



## Sarah had the chance to get some more insight into the one man band that is Neo Cryptid!

Hi there and thank you for joining me in my newly refurbished cleaning cupboard. How are you diddling today?

I'm doing great thanks! A pleasure to be here!

So, this is a blank canvas, tell us about you?

Neo Cryptid is a project designed to fuse the groove and power of metal with the energy of dance and synth music. I wanted to keep the heaviness of modern metal - crushing breakdowns, massive screams and riffs - but blend it into cybergoth, aggrotech, a lot of more electronic alternative styles. The live show includes a sequenced light show with beams, lasers, smoke, strobes - the lot!

When did Neo Cryptid official begin and how?

The idea for Neo Cryptid as a performance began in lockdown. I was isolated away from other musicians and started getting into light programming, writing more synth music, working outside of the parameters of standard metal. Work on a specific EP with the hope of making a full sequenced stage show began in earnest early 2022, with the track "Ghost" being the first I actually completed.

What made you decided to call yourself Neo Cryptid?

The whole project is designed to break out from things that have been done to death, whilst still keeping the parts of heavy music that make it great. A new kind of monster seemed like the perfect analogy for what I was doing; so "Neo Cryptid" embraces those elements. Plus, with the full live stage show I'm generally shrouded in smoke most of the time as the lights shoot around me - it's as blurry as any Bigfoot photo could be!

You had your first gig in June this year, 2023. How have things been going since then?

Things have been going GREAT. The June gig was very unplanned, I stepped in last minute to a support slot because a band had dropped out, and it went wonderfully well. I had my first "fully ready" gig back at Leeds Mayhem Festival in August and that was very well received as well. More gigs upcoming in December, and then next year I intend to gig a lot more extensively, now that I've got the full show up and running!

You have your debut EP out "Animator" how was writing it and did you also produce it?

Writing it was a very different experience to things I've done in the past. It was incredibly liberating to give myself permission to move outside of a standard 5-piece band structure and really try to write stuff that incorporated other elements, as well as writing with the distinct end-goal of performing live. So no insane riffs in verses where I need to do vocals as well! I also produced, mixed and mastered the EP, so yes, that amount of control is both exhilarating and terrifying in equal measure. If you love it, it's me! All me! ...but if you don't, there's nobody else I can point fingers at. Total ownership from start to finish is a hell of a thing.





More metal bands are incorporating other elements to the genre, do you think we are moving away from the trad metal of yesteryear?

I don't think it's so much a move away as it is a mutation and development. There will always be bands who try and do exactly what other people have been doing for decades, and there's nothing wrong with that - there are some absolutely wonderful bands who refine existing formulas and make them even better. But I think it is also important to push and develop new styles and sounds, work outside of the box, and make sure the genre as a whole doesn't become stale. There's some absolutely ground breaking music coming out at the minute and it's so inspiring.

Have you met any hurdles along the way, if you have how have you got over them?

As with a lot - A LOT - of creatives, the biggest hurdle has been my own mind. I was diagnosed with ADHD at a young age and so following projects through to completion can be something of a struggle! Keeping myself laser-focused on this has been surprisingly easier than usual, I think because of just how fun the core of the project is, but it definitely is still a factor. The other issue is far more boring; straight up logistics. I'm running a one-man show with more equipment than some full bands take on tour with them! But I've just had to get good and try to make everything as efficiently set up as possible!



On your social medias you have some awesome graphics and illustrations, who did these?

The cover art for the "Animator" EP and for the single "RBBT.exe" was done by Idols and Illusions Art, and they're great right?! I'm so happy with them. I'll definitely be going back to them for future releases and merch ideas as I was so impressed with what they came up with.



Most new artists don't have the luxury of being full time artists, do you have an everyday life/job, if so what is it?

I do have a day job, yes! I work in the legal department of a housing association, and it's every bit as boring as it sounds. But it pays the bills!

Do you have any future plans you can share with us?

I'm currently writing more material for release and performance, and starting to book performances for next year. I also have a cover of Slipknot's "Duality" in the works that I reckon some people will love and some people will want me dead for...but we'll see! I'm playing with the excellent Pulverise and Stray Weather in December in Leeds, which will be an INSANELY fun night, those guys are fantastic. Annd I'm performing a set at an as-yet-unrevealed club night in December as well, so make sure you go get your party on and who knows?

Thank you so much, for joining me in this crammed space. One last question before you disappear, do you have a message to any of your fans and supporters?

The people around you are so important. Surround yourself with the best people you can; people who lift you and drive you forward. I have been blessed with incredible friends and supporters, and that means this is just the beginning. I am here to get you moving. Expect more Neo Cryptid soon!



NeoCryptid



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