

BOTSWANA

VULTURE THRUST

Metal Magazine

ISSUE 3/ 2019



016635931515070



INTERVIEWS:

KILL FRENZY
CHRONICLER
JEREMY HARRY HARRIS

BAND FEATURES:

BERKMORK - CHUD - ORGANIC - WRUST
SINISTER SUPERSTAR - MIND DRILLER
LETHAL VENDETTA - CORPORAL DISSECTION
DESTROYERS OF ALL - EWIGKEIT - FORGERY

Stone Circle came kicking and screaming into the world in May 2009 lead by front man Jeremy Harry Harris. Months after forming, this power quartet from Perth, Western Australia performed at the after party for Def Leppard's Australian tour. They continued to push the new wave of Australian rock music performing alongside established acts such as Birds of Tokyo, End of Fashion and Gyroscope. Refusing to be pigeonholed, Jeremy Harry Harris also displayed his diversity, supporting iconic Australian artist including Daryl Braithwaite, Jon Stevens and Joe Camilleri. In 2009 Harry and his band focused on song writing and pre-production. Their full length independent release "Living for the Sunshine" was recorded in the first half of 2010 at Crank Recordings in Perth and mastered by Leon Zervos at Studios 301 in Sydney. Harry produced powerful and melodic songs, drawn from a vast array of influences and genres. It's the attitude, mentality and approach of artist like Queen, Led Zeppelin, Van Halen, Bon Jovi, Robbie Williams and U2 that drives and inspires him. Live, front man Jeremy Harry Harris delivers a tight, passionate and energetic performance with his touring backing band. Their enthusiasm is as contagious as their riff. It is this foundation that sees Jeremy Harry Harris consistently deliver larger than life performances to an ever growing legion of fans.

By: Subtle Death

JEREMY HARRY - Interview



JEREMY HARRY HARRIS

Hi Jeremy. You were leader of the band Stone Circle, as soon as it would be good to begin for this band. How does Jeremy Harry get to Stone Circle?

Stone Circle was a progression and development of musical ideas that originally stemmed from a previous band of mine. Some of those band members left and it evolved into Stone Circle with the inclusion of new players. The band took on a darker more rockier sound and Stone Circle was born.

"Living for the Sunshine" was an album of Stone Circle that was listened to very much. Want speak me about this material?

Yes, the "Living for the Sunshine" album was really well received here both in a live performance format and with many people asking to get hold of the music in cd or digital format. I was really surprised at how well certain songs like "Epic" and "Lost" and of course "Living for the Sunshine" were received and taken into the public's heart. It's a credit to the band and its members.

How would you define Stone Circle's musical proposal?

I think that's the great thing we had in Stone Circle. We had such a melting pot of ideas that we never really settled on a definitive genre or style. I guess the majority of our songs are either rock or love songs so depending on who you ask we are either a heavy rock band or a band for the ladies' ha ha ha. Me I think we just wanted to write good music with killer riffs and great melodies.

You get to Cuba in the 2012 with Stone Circle. How did know about the metal scene in Cuba? What experience got of this first time at the island?

When I first arrived here in Cuba, I had no idea what to expect and no idea how things would turn out. Our first show was cancelled due to technicians and production not turning up and I thought wow this is a bloody long way to come to sit in a hotel. But you know in a testament to the organizers of the festival we were attending, they sorted the problems, rescheduled shows, gave us other opportunities to play and in the end it was an amazing and very eye opening experience for us all. For me personally I saw the dichotomy between Australian and Cuban cultures and also more directly between different people within Cuba that were attending our shows. It was great to see such a mix of people. My experiences here also led me to understanding more about Cuba, the struggles that the country faces even today and that opportunities exist to help if the right doors are opened and permissions are granted to help make a difference.

Just after Jeremy Harry Harris begins to come every year to presentations and turn for Cuba, utilizing the musicians of the band Mephisto like support. Why choosing these musicians like support for your presentations?

Yes, in 2014 I returned to Cuba to keep a promise I had made on stage back in 2012. I promised that I would return and whilst it took me a year and bit to honour it, there I was back on stage in Cuba in 2014 utilising musicians from Mephisto as you've so rightly pointed out. There were two reasons for this.

1. Stone Circle at that time in 2014 wasn't ready for another tour of South America and the Carribean.

The tour we'd been planning fell over due to a really unscrupulous promoter who practically used us and our money to get what he wanted then dumped us. It happens all the time



in the industry and this time it happened to us.

Lesson learned and we moved on.

2. Stone Circle was a business and we had expenses that needed to be covered as a business. Touring is expensive and it's really difficult to tour Cuba as there's just no money here to cover those kinds of expenses.

We needed to make money as a band if we were going to tour and we just couldn't in Cuba so the other band members and our management decided to scrap the idea of coming back.

For me it was a sensible business decision for Stone Circle but I had something more personal invested in returning.

I wanted to return so I got the bands' approval to do so as a solo tour.

I therefore needed a band and because of the initial bond that we forged with Mephisto back in 2012 it was a logical choice to go to them and arrange for them to be my backing band and perform all my songs.

The band is a professional unit of musicians and that shows everytime we take the stage together. I've enjoyed a great bond with the band for many years now and wouldn't consider coming to Cuba without them performing with me.

There is a combination of several styles of the rock music in Jeremy Harry Harris's proposal. Talk to us about your musical influences.

I have quite an eclectic taste of music. I like everything from Jazz to Metal to pop and rock and rhythm and blue and soul and Latin. My favorite band is definitely Pink Floyd but musically I don't think they've really ever influenced me a lot as their style is very different to my own. I guess my style is very pop orientated with a coating of rock over the top.

For me it's more about creating and performing anthemic sounding songs that are fit for stadiums. I love the use of clever lyrics that tell a story, big guitars, soaring vocals and layers harmonies. I love the idea of guitar solos and a catchy chorus that everyone can sing along to. To me that's what influences me most. Not this shit they call music now that's played on commercial radio in Australia. You know the average song these days has an education level of a 3rd grade student and lasts less than 3 minutes. What happened to the songs that used more than 30 words in the whole song and ran for 4 or 5 minutes to give the listener an experience and a chance to get lost in the music, you know to really hear and understand the story that was being told through the song?

That's what I try to do when I write a song. That's what I want to give people when they take the time to listen to my music.

How is the public Cuban? What can he say on our bands of rock music and metal?

Wow what can I say about the bands here in the Cuban rock and metal scene?

I think that the scene here in Cuba has some of the most talented players in the world.

The resourcefulness demonstrated by bands here in Cuba is amazing. They make shows from nothing and all the while using equipment that is often handmade or pieced together due to lack of money to buy high end gear that most musicians would expect and need to deliver high quality shows and music. The trouble of course is that even if the money was available, the equipment is generally not thanks to a bullshit blockade / embargo placed upon a peaceful country by the USA. But let's not get started on that topic coz I'm here to talk music not politics.

The musicians are world class, the songs are well crafted, the fans are fanatical and the shows are an experience more than just a gig.

I love going to a show and seeing the various youths expressing themselves through music whether they're on stage or in the audience. And the audiences here are fucking amazing!! So passionate and supportive for their favorite bands.

A tour has very ready Mexico and want make a comment to me on the same.

Yes, what a treat this is going to be. Thanks to the support of the Containers For Cuba Project and the hard work being done by Mandragora Metal Monsters Agency in Mexico, an opportunity exists now for Mephisto to undertake their first ever international tour. After 20 years of being a band, they finally have the chance to take their music outside of Cuba.

It's an exciting time for them and a lot of work for both Mandra and myself ha ha ha.

This tour is a promotional tour and will be short... only 10 days from May 10th to 20th 2019.

The focus and objective for this tour is an awareness campaign. It's to get Mephisto in front of as many people in Mexico as possible to develop their presence and raise awareness of their music in Mexico. Coupled with an extensive media campaign that commenced nearly 3 months ago, the guys now have their music launched on multiple digital platforms including Apple Music, Spotify, You Tube etc. along with distribution rights with over 500 digital sales platforms worldwide through an Australian company I'm working through called Gyrostream. These guys are great by the way!

It opens the door for Mephisto to create more exposure and demand for their music and for their live performances.

This tour in Mexico is the first of many planned in the coming 3 years with a view of expanding out through South America and who knows what might happen after that....

As for the tour specifics, these are all still being meticulously planned and show dates are still being contracted so I can't give out too many more details yet. But fans of Mephisto can check in regularly to www.facebook.com/mephistocubanmetalband for tour updates both for their March & April tour in Cuba and



their May 2019 promotional tour of Mexico.

"Nothing Without You" is Jeremy Harry's new album. Where have you recorded the album, how many do songs conform it? Are you glad with the result?

Yes, I'm very satisfied with the way my new album is coming along.

Initially I had the idea to create an album that consisted solely of songs that were played regularly on stage by Stone Circle but never made an album for whatever reason.

I thought they should be recorded and released because they're good songs in my opinion and I always get a good reaction when I play them live, especially in Cuba.

It then morphed into more when I teamed up with Reinier Rodriguez (ex-guitarist for Mephisto) to co-write a bunch of amazing songs on my last trip to Cuba that I just knew had to be on the record.

That's where the album came to life. As for the title of the record, I selected the song "Nothing Without You" to be the title track as I really resonate with the song. The song actually came as we were on a bus heading to a gig one day and Rey showed me the music and I just wrote the lyrics there and then.

The majority of the album was recorded in Holguin with the drums being recorded in the town theatre and the rest in the Casa de particular I rent when I'm in town. The owners were so accommodating. Thank you Joyce :)

I utilized the musicians of Mephisto and some help from Stone Circle Bass player and Keyboardist Craig Skelton on Kings of Time to record all the music and I've been recording vocals back here in Perth in a great little studio owned and operated by Peter Renzullo.

Containers For Cuba is an organization that you created some time ago. Which is Containers For Cuba's objective?

Ha ha how much time have you got for me to speak about the Containers for Cuba project...

It's a project that I am extremely passionate about! I created the CFC project back in 2012 after returning from Cuba and feeling that as a musician and someone who has had amazing opportunities come my way, I should give back more to those that don't necessarily get the same chances or opportunities for no other reason than they live in a different country than me and don't have access to the money, resources and support networks that I do.

I really felt that this wasn't fair and that if I wasn't part of the solution then I was part of the problem so I decided to do something about it.

The aim of the project is to assist in the development of musicians and culture through the creation of a safe free to use youth community center that gives them access to audio and lighting production equipment, musical instruments, a professional world class recording studio, a safe place for rehearsals for their bands and an educational program designed to teach the skills and safety standards that are required to be an audio engineer or record producer or lighting operator.

Currently such a space does not exist in Holguin Cuba which is where we want to work with the Government to develop the project and its goals.

For 6 years we have expressed our desires to bring this to Cuba for the benefit of its people and continue to engage in communication with the various agencies and government departments to facilitate this occurring. Our biggest hurdle at the moment is to get official recognition of the Project by the Government here in Cuba but we remain hopeful that this will come sooner than later.

Once that happens I believe the CFC Project will really take off.

In the mean time we continue to support the cultural community and the AHS in Cuba by providing access to musical equipment for their festivals, assisting with financial donations for the creation of audio books for the blind children of Cuba through the Ediciones La Luz & AHS in addition to providing other support networks and finances to approved individuals and organizations that meet our social values and moral standards.

We have a 40ft sea container full of band and production equipment ready to be shipped to Cuba once we get the permissions and commitment from the Cultural Department in Holguin to do so.

These are the types of things that we see are making a positive impact on people's lives and flowing on to their families to help improve their quality of life and support their dreams and aspirations.

Without the CFC's financial contribution and support, Mephisto, Cuba's longest running Black Metal band (20years) would not be in a position this year to tour Mexico or to have seen

their music released to a worldwide audience.

Without the CFC supporting my tours of Cuba, many young local bands in Cuba would not have been given the opportunity to perform alongside their heroes and mentors Mephisto or be given the opportunity to develop their performances through the live concerts that the CFC supports both materially and financially on a regular basis despite not receiving official status as yet in Cuba.

What have in Jeremy Harry Harris's plans for this year 2019?

I think I have my hands full for the next 6 months with my album to complete, a very busy tour schedule of Cuba, a leading role in the planning and implementation of the Mexico promotional tour for Mephisto, the continued fund raising efforts associated with the CFC Project and hopefully more time spent in Cuba in the back half of the year working with officials and department heads in the Holguin Cultural Department with a view to developing the project and really getting to work on building this youth center. Somewhere in all that I'll be playing some local shows in Australia and heading over to Singapore and China to explore some options there for both my music and Mephisto's.

A busy year ahead indeed.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me.

It's been a pleasure and my honour to be interviewed by the great Sublte Death.

Please keep updated for concert dates, locations and times through my Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/harrystonecircle

