

RELIGION

MORGANA HAD THE PLEASURE TO INTERVIEW RELIQUIA!

PLEASE INTRODUCE EACH MEMBER OF THE BAND, AND THEIR ROLE WITHIN RELIQUIA.

WE ARE, GREGG (VOCALS, SYNTHS), TOBIAS (GUITARS), KARIM (DRUMS), ANDY (BASS), ADDZ (GUITARS)

WHERE ARE YOU BASED?

WE'RE BASED IN AND AROUND THE GREATER MANCHESTER AREA IN ENGLAND.

HOW DID THE BAND MEMBERS MEET, AND WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO FORM RELIQUIA?

GREGG: ADDZ AND I HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE LATE 2021, HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST PEOPLE I MET AFTER MOVING TO THE UK. ASIDE FROM THAT, RELIQUIA WAS FORMED MOSTLY VIA THE INTERNET, WITH THE ORIGINAL SONG CONCEPTS COMING FROM A COLLECTION OF DEMOS THAT I WROTE SOLO. I HAD PUT OUT AN AD ON AN ONLINE FORUM WHICH TOBIAS ANSWERED. HE TOOK MY ORIGINAL SONG IDEAS AND REWORKED THEM ALL ON GUITAR. ANDY AND KARIM CAME INTO THE PICTURE, ALSO FROM ONLINE ADS, AFTER WE STARTED TRYING TO BUILD A STEADY LINEUP AND HAVE BOTH CONTRIBUTED A TON OF DIFFERENT IDEAS AND MUSICAL DIRECTION TO THE WAY THAT THE SONGS CAME OUT.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MUSIC TO SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER LISTENED BEFORE?

GREGG: A MIXTURE OF 80'S GOTH ROCK, DEATH/DOOM METAL, POST-ROCK ATMOSPHERE AND DARKWAVE SYNTHS. WE COME FROM SOME PRETTY DIVERSE MUSICAL BACKGROUNDS AND HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT MASHING UP ANY AND ALL OF OUR INFLUENCES INTO OUR BAND'S SOUND.

WHO ARE SOME OF YOUR MUSICAL INFLUENCES?

GREGG: FOR THIS BAND, SISTERS OF MERCY, HAVE A NICE LIFE, PARADISE LOST, KATATONIA, BAUHAUS, FIELDS OF THE NEPHILIM, MY DYING BRIDE, ...AND ALSO THE TREES, THE TWILIGHT SAD AND SLOWDIVE.

YOU RELEASED THE SONG 'THE GRAVEYARD SCHOOL' MID SEPTEMBER 2023. WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE LYRICS AND SONG TITLE?

GREGG: THE TITLE IS BORROWED FROM A GROUP OF POEMS FROM A SET OF 18TH CENTURY WRITERS WHO WERE PRECURSORS TO THE GOTHIC MOVEMENT. IT WAS ORIGINALLY JUST A TEMPORARY TITLE FOR THE DEMO WHEN I WROTE IT, BUT IT ENDED UP STAYING WITH THE TRACK WHEN I WROTE THE LYRICS.

THE SONG IS MOSTLY ABOUT REGRET AND BETRAYAL AND THE EXPERIENCE OF LIVING WITH THE CRUSHING WEIGHT OF THOSE THINGS.

YOU RECORDED THE VIDEO FOR 'FEAR OF THE LIGHT' THIS YEAR, WHICH WAS YOUR FIRST VIDEO. WHAT WAS THE CREATIVE PROCESS BEHIND RECORDING THIS?

GREGG: FEAR OF THE LIGHT WAS ONE OF THREE SONGS WE TRACKED AND FILMED AT UNIT 26 STUDIOS IN SALFORD, ENGLAND. IT WAS A PRETTY STRAIGHTFORWARD PROCESS, FILMED IN THE STUDIO'S LIVE ROOM BACK IN EARLY AUGUST 2023. FEAR OF THE LIGHT, ALONG WITH THE OTHER TRACKS WERE ALL FINISHED IN 1-2 TAKES EACH AND WERE FILMED LIVE, WITH MULTIPLE DSLR CAMERAS SET UP TO FILM EACH MEMBER SEPARATELY. AFTER WE GOT THE FOOTAGE BACK, WE EDITED EACH ONE DIFFERENTLY, SO SOME OF THE VIDEOS ARE DESIGNED TO LOOK LIKE OLD 8MM FOOTAGE, WHILE OTHERS ARE RUN THROUGH VARIOUS EFFECTS AND EVEN THROUGH A VINTAGE 1990S VHS CASSETTE RECORDER. I HAVE A BIT OF A FASCINATION WITH LOFI AND DEAD FORMATS.

RELIQUIA

DO YOU HAVE ANY FUTURE ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOU'D WISH TO ACHIEVE AS A BAND?

GREGG: WE'RE HAPPY CONTINUING ON OUR PATH AS WE ARE. WE'VE JUST PLAYED OUR FIRST SHOW, TO A REALLY GOOD RESPONSE. WE'LL BE COMPLETING OUR FIRST EP LATER THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT YEAR, SO WE WILL BE RELEASING NEW MATERIAL VERY SOON. WE'RE ALSO HOPING TO START PLAYING MORE SHOWS OUTSIDE OF OUR GENERAL AREA.

WHAT IS RELIQUIA'S BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE?

GREGG: WE'RE STILL A RELATIVELY NEW BAND, BUT WE'VE RECENTLY RELEASED THREE LIVE TRACKS (THE AFOREMENTIONED ONES RECORDED AT UNIT 26) WITH VIDEOS AND PLAYED OUR FIRST SHOW JUST A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO. HONESTLY THE RESPONSE WE'VE BEEN GETTING FROM EVERYONE, EVEN AT THIS EARLY STAGE, HAS BEEN AMAZING.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE PEOPLE WILL TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR MUSIC?

GREGG: I HOPE THAT PEOPLE ENJOY THE SONGS AND MAYBE ARE INSPIRED TO TRY AND FIGURE OUT SOME OF THE MUSICAL AND LYRICAL INFLUENCES WOVEN IN.

DO YOU HAVE ANY GIGS LINED UP IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

NOTHING SET IN STONE, YET, BUT WE'RE ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR AND BOOKING GIGS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

LASTLY, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OTHER MUSICIANS WANTING TO FORM A BAND?

GREGG: JUST WRITE MUSIC. YOU CAN FIGURE OUT THE LOGISTICS AND THE SPECIFICS OF THE BAND LATER ON, BUT BEING A SOLID SONGWRITER AND DEVELOPING AN EAR FOR MELODIES IS KEY.



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