

# MUSIC

## *Interviews*



**I know the band is based in Kent(UK ), are all of you from there?**

All of us are from Kent, except Ingrid.

**Texas is a huge state and it generally takes about 8 to 9 hours to get out of the state from Central Texas and probably up to 16 all the way across. Just out of curiosity how long will it take for you to get from one side of the UK to the other?**

It really just depends from where and how, but maybe about eight hours to get across but longer if you were to go up.

**You haven't played outside of the UK yet, are you guys looking to maybe travel next year outside of the country?**

It would definitely be great and would take a lot of planning but it's possible with a lot of funding and money saving.

**How did the band get started?**

We started Vampyra during the pandemic playing and getting things going when the restrictions started to lift. The conception started slightly before, but of course, the pandemic is what prevented us from getting it going. We stayed in touch by social media, but had to wait until the lockdown rules were eased a little before we could even get rehearsing and meeting up. It was quite a long waiting period but it was worth it. It took 2 1/2 years before our first gig at the Poco Loco in 2022.

**What bands inspire you?**

Any band that is horror themed or has the Gothic edge to it I feel has inspired us. That was sort of the idea for Vampyra in the first place, to be horror themed and have the dark touch. We wanted the chaos of punk with the horror vibe, so bands like the Misfits, Horror Pops, Spider Bite, The Damned, the Murder Dolls and even the Sex Pistols and the Clash are all bands we are inspired by.

**Who usually writes the lyrics?**

So far it has been Charles but we are broadening it so there is more of a collaboration now. Songs are written when one person has an idea in the next person wants to put something else with it. Generally the way it works is you either come in with the song or a bit of a song and see if you can put it together, or you come in with nothing and see what will pop up.

**Is there a band coming through UK that you would like to play with?**

The Zombie killers, they're really making great waves around Kent. Pretty addicted, The Drones and Spider Bite would also be great.

**What is one gig that stands out the most?**

One negative one that stands out for sure is the one we played at a pub called the Alexander because we were cut short, but the Poco Loco gig was a great, Dizzy even ran around the whole place.

**Where can people check you guys out?**

YouTube, Spotify, Amazon, iTunes, TikTok, Facebook Instagram and our website.

**Where can people get merch?**

We are currently selling merch only at our gigs, but we are looking into selling outside of that.

**Random question, if for some reason you had to play acoustic, would you?**

We would so be down for that.







**Since you are a horror punk band, what are some of your favorite horror movies?**

Phantom of the opera, definitely not the Andrew Lloyd Webber version, but the Lon Chaney version. The Evil Dead and lots of the classics like Halloween, Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Re-Animator, Phantasm and Frankenhooker.

**Any last comments or anything you would like to add?**

We are currently trying to help out Club 85 as much as possible raise money, so that they can stay open. We are passing out flyers to spread the word to Save Club 85!! and the next gig will be in Hartfordsire to help raise money. SAVE CLUB 85!!!!

Interview By Spida







**So how did storm of ages get started?**

Storm of Ages began after the demise of the Houston Oi band called Roots of Exile. Myself, Mike and the drummer John both wanted to keep playing music so we tried various projects for a couple years with different musicians and finally ended up with Storm of Ages in it's current lineup with Tim and Dwayne both playing guitar

**You mentioned Roots of Exile, what other bands have the members been in or are in currently?**

Me and John were both in Roots of Exile. John has also been in several other bands, notably Southern Riot. Tim played with the Ballistics for forever and Lost City Souls.

**So how would you describe your music style? And who are your biggest influences?**

I would describe our music style as patriotic american oi. We all like loads of different bands , but I think that all of us would agree on classic American oi bands like Forced Reality, Templars, Oxblood, The Revolt, Anti Hero's and UK bands like 4skins, Blitz, close shave , and the business

**We are both huge horror fans here at WCN so tell us, who came up with the idea for Learherface on the cover of your new albums test press release??**

I'm a huge horror fan myself. Talking with Dennis from United Riot Records, we wanted to keep it Texas related. They've used some horror related imagery in other albums so Texas chainsaw massacre just felt appropriate. The test pressing cover couldn't have come out any better in my opinion.

**We heard that the test pressing had some high demand, could you elaborate on that?**

There were only like 8 copies available for purchase, and URR put together a very nice collectors package with the test pressing. They sold out in minutes, but the site crashed and kept the listing active longer than it should have. People bought it when there weren't any left!

With songs titled "Land of the Strong", "Blue Collar" and others, have you guys faced "cancel culture" since most of the youth nowadays seem to get offended by things they know nothing about. (hard work being one of them) We haven't experienced any outright cancel culture, however we have seen some hate for being a pro-America Patriotic band.

**What was the inspiration behind the song blue collar? Are all of you blue collar guys?**

Blue collar is 100% a representation of what each of us do day in and day out. The second verse was taken from some text messages between me and John just talking about work and he said, we should put that in Blue collar! We all are tradesman, plumber, electrician, machinist and train conductor.

**How do you approach the beginning of a new song?**

We have found that the best songs come by just fucking around during practice. Someone will play a riff that sounds cool, we will throw lyrics to it, and work on format from there. If we try to sit down and force a song, we usually have a hard time, and it feels like work. We work too much to have music be like work!

**What would be a band you guys would love to play with?**

We have had the opportunity to play with some amazing bands but we would have loved to play with the wolverines, but sadly they aren't around anymore.

**Because we are a zine with a Horror twist, if you had to choose a horror movie to be in and try to survive through What movie would it be ?**

My first thought goes to Halloween, because it's my favorite horror franchise, but I'd hate to go toe to toe with Michael Myers because you can't kill him!





### Where can people find you and buy gear and music?

We have our album on spotify and all the major streaming platforms. You can follow our link on the Instagram page for our merch, go to united riot for the album and shirts, or msg us to buy albums direct from us.

### When is your next show?

Our next show is the pre party for the Winter Weekender in Houston. We're playing at brash brewery on Friday the 13th in December. It should be a real horrorshow!

### What do we have to look forward to in 2025, any tours or new releases?

No tours yet, but we are down to play. Msg us for booking. We're working on some new material and hope to put out a split or a 7" soon!

### What would you like to add that we haven't covered?

Thanks to everyone who has purchased the album, streamed online, followed us on social media or bought our gear. We've gotten way more love than hate.

Thanks to WCN zine for including us on the debut issue! We've said it several times already, but big thanks to United Riot Records for making the record possible!!!

Interview by TES & Spida







**When was the band formed and is line up still the same?**

We started in either '98 or '99, while we were in school. Zombina and myself (Doc Horror) are the two members that have been constant since day one.

**Members and instruments they play?**

X-Ray Speck (saxophone) and Kyle K'thulu (bass) joined us in the late 2000s and are still here. Chop (keys) has been with us for the last 10 years and we have a new drummer named "All Hallows" Eve. I play guitar, Zombina sings.

**Are any of the members involved in other projects (bands)?**

Kyle is the frontman of a black metal band called Ninkharsag and I play in a bizarre art-rock band called a.P.A.t.T

**Your music is truly unique , what influences made this possible?**

Our background is really in punk rock music, but we've always been interested in how far we can get away from the "traditional" punk formula. We always aim for an impossible balance between being simple and complex, dark and adorable... The Cramps were the first thing that really got us excited, then The Damned and 45 Grave both made a big impression on us with the way they pushed the boundaries of what a "spooky" punk rock band can be. In around 2002 I got heavily into a group called Cardiacs which absolutely ruined my musical tastebuds and, for better or worse, made my songwriting a lot weirder (although nothing I write is even in the same universe as what they do)... Zombina and I will be watching them in concert next week and we're very excited!

**Fav to Not Fav event played this far?**

Any show where the equipment doesn't malfunction is a favourite. We're pretty dogged by equipment problems, as a six piece on a shoe string budget you can imagine. There's so much that can go wrong, and it nearly always does. Strings break, leads break, effects pedals go nuts, someone will knock over the drums because the stage is too small. Sax keys fall off mid set. Zombina gets drowned out by the band and has to scream where she should be singing. We've learned to just smile through it and have fun... but it's always a dream when we get to play on a nice big stage with decent monitoring and the rest.

**With Halloween up on us, does the band stay busy come October?**

We're kind of a seasonal band in that respect. A lot of our shows tend to be around this time of year. We enjoy playing all year round but the offers do tend to come in mostly over the autumn months.

**What's a typical number for events played monthly?**

We're currently coming back from a long hiatus. We really slowed down in the 2010's and by about 2016 we'd pretty much stopped performing. We did one amazing show in 2018 and then nothing until the Halloween of last year. We've only just really started to play out of town again, with a few UK gigs lined up through the rest of this year.

**It's common for bands to help each other out with equipment or a band member jumping on for the night, best memory of this happening?**

We all work and some of us have kids or other bands so we'll often borrow musicians. For example, Kyle is getting married any minute now and is busy with his other band too, so we've borrowed Pete Ghouden from the ska-punk band Old Radio to cover his bass parts, and Chop is about to become a father so we have some keyboard players ready to take on his role when that happens... plus some emergency backing tracks with the keyboard lines on (we hope it doesn't come to that - but we're rehearsing that way this week)

**When it comes to the ideal band you'd like to open up for, who would that be or have you already?**

We've already opened for The Damned, The Misfits, The Meteors, GWAR, Wednesday 13, The Horrors, Groovie Ghoulies... the list goes on! We were offered European tour support with the Damned a couple of years ago too but it was before we'd found a drummer and we were not able to do it, which was pretty heartbreaking... maybe we can still make that happen one day! It's been a long time since we did a real \*tour\* tour.



**A monkey Forrest was brought to my attention the other day. Is this close to you guys? How wild is that? Or are you guys used to it?**

Erm, I've just googled it and it isn't that far away! The one near Stoke-On-Trent? Never heard of it. Sounds mad.

**Here in San Antonio we have a few local folklore stories, Ghost Tracks, The Donkey Lady among others...any local folklore we need to know about from your neck of the woods?**

Donkey Lady sounds good! One of our more popular songs is based on the local legend of Springheeled Jack. To be fair, it's local to a lot of places in the UK. It's hard to trace where it really comes from but it's probably more of a London thing really, since they have the most sightings. He's/it's a high-jumping firebreathing man or monster that will frighten you then bounce away. Interestingly he doesn't seem to do a lot of damage when he does appear. He's just kind of annoying. Here's his wikipedia page if you're curious to learn more [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring-heeled\\_Jack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring-heeled_Jack)

**When it comes to writing songs , where do the influences come from?**

I often wonder that myself. I can go years without writing anything and then one day I'll go into a fugue state and come around having written like 10 new songs. The hard part is starting. Once I have a good sounding song title to work with it just writes itself :D

**Are your gigs local only or have you guys played outside the U.K or plan to come 2025?**

Back when we were more active we did A LOT of European touring. We've played around Germany and Italy extensively, dipped our toes in France and Czech republic, played festivals in Poland, Finland, Greece... we used to get around! We'd love to get back to it eventually, though with babies and things we may need to make the tours a lot shorter...



**Top 5 Horror movies? Fave one if band members answer?**

Since it's just me here I'll give you 5.

5. Ghostwatch: We're currently writing Ghostwatch the musical and hope to have that up and running in 2025.
4. Q The Winged Serpent: Michael Moriarty, come on
3. Nightmare on Elm St. Part 3 The Dream Warriors: The ultimate expression of the 80s
2. Suspiria: We went to see a screening where Goblin played the soundtrack live, but I fell asleep.
1. Return Of The Living Dead: The film that made us start this band in the first place.

Basic bitch stuff isn't it? Sorry. Classics are classics. What are you gonna do?

**Where can those reading find your music? Stream or physical media?**

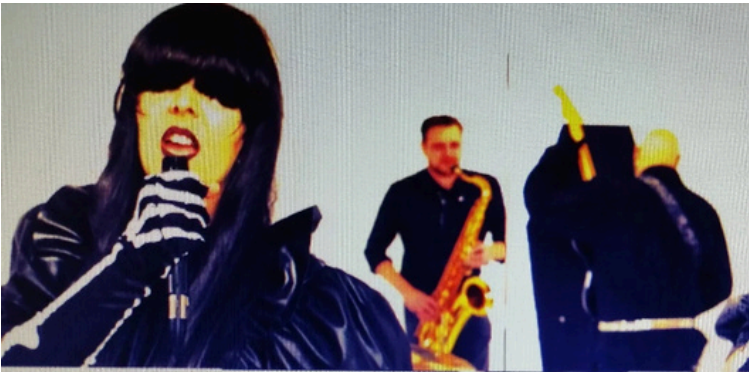
You can hear us at [zombinaandtheskeletons.bandcamp.com](https://zombinaandtheskeletons.bandcamp.com) and also buy physical copies of our stuff there.

If you want to pre-order our new album it can be found at <https://www.9x9records.co.uk/shop>

**Thank you so much for this. We'll be sending copies your way. Much love from across the Pond. Anyone you'd like to thank before wrapping this up?**

I'd like to thank you, Mario, for your patience! Looking forward to seeing the zine!

Interview By Spida







**Who are the band members and what do they play?**

**When was the band formed? Original line up?**

Silvertonguedevil (STD) was formed in spring of 2005 in Dallas, TX when Craig Meinhart (vocals) met Aleks Speed (guitars) through a "Musicians Wanted" ad in the back of a local publication called Harder Beat. The band has gone through numerous lineup changes through the years, settling on the current and longest lasting version including: Craig Meinhart (vocals), John Tapia (guitars), Brandon Chandler (bass), Josh Leicht (drums), and Aleks Speed (guitars).

**What other instruments do the band members play?**

Our guitarist John Tapia is our only multi-instrumentalist. He started with the band on bass and moved to guitar. But otherwise we all stick to our regular positions.

**You are Dallas based, so is everyone from Dallas?**

All band members are scattered around the DFW metroplex, so it's just easiest to tell people we're in Dallas.

**How often do you guys practice and does it vary when a gig is booked?**

We practice once a week regularly. We've been playing together for so long that we don't really need to get together more often. If we're not getting ready for a show we'll be writing new music or planning a new music video. We always have something going on.

**Who are your musical influences?**

Our influences all vary slightly, but in essence STD is a mix of old school metal, thrash, and death metal, so our influences include BLACK SABBATH, SLAYER, DEATH, IMMORTAL, KATAKLYSM, and MORBID ANGEL.

**It's not uncommon for band members to be in more than 1 band are any band members in other projects?**

We are all in different related bands with each other. STD spawned Acoustic Devil, where we do acoustic versions of our songs. There's also a side project called SHIV that was created with our old drummer David Cruz that features myself and John Tapia. It mixes our love of old school hardcore and death metal. And I have one other project in the works that will be announced shortly.

**I know you are a film maker, how do you juggle that?**

It can get tricky bouncing around all the different projects but I mostly make it work. I'm always working on something and

prefer it that way. I will be taking the month of December off music to go shoot a feature length horror movie, but I have some songs that will be coming out during that time so it won't really seem like I'm gone. And then once the shoot is over I'll go right back to playing shows with my various bands.

**Do you guys write music for your movie projects?**

No, I keep the music and movie projects separate. Some artists combine them and that's cool, but I prefer to let each thing stand on its own.

**Where else have you guys played other than the Dallas/Ft Worth area?**

We're a regional touring band, so we play throughout the South and Midwest fairly often. We haven't done a full blown US tour yet, mostly doing short runs that run a week or several days. So aside from Texas we've played in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, as well as Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

**With so many gigs, what bands have you guys opened for? What band would you like to open for 1 day?**

We've gotten to play with some very cool national acts, but to be honest we don't do a lot of those types of shows. They are overwhelmingly pay to play, where the promoter wants the local band to sell a bunch of tickets to help make their guarantee to pay the touring act. It's a well known scam that rarely, if ever, works out well for the local opener. You will end up playing early, often only to the people you brought in the first place, and it's often a thankless position. This doesn't mean it's always a loss, it can be a good experience, but more times than not it's a waste. So instead we'll focus on going to a new spot out of town or book our own show with bands we like where we have more control. We've just always had the DIY spirit of doing our own thing.

**Where can one find your music? Any physical releases available?**

We're on all the streaming platforms (just look up Silvertonguedevil as one word), but our main hub is our website: <https://www.silvertonguedevil666.com/>

It has links to all our socials. And our bandcamp is a great resource to buy the physical versions (cds & vinyls) of our music plus our merch. Go to: <https://silvertonguedevil666.bandcamp.com>





**When it comes to what kind of music you guys play, what best describes your sound?**

We call it Devil Music, or Devil Metal, but in truth it's just metal. We have a pretty unique sound because we combine a few different elements and do it in a different way than most acts, so we don't fit neatly into a particular sub-genre. But at the end of the day we're a metal band.

**Random question: first horror movie you saw at theater? How old were you guys?**

Hmm, I can't remember the very first horror movie I saw in the theater, but I do recall perfectly the first time I saw a rated R movie in the theater and that was ALIENS. It totally blew me away and melted my brain. It's still one of my all time favorite movies.

**Any tour dates scheduled for 2025, where would you guys love to play at?**

We've got a lot coming out in 2025. New songs, new merch, new videos. We don't have any tours on the books yet but we're definitely planning on getting back out on the road. We love playing live and as long as there's a crowd of people wanting to hear some metal we're happy to go there.

**Thank you fur answering these , anything else you'd like to add for those reading this?**

Our new ep CONQUEST OF THE INFERNO will be released in full later this year so please keep an eye out for it. We've released 3 singles so far and have gotten a great response back from them. Many thanks to all who've read this far, we hope to see you at a show soon. Hail!



Interview By Spida





# ARTIST Double FEATURE

With Israel Rico from San Antonio & William Bartlett from Houston



**Where did your journey begin as an artist?**

I wanna say back in 5th grade I wasn't athletic so I decided to figure what I can do  
That I'm good at so I went from there.

**As an artist, what has been your biggest influence?**

Wow where do I begin...well I started reading comic strips (Peanuts) and comic books (Spider-Man)  
Those artists Steve Ditko, John Romita, Gil Kane they had a unique style...Todd McFarlane took the book to another level...later I got into the art of Derek Riggs He did the album covers for iron maiden (who I met in 2019) Pushead Who drew a lot of the metallica t shirts...then later the Mexican muralists ...like Rivera, Kahlo and Siqueros, HR Giger and of course the Renaissance artists.



**As an artist do you have a certain process or routine to get those creative juices flowing?**

I'll have a concept and just roll with it, Sometimes I'll get an idea late at night and I'll just. Stick figure it... Then I just put everything on canvas.... The routine I do before every show.. I listen to Metallica's Turn the Page and have a beer...if My show is successful, then I play Geto Boys....Damn it feels good to be a gangster...LOL.... Much like baseball players they have certain routines...HA HA.... I heard that Tim Duncan would wear his practice shorts backwards.

Sometimes you can get burned out.I remember one year I painted almost close to twenty five fridas...my mind was fried and I took a month off.... So what I will do is I will start on a painting then do a different one... Currently I am. Painting Work for halloween and the warriors event in november... It prevents you from burning out.