

TRAP METAL ARSENAL MAGAZINE

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MAGAZINE

#6

DROPOUT KINGS

INTERVIEWS W/

XBLOODBATHX

SAM ASTAROTH

REI13

MUSIC REVIEWS

WHISPERSINYAHEAD

CMPLXCNT

AND MORE!!!

\$10



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CURATED BY BRETT DEADLY WITH
HELP FROM STAFF. THIS PUBLICATION
IS UNDERGROUND AS F*CK. THERE
MAY BE SOME MISTAKES. BUT THAT'S
WHAT MAKES THIS PUBLICATION SO
SPECIAL. IT'S RAW, UN-SENSORED,
AND MANAGED BY MUSICIANS.

Contact: brettdeadly@illumignarly.com



DROPOUT KINGS

EDITORIAL

BY: BRETT DEADLY



DROPOUT KINGS

THE BAND THAT SAVED TRAP METAL



Dropout Kings are an American Nu-Metal / Rap Metal band formed in Phoenix, Arizona in 2016. The band was started by vocalist Adam Ramey, As a way to stay active. He approached rapper Eddie Wellz to do a cover of Linkin Park's "Lying From You" after seeing a video of Wellz performing on YouTube and they hit it off from there. Due to a positive reception from previous bands, Ramey also recruited Joe Lana Jr. , Staig Flynn, Rob Sebastian, and Chucky Guzman to form a new band called Phoenix Down, which by 2017 had changed its name to Dropout Kings. The band's sound combines heavy metal instrumentation with hip-hop and rap-style vocals. They released their debut album, "AudioDope," in 2017, and have since dropped several additional hits and gained a following for their high-energy live performances and unique blend of alternative musical styles.

Their name being a nod to the idea of "dropping out" of the status quo and pursuing your own path in life. The band's music often deals with themes of struggle, perseverance, and self-improvement, with lyrics that are both introspective and empowering. The Dropout Kings have been praised for their ability to blend different musical genres and create a sound that is both fresh and familiar, and they continue to push the boundaries of rap and metal with each new release. They have relentlessly dropped 11 energetic and cinematic quality music videos since they formed. DOK have also been recognized with several awards and nominations, including being recognized by the Recording Academy to be considered in the first round voting for that year's Grammy Awards for the "Best New Artist" 2022 category, Alternative Rock Band Of The Year 2019 presented by AZMT MUSIC AWARDS, and their single "Virus" peaking at #33 on the Billboard Mainstream Rock Radio Charts while spending 12

DROPOUT
KINGS

DROPOUT KINGS

THE BAND THAT SAVED TRAP METAL

weeks in the Top 40 in 2021.

The Dropout Kings have been described as a “rap-metal super-group” due to the fact that each member brings a seasoned and experienced perspective and skill set to the band. Paving the way for other bands and projects to be viewed in a more serious light. They may not have invented the genre Trap Metal but they carried it on their backs during a time when popularity for the sub-genre was in decline.

In addition to their musical accomplishments, the Dropout Kings have also been recognized for their innovative approach to marketing and promotion. The band has leveraged social media platforms like Instagram to build a following and engage with fans, often sharing behind-the-scenes glimpses into their creative process and personal lives. They’ve also collaborated with a number of brands and influencers most notably a T Shirt collaboration with a NASCAR driver they sponsored, a Rap+Metal Cover Song with Hiphop Entrepreneur / MC Futuristic, affiliations with Stay Sick Records as they work closely and tour with Fronzilla from Attila as well as a number of other collaborations. Overall, the Dropout Kings are a band

that is both musically talented and business-savvy, and they continue to gain recognition and build a following in both the metal scene and the underground rap scene.

In addition to their music, the band members are also involved in various creative endeavors outside of the band. For example, Adam Ramey runs a marketing agency called Push Digital Marketing, and Eddie Wellz has a clothing brand called Floral Swords.

Dropout Kings have their 2nd full length album dropping in the beginning of May. 13 Tracks of raw Rap Metal for the books. Their current label had the following to say.

“After signing with Suburban Noize Records and releasing the GlitchGang EP, Dropout Kings began to gain massive traction worldwide. The band followed that up with the trap-metal ragger “Hey Uh” and a joint EP with HEDPE where they collaborated on tracks with DJ Lethal (Limp Bizkit), Twiztid, and Crazy Town. The band then embarked on a full European headlining tour where they appeared at Full Force Festival in front of 20,000 people.

ALWAYS ON POINT LIKE
HOTTS COMIN STRAIG
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RIOT MUSIC
NO. 2

キングス

1. HIT LIKE THIS
2. DARK ENERGY
3. FIGHTER JET
4. PULL UP
5. DEMONS
6. LIGHTS OUT
7. RIOT MUSIC
8. TOFU
9. NO NOTORIETY
10. BEEN S.O.A.T.
11. VACUUM CLEANER
12. TELL ME
13. HEY UH

RIOT MUSIC
NO. 2

プレイステーション 2

RIOT MUSIC
NO. 2

RIOT MUSIC
NO. 2

RIOT MUSIC

OUT NOW ON ALL PLATS



<- ORDER THE
CD HERE!!!!

HIT LIKE THIS
DARK ENERGY

8. TOFU
9. NO NOTORIETY



CHIMERA by Whispersinyahead

Review by: Lil Pingu

“CHIMERA” opens with a haunting ambiance, as ethereal synths and delicate piano chords create an otherworldly atmosphere. From the very beginning, Whispersinyahead establishes a sense of intrigue, drawing listeners into their sonic universe. The production is quality, with a pristine mix that allows each instrument and texture to shine. Netuh cut no corners on this one. As the song progresses, layers of dark elements seamlessly blend with organic instrumentation, creating a captivating fusion. Whispersinyahead demonstrates their keen sense of composition, as the song effortlessly transitions between introspective, contemplative moments and dynamic, energetic sections full of energy and cleverly crafted bars.

The vocals in “CHIMERA” are energizing and rhythmic, with a consistent quality that adds depth and emotional resonance to the track.

The lyrics evoke a sense of introspection and exploration, delving into themes of identity and the elusive nature of reality. The vocal delivery is nuanced, balancing vulnerability and strength, captivating the listener and drawing them further into its dark landscape.

One of the standout aspects of “CHIMERA” is the way Whispersinyahead incorporates diverse musical influences into their sound. Elements of underground rap, alternative, and phonk, can be heard throughout the composition. This genre-blending approach results in a unique sonic tapestry that defies categorization and keeps the listener engaged from start to finish.

This is a great track. For fans of \$uicideboy\$, Bones, Xavier Wulf, etc. I give it a solid rating of 10/10 CHIMERA by Whispersinyahead. Out now on all streaming platforms.

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RE13 THE ZOMBIE

INTERVIEW

BY: STUPID FLEXAN



REI13 OF NOBODY CARES

INTERVIEW BY STUPID FLEXAN

SF- Yo thanks for having us interview you. What's your AKA? and location?

RE- Hell ya! My Aka is Rei and I'm based from Orlando Florida

SF - Sweet Florida in the house! I love Florida btw

How did you make that a house hold name for yourself?
What age did you start taking your career more serious?

Pros/cons with clay? Fav film? Fav anime? What's
the scene like out there? Ups and downs?

RE- Hell ya Florida's the spot!!! I moved here when i was 7 from upstate NY and I've lived here ever since. I started making clothes, plushies, and just other craft shit in the beginning of middle school, but I got serious and decided to start the name "Rei13" when I turned 16. I'm 19 now turning 20 in October. & for clay it's been a process. I started experimenting when I saw my homie @paulbipolar figures. I kept asking him for one but he was really busy with school so I thought about just trying it out myself. A lot of trial and error, but I feel like now I can confidently say that the figures I make are dope asf.

Favorite fill high key the hardest question for me

Ever since Covid I started to heavy binge on shows and movies, even as a kid I watched a lot of movies. But more recently I'd say my favorite film is Rango

& I used to watch a lot of anime back in middle school. My girlfriend back then got me into it so most of the ones I watched were romance based like "future diary" & shit like that. I'm not too much into it now but I really fuck with Attack on Titan and Chainsawman

The Florida scene I'm more into is out around broward/ Miami area. I don't know to many artists around in my city but all my homies like mortem616, fl.vco, johnnyoz, Juandisemo, and hell more ppl. I'll take a greyhound down there and vend at shows or just work with my hom-

ies on something new, or just party. Sometimes mortem & max (fl.vco) have drove all the way down there to Orlando to pick me up and bring me down there to work, I slept on an air mattress in Max's room for a week sewing ski masks for a drop we were working on. Pretty chill just to wake up, smoke, work, smoke, eat, work, smoke, sleep.

SF- Word up haha that's fire! Yeah I'm familiar with Paulbipolar he's hard and your homies in the scene. Covid was insane time wise I know folks was out there binge watching hella shit haha, Never seen rango I see it pop upon on Netflix all the time lol, Damn you started barely like middle/high school? Holy moly bro that's sick fr you'll inspire lotta up and coming creators with this one, it's never too late to something great like my boi says - lonpau

Ok I see you chainsaw man/aot good series! The Florida scene is fire hella unity and so forth with the underground we need more of that energy. It's always important to connect and build help those who been around you the longest real shit love seeing that energy! You gotta story to tell one day I see it.

Define how therapeutic art is? What's the new content look in like? What's your rituals before creating with clay and such? Do you take breaks or go full blown no pause nothing then rest afterwards? Where do you see yourself in 2032?

RE- And art has been hella therapeutic. I've always been drawing or doing some type of art for since I was a jit. For a long time I honestly hated my art, I never could find "my style" per say. I think I found my style around the time I started smoking and taking psychedelics. My traditional style I do on paper came from a night I smoked and took shrooms. I drew a cover for me and my brother Mortem's song, after that I just stuck with that style. I always try to open my mind to new styles and experiment. But arts all I've ever known. In high school I didn't know what I wanted to do in the future, but enough people convinced me to start a brand and to get serious. It took some time to get into the flow but I have to thank Lil Darkie and Johnssick for working with me and giving me that boost. They introduced me to the scene and I went on from there meeting new people.

My new content I'm trying to stick with a zombie theme. My homie LAC the



“Art has been hella therapeutic. I’ve always been drawing or doing some type of art for since I was a jit.”

REI13 OF NOBODY CARES

INTERVIEW BY STUPID FLEXAN



skeleton was with me on a call and called me a zombie and I thought it sounded cool since I was really into the walking dead at the time. I plan on making clay figures of artist but giving them a zombified look.

For clay I just start with making a skeleton out of wire. Then I sculpt the clay for any parts that will be visible such as, hands, face, and feet/shoes. Then it's just bake, paint, and sew up the clothes from there then I sign the bottom of the foot like Andy did with his toys.

And I used to take a lot of breaks. I'd work for an hour then take a few hour to day long breaks, which was slowing my work down. I honestly was being very lazy and I honestly didn't think I'd change. I had some homies tell me to listen to some Andrew Tate podcasts and I honestly can say he has helped me to get motivated to work more. Everyday I try to work for at least 8 hours and make something new, work on orders, study on new art forms or ways to make money. I like he is a super controversial guy, but in my defense, if I believed in any of the rumors I wouldn't support him.

And for the future. I'd just like to make enough money to support myself off my art and inspire other to do the same. I know there's a lot of other artists out there in the world just like me that feel lost and don't know where to start or if they should even start. My words to them is "just go for it. If you really put your mind to it you can really do it (as cliché as it sounds)"

SF- Hell yeah s/o art! Super therapeutic, word up since a jilt that's fire yo. I understand totally cause it takes a good amount of time to find our own self esteem/confidence within our art that we put shit I had the same problem before just learned to say fuck those who doubted/hate means I'm doing something right to me it's fire as hell but constructive criticism does help along the way. I hate the feeling of being lazy overall it's so draining. I love psyches. Amazing how people from word of mouth told you to start your own shit now look at ya salute fr! Working with Darkie/Johnssick underground legends fr, great thing to network a lot. You got your own steez love it! I know clay work can be complex at some point. Bake, paint, sew up clothes sounds like fun. Too much of everything isn't good esp numerous amounts of breaks, I believe what you're saying about Tate despite all the bullshit behind his name.

Awesome message I fucks wit it bro! make enough compensation to where you can support yourself and inspire others to just do it hell yea. You ever listen to music while working on anything? Research studies say that it helps idk if you know, Can't wait to see your growth/evolution for what the future has in store for you. Have you ever messed up a figure before then trash it or you re worked on it instead? Who's a big part of your career now and why? Yo since we're almost wrapping

it up here is any special shout outs you'd like to make before we wrap it up? Any exciting news for the viewers/supporters can expect soon?

RE- ya I listen to music when I work usually. If the question is more what type of who I listen to I high key got to many options to answer. My music taste usually changes over time and I always try listening to new things. Definitely when I started in 2020 it was a lot of Darkie, Tyler the creator, xoxtentacion, and peep for sure.

And I haven't really messed up a figure before. But when I did start I'd say some of them weren't super solid, meaning some parts broke over time. That's expected with clay art, but my process with making them how is more solid then how I started for sure.

I'd say as inspiration wise, Tyler the Creator is a big part of my career. I admire that he has become so successful off being himself and doing it on almost all art forms from music, animation, fashion, to live performance/ shows. I hope one day I could be successful doing the same things. For people or friends I'd say my homie mortem. He been one of my day ones right from the start.

Hell ya! This been cool asf fr! I'd like to shout out my broward homies mortem, flvco, Johnny OZ, and juandisemol Bros some of my best homies fr and some of the main ppl I work with IRL. Threw out this online shit, they have been there for me threw some of the hardest shit, and some of the funniest ppl to hang and work with! And lastly I wanna shout out darkie and Johnssick again for being the first ppl I ever worked with and giving me a start into the art and music scene.

SF- That's sick yo! Send me ur shit I wana peep it out sometime. RIP Jah/Peep** they inspired the new underground a lot today still is too. I love Darkie old/new real og in the scene, same goes for Tyler.

You will you can too remember that bro! Never doubt yourself keep going, always important to keep rocking with the ones who been there thick/thin s/o the foundation! Can't wait to see your new upcoming art in the works go crazy

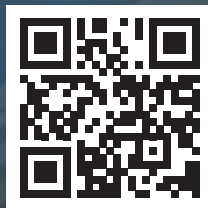
Word up this has been a blast we appreciate ur time letting us interview you. Much love bro

RE- Hell ya!! Thanks gang appreciate it!





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STORE ->



R E I 1 3

OF NOBODY CARES

ARTISTS ON THE R



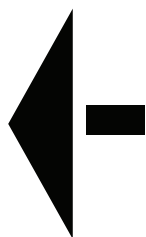
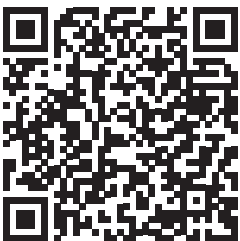
<https://www.instagram.com/imhellimusic/>
Helli is a super hard-working artist from Ukraine who has been raising through the ranks of the music industry and learning new skills as she goes along. She is also super supportive which makes her stand out among the rest!



<https://www.instagram.com/letzhatexdium/>
XDIUM is a super diverse artist on the rise. He can do everything from Extreme Trap Metal to heartfelt emo music. I recently discovered this artist scanning the comments on our IG page and when I checked out his music I absolutely loved what I found!



<https://www.instagram.com/majorgreyy/>
This is a super unique artist that recently landed on my radar by just being an outstanding artist. Major Grey has a very grunge style mixed with underground hiphop that sets him apart from the rest! I love hearing an artist that sounds completely different yet familiar at the same time!



TAP IN!

TS RISE



<https://www.instagram.com/circuitsapphire/>
CEO of @lordsofthenine and founder of @bads-exclothing Sapphire is a powerhouse of an artist/entrepreneur with a lane all to himself! We feel very honored to have him bless our comments with his presence. This is definitely one to keep an eye on!



<https://www.instagram.com/xdowntodix/>
This artist has been supporting Trap Metal Arsenal from the very beginning. And we always see him showing other artists' support as well. Canadian Trap Metal music enthusiast XDTDX is a must have for your radar if you are looking for someone who is consistent with it!



<https://www.instagram.com/yungxxgrim/>
An extremely supportive artist with a rare style. Grim's music is a cross between hip-hop and alternative rock. He can do clean vocals as well as dark horrorcore-type tracks and has a cadence all his own. Definitely, someone to have on your radar!



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SAM ASTAROTH INTERVIEW

BY: BRETT DEADLY



Sam Astaroth

INTERVIEW BY BRETT DEADLY



1. Were you involved in other projects or bands before you went full force as the solo artist Sam Astaroth. What instruments do you play? And I was wondering if you produced or have any other talents as well?

- I started my endeavor in music as a rapper when I was 16 back in high school. Drawing influences from the likes of DMX, Eminem, Ludacris, T.I. and Tech N9ne. Then I got into doing alt-rock/Industrial/gothic music in my late teens like Linkin Park, Marilyn Manson, Rob Zombie, AFI and Rammstein. This eventually led me to discover heavier music and I eventually got into stuff like Slipknot, Korn, System of a Down and Mudvayne in my early 20s and that's when I got into metal. Although I learned how to rap, sing and scream, I never really had a band or producers to make original songs with so I wrote on top of existing beats and instrumentals until I finally started my first band Astaroth Incarnate when I was 28 back in 2013. This started off as an extreme metal band and eventually evolved into a symphonic extreme metal band with influences from Behemoth, Belphegor, Dying Fetus to Mayhem, Cattle Decapitation and Cradle of Filth. I ran the band for 8 years, during which I also put out 2 progressive folk metal albums with Iomair. With Astaroth Incarnate I played a lot of shows developing a love for theatrical performance akin to King Diamond. Finally, I started feeling limited being in bands while growing up with such diverse influences. That's when I started to discover artists like Ghostmane, Corpse, Scarlxrd, \$uicideboy\$, Ic3peak, Ho99o9, Kim Dracula who I felt had limitless potential to do whatever they pleased with their music. This all led to me putting my band to rest and starting my solo career as Sam Astaroth in 2022. As for skills, I don't write or produce music myself but I mainly write vocals and lyrics and direct songwriting structures as I have experience in multiple genres. I also write music reviews and perform as a host on BangerTV, teach harsh vocals and recently have been doing voice acting for Monster Factory. During covid, I also took up e-commerce and product management and learned to build my own website,

run my shopify store, do some social media and email marketing and publish my music myself. Aside from that, over the years I also learned to write the script, produce and direct my own music videos, and finally, playing numerous shows, I learned a bit of acting, coming up with stage theatrics and creating characters which you may see in my pictures, music videos and live shows and mainly on my demon persona Astaroth.

2. Who gets bragging rights for helping you get to where you are now? Who are Sam Astaroth's day ones?

- I would say first and foremost it's my producer Alexandru Oprea who recorded my previous band Astaroth Incarnate's music and when I decided to go solo, he offered to help me and we wrote my first original song together which was Demoncore. Since then we wrote a bunch more songs together and he has pretty much recorded all of my vocals for different songs. He also played guitar for me live for the shows I did last year. My other previous band Iomair's main man Dylan Gowan has also been supportive and has played drums for me live on my shows last year. Aside from that, I got a lot of mentoring from my friend Lindsay Schoolcraft who showed me how to sing cleans better, taught me a lot about the music business side of things like e-commerce and really supported me when I was going through the transition towards becoming a solo artist. Another friend of mine, Reuben Pereira, helped me with a lot of financial situations for years during my time in bands and even when I went solo and I learned a lot about product management and general life improvement tactics from him. Also my friend Andrew Dunleavy supported me since I first started my band and still supports me today with photography, coming to my shows, helping with gear and human transport and is just an overall solid dude...haha.

3. What can we expect from you in 2023? New releases? Visuals? Merch? We want to know!

- 2023 I am gonna push myself as much as possible. In 2022 I managed to release 10 songs but I also bought a fuck ton of beats, secured features, collabs and wrote many more songs and currently, I am sitting on 60+ unreleased or unfinished songs so expect a lot of music from me this year. I also made friends with a lot of artists in the music scene worldwide so



“Never stop learning. Your skills as a musician is your base. Always practice that and try to become a little better each day.”

Sam Astaroth

INTERVIEW BY BRETT DEADLY



you might see me dropping a lot of collabs alongside my solo works and a few feature projects I'll be appearing on. As for visuals, I'll be focusing on creating maybe 1 quality music video like Demoncore over a lot of different videos. You'll still get performance videos, AMVs and some videos on projects I am doing collabs for. As for merch, I really want to be able to up my game and produce unique items that showcase the vision for my brand and culture. Aside from that, I may drop seasonal limited merch items in small quantities and make them special for the fans that are really passionate about my music.

4. What is your music scene like? What are the pros? What are the cons?

The music scene here is pretty supportive I would say. Since I started my first band Astaroth Incarnate and joined the scene here in Toronto back in 2013, I got nothing but love when it came to networking with promoters, other bands and finding the right musicians to work with or share a jam space with. I got to play quite a few shows with some great local and international bands where almost all of them had great turnouts.

Also, I am still good friends with some of the people I met during my beginning days. Throughout the years, I met many existing and new musicians, artists and fans of the scene within the metal, gothic, industrial and theatrical performance scene. When I put my bands to rest and went solo in 2022, I got even more support and encouragement from the scene and got to play even bigger and more successful shows so I would say that the scene here is sustaining well.

5. If you could go on tour with anyone in the world, who would be on the bill with you? What is Sam Astaroth's dream tour?

That is a great question. As a solo act without or with a live backing band or live performers, I would love to be able to tour with artists like Ghostemane, Scarlxrd and \$uicideboy\$, Kim Dracula, Ic3peak, Ho99o9, Sinizter, Bring Me The Horizon, Slipknot, etc. I could list many others as my music taste is quite diverse but then this list would go on to over 100 artists...haha.

6. Where do you see yourself in 5 years? What about 10? And what about your end game?

It's 2023 now so by 2028 I would like to make sufficient ongoing income from my music streams & sales, merch business and shows & tours to be able to comfortably live off my music and grow my personal merch brand sustainably. In 10 years I will be 47... lol, so by then I would like to establish myself as one of the influential figures of the music scene that I end up being part of and help out younger artists who are hungry and have potential. My ultimate purpose and end game is to help the entire worldwide music scene across all genres come together and create a welcoming environment for fans of all music genres.

7. Who are your favorite producers to work with and why?

My main producer here is Alexandru Oprea who I have been working with on developing my personal unique brand of sound and most of my debut album since 2022. My song Demoncore was produced by him. He is the only local producer I see in person so it definitely makes the development process easier.

Worked with Brian Spencer on a couple songs which you will find out about in due time. He is a busy guy but he listens to your needs, talks to you quite genuinely and provides quality work.

Had a lot of fun working with KRMNL on my song Fxck It Up, he is very open to my ideas and we are working on a few more songs together.

Also, wanna give shout outs to these guys cause I got to work with them on at least 1 song, Sneaky Haxor, Plague, Cyanide, Cessir, Fallen, Nug Beatz, Kristof Bathory, Novo and Chipbagov.

Finally, I have worked on a bunch of unlimited leases and one exclusive so far with Netuh. He is very easy to work with and has been very insightful about the music scene.

8. You have some amazing merch. I'll plug some pictures and links later in this article. Who does these designs?

Thank you. My logo and symbol is designed by Christophe Szpajdel who designed the legendary black metal band Emperor's logo. The demon artwork I got made of me and my Astaroth character in reference to Jotaro and Star Platinum from JoJo's Bizarre Adventure was done by a Fiverr artist called AngryComputer. As for making the merch design mockups, I set up all that myself on my Shopify store.

9. What advice do you have for struggling artists trying to break into the underground music industry?

Never stop learning. Your skills as a musician is your base. Always practice that and try to become a little better each day. Take the same ideology into everything else in life. Don't be a shitty human being. Be humble and learn the business side of things. Learn people skills and talk to fans as if they are your friends. Treat everyone how you want to be treated. Above all, network. Your network is your net worth.

10. As we wrap this up I just want to say thank you for your time, and I'm stoked for things to come. Is there anything else you want our readers to know?

Thank you Brett for doing this interview with me bro. It's been a pleasure. I am super excited for 2023. Got some shows planned for later this year. Got a fuck ton of singles, a couple EPs and a possible mixtape coming up with a wide range of artists from various different genres. This year is gonna be a fun one.


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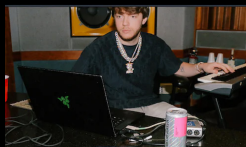
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PSYCHEDELIC WATER

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GRAMMY-NOMINATED PRODUCER
"I want something that will make me feel good and expand my creativity while in the studio or on tour; Psychedelic Water does exactly that."



★★★★★
ZACK M.
CERTIFIED CUSTOMER

"It gave me a nice mellow, elevated high that allowed me to get the buzz I was looking for without being excessively inebriated."



★★★★★
OBI N.
CERTIFIED CUSTOMER
"All my emotions are amplified, creativity is enhanced, makes me feel good but also super relaxed. Definitely helped me on the poker table and with homework!"



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PSYCHEDELIC WATER

PSYCHEDELIC WATER

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PRXZVK released SILK RXVD back in December. The Gorrillaz-inspired cover art is cool and really grabs your attention if you are a fan! This is more of a hyper-pop kind of beat but its mixed very well compared to your average hyper-pop track. This beat is mangled, twisted, chopped up, and glitched out but in a way that is mathematically correct. This is a very impressive track and I cant tell if PRXZVK is following the beat, or if the beat is following him! The way the song progresses and changes tempo is also mind boggling. It even breaks down into dubstep at one point! This is a flex!! PRXZVK is clearly a diverse artist with a wide range. A force to be reckoned with. I give this piece of art an unprecedented rating of 10/10 SILK RXVD by PRXZVK out now on all platforms.



Kdxkushi just released The Quiet Visitor, a single that was dropped in December but it still fresh and relevant. Right out the gate, what stands out about this track is the art work. This is one of those cover arts that draws you in with something visually refreshing and impossible to not click on. If you like eerie dark phonk tracks with a little taste of metal, this is the track for you. The main beat in the beginning has a slow down tempo rhythm that is solid and steady. The kick his punchy and the beat is mixed satisfyingly well. Towards the end of the track things metal quick! A full trap metal band instrumentals with deathvocals and all brings this track to a jaw dropping conclusion. Kdxkushi is on the rise. Between the guitar samples and the quality beat production this single is great! The ending was short and simple, but the guitar break down made this one something to remember! I give this a rating of 8/10! The Quiet Visitor by Kdxkushi. Out now on all platforms.



Lil Tytan, Lo, and Chill Panic have come together and released a collaboration for the ages. Lazarus Rising. I would consider this to be a Deathcore / Post Hardcore track with Trap metal and Dark Rap elements. But what is astonishing about the piece is how these artists have brought out the best in each other. As it progresses this musical composition highlights the unique talents and characteristics of each artist. Nobody had to pick up anyone's slack, and harmony in resonance is achieved in the process. This is rare. On so very rare in a saturated music scene. This track almost brought me to tears. But instead gave me goosebumps when the track breaks down into Lil Tytan's verse. Let me tell you something. I think Lil Tytan holds himself back cuz he showed the face of real beast on this track. This is by far the hardest most sinister and clean verse Ive ever heard from any artist let alone rapper on a full band production like this. This is a good example of what underground artists are capable of when they link up with the right people and surround themselves with the right energy. The other featured artists are new to but Id also like to add that whoever is doing the cleans is also equally a beast. These vocals took me back to the good days when underground music had a different standard. This release is one for the books! I give this song a rating of 11/10. I think I've only given that rating to one other person. Not an easy feat. You have to check this one out. Ive added it to our Trap Metal Alliance playlist where it will remain all month!



I recently had the pleasure of listening to Manifesto's new single "Insane." This track is a perfect example of trap metal, with quality metal guitar samples and high energy demon vocals that maintain their intensity throughout the song. I was particularly impressed by Manifesto's vocal delivery; he has an impressive ability to hold out notes without losing his breath or faltering in any way. The production on this track is great as well; it captures all the nuances of each instrument perfectly and ensures that nothing gets lost in translation from studio to speakers. This beat is solid, just as solid as Manifesto's vocals. It never feels repetitive or boring even after multiple listens! All these elements come together to create an incredibly powerful piece of music that stays true to the Trap Metal sound while offering a fresh perspective. Overall, I give this song 10/10 - it truly lives up to its name as being insane! If heavy hitting beats are your thing then look no further than "Insane" by Manifesto - available now on all platforms for streaming and download. Don't miss out on this amazing tune!



The latest single from Mediocre, CHAINSAW, is an impressive track that showcases the artist's talent and skill in creating complex soundscapes. The song has great textures and tones that are mixed together very well to create a unique atmosphere that I found highly enjoyable. The production on CHAINSAW is top-notch which helps make it stand out among other songs released recently by similar artists in terms of quality and clarity. A lot of the time with Trap Metal the raw extreme vocals can also come with a harsh mix. But whoever mixed this down made the vocals smooth as butter without losing any ferocity. It's clear that a lot of effort was put into making sure every element works together seamlessly which makes for an enjoyable listening experience overall. Im also a big fan of a release's cover art doing the music itself justice. Mediocre really hit the nail on the head in that department! This cover art is epic. Just look for yourself. I give Chainsaw by Mediocre a solid rating 8/10 Out now on all streaming platforms.



G3 (@gth3third) recently released a 5 song EP titled Y3llow Lighting and its impressive. The mini album has a raw complex sound but is mixed very well, so much so its pleasing to the ears for listeners. Each song has an epic intro / build up. Except for the last song D13 which drops right in full force, which is in my opinion the best way to conclude such a phenomenal release. The various tones of this piece are heavy, full of energy, rage, metal elements, and creativity. With a wide range and blend of my favorite subgenres like Trap Metal, Powerviolence, Traditional Metal Vocals, and Alternative Rap. This EP is an instant hit with me and I give the whole thing a rating of 10/10. Even the cover art is top notch and somehow suits the energy of the tape.



THE BXOOD EP

BY C M P L X C N T

BY: BRETT DEADLY



BXOOD EP

THE BXOOD EP - CMPXCNT



CMPLXCNT, a rising star in the underground hip-hop scene, has recently dropped his latest EP, 'BXOOD'. This five-track project showcases the underground rapper's dynamic flow, electrifying beats, and genre-defying soundscapes. In this review, we'll take a closer look at each track and explore what makes CMPLXCNT music so compelling.

Track 1: "MYTIMEISFXINT" a bass-heavy banger that sets the tone for the rest of the project. CMPLXCNT signature raspy voice rides the beat with ease as he delivers braggadocious lines about his hustle and grind. The chorus is infectious, and the production is top-notch, with hard steady hitting drums and mystical synths that give the track a astral edge.

Track 2: FXCKWHATXOUSAY switches things up with a more electronic vibe. The beat is smooth and hypnotic, and the vocal flow is more rhythmic as he reflects on his come-up and his aspirations for the future. The track features a catchy hook and a memorable outro. I really love the use of shadow vocals on this one. Unique!

Track 3: PARAXITE is a standout track that showcases CMPLXCNT versatility as an artist. The song starts with a haunting piano melody before transitioning into a trap-influenced beat with eerie synths and distorted vocal samples. CMPLXCNT delivery is menacing as

he spits aggressive bars about his enemies and his self-destructive tendencies. The track's experimental production and dark lyrics make it a highlight of the EP.

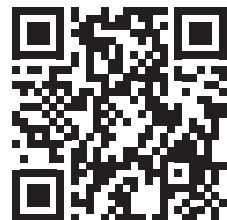
Track 4: SIVE is the most threatening track on the EP. The production is spooky with a familiar piano sample, and a groovy high energy bassline. CMPLXCNT's flow is aggressive on this one. Bouncing in and out of shadow vocals and full throttle scream rap vocals.

Track 5: The EP closes with "TIXE," a moody and introspective track that shows a different side of CMPLXCNT artistry. The beat is atmospheric and dreamy, with spacey synths and a melancholic piano riff. CMPLXCNT lyrics are more personal as he reflects on his past struggles with ghosts from the past and mental health. The track's emotional depth and introspective tone make it a fitting conclusion to the EP.

In conclusion: Overall, CMPLXCNT '5' EP is a high-octane journey through genre-bending soundscapes. Each track showcases a different aspect of the rapper's talent and creativity. And each track blends together like a movie series. It was quite impressive. With its innovative production, infectious hooks, and dynamic flow, 'BXOOD' is a must-listen for fans of underground hip-hop and experimental music. I give this release a solid rating of 9/10. Out now on all platforms.



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XBloodBathX

INTERVIEW

BY: BRETT DEADLY



XBloodBathX

INTERVIEW BY BRETT DEADLY



Thanks for taking some time to be interviewed for Trap Metal Arsenal Magazine. Can you please introduce yourself to our new readers and tell us a little bit about who you are and what you do?

Yeah sure! My name is Dallas Casper. I'm a producer, performer, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist from Pennsylvania. I am the artist behind the trap metal project XBloodBathX and co-founder of the Ekathorik collective, which was a collaboration between myself and Blackmage's Horus Blak.

Multi instrumentalist...were you in bands or did you have other projects before this got started? What instruments are you most proficient at?

Yes, I maintained an alternative indie rock band called Apparitions of Myself for over a decade before I became XBloodBathX. Prior to that, I actually gained my earliest stage experience as a teenager singing in school choir and playing in worship bands, though I wouldn't set foot in a church today! I started playing guitar at age 12, about 16 years ago now, so that's my most proficient instrument. I also learned keys at a young age, and have dabbled with several other instruments over the years: synthesizer, bass guitar, drums, cello, MIDI controllers, whatever I can get my hands on. Synthesizer is my favorite instrument right now, especially modular synths. I normally play them for my own enjoyment, but they occasionally make their way onto my arrangements. The screeching intro of the opening Ekathorik track "Desolation" was made with one of my semi-modular synthesizers, for example.

Who gets bragging rights for helping push you and getting you to where you are now?

Chronologically speaking, my mother was my first musical influence. She played piano and sang when I was a kid, and I was making up little melodies on her piano as far back as I can remember. Next, I have to credit every music instructor I've had, whether that was in public school or private instrument lessons. There are too many of those to name, but each was essential to my growth in some way. Last and most recently, I

collaborated with two musicians who've toured in international acts. Having people on that level believe in me helped me to believe in myself and push my music to the level I wanted it to be at. The first was Adam Stehr, who's part of Gramatik and goes by Stehreo. He was my producer for Apparitions of Myself, encouraged me to start doing my own production, and was my first mentor as I learned how. I wouldn't be where I am today and my mixes wouldn't sound the way they do without him investing his time to help me grow. The second was Horus Blak, my collaborator on Ekathorik. Horus really pushed me lyrically because we had a kind of friendly competitiveness to our songwriting approach, each of us going all-out trying to outdo the other. On top of that, working with an artist who's toured with acts like Ghostemane, Ho99o9, and 3Teeth put a fire in me to make sure the Ekathorik album holds its own against names like that, and I think we succeeded.

What can we expect from you later this year and what albums or eps should we highlight and mention here that are already out?

As far as what's next for XBloodBathX, that's unclear. I'm waiting for inspiration or opportunity to strike again, and I need a break to rest after a brutal two year grind to release back-to-back records. The first of those records was the debut XBloodBathX album, Death of a God, which came out in November. The second was my collaboration with Horus Blak, Ekathorik, released in February. Between the albums two there are fifteen songs. I made the beats, performed vocals, and mixed them, and I'm super OCD about all of that so it was a ton of work and a ridiculous number of hours. Thanks to those hours, Death of a God and Ekathorik are masterpieces and I feel more satisfied with my catalog than ever. So after putting those albums out and playing our release show, I began a hiatus from making music on a professional level to go back to playing for fun. I do have a few remaining music goals involving touring and playing bigger shows, so if an artist or agency reading this interview wants to take me on tour that's definitely something I'm open to. But unless that happens, I'll likely take it easy this year, maybe make a few singles and play some scattered shows at the most. I'm trying not to put too much pressure on myself now that the massive undertaking that ended with the Ekathorik release is finally finished.



“Chronologically speaking, my mother was my first musical influence. She played piano and sang when I was a kid, and I was making up little melodies on her piano as far back as I can remember.”

XBloodBathX

INTERVIEW BY BRETT DEADLY

With an interest in who your influences are. If you could go on tour with anyone in the world, who would be on the bill with you?

I honestly don't listen to many other trap metal artists, but if I could some of my influences from alternative, metal, and hip-hop on the tour of my dreams I'd probably pick Bring Me The Horizon, Like Moths To Flames, Distant, The Acacia Strain, Kenrick Lamar, Vince Staples, Freddie Gibbs or Denzel Curry. I was actually fortunate enough to feature the vocalist of Distant, Alan Grnja, on the opening track of the XBloodBathX EP Bloodbirth, which was amazing since Distant has been my favorite deathcore band for the last few years. I may have a ways to go with respect to audience building before I'm touring with acts as big as the ones I mentioned, but anything can happen! If a touring metal band ends up in need of a vocalist and is interested in me that could definitely spark my return to professional music. Fronting a successful metal band has been a dream of mine since I was a teenager.

What trials and tribulations have you had to endure on your journey that contributed to who you are now?

Sure, I can trauma dump a little! I grew up in a Christian cult in rural Pennsylvania, essentially a rogue independent church with no denominational oversight, bizarre rituals, and twisted power dynamics. I was there from the time I was born until I was a teenager and it definitely affected my psyche in weird ways. I also suffered from consistent abuse and neglect by adults in my early life, which left me with depleted self-confidence and an aching loneliness that I could feel throughout my body. By the time I was an adolescent, I was trying to numb the pain with love, sex, drugs, and reckless behavior. I hit rock-bottom about 5 years ago while in an abusive relationship with an ex and was involuntarily hospitalized for suicidal ideation. My favorite memory from the psych ward was playing piano and making up songs for the other patients. One of them said that listening to me play helped her fall asleep for the first time in days. Music became my reason to live, and I have made so much progress both as a musician and in my own personal healing since then. I'm in a much better place emotionally, and not as hungry for external validation as I used to be. That's part of why making music for fun feels like a good option until I figure out my next move. I've become more content with myself as a human being without the flashy musical act out in front of me.

What advice would you give other artists still trying to cope with their traumas? These themes seem prevalent in the industry.

Ooo. This question is super pertinent right now since I personally know artists who, in my opinion, aren't coping with their trauma very well and I wish I could help them. My first and most obvious advice is to go to therapy regularly, even when life is going smoothly. Invest in your emotional well-being. I'll admit this was hard for me because as artists, we tend to romanticize our struggles, so much so that it can be hard

to let go of them. The demons we fight are also muses that fuel our creativity. Thus as I've been healing and becoming happier, part of the battle has been letting go of the romanticization of my own suffering. I've had to find other muses to be inspired by, or at least learn how to compartmentalize the dark creative energy to prevent it from taking over and becoming part of my identity. Another thing I want to highlight is that people with trauma often repeat the same behaviors they've suffered from or develop defense mechanisms that hurt more people. Your suffering likely doesn't only affect you, so take accountability for toxic behaviors you've exhibited while unhealed and areas where you still need to grow. Take feedback from people you love seriously and not defensively; it can be painful but it is a gift. If you have patterns of behavior that are hurting people around you, you have a responsibility to pay attention, because it means you need to grow and heal in those areas. Own that responsibility. Take it seriously. It can be hard in today's cancel culture society to admit that you've fucked up, to admit that you've been toxic and hurt people, because there's this idea that we shouldn't be allowed redemption. But we've all been toxic, and we all deserve a path to redemption. That starts with taking your healing seriously. You will be happier after you face your demons, and people will be happier to be around you, too.

What's your music scene like? What are the pros? What are the cons? Where do you see room for improvement?

I actually just stepped into a new scene! I moved back to my home state of Pennsylvania from North Carolina at the end of November. I'm in Central/Southeastern PA: the Harrisburg, Lancaster, Philadelphia tour circuit. I've yet to perform since moving back, but from what I can tell there's more of an appetite for metal here than there was in NC, so that's promising! I just bought a DJ controller to replace the one I was using live before, and I'm picking up my stage banners from NC soon, so I'll be ready to rock once I do get back to booking shows. I can't really speak to this area's scene yet, but hopefully I'll be able to soon!

What is the best platform for people to check out your music and get to know you?

You can listen to the entire XBloodBathX catalog including the Ekathorik record on any major streaming service! As far as where to get to know me, I stay active on my personal Instagram and Facebook profiles. Those are @dallastheghost and Dallas Casper, respectively.

As we wrap this is up. Is there anything else you would like to add? And thank you for your time!

Thank you, Brett! Thank you to the trap metal community, fans, and other artists. I'm excited to see what's next for me as a musician and what's next for this genre. Book me in your city. Peace, love, stay brutal!

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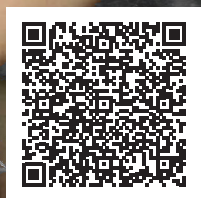
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