

# ROCKNATION

Issue 23  
www.rocknation.us

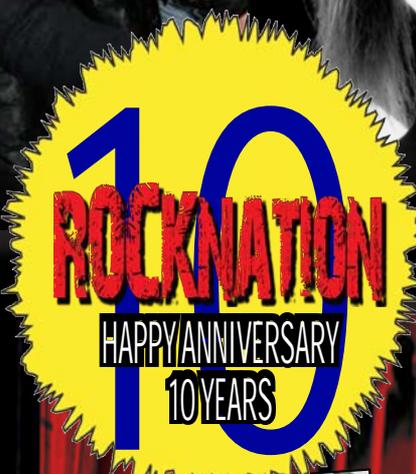


Exclusive Interview With:

## Helix



## DANGEROUS TOYS



### DIRTY GLORY



### LoReley



### NOELY RAYN



### CAPTAIN BLACK BEARD



### TILES



### LIZARD



### SRDJAN BRANKOVIC



### ACACIA AVENUE



### W.A.N.T.E.D.

# HELIX

## Interview with Brian Vollmer

**Hello Brian and welcome to Rocknation. Helix performed on the recent Monsters Of Rock cruise. Did you have any cool moments meeting some fans walking around that never saw you live before.**

*I met many fans of the band on the ship and it was a blast talking to them all. One of them, who's name was Mike, met us after the cruise when we were in Venice, Florida and we all went for a meal together.*

**What was some highlights on the cruise?**

*The highlight of the cruise for me was our first show. We lucked out when Larry Morland (the promoter) gave us the main stage on the upper deck by the pool on the very first night. The weather was perfect, the crowd was in party mode, and the band played one of our best sets ever...Luckily, I brought along my regular sound man Neil Fenske, which made a huge difference in how the band came off that night. I had one of the guys from Madam X come up to me to say how good he thought the band sounded and "...where did you get that sound man?" LOL.*

**Was there any bands you saw for the first time live?**

*Yes. D.A.D. They were blowaway. Made me a fan for life.*

**Your music is featured on one of my favorite TV shows "Trailer Park Boys". The actor "Ricky" (Rob Wells) is big Helix fan in real life. Any cool stories you can tell us about knowing him.**

*The Trailer Park Boys are huge in Canada and now their popularity is spreading world wide. They told me that the first time they went to England there were line ups for their shows. The last time we played in Halifax Rob Wells, who plays Ricky on the show, took me for a personal tour of Swarnet Studios. I filmed it all. That night he joined us onstage to sing Rock You.*

*All three of the guys are as down to earth as you'll ever find. I think that's why I love 'em so much. There was also another night when we went out and partied at Bubble's club with Alex Lifeson from RUSH. It was the night before we filmed our parts in Countdown To Liquor Day, their second movie. Things got pretty out of hand, let's just leave it at that.*



Helix has 6 limited pressing Re-Issue's coming out on Perris Records. The Cds are 500 pressing only "Back For Another Taste", "Live in Buffalo", "Rockin' In My Outer Space", "half ALIVE", "It's A Business Doing Pleasure" & "B SIDES". The CDs are available online and CD stores. They are also available for downloads please tell us about that. I'm re-doing the Helix website over the past six months. Part of the re-organization has been to list all the CDs that I own for digital download on the site. As well, I've been going through the hours and hours of film I have from over the band's career-everything from inside the studio on our very first album *Breaking Loose* in 1979 to the Ian Gillan Tour in 1990 in Europe to the Alice Cooper tour a few years back. It's truly been a labor of love and a massive undertaking. As for the re-issues from Perris, I'm extremely happy about that. It's not really practical for me to do it myself as it would be too expensive, so for a record company to re-release them helps keep the music out there in the public eye. The real money today is in playing live; having the music still available for fans helps to feed that and keep it going.



Brian Vollmer with Danko Jones

You are also recording a new track for a new best of CD called "ROCK IT SCIENCE" also available on Perris Records. What can you tell us about that song?

The song is called "(Gene Simmons says) Rock Is Dead. The idea for the song came from a recent interview Gene did where he voiced the opinion, "Rock didn't die of old age-it was murdered". He then went on to say that young musicians should give it up before they even start. A lot of people, including myself, disagreed with that statement. Anyways, I thought it was a great song title, so I took it to Sean Kelly, whom I wrote *Vagabond Bones* and *Bastard of the Blues* with. He agreed with me and before you know it, had the song pretty much completed. Ironically, the very theme of Gene's statements are reflected in the way we plan to market this track. Sales of full length CDs have really fallen in the last couple of years and there has been a huge shift to singles, much like when rock and roll first started...Back then acts like Elvis would release singles to radio, and when they had enough hit singles then they put together an album. Nowadays, with Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, etc. people have short attention spans and the single is making a big come back. Fans are less likely to get into the "meat" of an album and explore the secondary tracks. So for us, we decided to concentrate on marketing (Gene Simmons says) Rock Is Dead as the only new track on this disc, which is an advantage of sorts, as it allows us to concentrate on working the song at Canadian radio along with an accompanying video without worrying about the cost of producing a new full length CD, which would have cost much more money and probably have the other songs on the disc lost to obscurity. In the future we'll probably follow this game plan-release a single with an accompanying video and concentrate on working just one song. Once we release 8 or 9 singles then we'll put together an album.

What Helix plans do you have for 2016?

Lots. The musical landscape has also changed dramatically in regards to live gigs as well. Nowadays we play mostly festivals and casinos. The bar scene has gone the way of the DoDo bird. So far this year we've played the Monsters of Rock Boat Cruise and this weekend we're heading out to western Canada for two sold out casino shows with our old friends KICKAXE.

Festival dates this summer have us playing from coast to coast with everyone from Vince Neil (Mattawa, Ontario) to The Cult (Thunder Bay) to Quiet Riot (Kitchener, On). I'll also be working constantly on the new Helix website and planning another website for what I teach-the old Italian method of singing called Bel Canto. I'm one of the last people in the world to teach it in it's pure form.



Brian & Lynda Vollmer with Tom Mathers at Sweden Rock



# HELIX

## "Back For Another Taste"

Catalog # PER5312 UPC Barcode 670573053125

A 2016 Re-Issue CD with new artwork including different photos in CD booklet. This is a limited pressing of only 500 CDs.



For more information visit:  
[perrisrecords.com](http://perrisrecords.com)

# HELIX

## "half ALIVE"

Catalog # PER5292 UPC Barcode 670573052920

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# HELIX

## "Live in Buffalo"

Catalog # PER5272 UPC Barcode 670573052722

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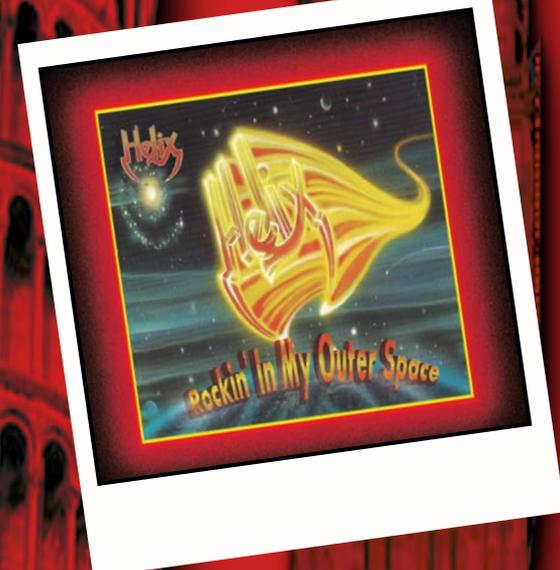


# HELIX

## "Rockin' In My Outer Space"

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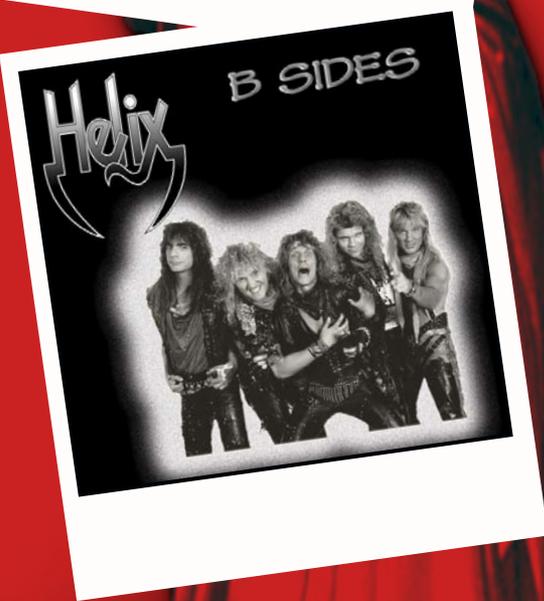


# HELIX

## "B SIDES"

Catalog # PER5262 UPC Barcode 670573052623

A 2016 Re-Issue CD with new artwork including different photos in CD booklet. This is a limited pressing of only 500 CDs.



# HELIX

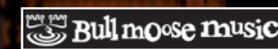
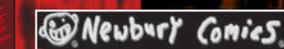
## "It's A Business Doing Pleasure"

Catalog # PER5302 UPC Barcode 670573053026

A 2016 Re-Issue CD with new artwork including different photos in CD booklet. This is a limited pressing of only 500 CDs.



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Todd (Taz) Anthony - guitars  
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Stacey Blades - guitars  
(L.A. Guns, Roxx Gang, Ratt)

Eric Stacy - bass  
(Faster Pussycat)

Troy Patrick Farrell - drums  
(White Lion, Gilby Clarke)



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# DANGEROUS TOYS

Interview with Jason McMaster

**Hello Jason and welcome to Rocknation. Dangerous Toys performed on the recent Monsters Of Rock cruise. Did you have any cool moments meeting some fans walking around that never saw you live before.**

*Yes sir, the fans and bands together on a cruise is cool. All together rocking on the high seas. As a fan, it cannot get better than that to be able to approach the artist. Most fans are very respectful and treat the artists normal, not very often someone is kinda creepin. It's a big festival on the water, whoever thought of that is a genius. Kinda saving rock n roll. Not really any stories, just good rock n roll for five days straight.*

**What was some highlights on the cruise?**

*For me, all the cruises we have done have had alot of the same bands, kinda bores me in that aspect, but..this more recent, was the fact that I got to see D. A.D. whom I had never seen before but I am a huge fan!, I also saw Metal Church, it had been years since I'd seen them. As well, I saw Armored saint, I am a huge fan for years and years now.*

**I got the chance to see the band in Houston and took some photos in this issue. How many shows did you do before the cruise?**

*Two, Houston and Austin. We played more shows last year in a short amount of time, than we have in years. We plan on ramping that up even more.*



**Broken Teeth has some new merch "BREAKER-BOX" and "Bulldozer" CD. Please tell us info about them.**

*Broken Teeth has some new merch "BREAKER-BOX" and "Bulldozer" CD. Please tell us info about them. Bulldozer came out October 2015, we did some parties for it, and it's doing pretty well. The cover songs on the record are special in the way that in the recent passing of Lemmy from Motorhead, was a shock, but the fact that we covered "the Hammer", gives the record immediate omage to Lem. The other cover was Aerosmith's "Lightning Strikes". came out awesome. The Broken Teeth songs on Bulldozer, two had been previously released, Devil on the Road, featured Travis Weiss on bass, and the record is dedicated to his memory and time with the band, as well as "Flamethrower" was released as a single in 2014, piggybacked with a video for that track. the other material, The Rough and the Tumble, red River Rising, and Raining Fire, are killers, no fillers. Another cool factor, the record was released on Vinyl. We have not had that til now. Breaker Box, is all six releases up to Bulldozer, in a box with a free sticker and a free patch. The entire carreer of Broken Teeth up to now, so to speak. You can get those items at [www.brokenteeth.com](http://www.brokenteeth.com).*



**What Dangerous Toys and Broken Teeth plans do you have for 2016?**

*Dangerous Toys, play more shows. [www.dangeroustoys.us](http://www.dangeroustoys.us).*

*Broken Teeth- we are recording a full length follow up release as we speak. 10 songs in the can already. No release date, or track listing has been released to the press as of yet.*

**Thank you for taking time for this interview and last words to the fans?**

*Believe in rock n roll, it can and will save your soul. the songs that don't make your heart beat faster, should be easy to ignore. pay attention to the songs that speak to you, it is your language universally.*





# ACACIA AVENUE

## Interview with Torben Enevoldsen

**Hello Torben from Acacia Avenue and welcome to Rocknation. Congrats on your new album titled “Early Warning” on Perris Records. How excited are you to see the fan response to the new CD?**

*Thanks a lot. I am always very excited and curious to see how an album is received just before a new release. I am very proud of this new album and very much looking forward to seeing the fan response.*

Photo by: Ron Boudreau

**Please name some of the tracks and what they are about.**

*The first track on the album is called “Real Love” and it is basically about not getting that at all. It’s about trusting in someone and getting deceived. Another track is called “Running Out Of Time”. This one is about regrets and how time simply seems to fly by. Then we have “Broken Dreams”, which is about living in the moment and giving in to temptation. “Early Warning” is basically another love song, but also about taking a stand. In general I would say that although the songs touch on various topics, they all have the theme of love in common in one way or another.*

**You have some heavy AOR players on this release. What are some the the highlights recording with them.**

*It has been such a pleasure to work with everyone involved and one of the highlights is definitely getting the songs to sound just like I wanted them to sound. I love the collaboration and that extra “something” someone else is able to bring to the table. That takes each song to a different level and ultimately makes a world of difference.*

**What would you say is different in writing and recording “Early Warning” compared to your last CD “Cold”?**

*I would say that maybe the fact that I had the pleasure of working with Rob, Steve, Torben and Albin yet again made a difference. My approach was pretty much the same, but once you have worked with someone once, it makes everything much easier. Also, I think that I had planned everything out a little better this time around. It’s all about logistics and planning ahead when that many people are involved.*



Albin Ljungqvist



Rob Moratti



Mats Levén

**If you had to tell someone what Acacia Avenue sounded like, what bands would you mention?**

*That's a difficult question. Acacia Avenue is a mixture of many things really, but some of the main influences are Journey, Survivor, Toto, Dokken and Giant.*

**You also keep busy with other bands like Fate, Fatal Force & Section A. How is this band different than those bands?**

*Acacia Avenue is very different in concept and style. It is my personal melodic hard rock/AOR outlet if you will. This is where I get to write and record softer and harder stuff side by side. I like that a lot and I also have several singers participate on each album. I like to have that freedom and variety. It's very freeing in a way and I love that.*

**You have your own studio called "Funny Farm Studios" in Denmark. Please tell us about that including how you came up with the name.**

*"Funny Farm Studios" is not a huge studio with a large recording and mixing console, but I have all the equipment and space I need to be able to create anything I want. That's the important thing, plus I am able to work here 24/7. There are no restrictions whatsoever, so that gives me a lot of freedom to create, write and record whenever I want to. The name is just a joke, based on the fact that it's located on an old farm.*

**What plans do you have for 2016?**

*I am currently involved in several projects, so my main focus for 2016 is writing and recording new material. I am writing for a few different artists, as well as for a new Acacia Avenue album and a new all instrumental album, so I expect to be spending most of 2016 in the studio :-)*

**Thank you for taking time for this interview and last words to the fans?**

*My pleasure. I hope that everyone who reads this interview will check out the new album and please stop by my personal website for updates on my various projects: [www.torbenenevoldsen.com](http://www.torbenenevoldsen.com).*

Andy Engberg



Steve Newman



Dennis Hansen



Torben Lysholm



# Dirty GLORY

**Hello DIRTY GLORY and welcome to Rocknation. Congrats to your band on having your album titled "Mind The Gap" on Perris Records. How excited are you to see the fan response to the CD?**

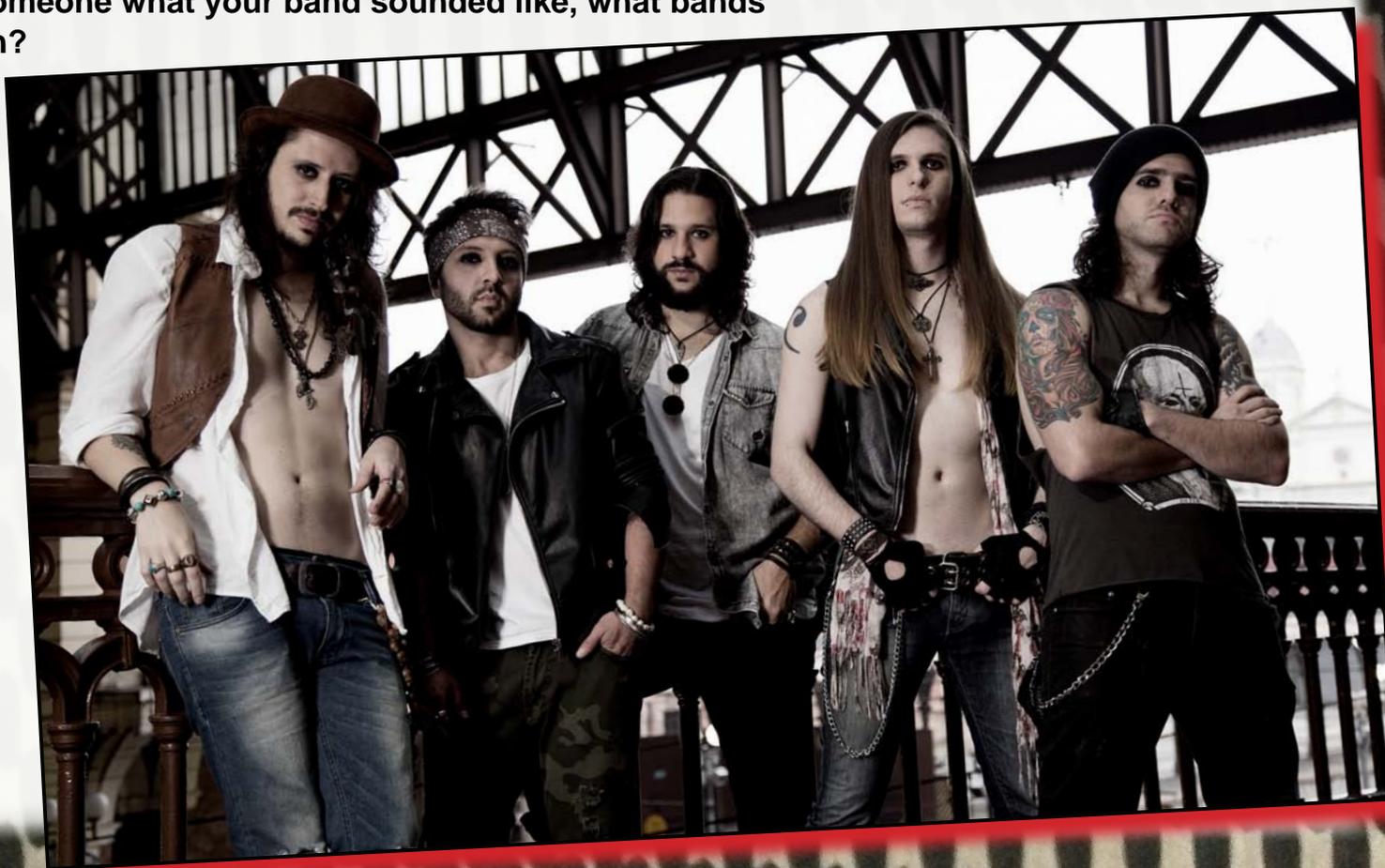
*Hey guys, first off thanks a lot for having us! Well, we're extremely happy to be on Perris Records, specially because we really admire most of the bands they have worked with, and it's an honor to be next to such names as Helix, LA Guns, Vain, Roxx Gang and etc. We don't know what to expect, actually. Being a Brazilian band, we're already absolutely amazed to have some recognition to the point that our album is being sold worldwide. I'm sure we still have a long way to go and the fans will come along! This is a great start!*

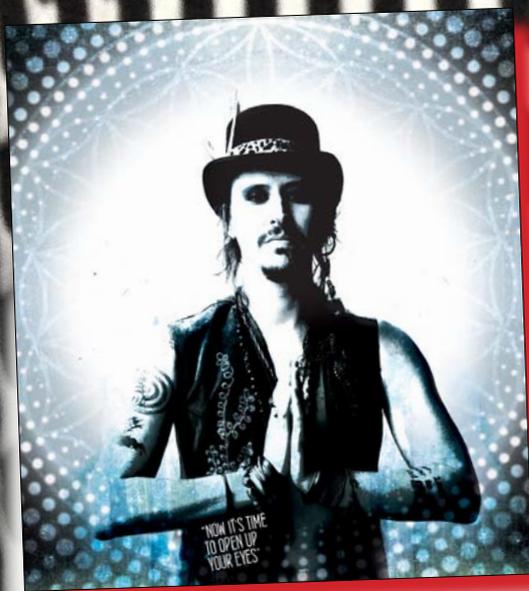
**Please name some of the tracks and what they are about.**

*For me personally, the songs 'Failing The Test', 'Damn The Human Race', and 'Modern Gods' are the most meaningful stuff I've ever written (You can see the bar wasn't really high LOL). 'Failing The Test' is about our modern society, and the way we walk on this planet focusing on all the wrong things for the wrong reasons. 'Damn The Human Race' questions some cultural behaviors that have been established by all kinds of traditions (ok, mostly religious). Concealing sexual instincts while perverted deep inside is actually 'Failing The Test'. 'Modern Gods' is about ego. How human values and relations are based on appearances because we just can't f\*\*king see past death. I could go on and on about this one, but really all I'm saying is if you believe this particular life is all there is to your existence, at least leave something good to the ones you (selfishly) love. I'm sorry, this one sets me off...*

**If you had to tell someone what your band sounded like, what bands would you mention?**

*What I would probably say: "All those hairy dudes from the 80's, but you know, not really... but yeah..." I can't pinpoint what it sounds like but I do know where it comes from, which is Guns N' Roses, Van Halen, Kiss, Aerosmith, Bon Jovi, Poison, Skid Row, Danger Danger, Mr. Big. All those heroes.*





**Your CD has great production, please tell us about the recording process.**

*Thank you. The process was a lot of fun, but as we took our time, at some point it started to get exhausting. It was a 2 year journey from songwriting to finishing details of the art cover.*

*We learned a lot and grew a lot personally, which*

*I believe had to happen in order for the songs to say something other than 'sex drugs and zzzzzzz'...Lol. I came closer to the production side of making music, which pleases me the most. I can't wait to make more. We recorded at a local studio called FlapC4, the same from previous EP "It's On!" It was a process that put our abilities to the limit and it was awesome.*

**Your band is from Sao Paulo - Brazil. What is the music scene like there?**

*Nowadays it's a pretty underground scene compared to Europe and USA. Sao Paulo has, perhaps the biggest cultural diversity in the country, so we do have a lot of awesome bands of every kind. Rock is far from mainstream, but brazilian fans are really passionate, and bands will do whatever it takes to keep it alive.*

**What national bands have you played with?**

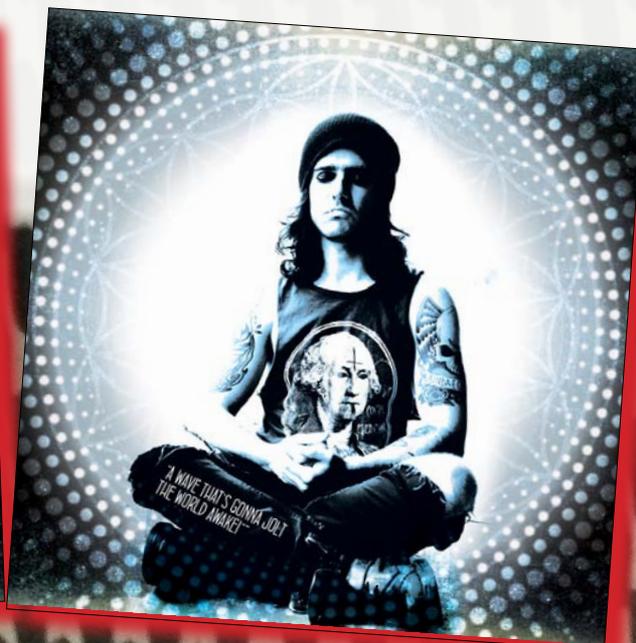
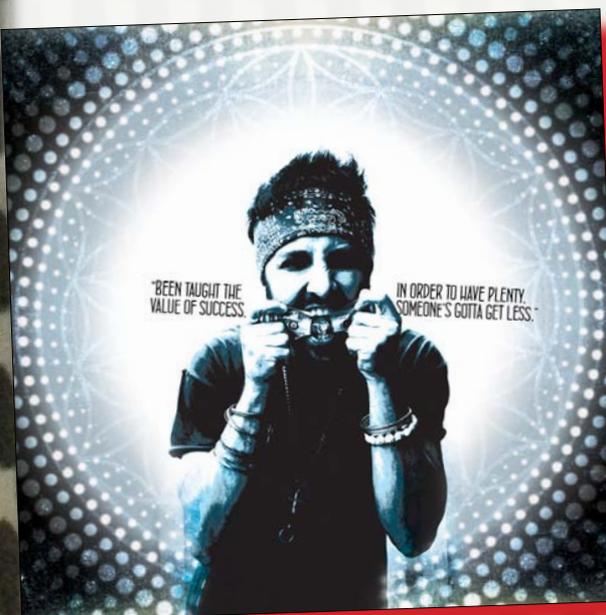
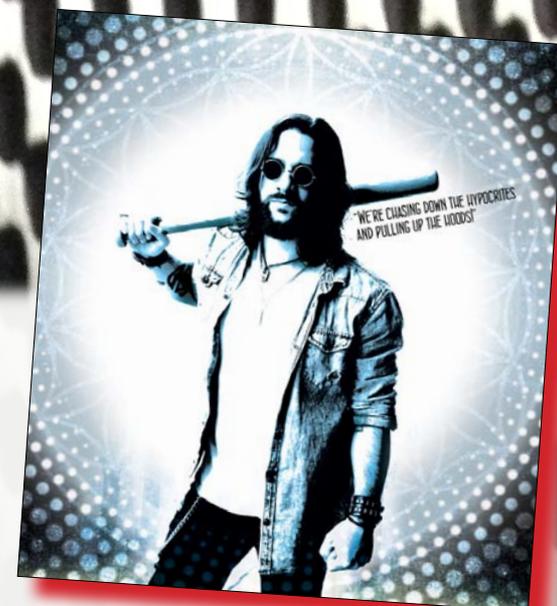
*We've played with several great bands from the underground scene like us! I can name a few like: Vulgar Type, Toxic Novel, Trezzy, Mattilha, Sioux 66, Desert Dance, Burlesca and etc. But, recently, I've played on a major Brazilian Metal fest with much heavier bands than us, like Sepultura, Krisium, Claustrophobia, Voodoo Priest and etc... We were terribly afraid of playing to this band's fans. But the audience was amazing and we were able to bring our party to them. At the end of the day, it's all Rock'n'Roll, right?!*

**What plans do you have for 2016?**

*We're working on a new video for the song Fire and we're focused on playing as many gigs as we can. Street jams are getting big among us too. This is something I've wanted to do for a long time, and it's starting to come true naturally. An international tour would be amazing as well. Promoters out there, give us a shout! Lol*

**Thank you for taking time for this interview and last words to the fans?**

*Thank you! I hope you enjoy our music and come have fun with us! Love and peace for everybody!.*



# LIZHARD



**Hello LIZHARD and welcome to Rocknation. Congrats to your band on having your new album titled “Bigger, Better, Stronger” on Perris Records. How excited are you to see the fan response to the new CD.**

*Hey, we’re happy to talk to you and all Rocknation’ readers again! After many years we are very thrilled to know what people think of our new album and we hope to reconfirm the good reviews of our debut album.*

**Your last Self Titled CD was release in 2008 with rave reviews, what has the band been up to since then?**

*Well.. lots of things happened! We toured Europe opening for bands like White Lion, Glenn Hughes, Bonfire, Eric Martin from Mr.Big, Soul Doctors and more. Then while we were working on the new album back in 2010, our singer Luke had some personal problems and he had priority over other things. We waited him for almost 3 years, then we all had to take the hardest decision and we decided by mutual agreement to separate our ways. It tooks more then 6 months to find a new singer and most of all.. the right person. We had offers from all over the world and it was amazing to know how much love and interest in Lizard there was all over the globe. Obviously logistics is a main fact and we were lucky to find a great singer from our country.*

**You have some new members in the band, please tell us about them.**

*Mario Mosca is the new frontman, he’s an amazing singer and a great guy! He worked and studied for years with Michele Luppi (Whitesnake). He’s got an hard rock - blues background and he also appeared as singer in some musicals in theaters. There’s also a guest guitarist, Andrea Lanza from Skill in Veins who helps us during live shows.*



**Your band is from Italy. What is the music scene like there?**

*Not very good, labels, TV, radios are living on Talent Show and people eat what you put in their plates. The underground scene still offer good rock bands, but there's no place for this genre in Italy. Italians listen mostly to Pop music and Italian singers.*

**What national bands have you played with?**

*Except Wine Spirit (who released their amazing debut album via Perris Records) we mostly played with international acts as said before.*

**What plans do you have for 2016?**

*On May 28th we will be special guests at the Ian Paice concert in Milan and we will present our new album "Bigger, better, stronger". Later on we're planning to play and promote the album as much as possible. Do you want us to play in USA?*

**Thank you for taking time for this interview and last words to the fans?**

*Thanks to you, it's always a pleasure to talk with you guys and thanks for the opportunity to connect again with all great Rocknation's readers! We really hope you'll enjoy our new album and see you on the road again! A special thanks to all our fans and friends who waited for us during those 8 years!*





**Hello W.A.N.T.E.D. and welcome to Rocknation. Congrats to your band on having your new album titled “GOD’S BEST SINNERS” on Perris Records. How excited are you to see the fan response to the new CD?**

*Thank you Rocknation! We are high on the vibes of the new album since it’s been released, literally on fire! God’s Best Sinners had the best reaction from the fans so far, there are probably a lot of sinners out there! We are even getting really warm reviews by people who haven’t been fans so far, so we guess this is quite a win for the band and we’re celebrating the fact by raising our beer glasses in the air! ...rock n roll!*

Photo by: Ron Boudreau

**Please tell us about working with Stratos Karagiannidis at Valve Studio in Greece.**

*Well as you probably already know, it is not our first time to work with Stratos and Valve studio, he has been producing the sound of W.A.N.T.E.D. since the beginning of our history. So, the connection and the chemistry is above any doubt, you see it’s all about the mood when you are recording a new album and Stratos and the guys in Valve studio have concentrated this procedure on the musician and the person behind the instrument by providing a warm and friendly environment for a smooth capturing of the moment. That’s why we keep on coming back there for any of our last albums. Needless to say how satisfied we are with the final result!*

**Your first video is for the track “Something to do with you” who produced it and what is the concept?**

*Actually it’s the second video single of the new album, following the successful release of the video “Joanna”! Both videos gained viewer’s attention as they follow closely the mood of each song. “Joanna” talks about a dancer-romancer and that’s what we see spinning in the air! Oh, professional dancer Maria Christina for poleart.gr that is, and don’t try this at home she says. “Something to do with you” has a deeper approach of a ‘romance’ and the video describes the story on a warmer way, starring the beautiful Angela Kintoni on a warm and sunny day in Greece. The concept is “the guy is letting out the big burden of being in love with a woman while having his buddies around teasing and mocking him” it’s a story common to everyone I guess, the video was made by condour for ‘Hall of frame productions’, he makes all of our graphics and videos, we trust the guy.*



**You have a new member, how has that changed the band?**

*That was a last minute change on the line-up you could say as we had completed the basic composition of the tracks. Tom Hellfinger joined in and brought his stash of some serious riff-spices that plugged naturally on the band's sound forming the sound of our new album and making it our 'best sin' so far! We are a really good team with Tom and we can share with you that we have already started working on the new material for the next album, which is getting fierce!*

**If you had to tell someone what your band sounded like, what bands would you mention?**

*That's hard to say, cause after all these years we have formed our unique sound, it's been 15 years you see.*

*Of course since it's modern hard rock someone could find some similarities with other bands of our times. Could sound as Shinedown meets Gotthard meets Slash Mitch Buchannon from Baywatch! lol untill we fall! Just kidding, it's W.A.N.T.E.D after all.*

**Who were your influences growing up?**

*Influences are endless since we all know how to listen to good music. From classical music to modern day metal and from swing jazz to lounge pop we feed our ears with nice tunes every day. What brought us together though, was the love for bands such as Guns 'n Roses, Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith, Iron Maiden, Deep Purple, Whitesnake and Black Sabbath, well... and many more.*

**What national bands have you played with?**

*We've shared the same stage with Steven Adler's Appetite, Dokken, Whitesnake, Bonfire, White Lion, Firewind and Star Star. Everyone of those gigs were highlights for the band and we still keep the best memories from those shows!*

**What plans do you have for 2016?**

*We feel that this is our year! Charged with a lot of energy and strong will for the future of our band, we have many things unchecked on our "to do" list for this year. 'God's Best Sinners' has just been tested onstage and we can tell you it has taken the band's show to its next level. We are planning some tour dates by the end of the summer and during fall, apart from that we have started working on our next album by jamming some new tunes in the studio. We have to capture the band's moment the best way we can these days. More news will be announced soon from the band's official website and the Facebook page.*

**Thank you for taking time for this interview and last words to the fans?**

*Thank you for having us Rocknation, we send this message to our fans "Let the music do the talking" rock on fellas!*



# TILES

## Interview with Chris Herin of TILES

**Hello Chris Herin of TILES and welcome to Rocknation. Please tell us about your "Off the Floor 02" release and how it came about.**

"Off the Floor 02" is a live album we released in 2014 and is the second volume of live songs we recorded to celebrate our 20th anniversary – and also bridge the growing gap between studio albums. But rather than set up recording gear in a club we invited a small group of fans to join us at a soundstage. This gave us a controlled environment where we could focus on the music and take our time engineering the recordings without worrying about show preparation or juggling performance logistics. The first volume, "Off the Floor 01" was released in 2012. Overall, we selected songs we typically played in our live sets over the years and tried to represent the highlights from each of our albums. Everything was recorded over three separate sessions and we divided the songs up knowing we would release two separate albums. Admittedly, there was a bit less pressure than a typical performance, but it's all live – there's no overdubbing. We did, however, do a few of the songs over again if we felt the first run-through could be improved. The first pressing of "Off the Floor 02" is actually a limited edition double album that includes a second disc of live tunes from our appearance at the "Rites of Spring Festival" in 2005. We chose songs that weren't already included on "Off the Floor 01" or "Off the Floor 02" so there are no repeats. The bonus disc has the only recording of the 17-minute song "Window Dressing" – which we actually only performed twice. So it's lucky we have a multi-track recording of that show (although we only mixed about 35-minutes of it for the bonus disc). We also included two videos from the "Off the Floor" sessions.

**You have worked with famed producer Terry Brown (Rush, Dream Theater, Fates Warning) again on this album. How has that helped the band over the years?**

Certainly, Terry's pedigree and name recognition have helped bring attention to Tiles and his connections have opened some doors for us. The most obvious example is introducing Alex Lifeson (Rush) to our music and facilitating his guest appearance on our "Fly Paper" album. Also Terry brought artist Hugh Syme on board for "Presents of Mind" and we've worked with Hugh ever since. Certainly there have been many other situations where Terry's name has lent a bit of extra credibility to the band as we communicate with other people in the industry. Of course, the most important reason we continue working with Terry is because of what he contributes to our songs and albums as producer and engineer. We've developed a great working relationship and can trust him to always do what's best for the song, whether it's getting the best performances in the studio, building arrangements, or working on song structures during pre-production. It's always a sensitive issue having someone critique and suggest changes to songs, but having outside and objective input makes the music better. However, it is much easier relinquishing some control to someone of Terry's caliber! For a band like Tiles it's important to work with someone like Terry who brings a wealth of experience and technical expertise yet isn't influenced by passing fads that aren't "musical". We want our music to have variety and dynamic range. So many albums these days have over-compressed fake sounding drums – like you're slapping your hand on a pillow. Or a huge wall of guitars that are too distorted and indistinct. Nowadays the kick drum is the loudest instrument and practically drowning out everything else. Too many bands have the same sound and their albums lack character. Although Terry (and we) knows we need to keep up with the times, we are unwilling to follow these trends; but some people do criticize us for this approach...

**"Off the Floor 02" was nominated for a 2015 Detroit Music Award. How rewarding was that accomplishment?**

It's certainly nice to get recognition from our musical peers in our hometown. We've always enjoyed generous support from the Detroit music scene and have had a few other albums get nominated: "Presents of Mind," "Window Dressing" and "Fly Paper".

**If you had to tell someone what your band sounded like, what bands would you mention?**

Musically we seem to exist in a grey area between progressive hard rock and melodic rock with some metal tendencies thrown in. The easiest reference has always been Rush, or maybe Dream Theater or Porcupine Tree; but obviously we don't sound exactly like these bands – nor do we want to! We try to keep an open mind about experimenting and trying new approaches to composition and arranging. All of us have a wide range of musical interests and we're willing to try almost anything in hopes of finding something new and interesting. We all listen to jazz, classical and a variety of rock, pop and metal bands and this diversity finds its way into our music, at least to some extent. Some of my main influences are Jethro Tull, Elton John, Kansas, lots of jazz and classical music, Joe Walsh, Rush, Blue Oyster Cult, Radiohead, etc... Some newer bands I find inspirational are Haken, Leprous and Burnt Belief. Drummer Mark Evans is influenced by ELP, Buddy Rich & other jazz drummers, Yes, Led Zeppelin, Rush... Bassist Jeff Whittle's influences come from Iron Maiden, Metallica, Yes, Frank Zappa, King Crimson, Dream Theater... and vocalist Paul Rarick's are Judas Priest, Iron Maiden, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Queensryche and Alice in Chains. It's interesting how all of us have significant jazz influences – which I think comes through in the feel of our music and our approach.

**You just released 'Pretending 2 Run' in April 2016. How has the response been from the press and fans so far?**

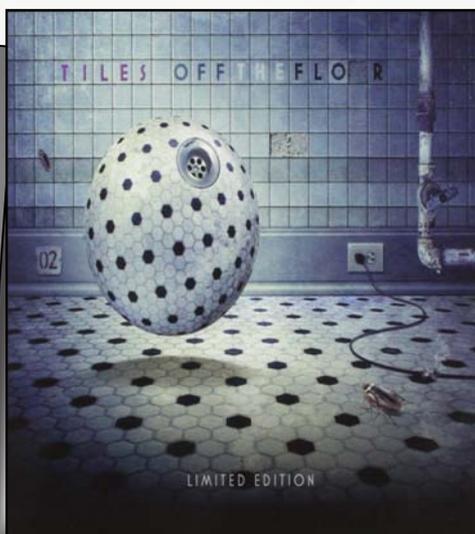
So far, feedback is very good – thankfully! The reviews and enthusiasm for "Pretending 2 Run" have been overwhelmingly positive in both the US and Europe. We are getting quite a bit of internet airplay and also seeing "Pretending 2 Run" in a lot of "Top 20" lists in magazines and websites – including a number of "picks-of-the-month". So we can definitely feel a groundswell of positive momentum.

**What plans do you have for 2016?**

Promoting "Pretending 2 Run" as much as possible! We need to keep getting the word out and cultivating interest in the album. We're actually finishing up a week of Midwest and Northeast shows to coincide with the CD's release and are planning additional touring in the US and Europe.

**Thank you for taking time for this interview and last words to the fans?**

Thanks to Rocknation for the interview and your support over the years! Considering it's been eight years since our previous studio album "Fly Paper" was released, we have to thank people for remembering us and for the enthusiastic response! We also appreciate the positive reception from music fans who are new to Tiles and have been giving "Pretending 2 Run" a chance. See you soon...





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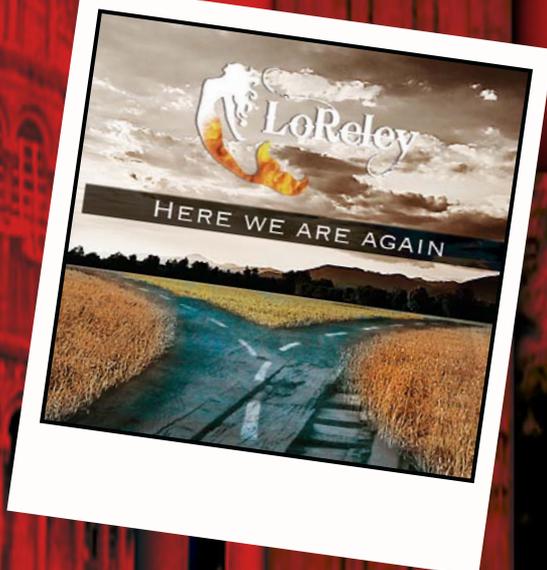
For fans of Whitesnake, Europe & Gotthard.



# Srdjan Brankovic

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For Fans of Journey, Foreigner, Asia & Heart.



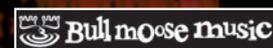
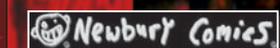
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# Srdjan Brankovic Expedition



**Hello Srdjan Brankovic and welcome to Rocknation. Congrats to your band on having your new album titled “Expedition Delta 2” on Perris Records. How excited are you to see the fan response to the new CD?**

*This really is a kind of special album for me. Composed and written without the sense of responsibility towards any borders, it reflects only what I really felt at the moment of realisation. I made it in the traditional way. It is about real instruments, real singing and playing, natural drums. No triggers and simulations, no auto tunes and I can tell that I really enjoy the naturalness of this album. I am excited, because I truly love these songs and I am also very thrilled and curious about the fan reaction, as the songs gather varying styles, but are still strongly connected. I think that fans of AOR and prog metal/rock will love it. Would like to say thanx to “Perris records” for recognizing us as a talented team. We are proud to be a part of their family.*

**Please name some of the tracks and what they are about.**

*“Spectacular” - We usually treat ourselves so high, and while having the expectations about our lives to be spectacular, we miss the real opportunities. You should do just what you feel and it doesn’t need to be surely spectacular. And if you do what you feel and what you love, you’ll be spectacular. That’s the message of the opening song. “Thank you for the good times” - I believe that meaning of life is about having some good time and it is up on us to try to make it as good as possible. The real blessing is when we meet someone who can turn our ordinary day into “special times”. Someone who has been there beside us and marked the special times of our lives. This one is dedicated to those who shared with us these beautiful moments, and are not with us anymore. “The one who lives a dream”- as long as we have dreams, our energy will be positive. When it is hard, if we have the dreams to follow and fantasies to dream about, everything becomes easier. Even if it is just an illusion, it’s still the precious thing, as it keeps our spirituality safe. Do not ever forget the child from which you grew up. “Do you remember Peter Pan? He waits for you where fantasy is reality, but you need to be the one who lives a dream”.*

**Please tell us about the recording process for this record.**

*The music for this album is composed in the different time periods. From 2008 till 2015. Through the years, I have been working on demos, till the moment when my friend Ip Maestro pushed me to start working seriously on it. Last year, one of my best friends, PR and manager from Rome, Paola Ceci (I see her as one of the most important band members, although she doesn’t play), she heard and liked the songs such as “Thank you for the good times” and “Spectacular” and she was like : “you should finish this...” So, during 2015 the band gathered, I met with Nikola Mijic (AlogiA/Eden’s Curse) for vocal recordings and we started working on it in the studio to have the final result in the beginning of 2016.*



### Who are some of the special guest on this record?

Well, the band behind this album is actually "AlogiA". Once again, Nikola Mijic (AlogiA/Eden's Curse) sung almost the whole album and did an amazing job. The first plan was to gather many guests, but I changed the plan, because of the chance to play live. But, however, I still have a couple of special guests here. First to mention is Bobby Koelble, who played in the past some legendary solos for the band "Death", that actually inspired me to start playing solo guitars. When I was a little boy I was fascinated by the album "Symbolic" ("Death") and I am still the big fan.

Beside being an amazing musician, Bobby also appeared to be a great man and friend and I believe we will work more in the future. I would love to. I would also mention one of my best friends, Andjela Isic. Wonderful girl and singer. My long time internet friend, Santiago Dobles of "Aghora" did a guest solo and also Nikola Di Gia from Italian band "Il banco del mutuo soccorso" did some acoustic guitars... also, my friend IP Maestro did some bass stuff here.



### If you had to tell someone what your band sounded like, what bands would you mention?

This album has it's AOR side and it's progressive side. So, let's say: it's calculating between TNT and prog metal/rock bands (Dream Theater/Shadow Gallery)...it depends on a song.

### You have played some huge concerts in Serbia please tell us about that.

As a member of the band "AlogiA", which is a kind of my "motherband", I toured all over Balkan and played in hundreds of cities all over. I also had the opportunity to perform on some of the biggest festivals in Balkan (from Bulgaria to Slovenia) and also last year on "Animal Live Aid" in Rome (Italy), that happened on the main square "Piazza del Popolo". We also opened for some cool bands such as Whitesnake, Savatage, Apocalyptica, Paul DiAnno... .

### What national bands have you played with?

As a producer I had the chance to work with many bands and I did the dozen of guest solos. But beside doing some guest-stuff, I became the member of some other bands and projects, well known in Serbia (AlogiA, Despot..). I am so happy that I also had the chance to perform as a guest musician on Shadow Gallery's latest album, "Digital Ghosts". I also enjoyed working in the project called "Samurai of prog", which is a tribucy to prog rock 70's music. Another great project coming soon is "Vivaldi metal", leaded by my friend Maestro Mitheria (Bruce Dickinson band). "Vivaldi metal" will gather many cool musicians from bands such as "Symphony x", "Helloween", "Stratovarius", Marko Boals...



### Who were your influences growing up?

Maybe the greatest influence was Iron Maiden and metal/rock music of 80's.

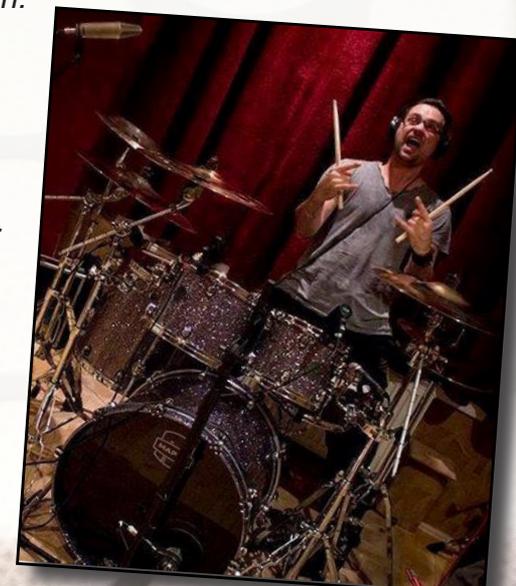
### What plans do you have for 2016?

During this month, we will be touring and promoting this album. The tour starts in Bulgaria, on "Polinero Festival" and continues with 7-8 dates through Italy. The crown of the tour will be the promotion of the album in Rome and also opening for Russel Allen (Symphony X) in Rome (Italy). And this will not be all, as we already have some unrevealed dates for autumn. Beside promoting this album live during the year, we will be working on some videos very soon.

So, there will be a lot of stuff happening.

### Thank you for taking time for this interview and last words to the fans?

Thank you, Tom. And huge thanks goes to all of you people who took some time to read this. I know that it is hard to find some time and space in the dozen of internet information that swamp us daily. Thanx for considering me worth enough for spending some time on me and giving the chance to my words. I know the time is precious, time is all that we really got.



# CAPTAIN BLACK BEARD

**Hello Captain Black Beard and welcome to Rocknation. Congrats to your band on having your new album titled "It's a Mouthful" on Perris Records. How excited are you to see the fan response to the new CD?**

*Very excited! The response has been great which is nice considering all the hard work that goes into making an album. We're also very happy to be working with Perris Records.*

**Please name some of the tracks and what they are about.**

*"Tearin' Me Apart" is sort of based on a true story. A pretty rough night that one of the guys in the band endured. I shall not disclose who though... Then there's "Coast To Coast" which is a nice semi-acoustic country-flavored song that tells the story of Saki cruising the States. We had a guy come in and play pedal steel to give it the right feel. We're very happy with it!*

**You brought in a top producer Chips Kiesbye (Sator, Hellacopters, Bonafide) how was that experience?**

*It was great to work with a real producer that was involved even when we rehearsed the songs and suggested some minor arrangements and made sure we played to our best ability. The recording was also very smooth and organic. I think you can hear that there's a good vibe on the whole album. The fact that Chips has produced some of my favorite albums by The Hellacopters and Chris is a fan of Sator meant he had a lot of great stories to share with us.*

**You have a new drummer now, how is that working out?**

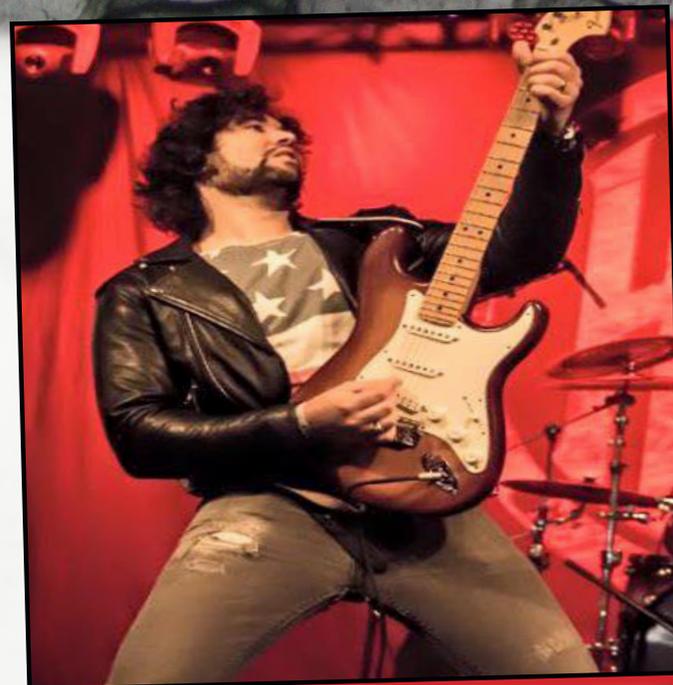
*It's been an extremely smooth transition. We found Vinnie rehearsing next door within days after Victor left the band. Vinnie has brought us new energy and enthusiasm. I don't think it could've worked out any better!*

**Your band has toured with some big names please tell us about that.**

*Yes, we've found ourselves supporting Graham Bonnet, Joe Lynn Turner, Robin Beck and House Of Lords. It's been good experiences all over! I'm huge Rainbow-fan myself and will actually go to Birmingham this summer to finally see Ritchie play rock! So playing with Graham and Joe was special to me.*

**Who were your influences growing up?**

*I've mentioned KISS and Rainbow... Then there's all the rest of the classic rock bands, like Deep Purple, Black Sabbath, Judas Priest, Iron Maiden, AC/DC, some lesser known bands such as Y&T, 220 Volt, Sinergy, The Hellacopters and older bands like The Beatles, The Yardbirds, Del Shannon... There's a lot of them! First band I liked was probably Europe.*





**If you had to tell someone what your band sounded like, what bands would you mention?**

*We usually say it's a mix of KISS and Journey.*

**Your band is from Stockholm, Sweden. What is the music scene like there?**

*It's pretty good. There's a lot of great bands and quite a few places to play... If you wanna know more about the scene, you should check out some of the regulars. My favorites are Rymdhissarna, Mother Kasabian, Supralunar, Carubine and Wildness.*

**What is some of the music you listen to now?**

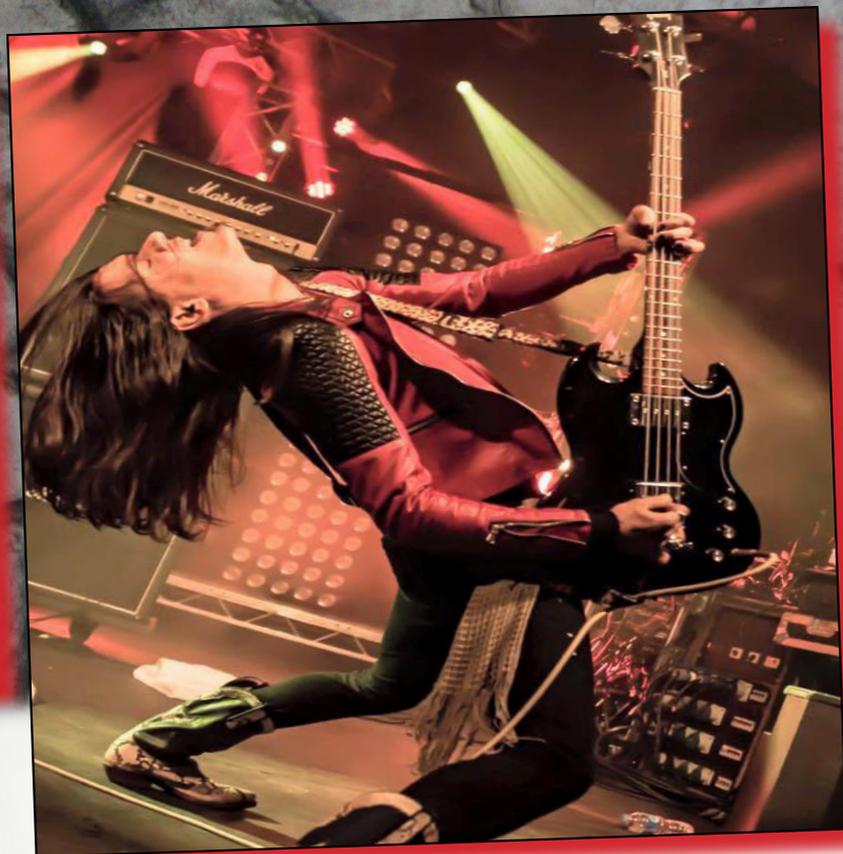
*Blackmore's Night, Del Shannon, John Mayall, Helloween... the new albums from Ace Frehley and Joe Bonamassa. I'm also waiting for the new album by Imperial State Electric. That should be a good one!*

**What plans do you have for 2016?**

*We'll probably write and maybe make another video during the summer, more gigs in the fall and then go back into the studio. As much as we like the new album, we can't wait to make another one. Keep your eyes on our website at [www.captainblackbeard.net](http://www.captainblackbeard.net) for all gig listings.*

**Thank you for taking time for this interview and last words to the fans?**

*Thanks for the support! We really appreciate it. Don't forget to give our new video "Divided Feelings" another spin until we manage to put together another one.*



# NOELY RAYN

**Hello NOELY RAYN and welcome to Rocknation. Congrats to your band on having your new album titled "Escape from Yesterday" on Perris Records. How excited are you to see the fan response to the new CD?**

*We are very proud to sign on Perris Records and feel very excited about our CD release !! It's a project we have been working on the last 3 years and it's a big relief and pleasure to see the first really warm reaction from fans and friends of the band.*

**Please name some of the tracks and what they are about.**

*As you know, Greece is undergoing a big financial crisis, with huge unemployment and people having difficulties in everyday life. That's why we wanted to write happy and optimistic songs like "Walking on the edge" which is a song about a gang of friends having fun, and "Borders of love" (there is a Game of Thrones feeling in this song), "Best things" (a kind of Thin Lizzy influenced love song), "Dazzling eyes" which are really happy and groovy songs. There are also "I wanna run", "Sins" and "Painted sky", songs speaking about facing tomorrow with optimism and forgetting mistakes of the past. All these tracks justify the title of the album "Escape from yesterday". There is also "Oceans of sorrow", with lyrics talking about the refugee crisis, another big problem of Greece nowadays, and "Remember our midnight", a dynamic love song. Finally, we couldn't forget to pay tribute to our musical heroes, Phil Lynott and Gary Moore, so we wrote "Laochra" to thank them for the inspiration.*

**If you had to tell someone what your band sounded like, what bands would you mention?**

*We adopt many different styles in our songs, but our main characteristic is the twin-guitar sound, so we would mention Thin Lizzy as our main influence. We tried to approach a more modern sound though, so we could say that we would like to sound*

*like Black Star Riders also. Other influences are Whitesnake, Toto, Beatles.*

**Your band was a Thin Lizzy tribute band for many years, are you still doing shows?**

*Yes, we are still doing some shows as a tribute band, but only if we get a good proposal for something special. We did so many gigs in the last 10 years as a tribute act, but now we'd like to concentrate in Noely Rayn songs and perform them live!*



**What national bands have you played with?**

As a Thin Lizzy tribute band we have played with "The Band of Friends", a band featuring original Rory Gallagher's band members like Gerry McAvoy and Ted McKenna. We had also played with Vic Martin (Gary Moore Band Keyboard player) & Chris Tsangarides. Of course, we've done gigs together with many Greek bands too, like Backtrackin', Saints' n 'Sinners and many more.

**Your band is from Athens, Greece. What is the music scene like there?**

Greece is famous for bands like Rotting Christ, Firewind, Septic Flesh, Innerwish etc. There is a very energetic heavy metal music scene, there are 3-4 very rocking venues and an indie scene with many garage, surf, punk bands. There are only a few melodic rock bands, melodic rock is not so popular in Greece. In a few words Greece has a very interesting music scene with lot of good music to bring out.

**What is some of the music you listen to now?**

Black Star Riders, The Darkness, Glyder to name a few.

**What plans do you have for 2016?**

We are planning to play as many gigs as possible as Noely Rayn, promote our album and starting writing new material for our second album. There are almost 4 new songs for the new album but at the time we are enjoying our debut.

**Thank you for taking time for this interview and last words to the fans?**

We'd like to thank Rocknation for the interview and Perris Records for all the support. You can find everything you'd like to know about Noely Rayn in our official Facebook page [www.facebook.com/noelyrayn](http://www.facebook.com/noelyrayn) and our Noely Rayn -official- YouTube channel. Check them out!



# LOReley

**Hello Loreley and welcome to Rocknation. Congrats to your band on having your new album titled "Here We Are Again" on Perris Records. How excited are you to see the fan response to the new CD?**

*Thank you to contact us Tom. To answer your first question, we are quite surprised by the good acceptance and critics we have received about our last album from the listeners, the musical press and radios. Actually, we are just friends who play rock n' roll together since a long time and it's fantastic to keep on sharing our passion with anyone else. Anyway, the best feeling is on stage.*



**Please name some of the tracks and what they are about.**

*The songs deal about different things like facts of life, thoughts, feelings, love and pain, etc. "Here We Are" for example is about getting together after ten years of inactivity, "Looking Away" is a song that deals about the way we deal with the world today and the terrifying future we are leaving to our children. The track "No limit" tries to explain that the only limit is the one of the imagination, "Dirty Dream" is about an artificial world we are creating for tomorrow (or maybe it is already here) and "Mr. Money" or "T.V. Business" are about the role that money plays in society in every moment and for most of us, the fact that unfortunately, in my opinion, the verb to have is getting more important than the verb to be.*

**Your band has toured in Switzerland, Germany and France. That is amazing please tell us about that.**

*The band was born in the eighties in a small French town nearby the Alps close to Geneva (Switzerland). Then, thanks to our geographical location we lived in France but very close to Switzerland and Germany, included Italy. We have found memories from those old times. When you travel, you realize that music is probably one of the best ways to communicate with the others. Like Queen Song said: One Vision.*

**If you had to tell someone what your band sounded like, what bands would you mention?**

*We are obviously influenced by several bands we grew up with but we do not try to sound like any other band in particular or being in fashion. I think our songs are pieces of each one of us, a kind of mix of all those bands we like. Every song of the record is different from the others I guess and you probably can feel the spirit of the band and its influences in each one of them.*





**Who were your influences growing up?**

*Probably a bit of this and a bit of that... We are all more than 45 years old. We grew up influenced by bands from the seventies and eighties like Yes, Pink Floyd, Genesis, Queen, Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin, Eagles, AC/DC, etc. Anyway, we love any kind of music, from the classical one to jazz, blues or rock. It doesn't really matter the type of music when it sounds good.*



**Your band is from Spain. What is the music scene like there?**

*Spain is not the best place to play melodic rock and especially the AOR. I do not think we have much in common with the typical or traditional Spanish rock bands. Most of them prefer to play a radical rock and they sing in their mother language.*

**What national bands have you played with?**

*We played with Los Rebeldes a few years ago and recently with Hard Dreams.*

**What plans do you have for 2016?**

*We are currently writing new songs to get back to the studio to record a new work as soon as possible. We are also working hard to extend our set list for the next shows and preparing several performances in Spain, quite probably also abroad which will be confirmed soon. We feel very excited and like our own song tell" here we are again" and we hope that it will be for a very long time.*



**Thank you for taking time for this interview and last words to the fans?**

*Thank you very much for your interest Tom. We hope you will enjoy the next album as much as this one, if you enjoyed it... Best regards, to you and all the staff of Rocknation.*





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## 29 MP3 SAMPLE TRACKS

1. ACACIA AVENUE - Early Warning

2. AOR - L.A DARKNESS

3. HELIX - Rock It Science

4. JESSE DAMON - Southern Highway

5. HELIX - half ALIVE

6. HELIX - Back For Another Taste

7. MAD MARGRITT - Love, Hate and Deception

8. HARDREAMS - Countdown to Time

9. Srdjan Brankovic's Expedition Delta 2

10. NOELY RAYN - Escape From Yesterday

11. LANEY'S LEGION - Laney's Legion

12. DIRTY GLORY- Mind The Gap

13. MOXY - 40 Years and Still Riding High

14. HELIX - B SIDES

15. LIZHARD - Bigger, Better, Stronger

16. HEAVY STAR - Electric Overdrive

17. DRUNKEN ROLLERS - Boogie Generation

18. LoReLey - Here We Are Again

19. CAPTAIN BLACK BEARD - It's a Mouthful

20. W.A.N.T.E.D. - GOD'S BEST SINNERS

21. TILES - Pretending to Run

22. KELDIAN - Outbound

23. SLIK TOXIK - Irrelevant

24. VOLLMER - When Pigs Fly

25. HELIX - Live in Buffalo

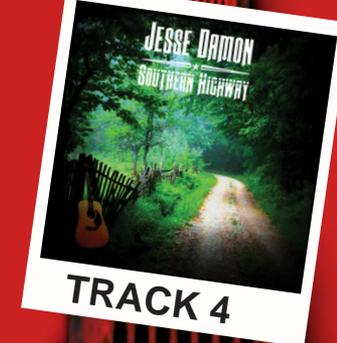
26. HELIX - Rockin' In My Outer Space

27. HELIX - It's A Business Doing Pleasure

28. LOADED GUN - Loaded Gun

29. HELIX - A Heavy Mental Christmas

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# DANGEROUS TOYS

in Houston, TX - Photos by Tom Mathers



# JESSE DAMON



Photo by: Rob Boudreau

**Hello Jesse Damon and welcome to ROCKNATION. Congrats on releasing your 6th Solo album called “Southern Highway”. What direction did you take this release compared to the others?**

*Hello ROCKNATION, thanks for having me! It all started back in 2009 when I started jamming with another guitarist friend. We would get together and jam on our acoustic guitars and would play all sorts of old blues songs and classic rock covers. We were playing blues with a southern flair and the sound was heading in a cool direction. As time went by I came up with some original ideas so I put together a band to see where it would go. I called a couple guys I knew and we formed the band Electric Caravan. Together we shaped some of the material that I wrote back when the band first started 2009. This led me to write more songs which would eventually end up becoming a new solo CD influenced by this new sound.*

**My favorite tracks are “Southern Highway” and “You Got Me Rockin’”. Please tell me about writing these songs what they mean to you.**

*The songs on “Southern Highway” each have a strength and solidity that fit together well. Combined together they connect 3 genres that form this mood and sound of the CD. The song “Southern Highway” takes you on a journey and has a memorable riff in it that stands out and makes you tap your toe. “You Got Me Rockin’” is a southern rock feel with the power and impact of any of my previously written songs from before this release, it’s a southern melodic rock song.*

**Do you have a process in writing your songs? Does it change with working with other artist?**

*When I write songs I want them to tell stories that take you somewhere and I want my songs to have a good arrangement. In writing this new album I had different influences coming at me from working with different musicians. So yes, it does change in working with different artists and musicians, and I take away what I like from it and create new material. There’s something that I will always consistently bring to the table and use within my song writing structure, but the different people I choose to collaborate with, perform together with or just have some jams with help to influence me.*



**You had PAUL SABU an AOR Rock Legend produce this release, how long have you worked and known him?**

*I met Paul Sabu 31 years ago in 1985. We became friends right away. I have a style and so does Paul, and when we combine the two we get a certain sound and I think that's been apparent for a long time. He's shown and taught me a lot over the years with regards to singing and songwriting and guitar work. He also is a master engineer that can dial up a great guitar tone and so on... All the time I've spent with him in the studio I've observed and asked questions and learned from him. Now that it's been a long musical partnership, I integrate my ideas and collaborate more. Still, he is the producer/director so to speak and I am the artist, so I trust him and with that respect in mind we create the songs! When I went back into the studio this time with Paul, I had in mind to add more slide guitar, acoustic rhythms as well as electric blues with a country style to shape the personality and attitude needed for what I wanted to accomplish.*

**You have quite a history with Gene Simmons and the KISS camp. What fond memories stand out for that?**

*I remember the days of going over to Gene's house to song-write with him, when I'd get there in the morning to his house we'd immediately go make toast and coffee or tea, and that would get the juices flowing, haha. But seriously, there are so many great moments I had with Gene Simmons and the KISS camp, probably the first meeting Silent Rage had when we went to meet him at his house, as well as the first time in the studio with him. Also the many times we song wrote together, and then there's the Revenge CD sessions that I was invited to come and sing backups in the studio with Gene and Paul. Those are a few of some of the great memories I remember from the past.*

**You have a great history with Silent Rage releasing 4 records. Do you have any cool stories that stand out while on tour?**

*One of my biggest and favorite moments was being on tour with Black Sabbath back in 1989, I appreciate those memories and opportunities from way back then. So many great concerts and shows along the course of my career and from the Hollywood Sunset Strip era too, like the Whiskey A-Go Go, the Roxy Theater, and the Rainbow Bar & Grill! More recently, Silent Rage traveled to Europe quite a bit in the last few years and got to play some festivals. You meet so many friendly and devoted fans, crew and staff at these events, its simply wonderful!*

**Who were your influences growing up?**

*Rock influences were Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page, Johnny Winter, Country influences were Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, blues influence was BB King, and my Jazz influences was Louie Satchmo Armstrong.*

**Who are your favorite singers?**

*My favorite male singers are Robert Plant, Lou Graham, Steve Perry, Mickey Thomas, Lonesome Dave Peeverett, My favorite female singers are Ann Wilson, Chrissie Hynde, Stevie Nicks, Grace Potter*

**What plans do you have for 2016?**

*My solo career is busy right now performing out live with my band Electric Caravan in support of my new release. I'm continuing to write new songs all the time, so I will be ready for the next opportunity*

**Thank you for taking time for this interview and last words to the fans?**

*To all of you fans who've supported me, I owe you my gratitude and I do it all for you! I thank you very much ROCKNATION for the great questions, and hope to again have another chat sometime down the road...*



# MAD MARGRITT

**Hello Eddie Smith and welcome to Rocknation. Congrats on releasing your new studio album called "Love, Hate and Deception" on Perris Records. What direction did you take on this release compared to the others?**

*We had an awesome time writing and recording this cd. Probably the most fun I've ever had in the studio. We didn't plan out anything as far as how the songs should sound or what direction we should go in, we just went in and recorded whatever we were feeling. There were no rules, we just did whatever felt right. The end result was a very fresh, raw and energetic sounding cd. Everything we wrote was spontaneous and in the moment. Lyrically there were a lot of things going on around me at the time to draw inspiration from. There are songs that deal with betrayal, anger, jealousy and a few other topics that I haven't really touched upon before. It's a little darker than what I usually write but I wanted the lyrics to be honest and reflect what I was going through and the things that I was witnessing around me. All of the songs have a common theme to them which is how I came up with the title "Love, Hate and Deception." Every song in one way or another deals with one or more of those three topics. Musically the guys just killed it, they all played their hearts out and came up with some amazing sounding stuff. I think the biggest thing for me is even though it's a very raw, aggressive sounding cd, the songs still have a ton of hooks. In my opinion, it's by far the best stuff we have ever written. We are so excited for everyone to hear what we came up with this time around. We definitely took everything to a whole new level, it's Mad Margritt on steroids and I promise it will definitely get your adrenaline pumping!*

**You have a new guitar player please tell us about him.**

*His name is Mark Cook and he is absolutely amazing on the guitar! Not only can he shred but he is a total wild man onstage. He is also one of the best songwriters I have ever met. I had such a great time working with him on these new songs. He has his own recording studio so we actually recorded the new cd at his place.*

*He engineered and mixed the whole thing. He also writes songs for tv and movies. His songs have appeared in a ton of shows including "Nashville", "Grimm" and "Lost" to name a few.*





**My favorite tracks are two rocker's called "Never Enough" and "I'm Over You" and a killer ballad called "It's Time I Told You Goodbye". Please tell us about those songs.**

"Never Enough" is actually the first song Mark and I wrote together. It's got a killer groove to it. The guitar, bass and drums are just slamming throughout the whole song. Vocally this song is all upper range stuff. It's a really fun song to sing and I got to do a couple of really cool screams in it. I've always been a fan of guys like Halford and Sebastian Bach so I love when I get to hit some high notes and do a little screaming! "I'm Over You" is another cool song. Mark wrote all the lyrics and music on that one. The chorus has a great hook to it, super catchy. My favorite part of the song is the solo section.



The whole song picks up in tempo during the solo and the guys are just locked in with each other. It is so intense, sounds like a freight train running off the tracks!! Really glad that you like the ballad "It's Time I Told You Goodbye." Some bands don't like doing ballads but I've always enjoyed doing them. They can be a little tricky sometimes. I'm super critical of our work and I feel that we've done a couple of good ballads in the past but there's been a few we've done where I think we fell short. It made me a little hesitant this time around, I wasn't sure that I even wanted to do a ballad on this cd but once we started working on it my mind changed really quickly. It's got this really cool intro with acoustic guitar, piano and strings and then it builds to this huge sounding chorus. I've only played the cd for a few people but so far everyone I've played it for seems to love this song so it looks like we got it right this time!

**Your band plays many shows including festivals all over the USA. Please tell us about some of the ones you've played.**

We spent so many years on the road touring all over the USA. We opened up shows for Whitesnake, Kiss, Poison, Ratt, Warrant, Cinderella, Skid Row... I could go on and on listing all the bands we've opened for. As far as the festivals, we've done Rocklahoma, the South Texas Rock Fest, the Muscle Racing Fest in Florida. We've done a ton of them through the years. The past few years we have been staying local, playing in our home state of Georgia and the surrounding states in the southeast. We had planned to hit the road again a few years ago when our last cd "Show No Mercy" came out. We were booked on a 13 week festival tour with a bunch of other bands but the promoter ended up pulling the plug on it. Our plan now is to put together something to promote the new cd. We are already talking with some venues in Vegas and Los Angeles so it's looking like we will string together some west coast dates. We are also looking to do some more festivals and hit some cities in the midwest and northeast where we played a lot years ago. Of course we have to hit Texas again too, always love playing out there!!

**Who were your influences growing up?**

In the beginning it was Aerosmith, Nugent, AC/DC, Kiss, Zeppelin, Sabbath. Then I got into all the 80's stuff. I loved so much of the music from that era. Motley Crue, Skid Row, Cinderella, Warrant, Poison, Dokken and of course the metal stuff like Iron Maiden, Judas Priest and Dio. So many great bands from that era influenced me, I'm sure I'm forgetting a bunch of them.

**Who are your favorite singers?**

Early on it was Robert Plant, Steven Tyler, Bon Scott and Brian Johnson. The 80's guys who influenced me the most were Dio, David Coverdale, Sebastian Bach, Tom Keifer and Jani Lane. Jani was such an underrated singer, that dude had some pipes on him! Haven't really been influenced by anyone recently except Lzzy Hale from Halestorm. I know it may sound weird for a guy to be influenced by a female singer but that girl is incredible. Best rock singer I have heard in the past 20 years.

**What plans do you have for 2016?**

We just shot a video a few days ago for the song "Liar" from the new cd. We are gonna debut it a week or two before the cd is released. We plan on doing at least one more video, possibly two. As I mentioned earlier, we are definitely looking to hit the road a little and play some of the major markets again. The summer festival season is wrapping up so we will have to wait until next year for that. We played some casino gigs earlier this year and also performed on a cruise ship so we definitely want to do some more gigs like that, we had a blast!!

**Thank you for taking time for this interview and last words to the fans?**

We can't wait for everyone to hear "Love, Hate and Deception." We sang and played our hearts out and I think it really shows in the songs. We are super proud of this one. We also wanna thank everyone who comes out to the shows and rocks out with us week after week, we appreciate all your support. 2016 so far has been an amazing year, looking forward to what lies ahead!!



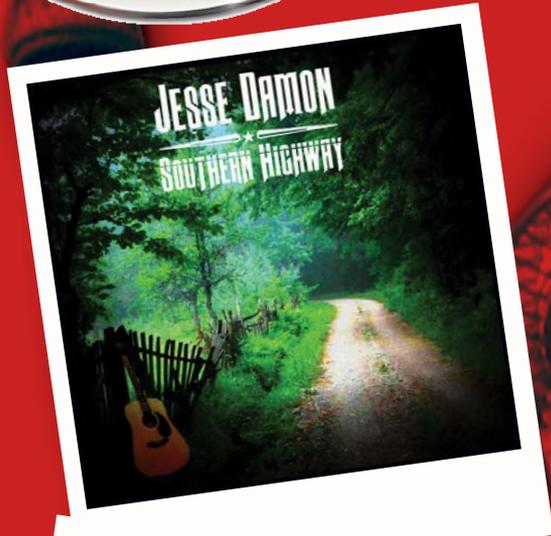


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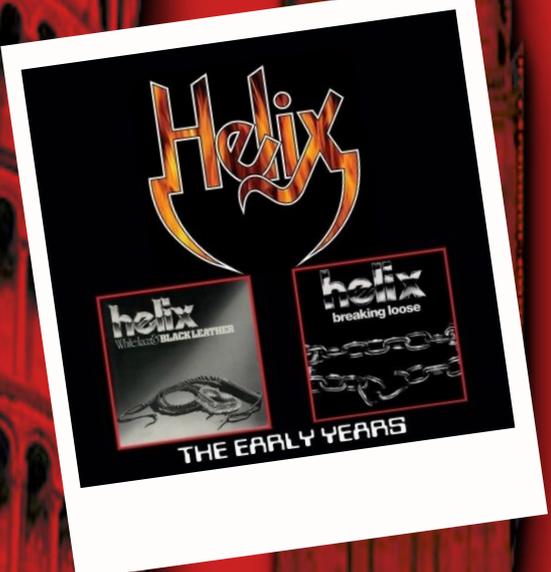


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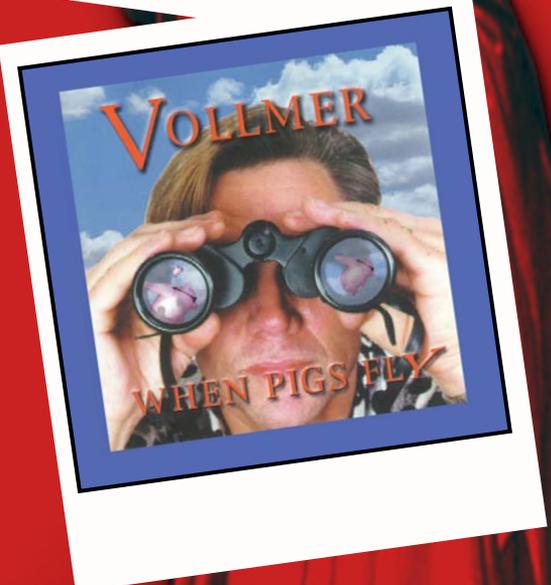


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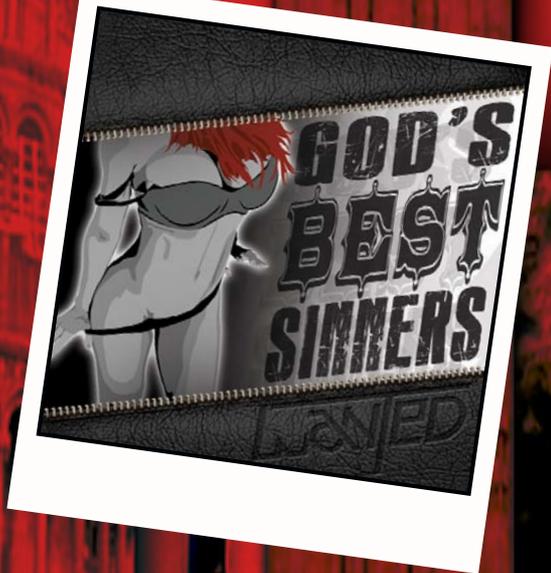


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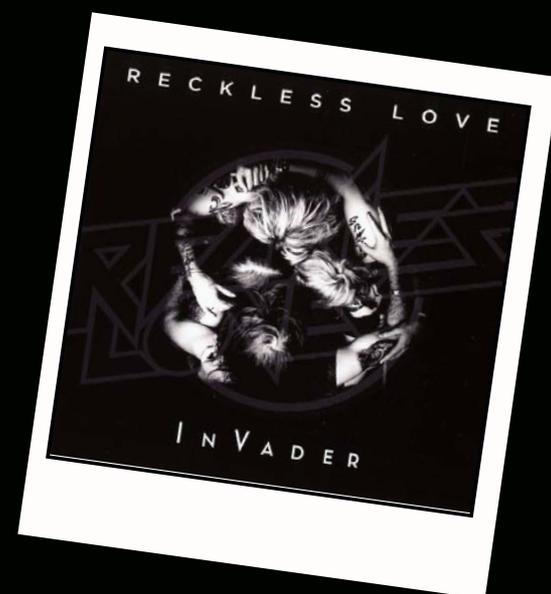
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