

DECEMBER 2020

FINITE FIVE

YEAR ENDER ISSUE

exclusive interviews with:



**OUR HOLLOW
OUR HOME**



THURSDAY

LANDMVRKS

**FROM SORROW
TO SERENITY**

PLUS MORE !!!

**New
Release**



Happy New Year

Hey punks! Firstly, my apologies to our friends and loyal readers; the creative blocks and the grave repercussions of being in this god awful pandemic/lockdowns won over us and we decided to take a break for a month from making zines to refresh our minds a bit. I think that we all need to take breaks once in a while and look after our well-being but now, we're back to end this year with a bang!

One of the silver linings of this literal hell of a year is we made the Finite Zine! We gained a lot of friends and connections from all over the world, and of course, we learned a lot. Growth is essential, and even though it's been really challenging for everyone lately, we must never stop learning. Let's also not forget how mindblowing of a year it has been for music, even if we lost live shows, you can't deny we were given some of the bestest BEST heavy/alternative records and tracks! From Alpha Wolf to Loathe to Bleed From Within, there has been so much good music that got us through it all!

Welcome to ISSUE NO. 07 and farewell to this tough year! Happy fuckin' new year, folks! Here's to hoping 2021 will be better. Lastly, the biggest and grandest thank you for your support all through 2020! Thank you to the bands and artists that have been a part of our zines, thank you for those who hyped us up and shared our work, thank you for reading, thank you for being here! So cliché to say, but we will be back for bigger things SOON! Eat good holiday food and take care of yourselves!

Love ya,

Finite Fam



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OUR HOLLOW OUR HOME

OURHOLLOWOURHOME.COM



FF: WHAT INSPIRED OUR HOLLOW, OUR HOME TO GET TOGETHER AND MAKE MUSIC BACK IN 2013?

We founded OHOH in 2013 From the remnants of a band called 'Deadlines' that Tobias, myself and Josh had all been members of. We came together with a redefined goal of making music that we knew would be super fun to play live, but also had fixed roots in all of our influences and an instantly recognisable sound. We have never tried to break any boundaries with our music; we simply try to perfect our personal take on the metalcore genre to the best of our abilities.

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

Although there are major similarities between our two currently released records, our sound is always progressing and taking on new forms, and that is something we welcome with open arms. We do not shy away from the natural growth that comes with time & experience, and how that in turn shapes our writing/ creative approach when it comes to working on new music.

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

I think it's a difficult time to truly comment on the U.K. heavy scene as a whole, with the future of touring looking bleak at the time of writing this due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Having said this, we can safely say that we are blessed to be amongst some extremely talented peers (Loathe, Holding Absence, TheCityIsOurs to name a few) and we are excited to see how that talent develops over the next few years. If we could wish for one positive change in the U.K. scene right now, it would be to ask anyone and everyone who enjoys live heavy music in the U.K. to help support their small venues during these horribly uncertain times, to ensure we have venues to return to once this is all over!

FF: IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT OH,OH HAS GAINED A MASSIVE FOLLOWING AND A TON OF SUCCESS IN THE SCENE FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS. WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE QUALITIES OF THE BAND THAT GOT YOU TO WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW?

I think the main reason that Hollow continues to grow and flourish so vastly is because of the incredibly supportive fan base we have gathered over the past 7 years. Our Team OHOH family is unbelievably devoted to the progression and growth of the band, and I think the cult following we have collected is partly down to the fact that we have never claimed to or tried to be anything other than our slightly awkward selves, be that on stage or record. What you see is what you get with Our Hollow, Our Home, and I can assure you that will never change.

FF: ULTIMATELY, WHAT IS YOUR GOAL AS A BAND?

I don't think we have one fixed goal to be honest! We all just want to be able to do this full time. To not work shitty day jobs, to not have to find other ways to pay the bills when we aren't touring. We'd love for this to truly be a lifelong career for each individual member, and to keep doing what we do best for as long as humanly possible!

FF: WITH LIVE SHOWS BEING CANCELLED RECENTLY, WHAT HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN UP TO? WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM OUR HOLLOW, OUR HOME IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

I think we have all dealt with the U.K. lockdown and lack of touring in very different ways, some of us have been a lot more productive with our ventures outside of the band, and some of us have just gotten really into video games... There isn't too much I can say at this point about what you can expect next from us here at OHOH, but I can safely say that there's A LOT planned for the near future, so if you like what you've heard and seen from us so far, make sure you keep checking in to see what's coming around the corner!

LANDMVRKS

**IN
DEPTH**

FF: WHAT HAVE LANDMVRKS BEEN UP TO DURING THIS PERIOD WHEN LIVE SHOWS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED? HOW HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN COPING?

We took advantage of this time to finish composing and recording our new album! It resulted in songs we are very proud of and even if we are very disappointed, we had to cancel our shows it gave us a bonus time to write new songs.

FF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEWLY RELEASED SINGLE 'RAINFALL'. WHAT ARE ITS MAIN INSPIRATION/S LYRICALLY? RAINFALL IS INSPIRED BY

RAINFALL is our first new single in two years, we were very impatient to release it, it's a different song from what we could offer in the past, it's darker, more raw and the feedbacks has been absolutely amazing! The song is inspired by human relationships, pain, fear and depression that a toxic relationship can cause. The theme of water is a theme that will be recurrent in this album and it's a metaphor for all those feelings that can overwhelm us.

WEBSITE:
WWW.LANDMVRKS.COM

SOCIAL MEDIA:
FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LANDMVRKS
TWITTER: @LANDMVRKS
INSTAGRAM: @LANDMVRKS

PHOTO BY: ALEXIS FONTAINE

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

On our first two albums it was mainly Flo (vocals) and Nico (guitar) who wrote and produced all the songs.

On this new album we have a new line up we welcome Paul on guitar and Kevin on drums and we wanted everyone to be involved in the composition, so we rented a studio to isolate ourselves and write all together for the first time! It was very productive, many of the songs from this session were kept on the album, afterwards we were confined so we finished writing songs from home.

Nico and Flo took care of the recording and general production then Flo finalized with the mix and mastering.

FF: IT IS KNOWN THAT YOU ARE WRITING MUSIC TOGETHER WITH ANOTHER AMAZING FRENCH BAND NOVELISTS. COULD YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THIS COLLABORATION?

We've been such a good friends with Novelists for a long time that we wanted to do something together, I can't tell you more at the moment but we wrote songs that you'll know more about in the next year.

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

What differentiates us from other bands is probably our hardcore and punk hardcore/punk rock or hip hop influences that we do not hesitate to put forward. We also love melodies so our challenge is to propose our mix of influences in a modern and coherent way.

FF: ASIDE FROM THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED LANDMVRKS, WHAT ELSE CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM THE BAND IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

We've created some really new and exciting things on this new album. We're still LANDMVRKS no worries about that but we brought a lot of new elements to include in our music, each song has its own universe, and we think our fans will be excited with every new release.

Everything is about to be announced very soon!

LANDMVRKS

**IN
DEPTH**

BEARINGS



FF: YOUR SOPHOMORE ALBUM 'HELLO, IT'S YOU' IS SET TO BE RELEASED THIS NOVEMBER 20TH, WHAT ARE SOME BIG THEMES LYRICALLY FOR THIS NEW RECORD? WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THIS NEW ALBUM?

It sits in a very natural place for us. Trying to see the good as well as the bad is something that I try to do often as a lyricist and I think musically we all sort of bring it to a place that helps people understand that. It's a mixture of different styles and influences - we sort of have a tough time picking one thing - we'd rather just make the music we think sounds good and go with that.

FF: WHAT'S THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF WRITING AND RECORDING 'HELLO, ITS YOU'?

Probably walking up and down Hollywood everyday... you ever seen that place? It's a mess. For real though I think the toughest part was just piecing it all together. Like I said before... none of the songwriting is incredibly intentional or planned out so we are sort of put into a spot where we need to make all these songs work together on a record and that can be tough.

FF: YOU RELEASED 4 SINGLES FROM THE UPCOMING ALBUM LAST MONTH, HOW WAS YOUR LISTENERS' FEEDBACK? WAS IT SOMETHING YOU ANTICIPATED?

Well two of them we released a while back... like a year ago... and at that time we weren't really sure if they'd be on an upcoming record or not. Obviously we are happy they did as it sort of gives them a breath of fresh air. In regards to Sway and Super Deluxe we are stoked on how it all went down. It's a good indication of what people can expect on this new record. There's going to be variety but there's going to be an edge.

Something out of it. I still listen to it all the time... I think it's some good stuff.

FF: WAS WRITING 'HELLO, IT'S YOU' ANY DIFFERENT FROM HOW YOU HAVE DONE IN THE PAST? WERE THERE ANY SPECIFIC GOALS FOR THIS RECORD?

I don't think it was massively different. We just did what we wanted and focused on writing some music we liked. I don't think there's any real goals for the record either... We just hope people enjoy and get something out of it. I still listen to it all the time... I think it's some good stuff.

FF: WITH LIVE SHOWS BEING POSTPONED, HOW DOES IT AFFECT MUSICIANS LIKE YOU? HOW HAS THE BAND BEEN COPING PERSONALLY?

We've been chillin. It's a huge bummer but there is so much going on that's so much bigger - it would feel weird to get all miserably about things. Hopefully things can get a bit back to normal soon but until then we'll be streamin and we'll be chillin.

FF: LASTLY, DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR REAL "SOUND" OR ARE YOU STILL ACTIVELY DISCOVERING IT?

Always actively discovering. I'm sure there's a consistent sound there but it never really ends. You always want to push yourself creatively and try new things, as you should. A huge part of doing a record is being honest with yourself and being honest with where you're at. Life's always changing and we're always changing as people so I think the music will continue to change as well.

SOCIAL MEDIA:



bearingsband

FF: HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE BAND NAME 'HOMESAFE'? HOW DID YOU FORM YOUR SOUND?

I came up with the name thinking it sounded pretty cool- there isn't any deep meaning behind it whatsoever. I ran it past the guys and everyone was cool with it- it kind of just stuck! Our sound has been constantly evolving since 2014 when we started- actually even before that when we were in smaller local/high school bands together. We all listen to different kinds of music than one another and I think that's really important when coming together to create.

FF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEWEST RELEASE 'WHAT'S MINE IS YOURS'. CAN YOU LET US IN ON SOME OF THE INSPIRATIONS YOU TRIED TO CONVEY LYRICALLY?

What's Mine Is Yours is a short release of two acoustic songs. We decided to do these songs last minute really, right before quarantine and COVID actually as well. Slide is a song about the mundane day-to-day repetition that life can sometimes be, and holding yourself accountable to do something to break free of that. Down is a song about a long-distance relationship and the how hard it can be to make it work, but how important it is, especially when it feels right. You're able to feel the feelings of the other person, even when you're so far from each other.

FF: EARLIER THIS YEAR, YOU TOURED IN JAPAN, HOW WAS THE EXPERIENCE BEING ABLE TO PLAY FAR AWAY FROM HOME?

Japan was the most amazing experience we've had as a band. No

doubt. The people were incredibly welcoming, the culture is amazing, and the food is so good. Seriously. Shout out to Mizuki for taking our band out there and being our guide. It's such a beautiful and peaceful place, it was an honor to be able to play shows there.

FF: WITH SHOWS BEING POSTPONED DURING THIS PANDEMIC, WHAT KEEPS HOMESAFE BUSY?

Unfortunately we haven't been able to do much, but we did record our new record in June of 2020. We now have a livestream show happening on October 30th via Twitch, which is super exciting. It's all been growing pains. Two of us moved across the country, but we're making it work. Hopefully this all ends soon, but if things continue to be this way, we'll always find a way to make things work however we can.

FF: ASIDE FROM 'WHAT'S MINE IS YOURS', IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOUR LISTENERS CAN LOOK FORWARD TO IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

We recorded an album in June 2020! I could confidently say that they're the best songs we've written yet. We cannot wait for everyone to hear. A new album from us has been a long time coming so we hope the wait will have been worth it.

FF: LASTLY, ANY ADVICE TO ALL YOUNG MUSICIANS WHO WANT TO START A BAND?

DO IT. Don't let anyone tell you what you can or can't do. Get in a room with your best friends and play music, LOUD. 'Cause that's all that we did.

HOMESAFEIL.COM
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HOMESAFE



FF: WHEN AND HOW DID IMBUE NO KUDOS START AND DECIDED TO MAKE MUSIC AS A GROUP?

Imbue No Kudos started back in Olongapo when we were still in school around 1998. Started by Betong, AJ & Earl as the core members, then later added Jeffrey Sasone to the roster. The same year, Darwin and Jem joined the group. Time has passed, a few lineup changes happened here and there, Jeff has to leave the group to pursue a career. Darwin and Jem also said farewell to focus on their families later in our music journey.

We did a regroup and a minor shuffle just to continue what we love to do. AJ originally was playing bass during Darwin's era, and decided to go back on taking the six string duty when Darwin left the band. Later around 2002 Vince joined the group to play bass and Manu filled in drums last 2015 completing the current Imbue No Kudos roster.

We make music because we all share the same passion and we are born for it. It's like a fire burning in our chest that never ends. It's a mutual feeling within all of us.

FF: HOW DO YOU GUYS FORM YOUR SOUND? HOW DOES THE SONGWRITING PROCESS WORK WITHIN THE GROUP?

Technology has contributed a lot especially this time and how we are geographically apart from each other despite our busy schedule with our daily jobs and family. With the current situation, We utilize the modern "pre-production" process approach.

Writing a song is very convenient these days given the availability of devices, technology and knowledge that you can get from the internet. Writing your ideas at home is easy if you know the right tools and the right approach.

The modern Imbue No Kudos utilizes and practices the approach ("the remote song writing with pre-production"). However, there are pros and cons with this kind of setup. For us, writing inside that kind of process worked this time around. "Adya" is a sample product of that process.

The Pros:

Direct result of the ideas you have in mind sonically
You'll gain understanding on how the modern song writing process works

The vocals and instruments can be structured well because the portability of having the song in your hands is there.

You have endless array of ideas that you can put into a song

Structuring doesn't require too much time because it's written digital and you can change and add into it anytime you want.

You'll hear the general structure and will hear a clear picture of the end product of the song.

IMBUE NO KUDOS

The Cons

Takes a lot of time due to back in forth file transfer, this is due to our geographical situation.

Of course, this kind of writing process needs non-technical efforts. Where, commitments and discipline plays a big role in this kind of setup. It's ideal to have everyone involved especially in the structuring process. Communication is highly utilized and organizational tools such as Asana, Trello etc contributes a lot to achieve the goal.

For now, we have around 7 songs that are ready to be recorded in the studio. Sadly Covid stopped us from doing the last phase of writing which is printing our master piece into a record.

As of now, we enjoy playing video games and spending time with our families. And as soon as this awful situation is finished, we will get back on track.

FF: WITH THE RISE OF MANY NEW BANDS IN THE HEAVY MUSIC SCENE, WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES IMBUE NO KUDOS DIFFERENT/STAND OUT FROM THE REST?

Original Pilipino Music is such a beauty in many different ways. Every music is unique that lingers in our hearts and souls. We enjoy rejoicing every moment especially when we play our songs live together. Our music lives in us and it will be forever.

Imbue No Kudos has a unique sound that shows obvious results of our collective individual influences from metal to non metal genre. Every member in this band is talented, creative and unique in many different ways when creating the signature Imbue No Kudos music.

We don't think we stand out from the rest, instead, we consider ourselves as a contribution to this beautiful industry and we really enjoy that.



FF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEWEST SINGLE 'ADYA'. WHAT IS IT ABOUT AND WHAT IS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IT?

"Adya" started with a guitar riff, It was originally an idea that turned into a song. It is a song to inspire everyone who feels hopeless but at the end of the day there will always be someone ready to be there behind your back to support and guide you.

The song was a half-year in the making, yeah it took us that long to get the song done. From writing, mixing, mastering and putting it online for the public to enjoy. It's a complete DIY production process that we enjoyed a lot. Big shout out from the boys at Glasstone for helping us finish this record.

We liked the idea of sounding big like the feeling of singing in a big arena and we're happy that we nailed it in the record.

SOCIAL MEDIA:



imbuenokudos

FF: ASIDE FROM THE NEW SINGLE, WHAT'S NEXT FOR IMBUE NO KUDOS? WHAT ELSE CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

For now, we enjoy staying at home with our families. We find time to continue the usual process of songwriting a.k.a pre production. We can't be in the studio right now because of the pandemic, the good news is we have a bunch of songs ready to be recorded in the studio. I think we have at least 5-8 songs finished. There's about 3-4 songs that are still in the process of finalizing the structure. We're getting there!

We still don't know what the future will tell us if it is going to be an E.P or full length album. We will let you know how we go on our social media accounts so please follow us to get the latest updates.

FF: LASTLY, WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO ASPIRING BANDS? WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BREAK THROUGH INTO THE SCENE TODAY?

It didn't really matter so much to us about having a break or being famous as a band. We don't prioritize that to be honest. We are just a bunch of guys that share the same passion & the same sentiments. Every time we get a chance to celebrate our gift to write and play our music in and out of the studio, we celebrate, we dance, we sing together, we put our hearts in it. From where we are now, what took us here is all because of the perseverance, patience, discipline & passion that we dedicated in our craft.

To be in the level of having a break and being famous is considered a bonus for us, especially today if you are making music for a living.

Our advice to all aspiring bands is, just put your passion in it, practice, have discipline, put your 100% effort on making good music. Don't be afraid to explore, just give your all out best on what you are good at.

WHERE OCEANS BURN

PHOTOS BY CLEARWAY MEDIA & GAZ DAVIES

FF: WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF YOUR BAND NAME 'WHERE OCEANS BURN'?

There isn't really a story for the origin of the name, we want people to interpret the meaning in their own way. It's a name that has stuck with us from the very start of the band and it just felt right to keep it.

FF: HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN EACH OTHER AND WHAT MADE YOU FORM THE BAND?

We have all known each other since the end of 2018, however the origins of the band started out with myself (Calum) and Ben meeting through Uni, and we both had the same desire and drive to make something together in which we believed in. Ross joined the band through Uni shortly after, and then we auditioned Alex who was the final member to complete the line up.

FF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR LATEST SINGLE 'THE ONLY HOME WE KNOW'. WHAT IS IT ABOUT? WHAT INSPIRED IT LYRICALLY?

It's about the general state of the world: the continuing environmental crisis that is constantly being pushed down by the media and world leaders, supported by lobbyists from the companies causing pollution and deforestation. It explains the tactics used to keep the general populus distracted with social media and sensationalised news stories, and ultimately how this drives them to a state of ignorant complacency.

FF: WITH TOURS AND LIVE SHOWS GETTING PUT ON HOLD, WHAT'S KEEPING YOU BUSY DURING THIS PERIOD?

We have been working on and writing new material during this unusual time. We have also filmed a full live set which will premiere in the near future. And lastly, we have one final release set for the end of the year

which is an alternative version of one of our singles, which will be revealed soon.

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

The sound we have now is something we are proud of, as every member of the band has been able to incorporate different influences and the outcome has been unique for each single. However, we don't want to be contempt with how we approach our writing, we want to explore new elements and new sounds which we haven't fully experimented on with our previous releases, while working on the elements in our song writing that we feel make the band what it is.

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

We have been very fortunate to have played with some of the most talented bands from the UK Metalcore scene such as Borders, From Sorrow to Serenity and playing a sold out show with After The Burial. But we think our biggest achievement was reaching the 100,000 streams milestone with our first single 'Hollow Heart'.

FF: WHAT'S NEXT FOR WHERE OCEANS BURN? ANYTHING YOUR LISTENERS WILL GET STOKED ABOUT?

We are hoping to do as much touring as possible when live shows are finally able to happen, but in the meantime we will continue to write new material which we couldn't be more excited about. We don't want to give too much away in terms of how it will sound but the riffs are better, the chorus's are bigger and the breakdowns are heavier.

SOCIAL MEDIA:





FF: CONGRATULATIONS ON THE RELEASE OF YOUR ALBUM IMPOSTER SYNDROME, HOW DO YOU GUYS FEEL ABOUT FINALLY RELEASING YOUR SOPHOMORE ALBUM?

We are so freaking excited. We are so proud of these songs.

FF: CAN YOU TELL US THE INSPIRATION AND THE WRITING AND RECORDING PROCESS OF IMPOSTER SYNDROME?

The influences for Cult Classic were mostly early 2000's punk. All Time Low, Fountains of Wayne, Bowling For Soup, Cartel etc because that's what I was listening to in middle school and early high school. However, we have always been heavily influenced by surf rock. We manage to incorporate a beachy feel into most of our music. Our influences for Imposter Syndrome were more aligned with Microwave, Heart Attack Man, Teen Suicide, Rozwell Kid etc. This record is darker than our first release, but still has the elements of a good/fun time. My lyric influences are pretty consistent. I also found a lot of inspiration from Simon & Garfunkel. We recorded the album in Chicago in January and it was negative 13 degrees!!! We are from the south and the coldest it gets here is like 40 degrees. We had no idea how to deal with that climate. Our car got stuck, our snot was freezing in our nose, we were busting our asses on the ice...it was hilarious. Our producer Marc, let us crash with him the entire two weeks we were there and we had a BLAST with him. He's really the coolest dude.

FF: YOUR SONG SICK IS THE NEW SANE HAS A CATCHY, UPBEAT TUNE BUT IS CONTRADICTIONARY TO ITS DARK LYRICS. CAN YOU WALK US THROUGH THE STORY BEHIND IT, AND WHY IT WAS CHOSEN AS THE FIRST SINGLE FROM THE ALBUM?

Sonically, we felt this song was the best way to bridge the gap between our first record and our new record. This song is about the struggle of balancing an "internet personality" with real life as an artist and musician. When you are an artist you have an obligation to uphold a certain amount of attention and interest online. It's about feeling detached from real life due to constantly feeling the need to be present online and the affect it has on my psyche and mental health. The guilt I feel towards my friends and family for being on social media all the time battles with the guilt I feel towards the fans if i'm not posting and engaging.

FF: WHAT IS THE TAKE AWAY YOU WANT PEOPLE TO GET WITH IMPOSTER SYNDROME?

I think every artist has dealt with some form of imposter syndrome at one point. Trying to get used to the fact that people can love something you created enough to get it tattooed on their body or drive 15 hours to see it live can be intense. It's super insane, in a good way, of course. It's incredibly humbling and we are forever grateful. But we are just people, like every one else. The pressure that can create can sometimes be overwhelming. However, we love what we do and it just comes with the territory. We just want to talk about it. This album discusses both the extreme highs and lows of that.

FF: WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOUR SOUND HAS DEVELOPED SINCE YOUR FIRST ALBUM CULT CLASSIC?

We were so young when we wrote our first album. Most of those songs I wrote between the ages of 15-19. This new album was written in the last year, after touring, meeting fans, and figuring out who we are. This album flows like a rollercoaster, there are fun songs and there are dark songs. There are songs about addiction, depression and death and there are songs about love, happiness and friendship. The writing process of this record was entirely different than our first album. With this record, we all sat down together and fleshed out each song, one by one, until we had a cohesive record. We practice in an old, empty church and have all of our song ideas written all over the walls. It was really raw and organic. All of the songs compliment each other in a way we have never done before. We also experimented this time. We wouldn't even really consider ourselves a pop punk band. We are excited to see what our fans think!

FF: LASTLY, WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM HAPPY. IN 2021?

HOPEFULLY TOURING!!! even more new music, more videos, more live streams, we are going to take over the world :)



FF: HOW WAS THE RECORDING AND CREATING PROCESS OF YOUR FORTHCOMING EP "TRIFECTA"?

It's been an interesting one for sure! Of course battling with the pandemic has created a number of 'issues' and roadblocks for us during the writing and recording process, unable to get together for large portions of the year, Gaz has learned to record his vocals from home. Lots of voice messages and video calls have been had to make sure we're doing everything right, despite being under far from ideal circumstances - and it's a fresh perspective on just how lucky we are. Normality is special, and I'm sure for years to come we will not take it for granted when it returns! We've chosen to release each 'piece' from Trifecta as a single, a 3-parter, if you will.. starting with Shadows. The releases will culminate with the third and final piece, and they all connect thematically, visually and conceptually. It's been really fun to find ways to tie the songs together, and to do something different from the norm of just releasing singles then an album, or stand-alone singles. Trifecta is a release we're very proud of, and we're excited to see how it resonates with our existing fans, and where it will take us in the future!

FF: WHERE DID THE NAME "FROM SORROW TO SERENITY" ORIGINATED FROM AND WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU MAKE?

The band name is inspired by lyrics in the song My Last Serenade by KSE. I wish I had a story behind, or a reason why we did this - but it was simply an idea one of us suggested when we were 16 and we thought it was cool. It's stuck ever since, and we're a completely different band now at the ripe old age of 25! We're a metal band, and I think we bridge the gaps between a few genres, as in some cases we're labelled Metalcore, others Tech Metal, and in other places even Progressive Metal and dare I say it, 'Djent', ha! We take influence from all of the above in different ways and I'd like to think that we play a unique blend of them all.

FF: YOUR RECENTLY RELEASED SINGLE 'SHADOWS' HAS A STRONG MESSAGE IN REGARDS TO MENTAL HEALTH BATTLES, WHICH IS VERY TIMELY IN WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW. WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG?

Indeed! Shadows is a song that came very naturally to us. The instrumental was written right off the back of our latest album release, 'Reclaim', in 2019. I believe this was the first new demo after it, actually. We knew after that album that we wanted to take the lyrical themes in a different direction, broaden our horizons and try something new. It's very important to us that our music is a true reflection of who we are as people, and the subjects we had sang about on Reclaim were exactly what we wanted to say at that time - and now it was time to discover the next era of From Sorrow. 'Shadows' is our most honest and reflective piece yet, in terms of lyrics, as we looked inward and chose to share that with the world. While it's a very natural thing, to write about yourself and your experiences, I think Shadows was more of a challenge because we were faced with some painful truths, and the same goes for the other songs on Trifecta, as the introspective approach became the theme of the EP. Before we have written about the world, what we see and how we feel about society, politics, climate change and war - and whilst they are all important topics to us, it took 'til 'Shadows' before we could truly connect with the meaning of one of our songs in such a personal and vulnerable way. I believe we found strength in sharing our thoughts and feelings in this new way, and it's been healthy to talk so openly and honestly on record about our own minds.

The original lyrics for Shadows were inspired by our bassist Andrew's struggle with depression and PTSD, and during the writing process this was expanded into a more open ended theme, open ended and relatable for anyone who struggles with grief, anxiety, depression and any thoughts which make you question yourself and the world around you. The point we want people to take away from the song is how important it is to understand yourself and to try to be as honest with yourself and others as possible about how you feel. The line 'I think, therefore I am' was originally included by Gaz for a completely different reason in the way that I interpret it, and I think that speaks for how we can all relate to the song in different ways. I take a positive message from that lyric, my thoughts and my feelings are important. I am a person and I matter. Shadows, are shadows.

FF: ARE THERE ANY BANDS OR ARTISTS THAT HAVE INFLUENCED OR INSPIRED YOU MUSICALLY ESPECIALLY IN WRITING THIS NEW EP?

I'll be very honest, it's been hard to find inspiration in 2020 amidst the pandemic. Music has still been released, but we find ourselves in a world that's almost at a standstill, and especially the lack of live shows - it's been hard to find that connection with audiences that inspires you to create. So we've found inspiration in other ways, and it's been interesting, to say the least. I think if there are bands or artists who have influenced us musically in writing this EP - it would be the same bands we have also been inspired and influenced by in years past - such as After the Burial, Northlane, Meshuggah etc, musically. And whilst I would not say they have influenced our music - I need to mention the following bands for releasing amazing music this year: Biffy Clyro, Ailt, IMMERSE, GroundCulture, As Everything Unfolds and Palm Reader!

FF: HOW WAS THE YEAR IN THE FROM SORROW TO SERENITY CAMP? WHAT HAVE BEEN THE SILVER LININGS IN YOUR BAND DURING THIS TOUGH YEAR?

It's been a year where we've been forcibly grounded, and remembered the fundamentals. Who we are, where we come from, and what's vitally important. I would say that music is amongst the most important things in my life, right there in the top 2 (it's number 1), and it's been so hard to go an entire year without shows, and the experience of being on the road, being in the studio with bandmates, and just everything that goes hand-in-hand with being a band. However, it also reminded me of the importance and how appreciative I am of my family, of my friends, of all the people in my life that I love. And also that I needed to learn how to cook better, haha!



FROM SORROW TO SERENITY



SOCIAL MEDIA:



pointnorthband

FF: CAN YOU TELL US A BIT OF THE HISTORY OF POINT NORTH AND WHAT KIND OF MUSIC YOU MAKE?

Point North started around 2017 in Los Angeles, CA. The band origins stem from Punk Rock inspired Pop which morphed into their new Alt-Pop sound everybody knows. While releasing their 2nd EP "Retrograde" in Feb. 2019, the band found great success which led to their Debut Album on Hopeless Records titled "Brand New Vision".

FF: LAST AUGUST, YOU RELEASED YOUR DEBUT ALBUM 'BRAND NEW VISION'. HOW WAS THE RECORDING OF YOUR FIRST FULL LENGTH ALBUM LIKE? IS THERE AN OVERALL THEME FOR IT?

The overall theme for it follows our character "Drax" and his journey through finding emotions within himself. Recording the album was very interesting and therapeutic. I think we all went through drastic changes in our lives from the start of recording it, to the final product which made the songs so true to us. It's a story everyone in the band can relate to.

FF: YOU'VE COLLABORATED WITH BOTH DE'WAYNE AND KELLIN QUINN OF SLEEPING WITH SIRENS ON TRACKS FROM THIS ALBUM, CAN YOU TELL US THE STORY BEHIND THESE COLLABORATIONS?

For DE'WAYNE, Jon was actually writing for him and de'wayne's own music. Jon had showed him some PN stuff and de'wayne really dug it so it was kind of a no-brainer!

For Kellin, Jon had help engineer SWS last album and quickly became friends with them all. I'm not really sure how the process came up but somewhere along the line, Kellin wanted to collab on a song and "Into The Dark" felt like the right one!

FF: DO YOU HAVE ANY PERSONAL FAVORITES FROM BRAND NEW VISION?

For me, some of my favorites are "A Million Pieces" / "Brand New Vision" / and "Personal"!

FF: WHAT'S YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AS A BAND?

Definitely going #1 on Siriusxm Octane with "Into The Dark".

FF: WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE FOR ASPIRING MUSICIANS? WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BREAK THROUGH IN TODAY'S SCENE?

My best advice is to not have a backup plan and go all the way in on your goal. Be as authentic and unique as possible. In today's industry I feel like not only having great music is important, but an image and branding is almost just as important!

POINT
NORTH



PROMPTS

Photo by: Kedoenicetus

FF: WITH THIS PANDEMIC STILL ON GOING, HOW'S 2020 BEEN FOR PROMPTS?

2020 sucks but not totally bad for our activity. It feels like a training haha. This year, we were planning a Japan tour with DEALER from AUS in April and we had some plans to do shows in various overseas countries, But unfortunately all of them were cancelled and postponed. But we had a plan to release new stuff from our album from before Covid. So we positively thought this was a compulsory album production period and faced the desktop everyday. We were able to spend more time than usual to make a lot of songs because of that.

FF: CAN YOU TELL US THE HISTORY OF PROMPTS AND WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU MAKE?

The band formed in Tokyo in 2012. I, Matsuno(Gu.), gathered members to play music influenced by FOR THE FALLEN DREAMS, ADALIAH, STRUCTURES, etc. At that time, All the members except me were different from the current members. Also the vocal style was a little bit different. We released 1 DEMO and 1 EP in that era. But in 2015, Members other than Matsuno quit the band and we're in a 3-year hiatus. During that period, I was looking for new members and I was being a session member in friend's bands such as LOYAL TO THE GRAVE and MIRRORS. In 2018, PK(Vo.) and PIGURI(Ba.), and Daisuke(Dr.) joined the band and became the current lineup.

FF: YOU RECENTLY RELEASED A COVER OF P.O.D.'S BOOM WITH KENTO KOSHIKAWA OF FOAD, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE TRACK TO COVER AND HOW WAS THE EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH KENTO OF FOAD?

Because we have loved this song since I was in high school haha. In a little more detail, This song is really simple on guitar. We thought this song seems to be compatible with insanely low tuning. Furthermore, This song has a lot of hooks and powerful lyrics. We felt that it's fit as a symbol for our future activities. About Koshiken, we heard that he had recently started working as a sound engineer at home so we asked him to record vocals. And then recording the Sing-a-long part. We wanted something a little bit different, so we asked him and he was willing to accept it. Actually, when PK started living in Japan, he lived in his house for several months. Working with him was a lot of fun.

FF: THIS MONTH MARKS THE FIRST YEAR OF MAGENTA SMILE, WHO ARE YOUR MAJOR INFLUENCES MUSICALLY AND LYRICALLY FOR THAT EP?

I (Matsuno) wanted to create music that digested new influences while retaining the original goodness of this band. Prompts is originally influenced by bands like Adaliah, Barrier, The Plot In You, Structures, Volumes. Inheriting that influence as our roots, I tried to incorporate the essence of new bands such as Void Of Vision, Alphawolf, Currents, VCTMS, Sleep waker and Darknet. That attempt led to a result that matched well with the individuality of the new members, I think. PIGURI can sing clean vocals at a quite high level. It is an important factor in expanding the range of songwriting. Personally, I also like hardcore and slamming and beatdown like Paleface and Strangled. PK likes Cane Hill so much, PIGURI and PK seem to listen to hip-hop and pop frequently in addition to the bands mentioned above. Daisuke(Dr) seems to listen and practice technical bands such as Oceans Ate Alaska and Periphery. The band we all like is DEFTONES.

FF: YOU SHARED THE SAME STAGES WITH SOME OF THE BIGGEST NAMES IN THE SCENE TODAY LIKE ALPHA WOLF, KNOCKED LOOSE, VARIALS ETC., ARE THERE ANY BANDS THAT YOU'D LIKE TO TOUR WITH IN THE FUTURE?

So many! Playing with Volumes, Emmure, and The Plot In You is our dearest wish. In February this year, I went to the US to see SPITE and BODYSNATCHER tours and became friends with bands like Bodysnatcher, UnityTX, Born A New, and Distinguisher. So I'd be happy if we can make a tour with them. Other than that, KAONASHI and LOTUS EATER, I simply want to see their show. And importantly, Our friends from Asia. Such as End These Days(South Korea), Annalynn from (Thailand), Endtrocitcity(Hong Kong), and District 105(Vietnam). In Phillipines, Lostthreads is awesome. Also, We made friends with Saydie's guitarist when he was visiting our show in South Korea. We want to do some shows with them when the Covid era is over.

FF: LASTLY, WHAT'S IN STORE FOR PROMPTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

We'll release physical of the latest EP "Magenta Smile" with Bonus Tracks in Japan. Including P.O.D.'s cover and 2 re-recorded old songs of us. All songs will be available at any streaming platforms too. It should be on sale by the time this article is published. In November, we will have a Japan tour with our friends Paledusk, Earthists and Graupel. And We're going to work hard to bring out our first full length in 2021! We'd love to make a lot of shows in the countries around Japan such as Phillipines, Vietnam and Thailand, as well as South Korea and Taiwan right after virus is gone. We literally want to see a lot of metalheads and crowdkillers at the show. Hope everyone is doing well until then!

SOCIAL MEDIA:



promptsofficial

RUI CARNEIRO GRAPHIC ARTIST

FF: COULD YOU TELL US A SHORT STORY ABOUT WHEN AND HOW DID YOU START DOING GRAPHIC DESIGN? WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO PURSUE IT AS A CAREER?

I always wanted to be part of the music world, whether it was being in a band or producing an album or anything. None of those things came into fruition so when I got to college I decided to get a multimedia degree (it taught me a bit of everything that is digital - graphic design, 3D, marketing, programming...). When I graduated I decided to start creating phone wallpapers for me and my friends and I began using more and more photoshop. Since they seemed to love it I started doing unofficial band designs with the purpose of bands seeing them and hiring me. It took me about 1 year till the first band liked what I did and hired me to do work for them.

FF: AS AN ARTIST, WHERE DO YOU USUALLY DRAW INSPIRATION FROM YOUR DESIGNS? BOOKS? MUSIC?

FOR ME IT'S ALL ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT'S NOT WHAT I NEED TO DO. DO I NEED TO DO AN ALBUM ARTWORK? TRY TO LOOK FOR INSPIRATION IN CEREAL BOXES, VIDEO GAMES, MOVIES, ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING TO HELP ME CREATE SOMETHING THAT'S DIFFERENT. THAT'S THE SAME WITH MERCH. I ALWAYS LOOK FOR DIFFERENT WAYS TO LOOK AT ART. FOR EXAMPLE, I'M HIGHLY INSPIRED BY STREETWEAR AND DESIGNER CLOTHES.

FF: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ART STYLE?

I'd say minimalist but filled with small details. I always loved Easter eggs, whether they were in games or movies. It's so cool to inspect an art piece, peel back the layers and find tons of meaning behind each element.



FF: WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR A DESIGNER TO HAVE THEIR GRAPHIC WORK BREAK THROUGH IN THIS DAY AND AGE? HOW DO YOU MARKET YOUR WORK TO POTENTIAL CLIENTS?

In this day and age social media is your best friend. Follow the clients you wish to work for and analyse them. Try to pinpoint what they like and don't and do something YOUR STYLE that they might enjoy.

That's how I got hired at the start. Since I've been obsessed with music from a young age, I knew what my favourite artists like or don't. So I designed unofficial merch items for them and I'd spam them on Twitter. I'd advise using that platform cause you'll have a better chance of the client seeing your work. Not only, their fans might see it too and "demand" that that client works with you. If that client doesn't work with you but ends up retweeting your work it's also great cause other potential clients can see it (that's actually how I got my first big client, the band CASEY, AND THAT KICK STARTED MY CAREER).

RUI CARNEIRO
SOCIALS: **RUIPLRQ_DESIGN**

FF: WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU COULD GIVE TO ASPIRING DESIGNERS? WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE A GOOD ARTWORK/DESIGN?

One advice I know my artists say is "try to do your own thing and don't copy" but I know how hard that is at the start. So what I'd advise is using YouTube or even SkillShare and watch tons of design tutorials. They'll teach you tons of stuff that you might not know how to do and that will help you immensely. I'd also tell you to look at anything and everything with a critical eye: try to understand how someone designed that t-shirt, that movie poster, that album art. That will also open your eyes to things you never thought of before.

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

This year has been hell for everyone. Thankfully, professionally, this year has been far busier than 2019. I've been designing full time since May of 2019 and now I've started to get more and more clients in the pop world so catch me doing art for some radio artists!



commune



FRAGMENTS
TRANSCENDING DUALITY

FRAGMENTS
TRANSCENDING
DUALITY

TRACKLIST:

1. CHERNOBYL
2. LIFE SENTENCE
3. HEAVEN'S GATE (FEAT. KENTO KOSHIKAWA OF FOAD)
4. PLAGUES (FEAT. GERD ZIMMERMANN)
5. MEATHOOK
6. IN THE NAME OF...
7. DEATH BEFORE DISHONOR

ARTWORK BY SANTINO BARAQUIEL

AVAILABLE JANUARY 09, 2021

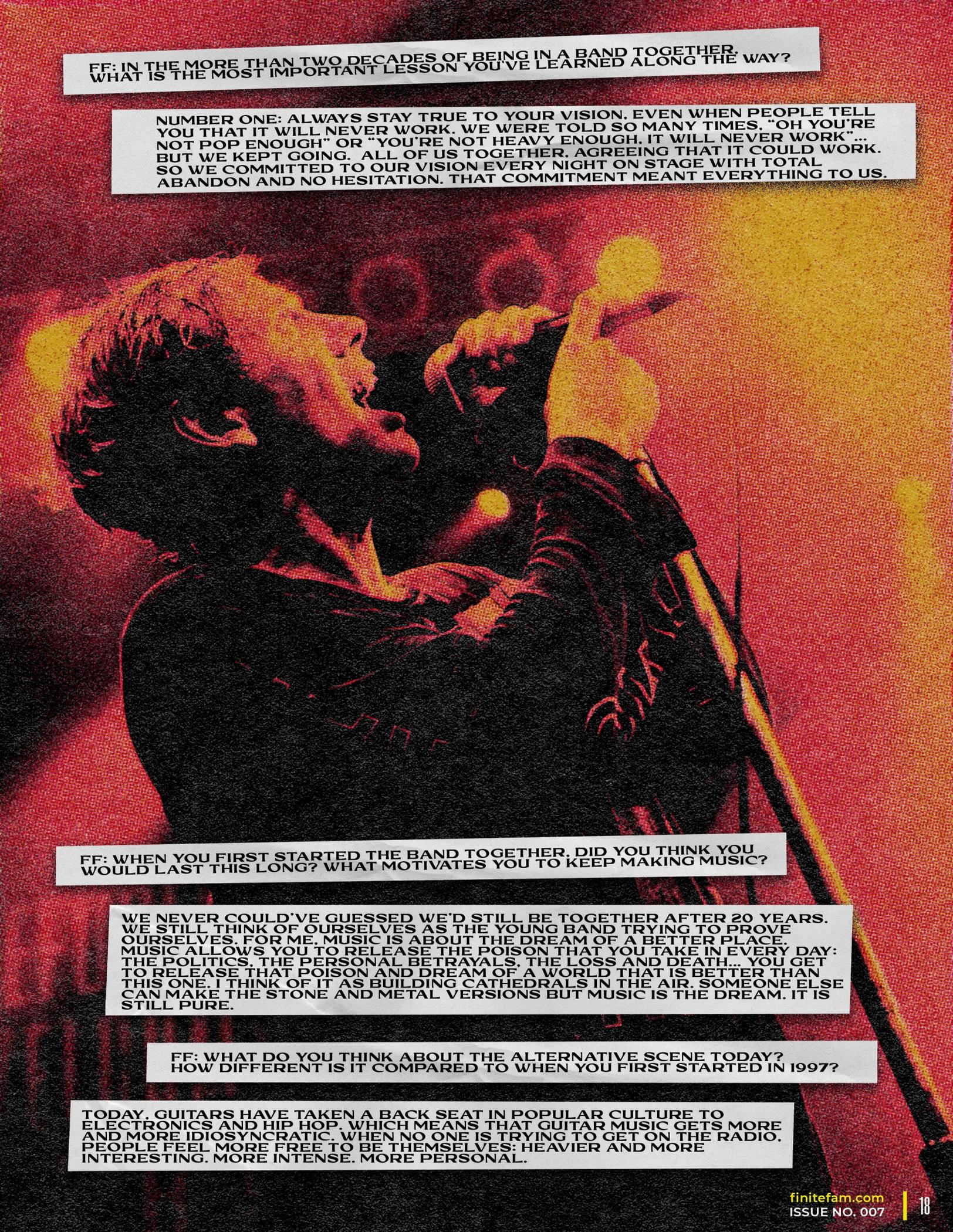


THURSDAY

MOST OF US CAN DEFINITELY AGREE THAT THURSDAY IS ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BANDS IN THE POST-HARDCORE SCENE WHO PAVED THE WAY FOR MANY BANDS TODAY AND THE ONE WHO POPULARIZED THE DARKER EMO SOUND WITH SCREAMING VOCALS, WHICH WAS DISTINCT IN THE EARLY 2000S. WITH THEIR HITS LIKE UNDERSTANDING IN A CAR CRASH, WAR ALL THE TIME, CROSS OUT THE EYES OR AS HE CLIMBED THE DARK MOUNTAIN (WITH SPLIT) AND THEIR CONSTANT DESIRE TO KEEP ON CREATING SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL ARE JUST A FEW OF THE CHARACTERISTICS THAT WE LOVE ABOUT THEM.

WE RECENTLY GOT A CHANCE TO TALK TO GEOFF RICKLY TO DISCUSS THE JOURNEY OF THE ICONIC THURSDAY.

**CENTER
STAGE**



FF: IN THE MORE THAN TWO DECADES OF BEING IN A BAND TOGETHER, WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED ALONG THE WAY?

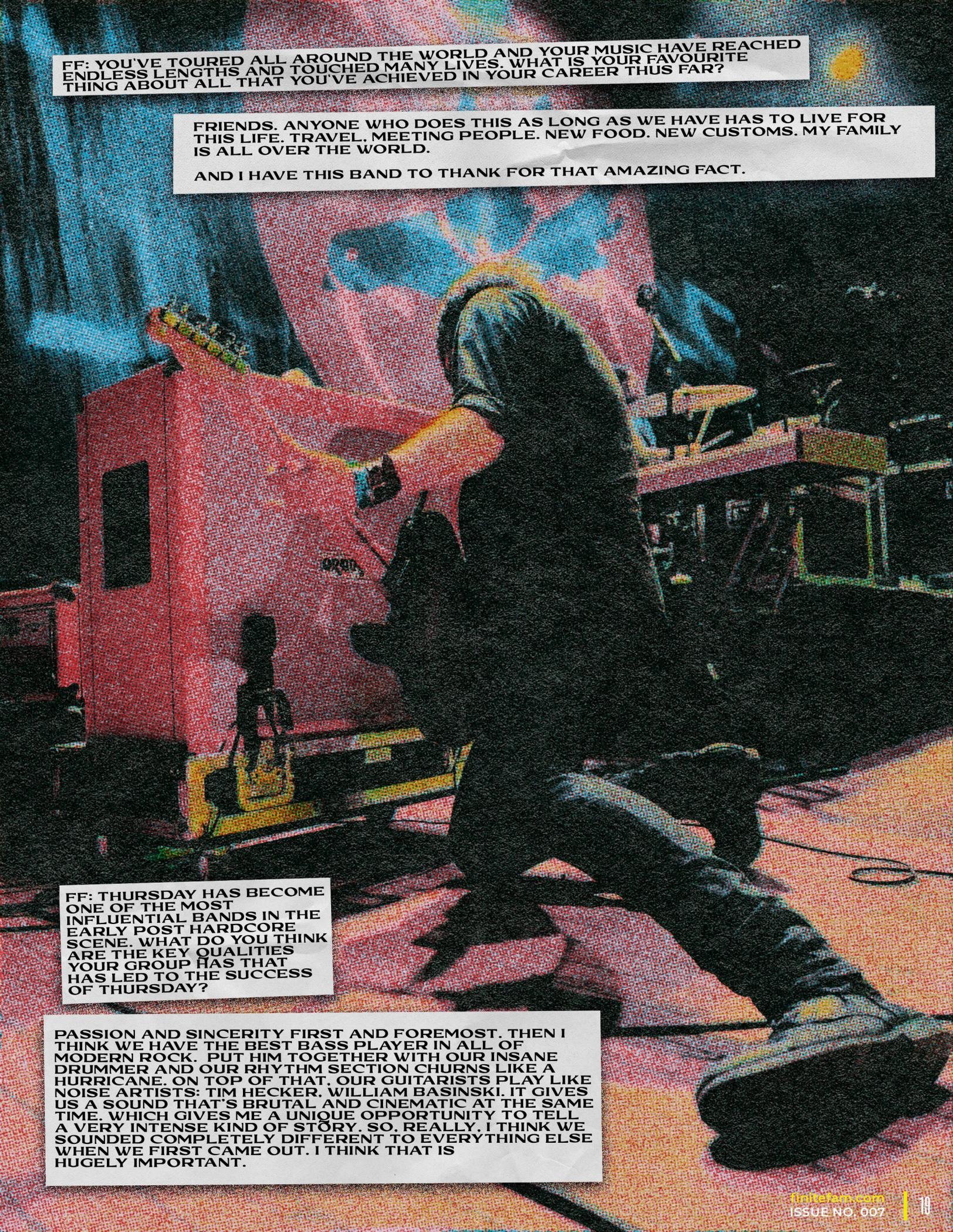
NUMBER ONE: ALWAYS STAY TRUE TO YOUR VISION, EVEN WHEN PEOPLE TELL YOU THAT IT WILL NEVER WORK. WE WERE TOLD SO MANY TIMES. "OH YOU'RE NOT POP ENOUGH" OR "YOU'RE NOT HEAVY ENOUGH. IT WILL NEVER WORK"... BUT WE KEPT GOING. ALL OF US TOGETHER, AGREEING THAT IT COULD WORK. SO WE COMMITTED TO OUR VISION EVERY NIGHT ON STAGE WITH TOTAL ABANDON AND NO HESITATION. THAT COMMITMENT MEANT EVERYTHING TO US.

FF: WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED THE BAND TOGETHER, DID YOU THINK YOU WOULD LAST THIS LONG? WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO KEEP MAKING MUSIC?

WE NEVER COULD'VE GUESSED WE'D STILL BE TOGETHER AFTER 20 YEARS. WE STILL THINK OF OURSELVES AS THE YOUNG BAND TRYING TO PROVE OURSELVES. FOR ME, MUSIC IS ABOUT THE DREAM OF A BETTER PLACE. MUSIC ALLOWS YOU TO RELEASE THE POISON THAT YOU TAKE IN EVERY DAY: THE POLITICS, THE PERSONAL BETRAYALS, THE LOSS AND DEATH... YOU GET TO RELEASE THAT POISON AND DREAM OF A WORLD THAT IS BETTER THAN THIS ONE. I THINK OF IT AS BUILDING CATHEDRALS IN THE AIR. SOMEONE ELSE CAN MAKE THE STONE AND METAL VERSIONS BUT MUSIC IS THE DREAM. IT IS STILL PURE.

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ALTERNATIVE SCENE TODAY? HOW DIFFERENT IS IT COMPARED TO WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED IN 1997?

TODAY, GUITARS HAVE TAKEN A BACK SEAT IN POPULAR CULTURE TO ELECTRONICS AND HIP HOP, WHICH MEANS THAT GUITAR MUSIC GETS MORE AND MORE IDIOSYNCRATIC. WHEN NO ONE IS TRYING TO GET ON THE RADIO, PEOPLE FEEL MORE FREE TO BE THEMSELVES: HEAVIER AND MORE INTERESTING. MORE INTENSE. MORE PERSONAL.



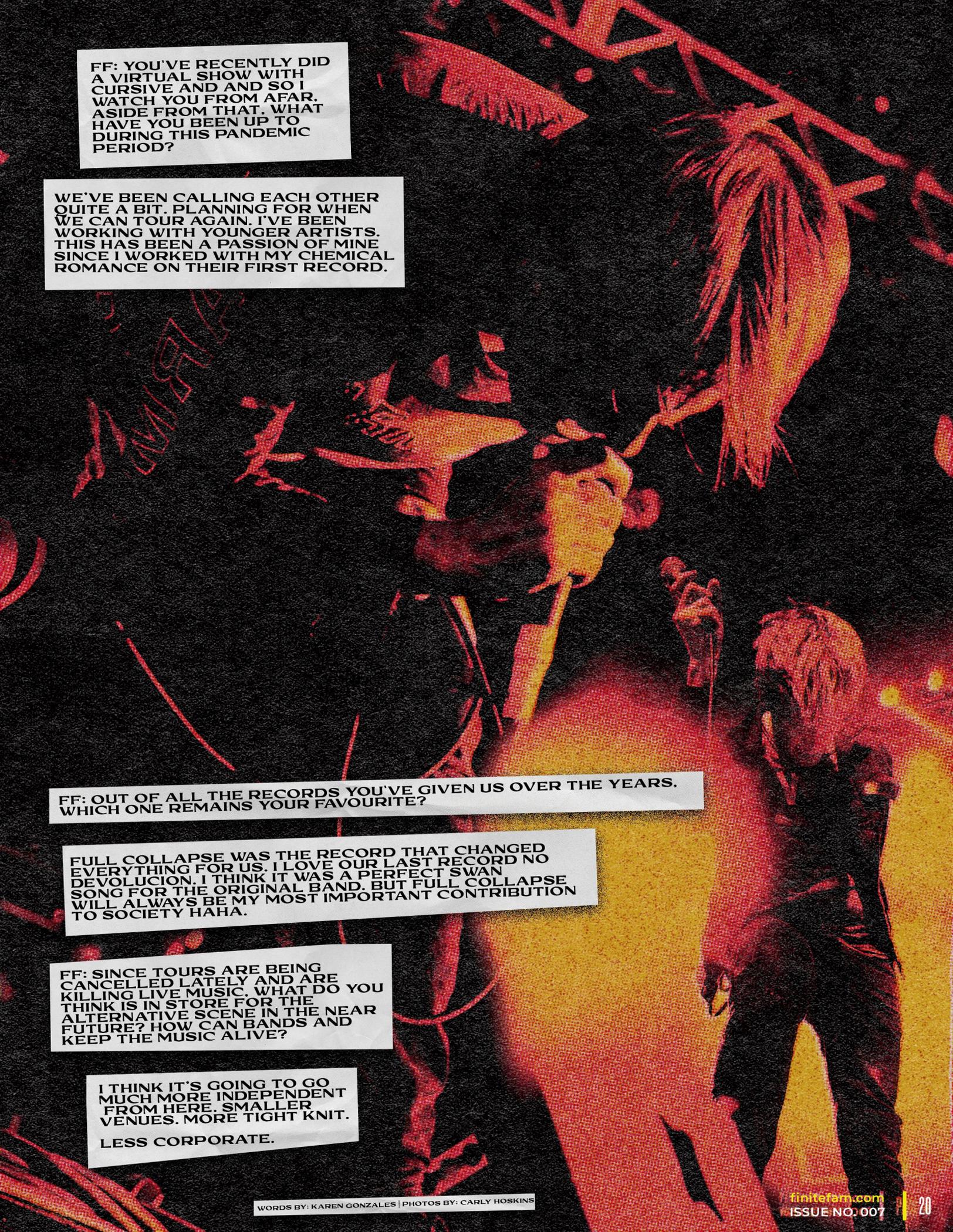
FF: YOU'VE TOURED ALL AROUND THE WORLD AND YOUR MUSIC HAVE REACHED ENDLESS LENGTHS AND TOUCHED MANY LIVES. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT ALL THAT YOU'VE ACHIEVED IN YOUR CAREER THUS FAR?

FRIENDS. ANYONE WHO DOES THIS AS LONG AS WE HAVE HAS TO LIVE FOR THIS LIFE. TRAVEL. MEETING PEOPLE. NEW FOOD. NEW CUSTOMS. MY FAMILY IS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

AND I HAVE THIS BAND TO THANK FOR THAT AMAZING FACT.

FF: THURSDAY HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BANDS IN THE EARLY POST-HARDCORE SCENE. WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE KEY QUALITIES YOUR GROUP HAS THAT HAS LED TO THE SUCCESS OF THURSDAY?

PASSION AND SINCERITY FIRST AND FOREMOST. THEN I THINK WE HAVE THE BEST BASS PLAYER IN ALL OF MODERN ROCK. PUT HIM TOGETHER WITH OUR INSANE DRUMMER AND OUR RHYTHM SECTION CHURNS LIKE A HURRICANE. ON TOP OF THAT, OUR GUITARISTS PLAY LIKE NOISE ARTISTS: TIM HECKER, WILLIAM BASINSKI. IT GIVES US A SOUND THAT'S BRUTAL AND CINEMATIC AT THE SAME TIME, WHICH GIVES ME A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO TELL A VERY INTENSE KIND OF STORY. SO, REALLY, I THINK WE SOUNDED COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TO EVERYTHING ELSE WHEN WE FIRST CAME OUT. I THINK THAT IS HUGE IMPORTANT.



FF: YOU'VE RECENTLY DID A VIRTUAL SHOW WITH CURSIVE AND AND SO I WATCH YOU FROM AFAR. ASIDE FROM THAT, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO DURING THIS PANDEMIC PERIOD?

WE'VE BEEN CALLING EACH OTHER QUITE A BIT. PLANNING FOR WHEN WE CAN TOUR AGAIN. I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH YOUNGER ARTISTS. THIS HAS BEEN A PASSION OF MINE SINCE I WORKED WITH MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE ON THEIR FIRST RECORD.

FF: OUT OF ALL THE RECORDS YOU'VE GIVEN US OVER THE YEARS, WHICH ONE REMAINS YOUR FAVOURITE?

FULL COLLAPSE WAS THE RECORD THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING FOR US. I LOVE OUR LAST RECORD NO DEVOLUCION. I THINK IT WAS A PERFECT SWAN SONG FOR THE ORIGINAL BAND, BUT FULL COLLAPSE WILL ALWAYS BE MY MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY HAHA.

FF: SINCE TOURS ARE BEING CANCELLED LATELY AND ARE KILLING LIVE MUSIC, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS IN STORE FOR THE ALTERNATIVE SCENE IN THE NEAR FUTURE? HOW CAN BANDS AND KEEP THE MUSIC ALIVE?

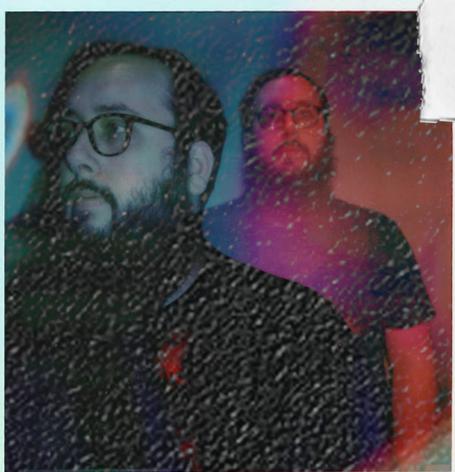
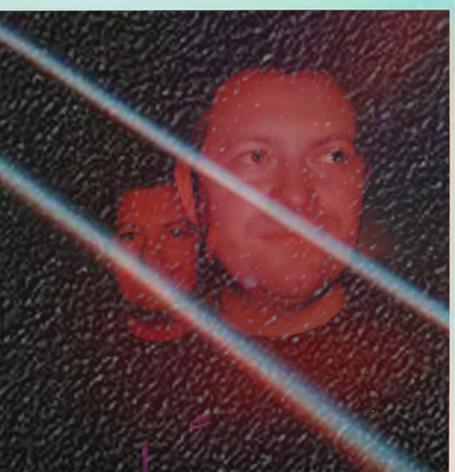
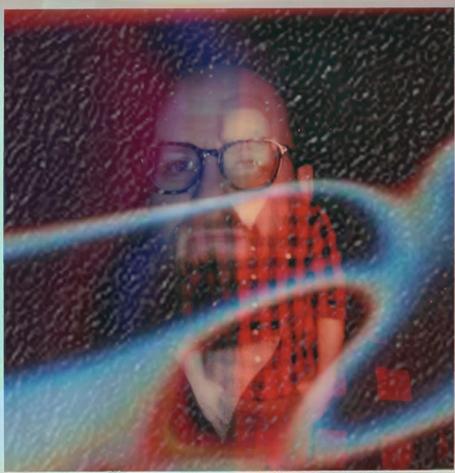
I THINK IT'S GOING TO GO MUCH MORE INDEPENDENT FROM HERE. SMALLER VENUES. MORE TIGHT KNIT. LESS CORPORATE.

CENTER STAGE

the WONDER YEARS

From playing in basements to selling out venues and being massive trailblazers in the alternative scene, The Wonder Years make music that hit home for most of us. Throughout the decade, the band has been consistently evolving and has given us remarkable records that will remain timeless.

In this interview with their lead singer, Dan 'Soupy' Campbell, we explored the past, present and future of Pennsylvania rockers The Wonder Years.



FF: CAN YOU DESCRIBE WHAT'S 2020 LIKE FOR THE WONDER YEARS?

I guess a nice way to put it is that it's been a year of adjustments. We started it by releasing "Burst & Decay Vol. II" and doing most of a US tour to support it, but, obviously, a global pandemic hit and so we stopped the tour about 2/3rds of the way through and went home to start shifting everything we had planned.

All touring was pushed back and we started trying to think of other ways to stay connected. We did two live-stream events; one as a way of finishing the Burst & Decay Tour and one to continue our Halloween Show tradition.

We also had to rethink how we were going to celebrate the 10 Year Anniversaries of "The Upsides" and "Suburbia, I've Given You All and Now I'm Nothing." Plans for a tour were put on hold and so we started working on a comprehensive anniversary box set that included new songs we built out of old demo ideas that never got used for those albums.

FF: YOU RECENTLY CELEBRATED THE 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR ALBUM THE UPSIDES. HOW HAS THE BAND'S SOUND EVOLVED SINCE THEN?

I'd say the band's sound evolved pretty naturally record-to-record. Since "The Upsides," we've released four full lengths, a few EPs and a few side-projects. Every new record just kind of builds on what we've learned as songwriters and what's influenced us in the years since the last recording. We're constantly trying to get better and push our limits without losing what makes us The Wonder Years.

FF: YOUR LATEST SINGLE BRAKELESS WAS WRITTEN IN THE STYLE OF THE UPSIDES. WOULD THAT CHOICE OF REVISITING YOUR OLD SOUND INFLUENCE YOUR NEXT RELEASES?

That's true. "Brakeless" was written in the style of "The Upsides" and "Out on My Feet" was written in the style of "Suburbia" as a way of celebrating those albums. It's hard to say how it'll influence our next record until we actually write those songs. What I do know is that we had a lot of fun making them. It was like exercising muscles you haven't used in a long time. Felt good to know we could still do it.

FF: YOU'VE BEEN TOURING AND PLAYING MUSIC FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE SECRET OF YOU GUYS BEING TOGETHER AND STAYING IN THE BAND FOR THAT LONG?

I think it has a lot to do with us being friends first. We know each other really well so we can tell when people need space or need to joke around or whatever. I think the fact that we respect each other as people before anything band-related helps.

FF: TALKING ABOUT BEING THIS SOLID AS A BAND, BACK THEN DID YOU SEE THIS THING LASTING THIS LONG?

No, I honestly didn't. I think that, like a lot of people who make music or art, I constantly feel like what I'm making isn't good enough or as good as what anyone else is making. So, I've spent basically every day of our time as a band thinking it would end tomorrow. That's just kind of how my brain works--kind of always anxious and doomed.

FF: HOW DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE GROWN AS A BAND BOTH PERSONALLY AND MUSICALLY? HOW HAS THIS AFFECTED AND IS AFFECTING THE MUSIC YOU HAVE MADE AND ARE MAKING RIGHT NOW?

Our lives are pretty drastically different. I mean, I'm writing this while watching my son eat lunch. When we put out Upsides and Suburbia, I was living in my friend's basement and on tour ten months out of the year. It's a pretty big shift. I think, at our core though, we're the same people but we've learned a lot and just made it a point to try to constantly grow and get better. That can be anything from going to therapy to work through things more effectively to getting better merch made. It can take a lot of forms. We want to be constantly improving in every way we can.

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

I'm really excited to see some of the things that we were a big part of years ago having a resurgence--namely that there's a vibrant and thriving DIY scene. I love seeing bands and artists take initiative and get shit done on their own, supporting each other and growing together. It's cool to see them take ownership of their communities and build their own spaces. I love the attitude of saying "We don't need any doors opened for us because we're going to create our own building entirely."

FF: LASTLY, WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE WONDER YEARS IN 2021? ANY OTHER STUFF IN THE WORKS THAT YOUR LISTENERS WILL BE STOKED ABOUT?

We're hoping to write and maybe record a new album. It's all a little dependent on vaccines at this point because it's dangerous and scary to even write in the same room together right now. Next month, we're all getting tested so that we can create an isolated bubble to write in together. The big plan and hope is that we can do The Upsides + Suburbia Anniversary touring that we've been planning and re-planning and re-planning again for a year now. We're really looking forward to getting to play both of those records in full for people.

Photo by: omgmichelle

SOCIAL MEDIA:
Facebook: thewonderyearsband
Instagram: thewonderyearsband
Twitter: thewonderyears



THE WEIGHT OF \$ILENCE



G I V E T H E P E O P L E
W H A T T H E Y W A N T

PARENTAL
ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

THE WEIGHT OF \$ILENCE

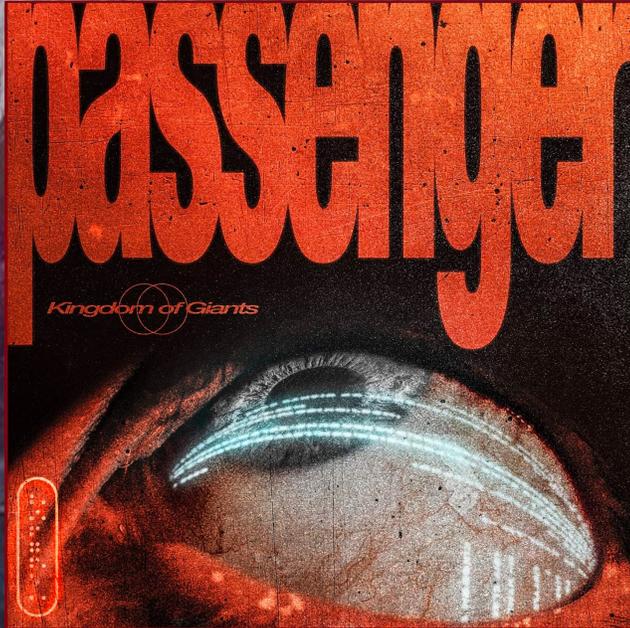
GIVE THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT

AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE
JANUARY 29TH

PUSH
DIGITAL MARKETING



FINITE FAM REVIEWS



Passenger Kingdom of Giants

Review by: Micah Go

Kingdom of Giants has been a name I've been hearing about quite often recently in the metalcore community. I've actually been meaning to listen to them because of this but I put it off for a while when I heard they were coming out with a new album. Now that that said album is out, I gave them a go. And man, I understand the hype now. Consider me in love with "Passenger".

As someone who had no clue whatsoever as to what this band had to offer, I was definitely blown away. Color me impressed because this 12-track release has everything I love about modern metalcore: intricate breakdowns, atmospheric and ambient synths, screeching djent-y guitars, and soaring clean vocal melodies that go well with vicious screams.

12 tracks would often get me bored halfway through especially if each song does little to set itself apart from the others but that was not the case here. Kingdom of Giants managed to reel me in as the album progressed; each track managing to build upon the one before it and mesh well together and results in an album that leaves me wanting for more of their songs. It's just that good and anyone looking for some fresh and interesting metalcore, this album was made for you.

SCORE: 

For fans of: *Currents, Wage War, Dayseeker*

Favorite Tracks: *Two Suns, Side Effect, Burner, Wayfinder, Blue Dream, Sleeper*

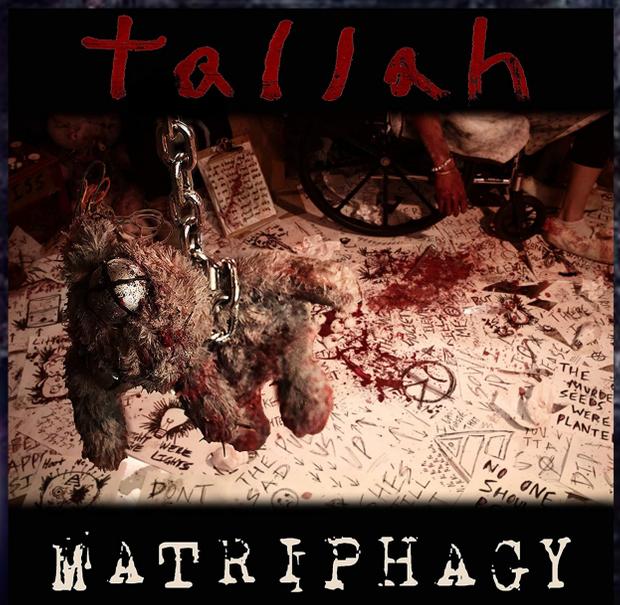
Matriphagy Tallah

Review by James D. Clark

Spearheaded by drummer Max Portnoy, the son of legendary metal drummer Mike Portnoy, Tallah seemed to have come from the reaches of obscurity to deliver what essentially feels like an album that is both a love letter for early 2000's Nu Metal as well as becoming the starting point for it to return in the 2020's heavier than ever.

A concept album meant to dive into the depths of depravity where psychosis dances with delusion, Matriphagy is a journey not easily replicated in its disgusting imagery and vicious delivery that proves it to be a chimera of several genres stitched together into this horrifying abomination.

Taking nu metal and giving it a metalcore spin, while not afraid to mix in rapping and even death growls, and even including several industrial elements; there are so many layers to this visceral odyssey that you have to skin it layer by layer to see what's truly underneath.



For fans of: *Slipknot, Korn, Code Orange*

Favorite Tracks: *Too Quick to Grieve, Overconfidence, Placenta*

SCORE: 

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Imposter Syndrome Happy.

Review by: Micah Go

Having been occasionally listening to Happy. here and there over the last few months, I've had quite the expectation as to what their new album "Imposter Syndrome" was going to sound like. Nevertheless, I wasn't disappointed. I would describe this album as a fun ride; a sort of a soundtrack to our own individual coming-of-age dramas that we go through in our everyday lives with all our struggles and the like. I mean, it's raw pop punk at its core so yes, it's a perfect life soundtrack. I love how Happy.'s sound is essentially an amalgamation of different sounds of pop punk throughout the last two decades and it shines quite well in this album. Each song is simply fun and easy-going and just makes you wanna hop on your skateboard and chase your dreams, fall in love, and eat a ton of pizza. It's filled with songs that make you feel at home and is somewhat a welcome respite in times of emotional turmoil.

If you're looking for a new chill listen that makes you nostalgic yet makes you wanna jump up and down and shout your heart out, then look no further because "Imposter Syndrome" just might be what you're looking for.

SCORE:

For fans of: Yellowcard, Jimmy Eat World, State Champs

Favorite Tracks: Sick Is The New Sane, Liarliar, Dull Boy, After School Special, April Is For Fools, Black Picket Fence

Lament Touché Amore

Review by James D. Clark

Veterans of the melodic hardcore scene and masters of the emotionally raw, Southern California's longstanding sons Touché Amore return in 2020 to deliver what the majority of people feel like they need to do every day: scream their laments from the top of a building in hopes be a painful catharsis.

Lament is the culmination of all things the band has done in their 13 year history in creating a record that is as fun and faithful to their sound as it is accessible. The album is a delicate mix of emo, melodic hardcore and indie elements to create a beautiful listen at it's core; although its melodies do at times become repetitive.

But if there was an album that I would want to show people what Touché Amore sounds like, this would be the one; it's a treat for veterans of the band and newcomers alike as I believe it will become the quintessential album of access for the band's bright future.

For fans of: La Dispute, Envy (JP), Counterparts

Favorite Tracks: I'll Be Your Host, Reminders, Feign



SCORE: