MUSIC

EMERGING

BLU ANXXIETY PUSHES FORWARD WITH CONFRONTATIONAL SYNTHPUNK

NOVEMBER 7, 2013 ELIZABETH RENDES LEAVE A COMMENT

In our Spring 2016 issue we launched a new music feature, Emerging. If you've been wondering what to listen to lately or personal Spotify and social media searching for the next emerging band that would restore your faith in The State of Music, this feature is for you. We checked in with a few of the bands we think are the most promising in the music industry, from beginners to more seasoned vets, new guys and new-to-us projects. Below, Blu Anxxiety follow-up on a few years since our last background and photos on each band, this time we are focusing on Blu Anxxiety.

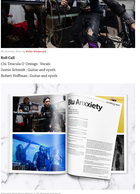


photo – Steve Wheatcroft

Red Call
Ola Tomczak-Ó Grenge- Vocals
Justin Schmidt- Guitar and synth
Robert Hoffman- Guitar and synth

photo – Steve Wheatcroft

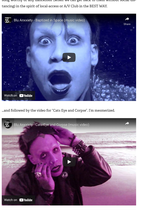
Blu Anxxiety is an anomaly. Vocalist "Dracula Ó" delivers scathingly honest lyrics juxtaposed with boisterous song titles and storyline step synthi and occasional instrumentation that is reminiscent of Depeche Mode. Blu Anxxiety's sound blends darker overcast and passion of early Skinny Puppy and Pillbox(y) with the dark his-tory of Alien Sex Fiend. They are notable for being one of the few bands who un-dermend the emerging between making music that is confrontational while injecting their own unique sense of spooky humor into the music and lyrics. As for the beginnings of the Blu Anxxiety, Justin told us, "We started to make a band with a new type of sound that had influences of psychedelical, big bop, and Heavenly Voice. We wanted to make music that was dark and sinister but also had a sense of nonsense and disturbing white experiency". It's challenging to make im-portant issues appealing and danceable for an audience but Blu Anxxiety delivers with lyrical metaphors that ultimately show how art is political.

photo – Steve Wheatcroft

On their live performances, the band describes their energy and intention, saying, "We make aggressive electronic music and we make it political with pretty solid confrontational performances at times. We try to only play all-ages shows and support DIY venues and bookers rather than be part of the larger for-some and enter-tainment industry. Because of that, we attract people of all ages and genres from venues and our peeks to rarely flipping-know kids."

photo – Steve Wheatcroft

Justin's solo project, X Harlow, further explores the sociopolitical issues also seen in Blu Anxxiety's lyrical content. From the press release for X Harlow's debut full-length, "It pulls at the thread of a world around of its own entity, challenging for-mal institutions towards self-sustainability and optimism, instead asking how one might 'respond to an inherently self-destructive society and collapse'."



If you're a fan of dearkwick and postpunk, you'll recognize Ola's vocals late for the ear vocalist of New York City quartet Anamai. Check out one of the tracks from their self-released 2016 the assistance of Infinecamder Hawaiian State from ano-ther.

May I present the video for "Baptized in Space", a glorious accompaniment to a song worthy of any dancefloor (when we can get back to them without social dis-tancing) in the spirit of local scenes on AV Club in the BEST WAY.

...and followed by the video for "Cats Eye and Corpse". I'm mesmerized.

photo – Steve Wheatcroft

photo – Steve Wheatcroft

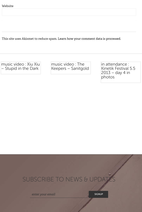


photo – Steve Wheatcroft

A few more just because...

photo – Steve Wheatcroft

photo – Steve Wheatcroft

Follow Blu Anxxiety on Soundcloud for updates. Justin does a solo industrial project called X Harlow and Ola plays in the Gothic Rock band Children With Dog Faces. Also CD-release event/tour company called PUSSYCAT.

Check out the interview with Blu Anxxiety in the Summer issue Issue. To read more about bands we cover for this feature, check out all of our Emerging inter-views.

-Elizabeth Rendes
Elizabeth Rendes is the Associate Editor of Auxiliary. Based in Los Angeles, she is a writer, DJ, creative director, and advertising geeks.

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