

LOW EXPECTATIONS

I go into interviews with certain expectations. I expect some answers to the questions I ask; some bands give me essays and some say as little as possible. Punk pop has a special place in my heart so I am expecting something great from "Low Expectations"

Thank you so much "Low Expectations" for doing this interview.

Let's start as Cilla Black used to, "What's your name and where d'ya come from?" except I would like to know what all your names are and where d'ya come from?

I'm Alex, I'm from Bradford, I play lead guitar and main vocals. (Also, big up Cilla Black)

I'm Max and I come from Hull and I play bass!

I'm Keeton (I'm the drummer) and I'm born in Nottingham, living in Bradford.

I am a little bit of a stalker when it comes to research for interviews! I couldn't find much, so when did you all meet and decide to form "Low Expectations"?

Alex - This one is a rather sombre story. I decided to form this band back in 2019, before covid happened. At the time it was me and some friends, Harrison, Jack and Alex. Alex, who was our bassist at the time, took his own life during lockdown. When he passed, I was the only person really willing to continue with Low Expectations. That's what inspired me to use 'Alex' as my stage name. It's like my own little way of honouring him and carrying his memory with me. Harrison has come back to do a number of shows with us since, but he's not an official member. I'll let Keeton and Max tell their own sides to this.

Max - I met everyone when I joined the band in February of this year. It feels like it's been much longer than 2 months though!

Keeton - I met Alex a long time ago. We were friends for quite a while and I was actually in Low Expectations back when they decided to revamp the band; Although I decided to leave to spend more time with my missus and newly born daughter. Alex asked me to re-join recently and now that I have more free time: I'm back in my castle.



What do you all do for a living, unless you are living the musician dream?

Alex - I'm a uni student at the moment. I don't really care for the degree, but the free access to the facilities (band rooms, studios, etc) kinda keeps me there, haha.

(Max - I'm currently at Leeds Conservatoire in my 2nd year studying Music Production. I do some paid mixing and studio work on the side and have a part time job too!

Keeton - I mostly do bartending work, but right now I'm living the musician dream



There's no denying your style is definitely punk pop, do you have any specific influences?

Alex - My absolute biggest influences when writing for LE are bands like Green Day, Sum-41, Blink-182 and My Chemical Romance. Whenever I feel stuck, I listen to them and try to imagine the process that they went through with some of their songs.

Your last single on Spotify was "A Lil' Sin" and most recently on YouTube you put out a live version of "Eleanor's Song", do you have plans to release an EP anytime soon?

Alex - It would be great to release an EP and we definitely have a LOT of plans for stuff like that, but right now we're quite happy just releasing singles. They feel much less limiting creatively. Also, they're cheaper to make haha.

I love the graphics for your singles, who came up with the idea and will you be continuing with this style for future releases?

Alex - They're all my ideas. I kinda send extremely poorly made drafts over to our artist and help her make sense of all the squiggles and random shapes. As you've definitely noticed, there is a ghost in every piece of artwork with an accompanying name. I'm hoping to continue with this theme and to allow the artwork to slowly tell a story overtime about these ghosts, but in terms of style I'm more than happy to shift it towards whatever I think the music requires. If we have a song that's more 'down-to-earth' and meant to be taken much more seriously, I'll probably leave aside the jokes and make way for a little more realism in the artwork.

What is your writing process like for new music?

Alex - As of now, I write everything alone in my bedroom. Whenever we're playing live I give the band creative freedom over their parts and ask them to add their own flair to each song, but the studio recordings are 100% me. This is something that will probably remain the same for a while, as I have at least 4 albums worth of songs pre-written, but I'd like to eventually move it towards a more involved process for the rest of the band.

Do you have any plans to release new music this year, if so can you share with us when?

Yeah there's a tonne of stuff we hope to do. We're planning on releasing a new song some time in May, it's all recorded, we're just looking for the right person to mix and master it. Aside from that, we'd love to release 'I Feel Used' and 'River of Blood' as soon as possible. They've proven to be really strong mainstays when we're playing live and we absolutely love them; but they cover extremely sensitive topics and we don't want to risk rushing them. There will also be some acoustic stuff on the horizon, they're all fully written, we're just working out how to make them feel more 'us' as opposed to just general acoustic sad songs.

Do you think Pop punk is having a revival especially with bands such as "Fall Out Boy", "The Offspring", "Sum41" and "Bowling for Soup"; to name a few, playing at Download this year? Side note I'm not upset by this at all!

Keeton - It could be. A lot of musicians are always constantly developing new music and old music. All it takes is one person with a new idea to crack a genre wide open again.

Max - I think so! I think a lot of the people who grew up loving that music as teens are finally in the position to start putting their favourite bands back on big line-ups. Also I get the feeling there's a new wave of pop punk that's about to break into the public eye.

If you could entice new fans, what would you say?

Alex - I'd just try my hardest to trick them into acting out that scene from Scott Pilgrim. "You have a band?" "Yeah. We're terrible. Please Come?"

What has been your best gig to date and why?

Alex - The one we played at The Underground in Bradford has easily been my favourite to date. We have a song called 'WTH?!' Where we break the song down, split the crowd in half, have one side clap and have the other side sing the chorus melody, then make them swap parts. This song usually goes down pretty well anyway, but I decided to jump into the crowd and make it more of a personal moment, instead of just some person on a stage telling them what to do. The crowd could not have been better, especially at that moment. It was phenomenal. The sets that Lidocaine and J3nna played were also nothing short of brilliant.

Max - With this band? Playing Key Club in Leeds was a big bucket list moment ticked off for me. In general though? Last year playing Humber Street Sesh in my hometown was really special.

Keeton - For me it would have to be the one at Key Club. We had this opportunity given to us on pretty short notice, so that was exciting. We played alongside some absolutely quality musicians and it was all in all a great night that I won't forget. Not to mention that it was a pretty big jump in venue for the band as well.

Any secrets you can share with me?

Max - Secrets? Hmm. I've never listened to The Black Parade. That's probably considered a cardinal by some.

Alex - The Black Parade is my all-time favourite album. Also I hate Max.

Keeton - I don't actually get paid for being the drummer. They just verbally abuse me and tell me they're gonna look for a new guy.

Thank you, "Low Expectations" for joining me and allowing me to be a stalker for a little bit.

"Low Expectations" definitely give you the injection of Punk Pop we all need in our life. If you haven't already you should check out "Low Expectations", all the links will be below.



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Interview and edit by Sarah Parker