

LOVELORN DOLLS

Sarah had the pleasure of being able to interview the Belgian Gothic Synth Rock band that is Lovelorn Dolls.

Like most things nowadays (for me), Lovelorn Dolls found me and I am always one for trying new things so I thought I would give them a listen and I fell in love. Not only with the hauntingly beautiful vocals but also the eclectic mix of genres and you can't forget the stunning visuals.

Thank you for agreeing to the interview, please introduce yourselves and tell the readers a little bit about Lovelorn Dolls.

Kristell : Hello, I am the singer of Lovelorn Dolls, and Bernard is the guitar player. But as a duet, we do also loads of other things (composing, creating, photos, videos, ...). Lovelorn Dolls is a gothic rock act, influenced by bands like Lacuna Coil, The Birthday Massacre, Theatre of Tragedy, but we also draw our influences from fantasy cinema, manga and lowbrow movement, pop surrealist visual artists. All this creates a sort of mix called Lovelorn Dolls.

I am going back to the beginning, how did Lovelorn Dolls form and how did you come up with the name?

Bernard : Back in the early 2000s I discovered Kristell through the first EP and the Album Rent to Kill from Skeptical Minds. I was seduced by the songs and the voice. In 2010 I decided to write a concept album called Road to consciousness. Kris was the first singer - among the 12 who participated - that I contacted. After that experience we started to work together on the embryo of what would become Lovelorn Dolls. Kris came out with the name that was only « Lovelorn » at the time. It was among other a reference to an album by Leave's Eyes (Liv Kristine). Then we switched to « Lovelorn Dolls » to avoid confusion with another band.



Let's get a little deeper. Is Gothic just aesthetic or is it a way of life for you?

Kristell : it is first of all a way of thinking, then a visual aesthetic. I have clearly been attracted to everything melancholic, romantic and dark since I was very young. Plus, I love listening to sad music, it makes me happy in a weird way... Now I don't have to dress in black or goth clothes every day. I like to dress casual.

Bernard : usually I don't dress the way you can imagine someone gothic. This is more a spirit for me. I've been through severe depression and I feel it can happen again. Music was part of my therapy. I think I have been melancholic all my life in fact.

Speaking of aesthetics, your artwork for all your albums and promo is stunning. What or who do you take inspiration from to produce such stunning pieces?

Kristell : I'm a visual artist and I use AI to produce the artworks. I take inspiration from lowbrow artists, pop surrealism, creepy cute aesthetics. I know that the use of AI is controversial but it all depends on what use we make of it. It's not enough to write one or two words to create the aesthetic and image you have in your head. I work a lot on these images. This allows us to have total freedom over the overall visual image of the group and that is super important.

Aside from Lovelorn Dolls do each of you also have "normal" jobs?

Kristell : I used to be a teacher but I haven't been working since one year. I am focused on my art. I also am a photographer, and I have exhibits with my gallery.

Bernard : Unfortunately ... yes. I'm accounting manager in a holding company. A bit depressing isn't it?

Today marks the release of new single "Beautiful Chaos", how was recording it in Roma?

Bernard : Well in fact it wasn't recorded in Roma. The drums were recorded in South Africa, the rest in Belgium. The vocals by the two guests we will have on the album have been recorded in Germany and in the US. The mix and mastering were however indeed made in Roma. So you can say it's an international effort.

What was your inspiration if any behind “Beautiful Chaos”?

Kristell : Lyrically, I often draw inspiration from events in my life, or current events. Here, the song is inspired by what happened to me in my life, that is to say, a breakup, the end of a love, and the chaos that can result from it. But sometimes breaking up is necessary, even if it hurts a lot.

On the EP for “Beautiful Chaos” you have five different remixes, do you have a favourite and if so, why?

Kristell : I love them all, if not it wouldn't be released, but I have to say I love the one from AudioPyre very much. But I wanna thank every remixer on that EP, it takes a long time to do and it's interesting because it gives a new dimension to the original song.

You have plans to release “Deadtime Stories” later this year, how is writing and production of the album going?

Bernard : I'm glad to announce that the album is now mixed and mastered. We are very happy with the result. I think it's a perfect mix of the three previous records. We switched back to real drums like on House of Wonders and we added layers of guitars, synths, beats and haunting voice on top of it. Also we have two guests on board who made a fantastic job. One of these songs will also be released as a single. We are currently working on the storyboard of the music video.

What is the best way your fans can support you?

Kristell : I'm not going to be very original but we like to communicate with our fans, so it's always great when they react to our posts, our messages. Then, if they can invest and buy our albums and EPs, that helps us too. Then, to talk about us around them is very important so that we can reach as many people as possible.

2023 is behind us now, what was your highlight of the year?

Kristell : Getting together again after 5 years to rewrite a new album is truly the event of 2023! Because nothing was written or calculated, we weren't even sure we wanted to continue the band ! and here we are today!

Bernard : Last year I finished the production of Road to consciousness2 « Into the Matrix ». Then I started to write music for Lovelorn Dolls. Everything came out very easily. I'm very happy of what came out.

You have been on the scene for a number of years, how has attitudes and the gothic rock scene in general changed over the years in your opinion, if any?

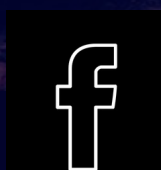
Kristell : We're back after 5 years and it's still difficult to analyze. From what I see, there's less of a "female metal" label, and maybe a little more consideration for women. It remains difficult to find a place, and what bothers me is that it is often the same bands that are put forward. At festivals, in the media. Taking the risk of exposing less publicized bands would be interesting, in my humble opinion. And also I hope there's an open mind in the goth rock scene, because we're going to need it.

You have an empty space to reach present and future fans is there anything you would like to say to them?

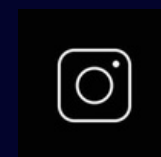
Kristell : I invite you to come listen to our music and if you like it, support us. We will be there to experience the release of the album in May with you, and there are a lot of things that will be announced for 2024. If you want to see us in concert, you need to talk to the organizers about us in your region. We hope to get to know you very quickly, via newsletters (sign up!) or via social networks.

Thank you so much for taking your time to speak with me, I am so glad I found you.

For anyone interested in Lovelorn Dolls we have all the links below, including where you can grab some cool merch. If you are reading this on social media and not the website, you will find the social media tags below. Don't forget to sign up to their email and grab the new single “Beautiful Chaos”.



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