situation. In other songs we sing of various aspects of life and how this mindset holds up in each one. Additionally we touched on some of our world-views and spoke about some of the issues that we're passionate about. The song writing process was the most collaborative of any JFTD release so far. Most of the song riffs and skeletons were already put together before we left and we went with a set of lyrics more reminiscent of our previous record. Once we arrived we began the process of perfecting the songs immediately. In this case, the lyrics were the part in need of the biggest overhaul. So much so that we completely scrapped what we came with and started from scratch. At first for some of us it was daunting, but everyone rose to the occasion, dug deep and put together an album that we're truly proud of.

FF: IN TERMS OF THE LYRICAL CONTENT FOR 'PAIN IS POWER', IT IS TIMELY FOR THE UNFORTUNATE WORLDWIDE EVENTS LATELY. WHAT HAVE BEEN THE INSPIRATIONS BEHIND YOUR LYRICS?

It is indeed. Not to say that we predicted in anyway what was going to come the following year. But there were points that we raised and feelings we expressed that definitely felt as though they fit right in with what was to come in the following 12 months, eerily so at times.

We were inspired to write about some of the critical issues we think humanity faces constantly, the greed of large corporations, the unfair exploitation of people without wealth and the unsettling state of our changing climate. Of course these issues existed when we were creating Pain Is Power, but who could've known just how ugly they would grow to be in such a short time.

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN HEAVY MUSIC SCENE TODAY? WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT IT?

It is a scene we love deeply. Of course being home it will always be special to us. But in many ways it often feels like a family that we're part of. No one's a stranger and everyone is a friend. The best thing these days has been witnessing how the scene has taken care of each other during the pandemic, being available to those who are struggling. The only negative right now is that we can't all physically engage in the same room anymore like we used to. Hopefully it won't be too long until we can again.

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

We're always writing. Since we cannot play shows we are focusing on new merch, music etc. You can expect more content from us soon for sure!

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

Be kind to each other and people you meet/work with. It seems simple and maybe a bit obvious but it can go a long way. Keep a finger on the pulse, know what other bands are working on and be inspired, but try not to copy, do things that you enjoy and make the music you believe in rather than what you think people want. Also stick with it. At times you might feel like you're making no progress but aside from a few rare cases, the journey is a marathon not a sprint. Just keep doing your thing and people will notice.

STAND ATLANTIC

Stand Atlantic

SOCIALS:
WEBSITE: WWW.STANDATLANTIC.COM
FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STANDATLANTIC
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FF: WHAT'S THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME 'STAND ATLANTIC'? HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN EACH OTHER AND WHAT MADE YOU FORM THE BAND?

WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A DECENT AMOUNT OF TIME NOW, SINCE ABOUT 2013 I THINK? HAHA. OH GOD THE BAND NAME JUST MEANS NOTHING, I WAS ON THE BUS ONCE AND WE WERE TOSSING THE IDEA OF 'ATLANTIC FALLS' AND I THOUGHT IT SOUNDED TO DEPRESSING SO I JUST THOUGHT OF THE OPPOSITE OF FALL, WHICH WAS STAND AND THEN PUT IT AT THE FRONT OF ATLANTIC INSTEAD HAHA. I REALLY WISH WE HAD A MORE THOUGHT OUT BAND NAME NOW THOUGH!

FF: YOUR SOPHOMORE ALBUM 'PINK ELEPHANT' WAS RELEASED A FEW WEEKS AGO. HOW WAS YOUR LISTENERS' FEEDBACK? WAS IT SOMETHING YOU ANTICIPATED?

IT WENT REALLY WELL THANKS! RELEASING ANYTHING DURING THIS CRAZY TIME WITH COVID AND EVERYTHING IS SCARY AND REALLY UNCERTAIN, SO TO BE ABLE TO HAVE AN ALBUM THAT CHARTED IN A BUNCH OF COUNTRIES JUST REALLY SHOWED HOW RAD OUR FANBASE IS AND PROVES THAT NOT EVEN A WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC CAN STOP MUSIC FROM REACHING PEOPLE, EVEN IF SHOWS ARE NONEXISTANT CURRENTLY.

FF: COULD YOU DESCRIBE THE RECORDING AND SONGWRITING PROCESS FOR PINK ELEPHANT'?

IT WAS A LOT MORE SPORADIC THAN OUR FIRST ALBUM. WE WROTE SOME SONGS IN LA, SOME IN THE STUDIO, SOME ON A CLIFF NEAR THE BEACH. WE HAD TO SQUEEZE IN THE WRITING ACROSS THE 2 YEARS WE WERE TOURING SO IT WAS DONE PRETTY MUCH EVERYWHERE! WE DEFINITELY WANTED TO FOCUS ON INCORPERATING NEW ELEMENTS INTO WHAT WE WERE DOING AND WANTED TO BLOW ANY EXPECTATIONS PEOPLE HAD OUT OF THE WATER HAHA.

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?

I THINK IT'S ALWAYS EVOLVING. WE HAVE A COUPLE OF LITTLE THINGS WE KIND OF LIKE TO THINK OF AS 'TRADEMARKS' BUT OVERALL WE WANT TO BE OPEN TO EVERYTHING AND BE OK WITH CHANGE.

FF: WHAT IS STAND ATLANTIC'S VISION? WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL?

I JUST WANT US TO BE ABLE TO BE AT THE POINT WHERE NOTHING IS OUT OF REACH I GUESS.. WOULD LOVE TO HAVE SOME WEIRD SHIT AS PART OF OUR PRODUCTION... MAYBE A JUMPING CASTLE OR SOMETHING HAHA. WE WANNA MAKE SURE PEOPLE KNOW WE'RE CAPABLE OF ANYTHING AND WE CAN'T BE PUT INTO A BOX.

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

YES PLEASE! WE TALK ABOUT COMING TO ASIA A LOT, AND IN PARTICULAR THE PHILLIPPINES! HAHA. JAPAN IS ALSO A BIG ONE ON THE LIST. HOPEFULLY ONE DAY

MAUVAIS

FF; WHEN AND HOW DID YOU FORM MAUVAIS? WHAT INSPIRED YOU GUYS TO MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER?

Mauvais formed in 2017 (citation) by Jaycob, Ben and Adan. Everyone in the band comes with different inspirations, however we all converge to a common idea of how we want to move forward.

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

Our main goal is to make music that collectively we enjoy playing and listening to.

FF: HOW DOES THE SONG WRITING PROCESS USUALLY GO IN THE BAND?

Usually either Ben or Adan will write 80 - 90% complete songs. Then we dissect them as a group, work through ideas and see if they work or not. Then for the latest single we took that to Scotty Simpson to track and the final tweaks are done there.

THE MUSIC VIDEO FOR 'I FEEL NOTHING' WAS RELEASED A FEW MONTHS AGO, TELL US ABOUT THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE TRACK AND VIDEO?

The inspiration for the video came from a similar place to the song. We wanted to show an emotionless reaction to externally inflicted pain. Tony Ris was a huge help with production and getting the band shots set up and looking the way they do.

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT AUSTRALIAN LOCAL METAL COMMUNITY? WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT IT?

The best thing is when there is a sense of community, it feels like everyone is your oldest friend. There are people in the scene around the country that are willing to help out with a lounge room to sleep in which we can't be grateful enough of. The worst thing is just the sparsity of the country. Trying to organise a tour around the major cities outside of the east coast is an absolute nightmare.

FF: WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM MAUVAIS IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

Hopefully if things go back to normal and we can start playing shows again we would love to do a run along the east coast and to some places we haven't been before. We also have some material that we have been working on for a while that needs to be finished up for people to listen to.



Photo by: Steven Cook

SOCIAL MEDIA:

 MauvaisBand
  @mauvaisband

ANTAGONIST AD

ANTAGONISTAD.NET

ANTAGONISTAD ANTAGONIST_AD

FF: COULD YOU GIVE US A BACKGROUND ABOUT HOW ANTAGONIST AD STARTED AS A BAND? WHAT IS THE VISION BEHIND YOUR GROUP?

We started a long time ago at the end of 2005. At the time no one in New Zealand was doing a heavy metallic hardcore band, we wanted to do something which took inspiration from the H8000 European hardcore scene and combine it with bands from USA like Disembodied, Marytr A.D. and Until The End.

I felt like I had a lot to say in regards to both social/political commentary and animal rights.

To this day, we are still a fiercely vegan anti-facist band.

FF: WITH THE RISE OF UPCOMING YOUNG METAL BANDS IN THE MODERN METAL SCENE, WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES ANTAGONIST A.D DIFFERENT FROM THE REST?

There seems to be a resurgence in the 90s hardcore sound that we drew so much inspiration from, especially that H8000 sound - which is so sick to see and hear.

I guess the difference is we have been doing this for a long time and have defined our own sound within our influences.

We are also firm believers that the message and substance behind the music is its soul. I feel like we have become a protest band which I think is important.

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

Geographically it's been quite hard for us. We are from New Zealand originally with a couple of us moving to Australia in 2013/2014. Everytime we toured Australia we'd immediately be in debt \$3000, it made each tour barely break even for a long time and really hard for us to be able to tour further than Australia. As time progressed we made a bit more money from the shows and flights came down in price so we could save more to tour further abroad.

Line up changes really hurt and disrupted our touring for a long time as well.

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN HEAVY MUSIC SCENE TODAY? WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT IT?

There are always amazing bands coming out of Australia. The diversity in the sounds is always impressive to me :)

I can't really think of any negatives, but I have found it's been a really supportive community with everyone sharing their knowledge and always down to help each other when they can.

FF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEW HARD-HITTING EP 'THROUGH FIRE'. WHAT IS THE MAIN THEME OF THE ALBUM AND LYRICAL INSPIRATION BEHIND IT?

We are releasing two more EP's which will accompany Through Fire to make a full length album :) Covid halted our release schedule for these but once they're all out they will paint a cohesive picture of the full release. Lyrically, we talk about a few main themes our band is based on.

Mental health - depression/anxiety, I suffer from both and have found music really helps me cope. Empowers me and gets me out of some dark places along with other healthy coping mechanisms.

Racism - it's horrible that this is a subject that still needs to be addressed! It is nice to see that systemic racism has had a mainstream light shone on it this year though - hopefully some real change can come from the protests happening :)

Police brutality - generally seen as an extensive of systemic racism, but always an abuse of power by scared individuals.

Animal Rights - go vegan!

FF: WHAT CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM ANTAGONIST A.D IN THE NEAR FUTURE ESPECIALLY WHEN THIS WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC IS OVER?

Look out for All Things - it's the next EP in the series due to be released - we have a new song coming out soon :)

Thank you for taking the time to message us!

FF: WHEN AND HOW DID THE WEIGHT OF SILENCE START AND DECIDED TO MAKE MUSIC AS A GROUP?

TWOS has been a long fought and hard work project of guitarist Benny formed in 2012 as the only original member. Slowly built into the band it is today with the personalities of everybody along the way.

FF: YOU HAVE CLASSIFIED YOURSELVES AS TRAP METAL. HOW DO YOU GUYS FORM YOUR SOUND? HOW DOES THE SONGWRITING PROCESS WORK WITHIN THE GROUP?

Our current sound is from our true love of rap music and metal music as an equal. To be able to mix the 2 genres and create this sound just feels right , we start with a heavy trap beat and rap flows, then build on it with riffs, bass lines and hard hitting drums.

FF: WITH THE RISE OF MANY NEW BANDS IN THE AUSTRALIAN HEAVY MUSIC SCENE, WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES TWOS DIFFERENT/STAND OUT FROM THE REST?

Trap Metal is still a very young genre and honestly we can only think of a handful of bands doing it in Australia. Most of the lads doing it are homies and we hope to come up with the rest of them.

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

Silencer is a straight up party jam with inspiration of current trap music flows and freestyle spirit. It also features our homie Hunt the Dino who can probably spit quicker than any screamer in the game.

FF: ASIDE FROM THE NEW SINGLE, WHAT'S NEXT FOR TWOS? WHAT ELSE CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

This is the final single from our upcoming album 'Give The People What They Want' due late 2020. Filled with party bangas, melodic hardcore tracks and big trap beats, we're hoping everybody turns up on this 11 track.

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

Stick to it, don't stop no matter what. Work hard and play hard. We are still looking for big break but damn it's been a crazy journey with some hilarious stories so far. Music can take you anywhere.



THE WEIGHT OF \$ILENCE

Photo by Natalie Parham



FF: WHAT HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN UP TO DURING THIS PANDEMIC PERIOD? HOW HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN COPING?

What a crazy and unusual time it is! We all live in different states, so unfortunately with the travel bans in place we can't write together, rehearse or hang out. We've been working, writing music and trying to look after ourselves. I (Alex / Vocals/guitar) live in Melbourne, where we've been in lockdown for quite a while, and I'm really looking forward to being able to go out and see friends and live music.

FF: YOU RECENTLY RELEASED YOUR SINGLE 'OUT OF TIME' INDEPENDENTLY, HOW WAS THE SONGWRITING AND RECORDING PROCESS OF IT?

Out of Time was a really fun and enjoyable experience to record. I (Alex) wrote the song on acoustic guitar at home, and did a rough demo to send off to the band interstate. I remember at the time I was writing a song per day as a kind of exercise. Most of the songs sucked, but this was one of the ones that came out of it. The band recorded in Melbourne with producer Joel Quartermain. We had a few days rehearsal beforehand and then spent a few days in studio. Because we live interstate from one another, it was also a great time to hang out and have a few beers.

FF: WITH THE RISE OF POP PUNK BANDS RIGHT NOW, WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES COLUMBUS STAND OUT FROM THE REST OF THESE BANDS?

There's so many good bands releasing music at the moment, in pop-punk style genres or otherwise. I don't know if we really stand out haha, but we just really try to make music that we love and enjoy. I guess I hope that if our music is good and genuine, we'll stand out even if we have a similar sound to other bands. The other bands out there that sound like Columbus, are probably bands that I'd like to listen to, because I really like our music.

FF: WITH YOUR PAST SONGS, YOU'VE COLLABORATED WITH JOHN FLOREANI OF TROPHY EYES, ALEX COSTELLO OF ROAM AND JORDAN BLACK OF LIKE PACIFIC, ARE THERE ANY ARTISTS YOU LOOK FORWARD TO PERFORM AND/OR COLLABORATE WITH?

Trophy Eyes, Roam and Like Pacific are all great bands that were heaps of fun to collaborate and tour with. When touring come back (hopefully not too far away) there's so many bands I'd love to play with. Overseas wise, I'd love to play shows with Boston Manor, and in Australia WAAX and Stand Atlantic would be on the top of my lists.

FF: WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR COLUMBUS SO FAR AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME IT?

I think the biggest challenge in Columbus is ongoing. We all live in separate states in Australia, and that practically makes things a little difficult when it comes to writing and recording! During the current coronavirus pandemic a lot of our plans have been delayed as we haven't been able to travel interstate, and we've had to be creative in planning the rest of the year.

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

The reason we started the band is the same reason that we continue. You have a drive to write and create music that can't really be stopped unless you scratch the itch! It's been so fun over the years releasing music and touring and we're really grateful to be able to continue doing what we love.

COLUMBUS

**SOCIAL
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  [@columbus_bne](#)

Photo by: April Jessie & Nick Hargans





BLOOM

SOCIAL MEDIA:
f t i BLOOMSYD

FF: WHEN AND HOW DID BLOOM BEGIN? WHAT DROVE YOU TO MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER?

Jono and Jarod started Bloom back in 2016 after sharing a love for music and wanting to become more involved in the local scene. We wrote awful demos at Jono's uni studio, and over the year Andrew and Jack joined the band. We started playing regularly at practice rooms and riffed on music that we all loved. It felt really empowering to come together and click the way we did, even if we didn't have any concrete plans to play shows or release anything at this point. After going through a couple of guitarists we linked up with Oli who was able to complement our rhythm sections almost instantly, he wrote the leads to our first release on the day we were recording it when he came to hang out. Throughout the years we've become even closer and are becoming more proud of the music we are creating together.

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

As a genre probably Alternative hardcore/ Melodic hardcore/ sad songs with a tough exterior. Trying to translate difficult emotions to understand into a form of catharsis within the Music is how we try to form our sounds. The thing that I like about our sound is that we can go from a rigid section into something completely open in the next. We take a lot of inspiration from bands like touché Amore, La Dispute and Paramore, but also are heavily influenced by our local scene in bands like Whatever Forever, Eat Your Heart Out, and Sleep Talk.

FF: YOUR UPCOMING EP 'IN PASSING' WILL BE OUT IN OCTOBER 2020. COULD YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT IT? WHAT IS THE THEME BEHIND IT, AND WHAT CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM IT?

JONO: [In Passing] is written around the passing of my grandfather midway through last year. We have written something we hope will encapsulate some of the feelings you go through when you lose a family member. I did not have the closest relationship with my extended family and spent more time with him while he was sick than I can remember at any point in my life. Sonically, we hope the

EP is a bit of an emotional journey – with songs like Daylight, and the title track In Passing being songs that channel a lot of anger and confusion, and songs like The Boat and The Stream and June, which are more melancholic. Ultimately, the EP is a reflection on the complexities of loss and grief, and how these feelings can be long lasting.

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

Our producer, Chris Vernon plays a huge role in developing our final sound, and workshops all of our demos and ideas with us in really creative ways. The vibe with him always feels creative and easygoing at the same time, that helps reinforce our own ideas of what we want the final tracks to come out as. Jono knew what he wanted the concept of the EP to be, and the demos that we wrote slowly began to take shape around the concepts we wanted to explore.

FF: WITH THE RISE OF MANY NEW YOUNG BANDS IN THE SCENE ESPECIALLY IN AUSTRALIA, WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES BLOOM STAND OUT OR DIFFERENT FROM THE REST?

We have so many incredible acts around us that it's inspiring to be a part of such a creative community here in Sydney and in the Australian scene. All we want to be when we make music together is ourselves, and represent things that we care about or believe are important - I think our sincerity is something that is embedded in our sound from the beginning, and is apparent throughout our releases. We love seeing the scene as a whole come out with a variety of new acts, and were always excited to hear new music from the people around us that strengthens our community as a whole.

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

We're hoping to get back in the studio as soon as we can to work with CV again and create some more music. We hope to get back on the road again as soon as we can to present the EP in our live show. We all miss shows an unbearable amount at this point and are aching to play music again with our mates.

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JAPANESE COLLECTION

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- FANNY PACKS**
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PATIENT SIXTY-SEVEN



FF: COULD YOU GIVE US A BACKGROUND ABOUT HOW PATIENT SIXTY-SEVEN STARTED AS A GROUP? WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CREATE MUSIC TOGETHER?

Patient Sixty-Seven started back in 2014-2015 when we thought it would be fun to create music inspired by some of our favourite heavy bands. It was just an opportunity to write music we thought would be cool to play live and put out for people to hear. At the time I was learning a bit about production and writing – and the project all snowballed from there! It was myself, Declan and our guitarist at the time – we sort of just had a hunger to keep building on what we were doing while making every single mistake along the way. Everything I've learnt about music and writing has come from starting this band, and we've been fortunate to learn alot.

FF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEWLY RELEASED EP 'IMBALANCE REDUX'. WHAT ARE ITS MAIN INSPIRATION/S LYRICALLY?

It's interesting because these songs were re-recordings of two jams from our first EP back in 2015. So it was definitely cool to go back and re-visit them. The songs were really our band finding our feet in every possible way, and the lyrics to me really reflect that. The inspiration is drawn from standing up for yourself in situations where you're being pushed around or de-valued. It's a little angsty but also self-reflective too, owning your own mistakes while saying to the world that you're done feeling like you're not enough. Definitely less articulated then how I'd prefer to write lyrics today, but it was so much fun to go back and give those first songs the love they deserved!

FF: HOW WAS THE SONGWRITING PROCESS WITH YOUR FEBRUARY RELEASE 'HOME TRUTHS' EP? HOW WAS WRITING WITH SLEEPING WITH SIRENS' KELLIN QUINN HELP YOU FIND YOUR SOUND FOR THIS RELEASE?

It was hectic. It took alot out of us and from me, just in terms of wanting to push myself a little more with the subject matter. Ultimately, that's when it ends up being the most rewarding. We didn't want to restrict ourselves too much and just wrote what felt true to ourselves. Kellin was awesome – he

really gave us that extra push to make both of the songs he helped us on go to another level. Both lyrically and musically in terms of making the tracks cohesive. It was awesome to have someone of his caliber to bounce our ideas off. Sometimes in the middle of writing you can lose site of the big picture, and with the songs that Kellin wrote with us – we were able to focus on what really mattered, what we wanted to get out of the songs and tell our story.

FF: WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL AS A BAND?

Honestly, it's just to keep doing what we love. Writing, recording, performing. Just getting the most out of ourselves where we can – and getting our music out there for people to hear! If we can build on that, connecting with people and writing the music we enjoy then we're all going to be very happy.

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

I love this question – and the truth is for our band it's about separating ourselves with passion and enthusiasm. We love what we do, and we want our music to bring that across. Our music can also cross over in terms of our influences – we have stuff that's a little heavier and energetic – but we aren't afraid to experiment either! We've done acoustic songs and covers that showcase a bit more diversity and I think that's important as people can hopefully see a few different sides to us!

FF: YOU'VE BROUGHT A LOT TO THE TABLE ALREADY THIS 2020 WITH BOMBARDING US WITH LOADS OF NEW MUSIC, BUT WHAT ELSE CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM THE BAND IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

We have plans to finish the year strong – with more new music to come through next year....and maybe even before. Stay tuned! It's been a busy year and we want to cap it off and celebrate the hard work.

Thank you so much for listening!



Photos by Elliot Charleston

VATIC

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

We all have a big love for live music and the talent we've seen out of the local scene. The band itself was a concept long before Vatic was an entity.

Dinesh (lead guitar) had been writing and jamming with a handful of other local musicians we now consider our friends. Dinesh is also a very a passionate videographer, and had worked with Matt (harsh vocals) and Dylan (drums) on one of their previous projects. When Dinesh got Dylan a job, they became close and started writing more and more music together. Dylan then suggested adding Zak (bass guitar/clean vocals) into the mix as they were old friends from their teen years. A bit later we met Adam (rhythm guitar) through another band who was rehearsing at the same studio as us, and not long after Dylan also got Matt into the rehearsal room. As soon as we heard Matt's lyrics and how they complimented the sound, we knew that this was the lineup.

FF: WALK US THROUGH YOUR LATEST SINGLE 'DEPARTURE'. WHAT IS IT ABOUT? WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND IT?

The story for Departure stems from a person's experience having made peace with the idea of dying young, but only to have to try and accept that they might not. The feeling of knowing your death is around the corner can be upsetting, but there's a level of comfort in the certainty once you've accepted it.

It's spoken through the eyes of someone who's stuck in a crowd, surrounded by friends and familiar faces, but feeling completely alone in the room. They've long ago accepted the idea of dying soon, only to learn that they're going to live longer than they had thought. They have to make their peace with the idea of living again, and forgive themselves for not wanting to.

FF: HOW DOES THE SONGWRITING PROCESS WORK WITHIN THE BAND? WHAT IS THE DYNAMIC WITHIN THE MEMBERS LIKE WHEN IT COMES TO CREATING NEW MUSIC?

The process differs from song to song, but usually Dinesh will record something that will resemble the early stages of a song. Right now we've got somewhere between 15 and 20 of those skeletons lying around on a shared cloud. We're currently going through and picking the ones we can unanimously or democratically agree are the standouts. From here, usually the band as a whole will provide feedback, and maybe Dylan and Adam will come in and help re-record some of these ideas, while Matt and Zak will write lyrics and melodies, sometimes with the help of Dylan. Once we've got something that sounds like a complete demo, we take it in to Nick Sjogren (producer/engineer) and he helps us polish it up and turn it into something that we are all happy to release.

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

The obvious answer is that we'd love to make a career of writing music we like and touring - especially touring. Getting to play shows and hang out with like-minded musicians is an absolute blast. We've made some great friends and hopefully we'll keep making great friends. More than that, fun. It's so much fun. We've all spoken about what the future holds many times, and each time it's a different conversation, but we always come to the same unifying conclusion that it's just too much fun to not do.

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

That's a really good question! There may not necessarily be a proverbial "crowd" to stand out from. Australia has so much young, hungry talent to offer, and while a lot of us fall under the umbrella of "heavy", most of the bands we get to play with all have a pretty unique take on what constitutes that sound. We're very lucky to belong to such a diverse scene!

With that in mind, our take on the sound is seems to be the balance of ambient (and often melodic) atmosphere with melancholic (and often punishing) riffs and/or breakdowns.

There's a lot of influence from the obvious greats who have ascended their respective local scenes like Northlane, Make Them Suffer, and Polaris (as well as a lot of friends who we are certain are not far off), as well as the bands that embrace ambience and atmosphere like Silent Planet or Karnivool. Similarly, these are all bands that could be easily thrown into the "heavy" category, but we wouldn't dream of saying they sound the same as one another.

FF: LASTLY, WHAT CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM VATIC IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

This is a tough one to answer. We're experimenting with a few different things at the moment. There will definitely be some heavier sounds than people are used hearing from us in some areas, some darker sound pallettes in other areas, and maybe a bit more pop sensibility in songwriting and structure. That said, we're not super keen on pigeonholing ourselves too much. The rule of thumb is generally that if it sounds good, we work with it, even (or in some cases, especially) if it's not representative of our prior repertoire. Its fun to keep the listeners on their toes.

SOCIAL MEDIA:



Vatic.au
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THE GLOOM IN THE CORNER

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

PAUL: Hey, thanks so much for having us, so Mikey (vocalist) started the whole project out as an experimental acoustic/electronic project, this lasted until he started writing heavy tracks and realised that's the road he wanted to go down, so Matt (guitarist) and Nic (drums) were introduced into the mix, I believe Matt and Mikey knew each other from both being involved in the Melbourne heavy scene and Nic was introduced through mutual friends. I was the last member of our current line up to join, I have been friend with Mikey for years and from there was asked to fill in on guitar for a tour and eventually to join as full time Bassist.

FF: THE GLOOM IN THE CORNER IS A CONCEPT DRIVEN BAND. HOW DOES THE CREATIVE PROCESS WORK WITHIN THE GROUP? WHAT IS THE DYNAMIC WITHIN THE MEMBERS LIKE AND HOW DO YOU DECIDE ON IDEAS FOR SONGS/ALBUMS?

Mikey is the main creative of the group, he writes and maps out the story. As for the music, Mikey will completely write out tracks or sections of tracks and present them to the rest of us, the way we've explained it in the past is that Mikey will present us with the full Skeleton of a track, and from there we will all add notes and ideas until the songs are a full Body of work that we're all happy with. The dynamic between us all is very healthy, a huge factor of that is that we all get a long very well together and also the fact that we all draw musical influences from so many different styles of music, which provides a very versatile view point of song writing between the four of us.

FF: TELL IS ABOUT YOU NEW SINGLE 'VIOLENCE'. WHAT ARE ITS INFLUENCES MUSICALLY AND LYRICALLY?

'Violence' for me personally was a very fun track to be a part of especially, the track itself is basically a 'theme song' for 'glooms' and what they are, it was written with the intent of being hard hitting, direct, short and well... violent. I'd say a huge influence for the track was the

Doom soundtrack, written by Mick Gordon. Mikey is a huge fan of both the game and soundtrack and those influences definitely bleed into the track, as well as still stamping the natural progression of our sound on top.

FF: AT THIS POINT IN YOUR CAREER, DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR REAL 'SOUND' OR ARE YOU STILL OPEN TO ACTIVELY DISCOVERING IT?

We've definitely developed a certain signature sound that we project in our songs, although we're constantly changing and implementing new sounds and inspirations in our song writing. So I'd have to say that we're all still looking for something fresh to add to the mix, but while still sounding like 'gloom' and still making sense with the progression of the band's sound.

FF: WITH THE RISE OF MANY AUSTRALIAN HEAVY BANDS WITHIN THE SCENE TODAY, WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES TGITC DIFFERENT /STAND OUT FROM THE REST?

The fact that we have an in depth story for people to follow as well as a dynamic song writing approach definitely keeps us interested in what we do, and in turn, hopefully other people will come along for the ride. The concept really allows to spread across all mediums too, obviously music, as well as videos, books, comics or even an audio book.

FF: LASTLY, WHAT CAN WE, ESPECIALLY MEMBERS OF THE SECT, EXPECT FROM THE GLOOM IN THE CORNER IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

Expect more content from us, we're always working towards a bigger picture. A new single is coming very soon and the end of an era with the last release of our three-track. Expect more high energy live shows when we can play live again, but until then, I guess you'll have to just keep an eye on all of our social medias and interact with us from there.

Photo by Andrew Basso



SOCIAL MEDIA:

 TGITCBAND
  TGITCBAND
  THEGLOOMIN THECORNER

SLOWLY SLOWLY

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

It's something my grandfather used to say to me, he would say in Italian, 'piano piano' which translates to Slowly Slowly.

Alex & I have been friends since high school, we met Albert playing in bands around 2012 and then Pat jumped on board about 5 years ago.

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

I don't really know any more. I would have once said emo rock, but the new stuff we are writing at the moment is pulling us into new territory. Lyrically, bands like Bright Eyes & Kevin Devine, but musically it's a real mixed bag.

FF: EARLIER THIS YEAR YOU RELEASED YOUR THIRD STUDIO ALBUM 'RACE CAR BLUES', WHAT HAVE BEEN THE CHALLENGES AND EFFORTS YOU MADE TO GET YOUR MUSIC OUT THERE ESPECIALLY DURING THIS PANDEMIC?

We luckily got RCB out just before the pandemic took off in Australia, so it was able to have its moment in the sub before shadowed by COVID. Our tour was subsequently cancelled and that took the wind out of our sails a little bit - It's been a tough year, but we have made up for it in our dedication to new music. It's been nice to reconnect with loved ones & take stock of our lucky we are.

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

We still enjoy each others company! It's a miracle.

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

Always open to discovering new things. We have a lot of very different music in the pipeline for 2021.

FF: LASTLY, WHAT'S IN STORE FOR SLOWLY SLOWLY? ANY MUSIC VIDEOS, NEW TRACKS TO BE RELEASED? WHAT'S BEEN KEEPING YOU GUYS BUSY DURING THIS PERIOD?

We can't say too much at the moment, but 2021 (given COVID takes a hike) will be our biggest yet. We are sitting on what I feel is a pivotal new body of work for the band.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

  [slowlyslowlymusic](#)
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Photo by: The Art of Capture

HONEST CROOKS



FF: HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN EACH OTHER? WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER AS HONEST CROOKS?

B - I met the guys about 5 years ago. I was booking shows in Sydney at the time and a friend told me about this band called Honest Crooks from Tamworth (6 hours North of Sydney). He told me they were good people and hoping to get some shows outside of their hometown. From there I sparked up a conversation with the bass player Lewy online and we hit it off straight away. I started booking shows for the band and letting them all stay in my bedroom to help them out. We quickly became close friends and shortly after I was asked to fill in for their first tour and subsequently join the band on guitar.

FF: YOU RECENTLY RELEASED "NO REST". CAN YOU TELL US THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IT?

B - No Rest at the bare bones is a song about the sacrifices we have all made to pursue this band, aimed at people who don't believe we have worked hard enough to achieve what we have. The song is about strength and perseverance.

SOCIAL MEDIA

-  [honestcrookshc](#)
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FF: WHAT IS THE HARDCORE SCENE LIKE IN NEW SOUTH WALES?

B - The New South Wales hardcore scene only really exists in Sydney and Newcastle now days. It wasn't always this way, there used to be healthy rural scenes outside of the main cities when I first started going to shows but there has been a large decline since the early 2000's. The Sydney scene has had it's ups and down over the years when it comes to numbers but I've found the commitment and passion has always remained strong. Before covid fucked everything for us I felt the Sydney scene was on a very strong rise, not only numbers but also with energy and participation. From an outsider looking in Sydney shows can look a bit intimidating, we do have a lot of heavy hitters but as soon as you have a conversation with anyone you straight away will be welcomed and realize everyone there is friendly and inclusive of everybody.

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

B - The music has changed a lot over the years, the band has had 3 vocalists now and the style has definitely changed with each vocalist. The band has always been a big mash of genres but the new record is going down a more metallic path which makes me very happy.

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

B - Probably our latest lineup change. It happened pretty suddenly and at a time when we were getting some cool tour offers. We just pulled our socks up really, we acted quickly and went full throttle.

FF: WHAT'S BEEN KEEPING YOU BUSY DURING THIS TIME? WHAT'S IN STORE FOR HONEST CROOKS?

B - Me personally I've just been putting my head down, working and saving. Aswell as working on a few other musical projects. Honest Crooks as a band are currently recording our debut full length record and trying to work out the best plan of attack moving forward while a lot of our country is in lockdown and we can't play shows.

Photo by: Aidan Griffith

thornhill

FF: BEING A FAIRLY YOUNG BAND, DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE ALREADY FOUND YOUR REAL "SOUND" OR ARE YOU STILL OPEN TO ACTIVELY DISCOVERING IT?

MATT: We always try to keep some fluidity in our writing and never limit ourselves to a particular sound. An important part of creativity for us is always leaving the door open to new sounds and ideas, and not backing ourselves into a corner where people aren't already expecting or accepting of change. We want people to be expecting new things from us on each release to keep our sound fresh and interesting.

FF: HOW DOES THE CREATIVE PROCESS WORK WITHIN THE BAND? HOW DO YOU START WRITING SONGS?

Ethan is the main songwriter for the band. He will demo the song ideas before Jacob throws his vocal ideas over the top. They're always rearranging and restructuring aspects of the tracks before we come to a finished product. The Dark Pool was all self-produced so there was a lot of obsessing over the finer details of the tracks that would normally be reserved for a producer to suggest. It's a pretty involved process.

FF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR DEBUT FULL-LENGTH 'THE DARK POOL'. WHAT ARE ITS MAIN THEME/S AND WHAT ARE THE INSPIRATIONS BEHIND WRITING IT?

Musically, without going over the obvious modern heavy influences, I know Ethan drew a lot of inspiration from artists like Radiohead, The Contortionist, Thrice, Arcane Roots, Jordan Rakei, and a bunch of others. Jacob's always said that the main themes of The Dark Pool are based around the reflection of yourself and what you see in the mirror. Broadly, what it's like to be human.

FF: YOU ARE CONSIDERED AS ONE OF THE FASTEST RISING METALCORE BANDS IN THE SCENE; WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE QUALITIES THAT YOUR MEMBERS HAVE THAT HAS /LED TO A GOOD AMOUNT OF SUCCESS AND RECOGNITION DURING YOUR EARLY YEARS AS A GROUP?

We appreciate that people see us that way. I think the main reason we've been able to grow a little faster than anticipated is that every member has their own job in the band and we all let each other (or at least try to) do those jobs without interference or slowing each other down. Songwriting is left to Ethan & Jacob, management and social media is left to myself, recording/mixing/mastering was left to Nick for this latest record, and Maida looks after our merch at shows and also maintains our prac space. I think all of those things coupled with the fact that we have a great team around us with the label and our agents helps us enormously.

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

So far, I think our biggest achievement (apart from releasing the album) was being able to tour internationally for the first time. We went to Europe & the UK with Wage War in January right before Covid hit, and it was a completely new experience for us. Australian major city tours are only usually a week or so long, so being on the road for 3 weeks was very different, especially since a couple of us had never been overseas before. We didn't think we would ever get to tour outside of Australia so we lost it when we got the offer.

FF: WHAT'S NEXT FOR THORNHILL? ANYTHING YOUR LISTENERS WOULD BE STOKED ABOUT?

I'd love to give you some kind of insight into what we have next but the truth is, we don't know. We have some international tours booked for next year that we're hoping will still go ahead but everything is very up-in-the-air right now. We're busy writing as well but we don't plan on releasing anything of any great substance until we're able to tour again, so fingers crossed it won't take too long for things to start getting back to normal.

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FF: You are currently a photographer, videographer, and visual effects artist all in one. Tell us a little bit about your background. How did you start this field of work?

I stumbled my way into the photography world first after studying music business. I was required to take images of a show we had to put on for an assignment, and from there I was asked to shoot more and more shows with bands across Australia then soon the world. The progression to keep learning pushed me into the video world and furthermore in making those videos look cooler with visuals effects!

FF: What would you regard as the most challenging part of being a one man team?

The most challenging part I think would be having to trust your gut a lot more with dealing with so many creative aspects. Budgets aren't always big, so having to keep things in house and all dealt with alone can be hard to juggle. It sometimes helps the creative piece come together with not as many cooks in the kitchen.

FF: How does the creative process work between you and your clients in coming up with the ideas and look of each project?

It really depends on the client and the idea. If the client has an idea they want to do, I'll help guide them to a way to practically do it. Clients more often say "you're the video/photo guy, we trust you" and they understand that it's my job, and my creative strength. Those clients let me have a free range of ideas, which is great!

SOCIAL MEDIA

 [wallofsoundAU](#)
  [@brownypaul](#)

www.wallofsoundau.com

FF: WHEN AND HOW DID YOU START WALL OF SOUND? WHAT IS THE VISION BEHIND IT?

Wall of Sound was conceived back in 2014 as an avenue for me to talk about heavy music/bands whilst I was working in commercial radio. The idea always has been to promote all types of bands (upcoming, established) and give them a platform to have their music heard with not only our Aussie audiences, but our evergrowing international readers. The site is run by music fans, for fellow music fans and at the end of the day its always about the bands/musicians we talk about!

FF: HOW CAN YOU COMPARE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MUSIC SCENE IN AUSTRALIA TODAY TO WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED DOING PRESS ON WALL OF SOUND BACK THEN?

Back in 2014 (and earlier) there was always this mentality with sites I used to read growing up that the US bands or international bands should always be front of mind because they're bigger and well known, but over the past 3 years or so, Australian heavy music has been firing on all cylinders and producing some of the best music I've had the chance to cover. More so nowadays, there's a bigger focus on homegrown bands and their talent and we (and others) are doing our best to highlight those acts who deserve as much spotlight as some of the bigger named acts getting around today.

The heavy music scene has also evolved into one of the most welcoming and encouraging scenes I've been apart of. It doesn't matter who you are, your gender, your sexuality, your race etc as long as you're passionate about the music, you're welcomed with open arms by mostly everyone and it's such a great thing to be part of.

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

Not gonna lie, its been rough for bands here in Australia, but most of them have adapted to their surroundings and found ways to keep the momentum going. There's been lots of live streamed videos lately, new music popping up from isolation and big hype around albums and EPs that have been in the works for years. It all comes down to the fans getting behind their favourite acts and supporting them any way they can. We don't know when all of this will come to an end, but as long as we're out there talking about and promoting the bands we love, we'll keep them front of mind for new fans who are looking for new acts to jump on during the pandemic. Then once it all kinda returns to normal, we'll be able to get out and support these bands in a live setting and never take gigs for granted like we used to haha

FF: WHAT IS YOUR GOAL FOR WALL OF SOUND? WHAT KEEPS YOU INSPIRED TO CONTINUE DOING WHAT YOU DO?

Wall of Sound was never meant to be a large scale publication like it is now, it was all just a hobby to keep me distracted during a low part of my life but now it continues to grow and myself and my team are just looking for new ways to continue helping bands get their names out there. Ideally I'd love to take us to a more internationally recognized status and play with the big boys and girls around the world (shout out to you Kerrang!), but also not lose touch of what got us here in the first place, helping all different kinds of bands get the exposure they deserve.

The most inspiring thing about this job is seeing different acts emerge who can hit you hard with a song that instantly turns you into a fan. You want to tell everyone about them and get more ears tuned into their music. That's what keeps me going. Finding new bands and talking about them before anyone else is always a rewarding aspect to this job, especially when those bands go onto bigger and better things

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

Do NOT give up. Keep slogging away. Recognition and viral hits don't come instantly or overnight and you have to work hard to get your name and music out there. Adapt to new avenues to get your music heard and get involved in the community. Talk about your fav bands in forums/groups etc and have your face and name pop up from just being you. Be real, authentic and most of all, be a good person. The road to success is a long and daunting process, but once you reach your first destination and big break, that's when the real fun begins!



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Melbourne metallers Alpha Wolf is undeniably one of the fast rising and most talked about modern metal acts today. They swiftly gained notability with the release of their debut studio album 'Mono' in 2017 which they quickly followed with their 2018 EP 'Fault' which has then led them to tour in Asia, Europe, and America. Alpha Wolf's sound is eclectic, engaging, aggressive, and for the most part, unforgettable. The group is set to release their highly anticipated second studio effort 'A Quiet Place To Die' this September, and upon showing listeners the first few looks from their new album; singles 'Akudama', 'Creep', and 'Bleed 4 You', it just became more apparent that even a worldwide pandemic can't slow Alpha Wolf down.

We recently had a chat with guitarist Sabian Lynch to discuss all about 'A Quiet Place To Die', so keep the hype up, and, well, *watch the bodies drop!*





FF: AS THE RELEASE FOR 'A QUIET PLACE TO DIE' IS CUTTING CLOSE, HOW ARE YOU GUYS FEELING ABOUT IT? THE SINGLES YOU HAVE RELEASED SO FAR WERE WELL-RECEIVED GLOBALLY, DID YOU GUYS EXPECT THE RECEPTION YOU GOT SO FAR?

SABIAN: We didn't know what to expect, we knew within ourselves that we'd created something special with each song on the album and it was so hard to pick singles as we all have different favourite songs, seeing the reaction globally continues to exceed any expectations and we couldn't have asked for a better response and a positive fan base.

FF: WHAT WAS THE CREATIVE PROCESS LIKE DURING WRITING 'A QUIET PLACE TO DIE'? WERE THERE ANY KEY DIFFERENCES WITH WRITING THIS ONE COMPARED TO 'FAULT' AND 'MONO'?

SABIAN: We did what we've always done, and that's to write for ourselves. We set out to record an album that we ourselves want to make our album of the year. If we don't like the songs, we won't release them, so what you're hearing are songs that we deem to be our favourite songs to listen to this year. This was the pattern for all releases prior also.

FF: WHO OR WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MAIN INFLUENCES MUSICALLY AND LYRICALLY FOR THIS NEW RECORD?

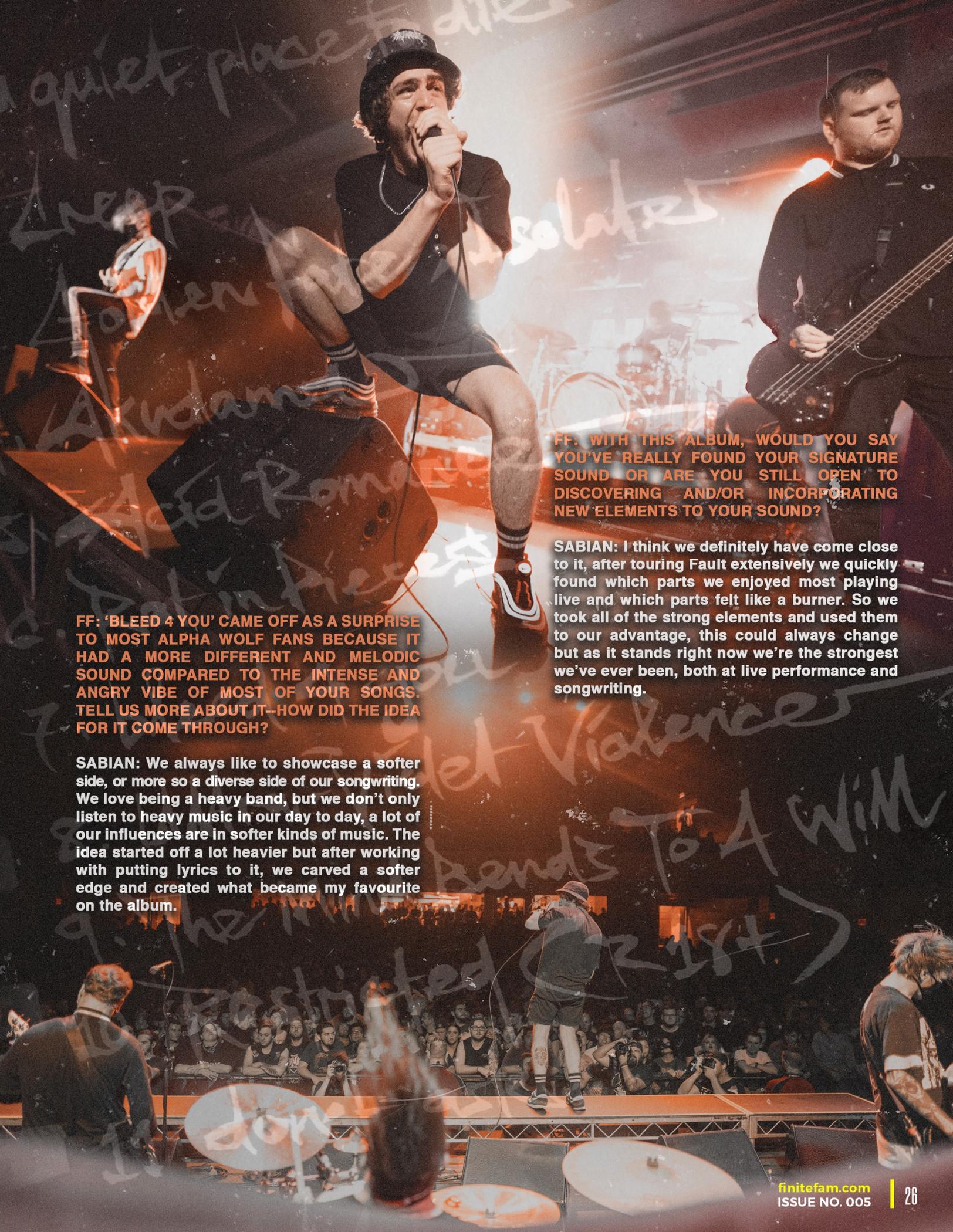
SABIAN: Currently, I believe Scottie (songwriter) had been jamming lots of Gideon, Kublai Khan, Structures, Tony Danza as well as whatever mosh records had come out last year, and lyrically everything just came naturally, they're personally told stories made for people in similar walks of life.

FF: WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE ALBUM NAME AND ARTWORK FOR 'A QUIET PLACE TO DIE'? WHAT IS THE MAIN THEME AND HOW DID YOU GUYS COME UP WITH IT?

SABIAN: We wanted to try something different this time around for artwork and have a piece illustrated for us, this can be a big gamble as you're not always 100% sure what it's going to look like. We went with an old friend of mine who is most prevalent in the Australian Hip Hop and Graffiti scene, he goes by the alias DASH88 and he is insanely talented at what he does. I asked him to create a piece for us that shows suffering and anguish and we talked it over for a while and decided on the pose that is seen on the cover. I couldn't be more happy about how it turned out and to showcase a friend of mine to our audience.

FF: WALK US THROUGH ONE OF THE MOST INSANE TRACKS AND MUSIC VIDEOS YOU'VE EVER RELEASED: 'AKUDAMA'. WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IT AND HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO PULL OFF FILMING A VIDEO FOR IT DURING THE WHOLE QUARANTINE SITUATION?

SABIAN: We are extremely inspired by lots of Japanese videos and aesthetics, we toured with a band called Paledusk and they have the most insane music videos and they're the craziest band to watch live. We initially asked their videographer and crew in Japan if they could shoot the video but the cost of that quickly exceeded our budget so we asked a friend if he could something in the same realm, we shot for two days around Melbourne and left Third Eye Visuals alone to create some insane VFX for the next few months and he created the masterpiece that you can watch today.



FF: 'BLEED 4 YOU' CAME OFF AS A SURPRISE TO MOST ALPHA WOLF FANS BECAUSE IT HAD A MORE DIFFERENT AND MELODIC SOUND COMPARED TO THE INTENSE AND ANGRY VIBE OF MOST OF YOUR SONGS. TELL US MORE ABOUT IT—HOW DID THE IDEA FOR IT COME THROUGH?

SABIAN: We always like to showcase a softer side, or more so a diverse side of our songwriting. We love being a heavy band, but we don't only listen to heavy music in our day to day, a lot of our influences are in softer kinds of music. The idea started off a lot heavier but after working with putting lyrics to it, we carved a softer edge and created what became my favourite on the album.

FF: WITH THIS ALBUM, WOULD YOU SAY YOU'VE REALLY FOUND YOUR SIGNATURE SOUND OR ARE YOU STILL OPEN TO DISCOVERING AND/OR INCORPORATING NEW ELEMENTS TO YOUR SOUND?

SABIAN: I think we definitely have come close to it, after touring Fault extensively we quickly found which parts we enjoyed most playing live and which parts felt like a burner. So we took all of the strong elements and used them to our advantage, this could always change but as it stands right now we're the strongest we've ever been, both at live performance and songwriting.

FF: OVERALL, WHAT IS THE TAKE AWAY YOU WANT YOUR LISTENERS TO HAVE FROM THIS RELEASE?

SABIAN: Just enjoy it, and if it's not your thing that's totally fine. We're not writing music to please everybody, but we hope that some people (like us) will enjoy it and jam it, that's what music is for right?

FF: LASTLY, WHAT'S NEXT FOR ALPHA WOLF IN THE NEAR FUTURE ESPECIALLY ONCE THIS WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC ENDS AND LIVE SHOWS ARE BACK AGAIN?

SABIAN: We're going to give this album as much of a promotional boost as possible and hopefully take it on the road everywhere we possibly can. With these new 11 songs we feel much more confident going into a headliner type length set.

If the pandemic continues to ruin our hopes and dreams, we'll adapt and find new ways to stay creative and active within the band.

WORDS AND INTERVIEW BY
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PHOTOS BY
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THE AMITY AFFLICTION: Of Glory Days and Perennial Misery

Ever since Queensland, Australia heavyweights The Amity Affliction had first set sail in the modern metal world with the release of their debut *Severed Ties* (2008), they quickly rose to fame and found success in the industry early on. Over the years, they have given us seven remarkable records including two of their most well-received work, *Chasing Ghosts* (2014), and *Let The Ocean Take Me* (2014) which has led the band to get a global reach and gain a cult following. When thinking of The Amity Affliction, one could easily describe they make material that is dark but comforting, highly relatable due to the very personal nature of their lyrics, something that is resoundingly cordial to a lot of heavy music fans worldwide. Today, it is safe to state that TAA has been one of the most influential bands to ever come out of the Land down under.

Check out our interview with TAA's Joel Birch here!

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FF: HOW ARE THE THINGS IN THE AMITY AFFLICTION LATELY? WHAT HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN UP TO LATELY AND HOW HAVE YOU BEEN COPING FROM THE QUARANTINE SITUATION?

Well, things are obviously very quiet, we've moved all of our 2020 touring to 2021, with no concrete date set for when we can start to go back our regular lives; it's been nice for me to be at home and enjoying my family, but there is also a level of anxiety about the future that I haven't really experienced in a long time. As far as coping goes, I've just been keeping busy, which isn't hard with a four year old, and also started a law degree because why not!?

FF: YOUR LATEST STUDIO ALBUM 'EVERYONE LOVES YOU... ONCE YOU LEAVE THEM' IS YOUR REDISCOVERY OF YOUR LOVE FOR HEAVY MUSIC. HOW HAS THE BAND'S SOUND EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS?

I think you can look at it like an arc that most bands go through to be honest, we have been doing this a long time, and TCBHB led into Misery quite naturally, even though it might not seem that way from the outside, I think all of our tastes becoming more eclectic as we grow older is a big influence on where our music goes. After Misery, and playing those songs live around the world, we just realised that we are a live band, and so wanted to get back to the raw energy that comes with heavy music. The next album will probably be heavy again, but who knows when that will be, we haven't even been able to tour the latest one.

FF: FOR THIS NEW RECORD, WHAT/WHO ARE YOUR MAIN INSPIRATIONS LYRICALLY? WHAT IS ITS MAIN THEME?

As always, my own mental health is the theme, although there are a couple of songs in there about other people, one love song – albeit very dark – and then Coffin is actually a reactionary song about the absolute disdain shown by world leaders for climate change. Snuck that one in there hahaha Unfortunately for me, my bipolar II and smattering of depression isn't going anywhere, so I'm constantly going through deep, deep depressive episodes. I think that while some people may see it as tiring, they don't understand the cathartic nature of my lyric writing and also the emotional release I get from performing the songs live. It is very much an exorcism of pain for me on stage, so I'll continue to write the way I do until a day comes where I feel mentally stable I guess, and that day seems either eternally distant, or at the very least a long way away.

FF: IT'S BEEN 12 YEARS SINCE YOU RELEASED YOUR DEBUT ALBUM AND SINCE THEN YOU'VE TOURED A LOT ALL OVER THE WORLD. WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT BEING AN ACTIVELY TOURING MUSICIAN?

The best thing is always going to be the show, always. Nothing beats the show. The show is the lifeblood of the band, not matter what else is going on on any given day, the feeling of playing in front of people and engaging with people all around the world is the only thing driving the band forward. The worst can be the normalised destructive nature of substance abuse. I have been a victim of it, and I watch friends continue in the same cycle every time we're on the road. The complete normalisation of addiction is, in my mind, the most dangerous part of the music industry; even the follow on effects it can have on people like depression and anxiety are devastating, and there are no days off in music either, and not much compassion for those who are struggling to make it through the day out there.

THE AMITY AFFLICTION IS ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL BANDS FROM AUSTRALIA. WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE QUALITIES OF THE BAND THAT HAS GOT YOU TO BE WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW?

Hard work. We have toured, and toured, and toured, and toured. No matter whether we were gaining followers or not, we have continued to tour, and by doing so we have managed to begin seeing the fruits of our labour around the world. We're still in our infancy as far as success goes in Europe, the UK, and the US, but it's getting there, and we have our work ethic to thank for it. Putting out good music isn't enough, a band needs to be on the road for a large part of the year to make it work.

THE AMITY AFFLICTION

WHAT COULD YOU SAY THE MOST CHALLENGING THING YOU HAD TO FACE AND OVERCOME AS A BAND AND HOW DID YOU PUSH THROUGH IT?

We've had some really toxic members in our career, and I would say that has been hard to deal with. Very divisive and negative, that's hard to make it through when you live in each others' pocket year after year. Thankfully where we are at now, and even where we were when Ryan was still with us, was a much more positive place. It sucked to see Ryan go, but Joe is the man and has brought a lot to the table drum wise, as well as fitting in a bit more personality wise, not to take away from Ryan though.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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WEBSITE: <http://theamityaffliction.net/>



FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF AUSTRALIA'S LOCAL MUSIC COMMUNITY IN THIS DAY AND AGE COMPARED TO WHEN THE BAND FIRST STARTED?

To be honest I am super far removed from the scene here in Australia. I live in a place that is 1hr 45m from the city, so I don't get to many shows, even when I have friends in town. I also have a family and a "normal" life here that I don't like to disrupt by constantly being in and around music. I spend roughly 5-6 months of my life every year totally engrossed in the music scene / industry, so when I'm home I like to keep it at arms length.

FF: OUT OF ALL THE CLASSIC HITS THAT YOU'VE GIVEN US ALL OVER THE YEARS, WHICH ONE/S REMAIN YOUR FAVORITE/S AND WHY?

Going to put that question in the too hard basket sorry.

FF: WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE AMITY AFFLICTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE? ANYTHING YOUR FOLLOWERS WILL BE STOKED ABOUT?

Obviously with no touring comes a lot of down time, which then brings boredom, which then brings the motivation to write another record, so maybe everyone gets two album tours in one when we're allowed out again, who knows ;)



FINITE FAM REVIEWS



A Lunar Rose Saviour

Review by Micah Go

A Lunar Rose is a melodically strong metal record that has its catchy elements carry each song and enhance their hard-hitting aspects

It features a constant atmospheric vibe that riddles the record with touches of melancholy and features a nice mixture of rap-like hardcore vocals and angelic clean singing that is so well done and just adds to the overall catchiness of the album

While many of the songs are indeed catchy, the pacing can get slow at times, however, this doesn't disregard the fact that is still a pretty solid and enjoyable listening experience especially for those who just can't get enough of melodic metalcore.

Favorite tracks: Souvenir, Enemies, Passengers, Calendars, The City

For fans of: Currents, Make Them Suffer, The Amity Affliction

SCORE:



Hell Will Come For Us All Aversions Crown

Review by James D. Clark

Australia has become a breeding ground of some of the world's most unique and definitive groups in the realms of heavy music; one such band that has been living on the fringes of this scene's success is Aversions Crown. Once thriving in the unofficial subgenre called "alien-core", the band was maligned with the loss of their former frontman. Instead resting on their laurels and following their previous success, the band evolved with a new voice, new style, and put out possibly their best work yet. Hell Will Come For Us All shifts Crown into the realms of blackened deathcore with monumental success. The sound they create is absolutely apocalyptic, with one of the darkest deathcore ventures of recent years aided by an atmosphere so heavy it echoes from the voice of new vocalist Tyler Miller, thunderous drums and ambient guitars. Hell came for us all and it conquered every last soul.

Favorite Tracks: Caught in the System, The Soil, Sorrow Never Sleeps

For Fans Of: Fit For An Autopsy, Lorna Shore, Thy Art is Murder



SCORE:



FINITE FAM REVIEWS



Kaliyuga In Hearts Wake

Review by Micah Go

“Angry and relentless” isn’t even enough to describe In Hearts Wake’s latest effort “Kaliyuga”. It is brave not only in the sense that it’s an outright wakeup call right in your face with its lyrical themes but also because the band did not shy away from exploring and experimenting with their sound.

What resulted is an album that manages to captivate you not only with the group’s sound of face-punching melodic metalcore but also with its different quirks that enhanced and made each song even more interesting and set apart from one another. These include elements such as the country-like influence on “Crossroads” that was surprisingly catchy and the grungy touches on “Husk” that exuded huge early Linkin Park vibes and felt like a huge musical throwback with modern touches that was finely crafted by the band.

Overall, it is an album that holds on to you from start to finish and never lets go until you listen to what it has to say. Experimentally, it might not be for everyone but it still goes without saying that this is one strongly unique album that can perfectly be described as the fitting soundtrack to the end of days.

SCORE:



Favorite tracks: Hellbringer (feat. Jamie Hails of Polaris), Timebomb, Son of a Witch, Crossroads (feat. Georgia Flood), Force of Life, 2033

For fans of: While She Sleeps, Polaris, Fit For A King

Pain is Power Justice For the Damned

Review by James D. Clark

Young bands in heavy music seem to catch fire almost instantly and either blaze a path of glory or fizzle to ash, and one of the newest faces to the Australian metal underground does exactly that. Justice for the Damned punch you right in the mouth from the first minute of their sophomore album Pain is Power and keep on punching until what is left is nothing but a mangled mess of blood and rage. JFTD take an interesting approach to deathcore on this album in that it is not truly traditional to the album: there are a lot of elements that take bits of hardcore, doom metal, metalcore and even death metal to turn this into a powerful, brutal amalgam of pain that give the band a unique identity right from the beginning. For fans of anything that is made to break your neck, blow out your speakers, and maybe knock out a couple teeth, Pain is Power is an unstoppable war machine of heaviness.



SCORE:



Favorite Tracks: Machine of War, The House You Built is Burning, No Peace at the Feet of Your Master

For Fans Of: Fit For An Autopsy, Kublai Khan TX, The Acacia Strain

FINITE FAM REVIEWS



SCORE:

How To Survive A Funeral Make Them Suffer

Review by Micah Go

If you're able to create music so heavy yet equally catchy and memorable at the same time without compromising either aspect, consider me hooked and that was exactly what happened to me with Make Them Suffer's latest album.

"How To Survive A Funeral" is without a doubt an unrelenting masterpiece of a record; a wolf in sheep's clothing that tricks and bewitches you with its trance-like symphonic elements only to consume you with its hellish rhythms. The contrast between well-executed harsh vocals and dreamy clean singing is just simply beautiful and flows so well throughout the album in conjunction with the instrumentals making each track memorable without becoming monotonous nor repetitive and will just leave you headbanging all throughout its duration.

From beginning to end, this album is just ruthless; leaving no stone unturned and obliterating you to pieces. Normally, with bands following the same sound as Make Them Suffer, you can often easily catch on with the flow of an album once you hear the first few songs and it becomes predictable. Not with this one however. It is cohesive yet individually unique. It is incredibly astounding how this record managed to surprise me as each track opened and closed and each one just leaves a strong, lasting impression that will make you want to experience it over and over again.

Favorite Tracks: Step One, Falling Ashes, Erase Me, Fake Your Own Death, How To Survive A Funeral, That's Just Life.

For fans of: Alpha Wolf, Crystal Lake, Carnifex, Lorna Shore

West Technique DVSR

Review by Micah Go

I am not particularly a big listener of rap metal but I do enjoy a lot of rap and metal separately so going into this album was somewhat a once-in-a-while experience for me and had me rather excited what DVSR had to offer.

From the get go, I knew this wasn't the typical rap metal I seldom listened to in the past. Having not heard of DVSR until recently, I have to say I was blown away after listening to a couple of tracks from this album. The way the band blended rap with a djent-y nu-metal sound was unlike anything I've heard of before and I was absolutely impressed. The utilization of fast-paced rapping in conjunction with adrenaline-filled guitar work and drum beats works very well for most of the album albeit with some tracks lacking a bit more diversity in sound when played one after another. Nevertheless, it is still a pretty solid and enjoyable listen to anyone looking for something more unique to add to their playlist of heavy music. The addition of the monstrous vocals of CJ McMahon and Frankie Palmeri didn't hurt as well so keep an ear out for those tracks!



Favorite Tracks: Bloodlust (feat. CJ McMahon of Thy Art Is Murder), Tn Tax, Devil on My Shoulder, Rack 'em Up, Black Magic

For fans of: Hactivist, Ocean Grove, Sylar

SCORE: