



## MORGANA HAD THE LOVELY OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW PYREFLY!

**CAN YOU TELL ME A LITTLE BIT ABOUT EACH MEMBER OF THE BAND AND THEIR ROLE WITHIN THE GROUP?**

**MJ:** THE BAND IS SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST US. WE HAVE SHANE, OUR INCREDIBLE ROADIE WHO IS ALL OVER EVERYTHING BEFORE WE EVEN NEED TO THINK ABOUT IT. MY TRAP FELL OFF LAST GIG WE PLAYED AND BEFORE I COULD EVEN REACT HE WAS RIGHT THERE READY TO FIX IT ALL UP, HE MAN IS AN ABSOLUTE LEGEND. WE ALSO HAVE MY DEAR WIFE JANINE WHO IS THE MASTERMIND BEHIND OUR STAGE LOOK. SHE PUMMELS US ALL WITH MAKEUP BEFORE WE GO ON AND THE SECOND THE MAKEUP STARTED OUR ENTIRE PERFORMANCE JUMPED UP A LEVEL. IT WAS ACTUALLY CRAZY HOW FAST THE CHANGE WAS!

BEYOND THAT WE HAVE US. ALANIS (STICK GIRL) IS A FAN FAVOURITE AND HYPES UP THE AUDIENCE BEFORE WE HIT THE STAGE, TREADLY IS OUR MAIN MAN ON THE BASS AND KING OF AUDIENCE INTERACTION, ANDREW IS OUR LEAD GUITARIST AND SONGWRITER AND I TAKE CARE OF MOST OF THE ORGANISATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA AS WELL AS SING A LITTLE BIT. WE ALL CHIP IN EVERYWHERE WHEREVER WE CAN, BUT IT'S SO MUCH EASIER HAVING DEFINED ROLES, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO WHAT WE BRING TO THE STAGE AND OFF-STAGE. WE TRY TO PLAY TO EACH OTHERS STRENGTHS.

**HOW DID THE PYREFLY MEMBERS MEET?**

**MJ:** ANDREW AND I MET DOING A CERTIFICATE 3 IN MUSIC WHEN WE WERE TEENAGERS AND IT WAS QUITE BEAUTIFUL ACTUALLY. I REMEMBER WALKING IN NOT KNOWING ANYBODY AND I SAW ANDREW WEARING EITHER A MEGADETH OR A FASTADON SHIRT, I CANT REMEMBER WHICH, AND HE SAW ME IN MY CRADLE OF FILTH OR SATYRICON SHIRT AND AS WE MET WE JUST KIND OF BECAME BEST FRIENDS

THAT WAS ABOUT 13 OR SO YEARS AGO NOW AND WE HAVE BEEN INSEPARABLE EVER SINCE. WE MET ALANIS THROUGH HER MOTHER, WHO WAS A FAMILY FRIEND OF MINE, AND SHE WAS YOUNG AND LEARNING THE DRUMS, AND SHE STEPPED UP SO WELL AFTER OUR FOUNDING DRUMMER PASSED AWAY. IT TOOK A WHILE TO GET BACK INTO IT, BUT ALANIS REALLY SAVED THIS BAND.

TREADLY WAS THE MISSING PIECE THOUGH. WE MET HIM PLAYING WITH A COVERS SHOW CALLED RESURGENCE (STYLISTED RESURGENCCE OR SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES) AND AFTER JAMMING WITH HIM A FEW TIMES HE ASKED US IF WE COULD DO A ROB ZOMBIE COVER FOR HIS SISTERS BIRTHDAY AT ONE OF OUR UPCOMING SHOWS. OUR BASS PLAYER AT THE TIME WAS MY LITTLE BROTHER BUT HIS HEART WAS ALWAYS IN FILM RATHER THAN MUSIC, SO TREADLY STEPPED UP BEFORE THAT SHOW AND BECAME OUR FULL TIME STRING SLAPPER.

I HONESTLY COULDN'T ASK FOR MORE AS FAR AS BAND MATES GO. WE ARE A FAMILY AND LOVE AND CELEBRATE EACH OTHER LIKE ONE, AND CREATING MUSIC WITH MY FAVOURITE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD IS SOMETHING I AM GRATEFUL FOR EVERY SINGLE DAY.

## WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO START A BAND?

KJ: THE BAND STARTED BACK IN 2016 WITH MYSELF AND FOUNDING DRUMMER KATRINA TUFFY. SHE WAS AN ABSOLUTE POWERHOUSE AND HAD ETERNAL LABRADOR ENERGY. WE WERE MUSIC TUTORS AT THE TIME AND HADN'T ACTUALLY PLAYED IN BANDS FOR A LITTLE WHILE, SO WE GOT TALKING AFTER I SANG WITH HER FOR A DRUM COMP AND WE WERE BOTH SOLD ON THE IDEA. WE GOT ONTO ANDREW, WHO I RECENTLY DISCOVERED WAS AUDITIONING FOR OUR FRIENDS LIBERTY GUNS, AND SNATCHED HIM UP. WE THEN GOT KATRINA'S PARTNER ROBBIE ON THE BASS AND AWAY WE WENT. WE SPENT ABOUT A YEAR JUST REHEARSING SOME SONGS AND HIT THE STAGE AND ABSOLUTELY SUCKED, BUT WE KEPT AT IT AND SUCKED LESS EVERY TIME.

IN 2018 KATRINA TRAGICALLY PASSED AWAY IN A CAR ACCIDENT, WHICH PUT A COMPLETE STOP TO THE BAND.

ANDREW AND I WERE READY TO HANG UP THE BAND FOREVER AFTER THAT, BUT ALANIS STEPPED UP TO THE PLATE AND WE SLOWLY KEPT GOING. I DON'T THINK TRINA WOULD HAVE FORGIVEN US IF WE HAD OF STOPPED THERE. REALISTICALLY SHE WAS THE DRIVING FORCE FROM THE START, AND SHE STILL DRIVES US TODAY.

## IS THERE ANY INSPIRATION BEHIND THE NAME 'PYREFLY'?

KJ: ABSOLUTELY NO FUCKING CLUE AT ALL LOL. WE WERE STUMBLING AROUND FOR NAMES AND I REALLY WANTED TO BE CALLED SOMETHING DUMB AS HELL LIKE DEMOGORGON, WITCH BALLS OR SOMETHING EQUALLY IS STUPID, BUT ONE OF US SAID PYREFLY AND IT JUST KIND OF STUCK. ANDREW THREW TOGETHER A QUICK DESIGN OF THE PYREFLY LOGO AND THAT WAS IT, NOW THATS WHAT WE SHALL BE UNTIL THE END OF TIME. I STILL TO THIS DAY HAVE NO CLUE WHAT IT ACTUALLY IS OR MEANS, BUT IT CERTAINLY MEANS US.

## WHAT ARE THE THEMES AND TOPICS THAT YOU TYPICALLY SING ABOUT?

KJ: I'VE BEEN BATTLING CHRONIC MENTAL ILLNESS ALL MY LIFE, SO IT COMES THROUGH A LOT IN THE LYRICS I WRITE. I TRY AND TELL STORIES BUT THEY USUALLY END UP BEING METAPHORS FOR DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF WHAT I EXPERIENCE.

AWAKEN IS ABOUT THE SELF DESTRUCTIVE NATURE OF BIPOLAR DISORDER AND HOW THAT DUALITY CAN RUIN SO MANY THINGS YOU HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD WITH YOUR RATIONAL THINKING, LIKE A SHADOW THAT CONSUMES WHAT IS GOOD.

I ALWAYS FOUND THAT MUSIC WASN'T SO MUCH AN ESCAPE FOR ME, BUT A CONNECTION. I ALWAYS FELT VERY DIFFERENT GROWING UP, NOT REALISING THAT MY BRAIN ACTUALLY WORKED DIFFERENTLY TO MOST PEOPLE AROUND ME. LISTENING TO ARTISTS LIKE STRAPPING YOUNG LAD AND KOARN GROWING UP, I FELT LIKE SOMEONE OUT THERE ACTUALLY GOT WHAT WAS HAPPENING INSIDE MY MIND AND I DIDN'T FEEL QUITE AS ISOLATED IN WHAT I EXPERIENCED. I'D LOVE TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT FOR SOMEONE ELSE.

## ONE OF YOUR MOST POPULAR SONGS IS 'THE BARON', IS THERE ANY INSPIRATION BEHIND THE SONG LYRICS AND TITLE?

KJ: THE BARON IS ONE OF MY MOST PERSONAL SONGS IF I AM BEING HONEST, AND THE FACT THAT IT'S A FAN FAVOURITE IS BOTH AMAZING AND ABSOLUTELY TERRIFYING FOR ME. IT IS ABOUT THAT EMOTIONLESS NUMB STATE WHERE IT FEELS LIKE YOU HAVE COMPLETELY LOST YOUR EMPATHY, AND IN TURN YOUR HUMANITY. I CHARACTERISED THAT FEELING WITH THE CHARACTOR OF THE BARON, WHO SPEAKS THROUGH THE VERSES ABOUT PAIN, SUFFERING, LOSS AND FAULT WITHOUT REASON, WHILE IN THE PRECHORUS AND CHORUS I RESPOND TO THE ENTITY, BUT STILL REMAIN KIND OF POWERLESS TO IT. LIKE I CAN ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT IT DOES AND HOW IT MAKES ME OPERATE BUT I CAN ONLY REALLY TRY TO CO-EXIST RATHER THAN DEFEAT IT. SORRY, THIS HAS GOTTEN WAY TOO PERSONAL LOL.

THE TITLE WAS JUST A WORKING TITLE THAT ANDREW PUT ON IT, BECAUSE I THINK HE WAS LISTENING TO A LOT OF BARONESS AT THE TIME. THE TITLE INSPIRED THE WORDS THAT I WANTED TO PUT TO THE FEELING AND IT JUST KIND OF STAYED THAT WAY.

## WHEN WRITING A SONG, DO YOU HAVE A CERTAIN CREATIVE PROCESS?

KJ: IT REALLY DEPENDS ON WHO IS WRITING THE SONG. GENERALLY IT'S EITHER MYSELF OR ANDREW IN PRETTY EQUAL MEASURED. HIS PROCESS IS A WELL GUARDED AND MYSTERIOUS SECRET TO ME, BUT I KNOW HE LOCKS HIMSELF AWAY FOR LARGE PERIODS OF TIME AND LATER EMERGES WITH ABOUT 40 ODD SONGS FOR US TO SIFT THROUGH. WE USED TO WRITE A LOT WITH GUITAR PRO BUT NOW HE JUST RECORDS DEMOS SO WE CAN HEAR THE ENTIRE VISION, WHICH I MUCH PREFER HONESTLY. MY PROCESS IS A LOT LESS REFINED THAN HIS, AND USUALLY HITS WHEN THE ADHD KICKS IN AND I SUDDENLY FEEL LIKE WRITING A BILLION SONGS. I USUALLY LOSE INTEREST AFTER A COUPLE OF GOOD ONES BUT IT'S ENOUGH TO GET SOME TRACKS TO PLAY WITH. I FIND HE USUALLY WRITES MORE OF THE GRAND AND EPIC STUFF WHILE I TEND TO WRITE THE HEAVIER SONGS. OVER THE YEARS OUR WRITING STYLES HAVE EVENED OUT SO EITHER ONE OF US SOUNDS LIKE "PYREFLY" IF THAT MAKES SENSE.

## ON SPOTIFY, YOU HAVE A PLAYLIST OF RECORDED LIVE PERFORMANCES, WHICH INCLUDES SONGS LIKE 'SILVER TONGUE' AND 'AWAKEN' - WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE SONGS TO PLAY LIVE?

KJ: EASILY NUMBERED. THAT SONG IS SO MUCH FUCKING FUN TO PLAY AND IS ALL OUT INTENSITY RIGHT THE WAY THROUGH. IT HAS A HEAVY DRIVE THROUGH THE INTRO AND CHORUS, FUN HALF TIME PARTS, RIFF DRIVEN WEIRD SHIT IN THE BRIDGE AND THE ALWAYS FUN "HEY" BIT SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE. THAT SONG IS A DAMN JOURNEY FOR ME WHEN WE PLAY IT LIVE AND I ABSOLUTE ADORE EVERY DAMN SECOND OF IT. MY LEAST FAVOURITE TO PLAY ODDLY IS THE BARON. AS MUCH AS I LOVE THE SONG, THAT VERSE IS SO HARD LIVE. WHEN I WROTE THOSE LYRICS I WAS REALLY TRYING TO PUSH MYSELF SO I PRETTY MUCH GO THE WHOLE VERSE WITHOUT TAKING A BREATH, SO BY THE END OF THE FIRST VERSE I AM ABSOLUTELY WRECKED. I'M GLAD I CANNED THE SMOKING OTHERWISE I DON'T THINK I WOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT AT ALL.

## WHO ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE TOUR PARTNERS OR COLLABORATORS THAT YOU'VE WORKED WITH SO FAR?

KJ: THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY TO COUNT! MOST RECENTLY HAS BEEN TOMORROWS NEW FORMAT, WHO JUST HIRED A NEW SINGER WHO I USED TO TEACH. I AM REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THAT, IT'S KIND OF AMAZING SEEING THE NEW BLOOD THAT I TAUGHT COMING INTO THE SCENE AND MAKING WAVES. I AM SO PROUD!!!! THEN THERE'S OUR GUYS AND GAL IN THRAXAS! ARE ALWAYS WINNERS TO WORK WITH. SUPER PROFESSIONAL ON STAGE, LOVELIEST PEOPLE YOU'LL MEET OFF STAGE AND WE JUST CLICK. AS MUCH AS WE LOVE THEM THOUGH, THE GUITARIST ALEKS AND I ARE LOCKED IN AN ETERNAL BATTLE TO DESTROY EACH OTHER. SHE IS A GEM, BUT SHE IS GOING FUCKING DOWN.

THERES SO MANY AMAZING BANDS OUT HERE THOUGH THAT WE ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO WORK WITH, SUCH AS OUR AMAZING PALS IN RAWTISM, REAVER, LIBERTY GUNS, TEMTRIS (AUSSIE LEGENDS), MOUTHPIECE OF THE METAL SCENE METAL MATT, AND THE UNDISPUTED KING OF THE AUSTRALIAN INDIE METAL SCENE DAVE BALFOUR OF PRODUCTION COMPANY METAL EVILUTION. WE OWE EVERYTHING WE HAVE TO THESE PEOPLE AND SO MANY MORE, AND IT WOULD TAKE A DAMN BOOK TO MENTION EVERYONE AND THANK THEM AS MUCH AS THEY DESERVE.



## FOLLOWERS OF YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA WILL BE AWARE OF YOUR RECENT ROCKING AT STEEL ASSASSINS 2023 - WHAT WAS A MEMORABLE MOMENT OF THIS PARTICULAR SHOW?

KJ: THERE ARE TOO MANY TO COUNT, NOT JUST ON STAGE BUT OFF-STAGE AS WELL. STEEL ASSASSINS IS A HUGE INDIE METAL SCENE EVENT THAT HAS BANDS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY FLOCK TO SYDNEY FOR A HUGE TWO DAY EVENT AND THIS YEAR WAS ABSOLUTELY KILLER. WE GOT TO SEE OLD FRIENDS, CATCH SOME AMAZING BANDS AND SEE ONE OF THE BIGGEST LOCAL EVENTS SINCE COVID RUINED OUR SCENE GO ABSOLUTELY OFF. TO LIST OFF A FEW HIGHLIGHTS; REAVER CAME BACK TO THE SCENE AND LAUNCHED THEIR DEBUT ALBUM, MY MAIN MAN BRENDON OF MUSOLEGION CAME BACK FROM EUROPE AND THE VERY NEXT DAY MOSHED AT A TWO DAY LOCAL EVENT, I GOT TO MAKE FUN OF ALEKS FROM THRAXAS DURING OUR SET, OUR DEAR FRIEND PINKY JOINED US FOR A SONG, THE LIST GOES ON. LOCAL MUSIC AND THE COMMUNITY AROUND IT IS SOMETHING WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE AND CHERISH.

## WHAT ARE THE BAND'S BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS?

KJ: THAT WOULD BE WHEN WE SUPPORTED AVATAR DURING THEIR SYDNEY SHOW A COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK. THE SUPPORT ACT THAT WAS LINED UP HAD TO PULL OUT DUE TO THE GUITARIST UNFORTUNATELY BREAKING HIS ARM, SO THEPHOENIX.AU PUT OUT A CALL FOR BANDS. WE GOT TAGGED HEAPS IN THE LEAD UP TO IT, AND THEN WE GOT AN EMAIL ASKING IF WE COULD BE READY TWO DAYS OUT. NEXT THING YOU KNOW WE ARE AT THE METRO THEATRE, BACKSTAGE WITH A BAND I LOVE SO MUCH THAT I HAVE THEIR LOGO TATTOOED ON MY CHEST, GETTING READY TO STEP OUT IN FRONT OF 800 OR SO PEOPLE, AND IT WAS ABSOLUTELY MAGICAL. WE GOT TO THE END OF THE SET IN A BLINK AND WENT ON TO PLAY OUR LAST SONG OF THE NIGHT, SILVER TONGUE, AND I HAD TO STOP FOR A MOMENT BECAUSE THAT WAS THE FIRST SONG WE EVER WROTE WITH KATRINA BACK IN 2016. I JUST KINDA STOOD THERE AND HEARD PEOPLE YELLING FOR US, AND ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS HOW MUCH SHE WOULD HAVE LOVED IT. IF YOU LISTEN TO THE FOOTAGE, YOU CAN HEAR MY VOICE CRACKING TOO. IT WAS A POWERFUL MOMENT.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BAND'S UPCOMING GIGS?

KJ: OH MAN, OK SO WE ARE GETTING WEIRD IN 2024. WE HAVE HOOKED UP WITH A BURLESQUE GROUP CALLED DOLL HAUS CABARET AND WE ARE ORGANISING SHOWS THAT ARE MORE LIKE ALT EVENTS THAN JUST GIGS. WE HAVE ONE COMING UP IN JANUARY THAT TAKES PLACE ON A SMALL CRUISE UNDER THE NAME SIMO'S FLOATING DIVE, AND ITS A BUNCH OF METAL BANDS, BURLESQUE DANCERS, FREAKSHOW PERFORMERS, FIRE DANCERS (USING LED INSTEAD OF FIRE BECAUSE BOAT, WHICH HONESTLY I AM STILL ARGUING), AND DJ'S ACROSS 3 FLOORS CRUISING AROUND SYDNEY HARBOUR. I LOVE THE IDEA OF DOING MORE OUT THERE STUFF, AND PYREFLY IS A BAND THAT LEANS INTO THE BIZARRE AND NON-CONVENTIONAL AT THE BEST OF TIMES, SO I AM REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THIS ADVENTURE AND WHAT COMES AFTER. OTHER THAN THAT, OUR SCHEDULE IS PRETTY REGULAR SO IF YOU ARE NEARBY, KEEP AN EYE OUT ON OUR SOCIALS FOR A BILLION UPDATES.

## LASTLY, WHAT DO YOU HOPE PEOPLE TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR MUSIC?

I WANT EVERYONE WHO HEARS US AND SEES US TO HAVE AS MUCH FUN WITH IT AS WE DO. WE ARE ALL ABOUT THE METAL COMMUNITY AND HOW IT IS HOME FOR US AND SO MANY OTHERS, SO BRINGING THAT LOVE AND JOY TO EVERYONE WE COME ACROSS IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO US. WE AREN'T JUST MUSICIANS IN THE SCENE, WE ARE FANS AS WELL, AND WE TRY TO BE THE BEST WE CAN TO EVERYONE WE MEET BOTH ON AND OFF STAGE.

PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID TO COME SAY HI TO ANY OF US IF YOU SEE US IN A CROWD OR AFTER A SHOW, WE WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS AND CAN'T WAIT TO GET TO KNOW ALL OF THE AMAZING FANS THAT HAVE HELPED US GET AS FAR AS WE HAVE. WE ARE SO INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL AND EVERYTHING WE DO IS BECAUSE OF YOU, AND FOR YOU <3



@ PYREFLY



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