

## ***MALAKYE GRIND INTERVIEW AUGUST 2021 with BBB PRESS***

***Apart from a one off gig in 2011 You guys haven't played together in almost 20 years. What brings you back together?***

Rob. We always intended to do an album after the one off gig in 2012 and we just started chatting and working on the demo material. Both Pat and Brook had new riffs so it kind of just started to come together.

Brook: For me Pat Burke's songwriting is what brought us back together. Over the last 10 years Pat has been sending through roughs of what he's been working and when one came through early 2020 it was impossible to wait any longer. The next day I was on the phone to each of the boys with my plea to make our album and we've been working on it ever since. Pat and Rob have always had an easy magic between them when it comes to melodies over music and I just have to be the glue in between.

***Musically and personally what have you all been up to?***

Rob. I relocated with my family to the US in 2014 for my day job in the music business and have been singing in lots of projects like Horrorhead, Age of Menace and Biggest Band in the World.

Brook: I kept chipping away at the bass and after a period of study moved onto bass duties with different projects in Australia and Japan including live and studio work with members from Grinspoon, DIG and Thirsty Merc but making the MG album was always in the back of my mind. These days I have a performance residency with the Versace brand playing in a Gin Bar for party crew or high rolling guests like Drake and Pamela Anderson that order cocktails while we try and remember the songs that they call out. That all happens whilst raising two energetic girls with my wife on the Gold Coast.

***It is not quite a full reunion. What happened to Matt and what does Dave Sanders bring to the band?***

Brook: Matt and I continued to play for many years after Malakye and while we were learning how to play a bunch of new styles at Uni we were introduced to the sound of Latin music. The Latin sound really resonated with him and he definitely took his passion for music in that direction. During that time we each found other players that we wanted to play with and most every bass player on the North Coast wanted to be a rhythm section with Dave Sanders - by chance I was lucky enough to start playing with Dave whilst still studying and we've played countless gigs over the last 20 years. Dave brings a lifetime of live and studio experience to the band, he's played the biggest stages in Australia and it's a real honor to have him playing on MG's album. We spent a number of days tracking drums and bass in studios in Byron Bay and Currumbin (Goldie) late 2020 and Dave laid down really hard hitting grooves for the album and engineer Christian Pyle helped us find that Bonham-esque sound we were looking for.

***After Malakye broke up you guys went in very different directions musically. Rob you went down a heavier metal path and Brook you followed a jazz/funk path, can we expect a funkier, jazzier, heavier Malakye Grind.***

Rob. All of those elements were always in the mix. I think we know what we want sonically and it's been great to write in a way that serves the songs. There is a good mix of old and new songs I reckon.

Brook: Like Rob says those styles have always been a part of the bands record collection and in turn came out in the music only this time around some 20 years later we now know how to play and write in those styles much better. For me the best Malakye music was never recorded - we moved through songs pretty quickly in those days and as we searched for sounds we left some great songs behind. That history has become a big motivator for me in that for this band the best recorded music, the best album is yet to come.

***When can the fans expect new music and tour?***

Rob: the distance and restrictions during 2020 slowed things down, but we were never in a rush. We have each had lots of time to listen and refine as we go.

Brook: Making an album often takes longer than you envisage and we've been slowed down a little by geography and all that was 2020 but the album will be done by mid 2021 - each of us are enjoying the process so much so there's steady progress towards our common goal. Mixing phenom Forrester Savell, who solidified his reputation with an ARIA nomination for his work with Karnivool and more recently Birds of Tokyo has just completed the mix of the 11 album tracks so we are heading towards a mid-August release. We contacted Forrester about mixing the album in January and he's listened to the tracks as they have made their way towards completion. We are stoked and honored to have him involved in the process.

AMRAP (Australian Regional Radio) have just added the album to their playlists so all going well Music for Midnight People will be heard on the airwaves in the weeks leading into September.

As far as gigs go the Central Coast is our home so we'd like to think that we can bring the music and a rock show there first and beyond that, depending on how the album is received and how many ears we can reach, I'd love to take the band to Japan for shows and then with Rob in LA the USA is definitely on the list.

***In the 90s you guys were recording and playing while the " grunge scene " was sweeping the world. Was this an influence on the band and music you were creating?***

Rob. Absolutely, but also bands like RHCP so some funk too.

Brook: Grunge was a huge influence on the band's sound with Nevermind, Core, TEN and Dirt all coming out while we were a High School band but our parents music tastes from the 60's and 70's and the music of the late 80's also shaped our sound too. The first albums I learnt to play the music from were Led Zepplin II, Appetite for Destruction and Blood Sugar Sex Magic but when I first walked into a garage turned into a rehearsal space when the boys were looking for a bass player the walls were plastered with posters of glam metal bands like KISS and Motley Crue and then when we met Rob he had a strong hold on the sound of The Doors, The Stones and The Sex Pistols - music was everywhere around us from every decade and every scene.

***Did reprising Malakye Grind give you a fresh perspective on the material written many years ago? Do you think the sound changed?***

Rob. I think the sound changed by not being too rigid on the rules. We decided to just do what we want with little regard to staying true to any musical style.

Brook: The way we arrange our music has changed a lot and our sound these days is a lot more cohesive - it's starting to sound like really good music, that's subjective of course but we are digging it a lot and I think that's really important. We want to make an album that we really enjoy and that has meant that the old material has gone through the quality control check just like the other material written but in essence the old ones have stayed true to their original sound. Blue Meanies, a punk rocking crowd favorite from our early days was recorded as a jazz track for our EP but has returned to its original banging tempo and belting vocals for the new album.

***How has collaborating been together? Do you think Malakye Grind will be a long term prospect again!***

Rob. Collaborating has been amazing. We haven't seen each other at all during this time and it's kinda crazy that an album is getting written, recorded and mixed. That is really cool and hopefully if everyone is keen there will be more.

Brook: I think all bands kind of take on the future and albums one massive output at a time but thinking that we had to whittle down 20 new songs down to 12 on the album is a good indicator that material comes easy to us. On a friendship level collaborating together is so easy and I think that comes from a combination of having had so many experiences together and also having listened to the same music forever. We can talk the finest details of songs that we are inspired by and use them as references to help sculpt our music - like all bands do.

***I can see new the album will feature new unreleased material with a few old songs, was it hard to choose the old songs that you wanted to feature on the album?***

Rob. I think it was a case of going back over the old stuff and seeing if we still feel it. Another Day and Blue Meanies stood out as songs we wanted to get down.

Brook: Another Day was the last song we wrote as a band and we each remembered it having something special. The challenging part was that it was performed very few times so we either didn't remember how to play it or didn't have any recordings of it to bring it back until one live recording resurfaced this year. I got hold of it and sent it to Rob - his immediate response was to bring it into the album conversation. It's a big vocal tune, Rob's lyrics are awesome and his melodies are strong - and that's what we were looking for.

***What is the creative process like with members living in different countries?***

Rob. It's a lot of messages and rough demos being shaped into songs. Brook has been at the helm as project manager getting the loose ideas from Pat and I and shaping them along with his own songs. Pat and I had about 20 demo tracks from 2012 and Brook had some crackers too so

I was spoiled for choice on stuff to work on. Throw in a few live desk recordings from 95 and bam it's an album :)

Brook: The creative process for this album has been a little surreal at times, we are not in the same room fleshing out the songs like we once did so there's a lot of late nights spent with a guitar in hand sitting in front of a PC trialling ideas back and forth or translating and documenting that spontaneous creative bubble where ideas are rolling at random hours of the day - 17 hours in delay. However, the actual process of shaping our music is a treat, songs kind of write themselves once you get an idea rolling but making them truly and honestly stack up against the music that we know and love is the hardest part.

***Malakye Grind always had an electric stage presence live, do you guys see the band playing live again and touring?***

Rob. We aren't there yet and it will be a challenge but getting the guys to the US for some shows would be rad. I would definitely be up for some shows back in Oz.

Brook: I'm glad to hear that we had that kind of presence, we were certainly stoked to be playing music for people and wanted to give it our all on stage. Malakye Grind would definitely like to have the opportunity to play the songs off this new album live and with some of these songs you can really hear how the songs would be played and changed up for live shows - parts extended here and there to amplify the live experience. I've played and recorded with lots of musicians that see the album as the final personal goal but for me personally the album is just a step towards getting the music out there to festivals and clubs in as many cities and countries that you can. Music comes alive when you have an audience that becomes part of the show and part of the music - that's what we want to do again, with the music from this album.