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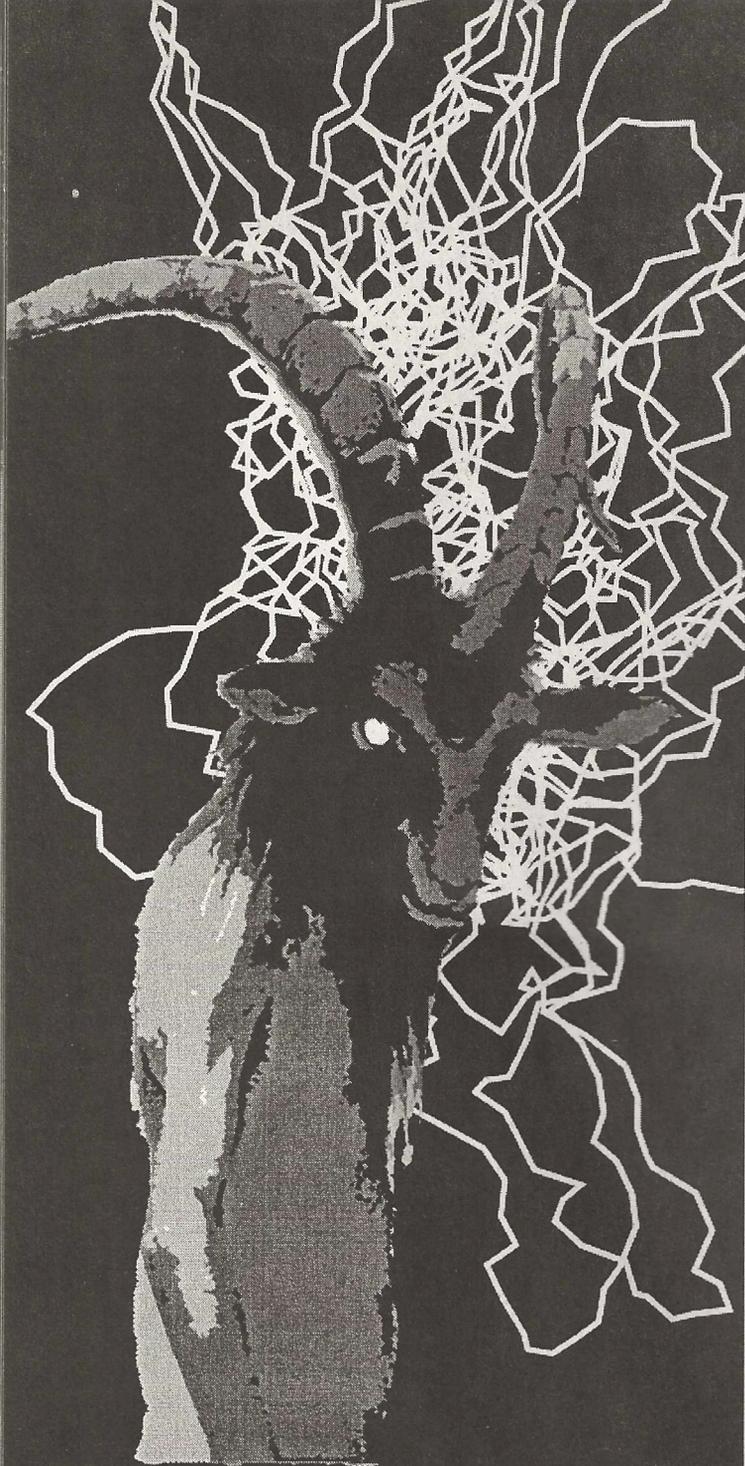


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FIFI LARUE

By: Bruce Forrest



One of the most fascinating aspects of rock music, is how it will slowly progress, going thru subtle changes, until it becomes a form no longer associated with what was happening a year, or two earlier. The era of "glam" rock, for instance, in the early 1970's, with music pioneers such as Marc Bolan, David Bowie, and The Sweet soon gave way to faceless, bland artists such as Jackson Brown and Tom Petty. Ever changing, the 80s rolled along, and gave us "the metal years," perhaps the most diverse, in the fact that image-conscious bands such as Poison, Ratt, Winger, etc. existed alongside bands that musically gave us a truer definition of the words "heavy metal"-DiamondHead, Metallica, Iron Maiden, Saxon.

For pure entertainment, however, we were subjected, good or bad, depending on your musical tastes, to bands such as Motley Crue, and W.A.S.P., bands heavily influenced by KISS and the forefather himself, Alice Cooper. But, once again, times changed, and Nirvana single-handedly wiped out the look (big hair, eyeliner, and eye-candy stage shows) of the era, and, alongside Pearl Jam, quickly put Don Dokken and Kip Winger in the unemployment line. However, everything comes full circle. With countless assembly-line bland acts, such as Blink-182, Good Charlotte, and Creed, the days of more-bang-for-your-buck may be returning, shoving the MCV-TRL loyalists aside, in favor of "arena rock," heavy on the image, and pyro, heavier on the entertainment aspects.

Currently making the rounds of the L.A. club scene is fifi LaRue, a band that may be the start of what once thrived healthy in the 80's. Heavy on image (with KISS influenced makeup), costumes that don't include teeshirts and oversized Dickies, music you can "pump" your fist, and sing along to, a stage show that rivals anything Alice Cooper has ever pulled off, and impressively tight musicianship, this is a band that needs to be seen to be believed. Think "Larger Than Life."

This is a band you will walk away from at the end of their set, exhausted, and wanting more—if you can handle it! I recently had the pleasure of interviewing frontman, and namesake fifi LaRue. Despite his forboding stage presence, LaRue is an extreme pleasure to speak with, bursting at the seams with energy, and more than anxious, and enthusiastic, about his band, and what he has on his hands.

FIRST, HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH FIFI LARUE AS YOUR NAME?

In the Early 80's, I joined a glam band and everyone had their stage names, and for a joke, my bass player, Tim Tation, threw out a couple of names during practice. Well, since I had pet poodles at home, he proceeded to call me names like Fido, Hound and then Fifi... and by no means was I going to take THAT name. But, one evening at the Troubadour, a hot looking blonde girl sat next to me at the bar, and asked me, "What's your name?" Well, considering I was being hassled all week to change my name to Fifi, I look over to Tim Tation, who was also at the bar, and I tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Hey, what's my name?" and he said "Fifi." The next thing I knew, I was frenchin' this hot chick, and I said to myself, "If that's all it takes to pick up hot chicks, then my name for the rest of my life is always going to be Fifi LaRue!!

TRACE US BACK TO YOUR ROOTS...HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO THE MUSIC SCENE?

"Dizzy Bitch" was a great, and upcoming glam band in the 80's and the experiences I had in that band was, like, everthing you could imagine... From groupies to almost posing for PlayGirl magazine, I kid you not! But, that was then and this is now and now it's Fifi LaRue.

YOU WERE THE DRUMMER OF "DIZZY BITCH," A BAND THAT WAS BRINGING GLAM AND THEATRICAL ROCK TO CLUB STAGES, PRIOR TO EVEN MOTLEY CRUE. WHY DID YOU SWITCH FROM DRUMS, TO FRONTMAN, AND BANDS NAMESAKE?

I was an okay drummer, nothing hot, but, I could keep a beat. The thing that bothered me as a drummer, I would always find myself playing other people's material, songs the guitarist, or singer were writing, and that was cool. But, eventually you want to write songs too, and egos get in the way. I guess that's why "Dizzy Bitch" never made it.

WHO ARE YOUR MAIN INFLUENCES, VOCALLY, AND BANDWISE?

My major influence is the GodFather of Heavy Metal, Alice Cooper. Was it not for him their would be no Kiss, Twisted Sister, or Marilyn Manson.

YOU'VE GONE THRU SEVERAL PERSONNEL CHANGES SINCE STARTING THE BAND. IS THIS A MATTER OF, ONCE AGAIN, EGOS GETTING IN THE WAY, OR DO OTHER MUSICIANS FAIL TO SEE YOUR MUSICAL VISION?

You Know what? Sometime's you have people in your band who want more, or they want change wjat doesn't pertain to the band, and the proper way in dealing with it, in a professional matter, is to let them go and do their own thing! But, I like to part in a friendly matter, because you're grateful, on one hand for their help. But, on the other hand, you can't let them try to control the project, or they will try to take it from you. Everyone thinks they know how to get signed. But, the reality is they're not signed, either, and maybe they've been doing things wrong all along...

TODAY'S BANDS ALL LOOK AND SOUND ALIKE, WITH ABSOLUTELY NO DISTINCTION, AND LACKING ANY IDENTITY.

DO YOU THINK IMAGE, AND FULL BLOWN ROCK THEATRIS MAY BE RETURNING TO TODAYS MUSIC?

You know what, I don't care if it does or not. But, I want to do what other bands are afraid of doing in the club scene. Not everyone likes to put on makeup, and present a stage show, with coffins, and skeletons, and live girls on stage, and play like they're at the Forum every night, like they're the next big thing! But, I grew up watching Kiss, Alice Cooper, Twisted Sister. I saw Marilyn Manson live, and I thought he was bad and not in a "Good Way"! He had Ozzy's old Black Sabbath stage set behind him. If the kidss nowadays like him and the other stuff that's out there, well, like The Joker said in "Batman" - "Wait'll they get a load of me..."

MUSIC FANS IN OUR AGE BRACKET GREW UP WITH KISS, WASP, MOTLEY CRUE, AND TODAYS YOUNGER FANS HAVE NOT BEEN EXPOSED TO SEEING A BAND THATS VERY VISUAL LIVE. DO YOU THINK YOUR BAND CAN APPEAL TO TODAYS KIDS?

I see bands like Kiss and Alice Cooper, and now Twisted Sister is making a comeback. "You can't Stop Rock N' Roll!" It will come back and the youth of today will embrace it with open arms, because they're already sick of the shit the labels are feeding them. "American Idol," my ass. FIFI LARUE is the next American Idol and I'm not fabricated!

HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY LABEL INTEREST?

I've sent packages, and material to labels, but, unfortunately, I haven't gotten anywhere with it yet. But, KLOS Radio has featured my songs on "Local Licks", and every now and then someone will say they play a song on the radio. They have been very good to Fifi Larue. Also, Mp3.Com had me on their Gothic Metal Charts, ranked # 1 for 9 days in October. There was over 13,000 downloads of my songs. Now, if a label doesn't see this as a Lotto Ticket! Boy! I can't wait for the day I turn them down. And by the way, L.A.s own Rock City News Magazine awarded me #1 Gothic Glam Band for 2002.

IF THE BAND GOT SIGNED, WILL YOU BE GOING THE SAME MERCHANDISE ROUTE AS KISS? THE BAND COULD BE VERY MARKETABLE. OR WOULD YOU RATHER AVOID THE FIFI LARUE DOLLS AND LUNCHBOXES?

You're kidding, right?

Of course I want to sell FIFI LARUE crypt coffins. I think KISS got that idea from me, you know? Gene Simmons came to a show once, and people said he was rockin' out to my music! Or maybe it was those lap dances at Pleasure's Night Club in Pasadena. I don't know... So yes, sell and sell, and buy and buy! Hey, I need the money. Did I mention I Have a merchandise page on my web-site? It's www.fifilarue.com. The Baby Doll T-shirts are the hot items. Just wait till you see a hot chick with big breasts wearing it! The words "FIFI LARUE" really show up!

IS THE BAND MORE OF A "FUN PROJECT," OR ARE YOU OUT THERE TO MAKE THE BIG TIME?

Always meant to be fun before serious! But, it's getting more serious everyday!

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ULTIMATE ROCK FESTIVAL LINEUP, THAT YOU WOULD OPEN FOR?



The Festival of All Festivals? KISS, ALICE COOPER, TWISTED SISTER, and FIFI LARUE....

FIFI LARUE HAS OPENED FOR BANDS SUCH AS FASTER PUSSYCAT, BULLET BOYS, RATT. HAVE THESE BANDS WATCHED YOU PLAY, AND WHAT IS THEIR REACTION TO YOU, CONSIDERING YOU'RE FROM THE SAME ROCK GENRE?

I opened for W.A.S.P. at The Galaxy Theatre [in Santa Ana], and they told me that I might not be able to do my full stage show. But, then I told them I sold all my tickets for that night, and if I didn't get to use my shit, then Blackie won't see my money. I'll just go to Vegas and put the ticket money all on BLACK... Ha! they changed their minds and I did the show and everything went well, even WASP's drummer gave me the high-five after the show. I've layed with L.A. Gun's on several shows and they're a great and supportive band to perform with. Thanks Traci!

WHAT MUSIC WOULD WE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW YOU LISTEN TO?

Shakira. Did you know, I recently cut her head off live on Stage? Now, isn't that a fan or what? You know, I like to consider myself the whiteman Rick James of rock n' roll!

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CURRENT KISS SITUATION (i.e. ATTEMPTING TO "PASS OFF" TOMMY THAYER AS ACE FREHLEY, ERIC SINGER AS "PETER CRISS")?

KISS isn't KISS anymore. They're just a time-machine, lost in time...

IS YOUR MUSIC AVAILABLE TO YOUR FANS ON CDS?

All the music I have recorded, I consider as "demos" so, no, not a real CD. My first demo was "RockDoll," it's on my website, www.fifilarue.com, there's that plug agai. "Rockdoll," has four songs on it: "Kiss To Kill," which was written by a friend, Rex Bizzare, who was from old 80'S L.A. glam band, "Keri Doll." Rex and I were in a band, called "Clownz." The band didn't take-off but, I always like the song, so I re-did it! We also co-wrote the second song, "Mannequin Love," and "Brandi" is a song I wrote, about an old girlfriend. Funny thing is, her name isn't really Brandi, but, that was the name of a dog I had at the time...Ha! Another demo I have floating around has "Welcome To My Flyin' Circus" on it and, my anthem song, "The Gothic Killer Clown." I recently wrote a song, "Baby Killers" as a single CD, for which I hope to use as a charity song for child abuse and missing children. I got the idea from a woman who was putting razor blades in playgrounds, at city parks around Orange County."

WELCOME TO MY FLYING CIRCUS' WAS

THE TOP DOWNLOADED SONG ON mp3.com FOR NINE STRAIGHT DAYS. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT GETTING SUCH A GREAT RESPONSE TO THAT SONG?

I was overwhelmed when I saw it ranked for nine days and stay up there for that long. I am very lucky to have my songs downloaded often on Mp3.Com. It's a great way for artists like me to get exposure all over the world...

WILL THE STAGE SHOW CONTINUE TO EVOLVE?

My theatrical shows will always change and get better. Hopefully, if I get signed, the money will be there for me to do what I really want to show people. I want magic, and fire, and girls! Lots and lots of girls on stage!! I want "Fifi LaRue" to be one big orgy!!! Bands like KISS, Alice Cooper and Ozzy the money to do the type of stagershows that they are doing. !But, I think greed takes away from some bands shows, and more money goes in the pockets rather than for the shows, visual-wise. Nowadays, you have Britney Spears and The Back Street Boys with better lighting and special effects, than KISS!!!

HAS THE BAND RECEIVED ANY PRESS COVERAGE OUTSIDE OF THE US?

Mp3.Com has given me exposure to outside press, and I greatly appreciate it, because from there they hit my web-site and then I get posted on search engines all over the world. Did you know fifilarue.com gets over a thousand hits weekly. That means FIFI LARUE is officially a virus in the the global community. And for that, I thank Bill Gates...

OLDER ROCK FANS REMEMBER THE THEATRICAL STAGE SHOWS THAT BANDS LIKE KISS, WASP, AND MOTLEY CRUE PUT ON, WHEREAS YOUNGER ROCK FANS HAVE NOT BEEN EXPOSED TO LEGITIMATE STAGE SHOWS. DO YOU FEEL SOME MAY SEE THE SHOW AS A JOKE?

This is real to me because, I do it for me. I do it for me, and only me, and if I don't like it than I wouldn't be doing it. I've seen almost every local band out there, and sometimes I wonder, why do they even bother? Do they do it because they actually think they have a chance in hell to get signed? Or maybe they're doing it just to get laid. I'm doing what I love the most and that's putting on the best show that I can.

CAN THE MUSIC STAND ON ITS OWN, OR IS IT PRIMARILY A SOUNDTRACK FOR THE STAGE SHOW?

I like to think my music stands on its own. But, I do have ideas for my first CD, which would be a "Phantom of the Opera" type concept, then theres about 20 songs, from the first CD [the first demo], and my other demo's and, of course, new ones as

well. The music definitely comes first.

DO YOU DO ALL THE WRITING, OR FOCUS MAINLY ON THE LYRICS? HOW MUCH DO THE OTHER MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE?

I usually have everything in my head, both lyrics and music, and if you have a great guitarist with you, all I need is to hum a bar or two and leave the the melody to him, and the song is instant.

WHO ELSE IS IN FIFI LARUE?

I have great musicians in my band. My guitarist is Marcus Sin, and he was a student at the Musician's Insitute. On bass guitar and keyboards, Andy Monic who has professionally played with well known artists. Last, but not least, is my drummer, Johnny Lust, who has been performing none stop since then 80's. Rumor has it Nikki Sixx might have scoped him out before Tommy Lee, but, who knows?

YOU JUST COMPLETED A NEW SONG, "BABY KILLERS," WHICH, OBVIOUSLY WAS INSPIRED BY THE RECENT HORRENDOUS LANDSLIDE OF CHILD ABDUCTIONS, AND MURDERS. WHAT ELSE CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE SONG?

"Baby Killers" is just what it says. Its about pedophiles, and the people who go after children for their own sick pleasure or murder. This stuff is going on all over this country and it needs to be stopped; and people have to take action against the people who commit this crime. Children can't protect themselves but, we can put an end to the people who commit these crimes. That's what the song is about. We, as people need to do more. So, I know the songs going to be controversial. But, that's what I want and thats what people need to hear. Let Britney Spears sing about the "Perfect World," and let Fifi LaRue create the controversy. As for people who think the song is about me killing babies, I got two things to say to them " Fuck you! " Look for the song in Keeper Magazine's 'Sampler CD'

WHAT GIGS DO YOU HAVE LINED UP, SO PEOPLE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS YOUR AMAZING STAGE SHOW?

I already got a show coming up at the KeyClub, check my website for the date, but I'm also waiting for a big band to open up for. I'd like to be the band that opens for Twisted Sister! But, look for more L.A. Shows from me. Also, The Shack in Anaheim is closing it's door's soon and we might do a show soon there as well.

ANY CLOSING COMMENTS?

Closing comments! I'd like to thank the people who help me with advertising, and the fans for coming to the shows, and supporting me. Thank's Keeper Magazine...

Fifi Larue
Rock Doll

www.fifilarue.com

