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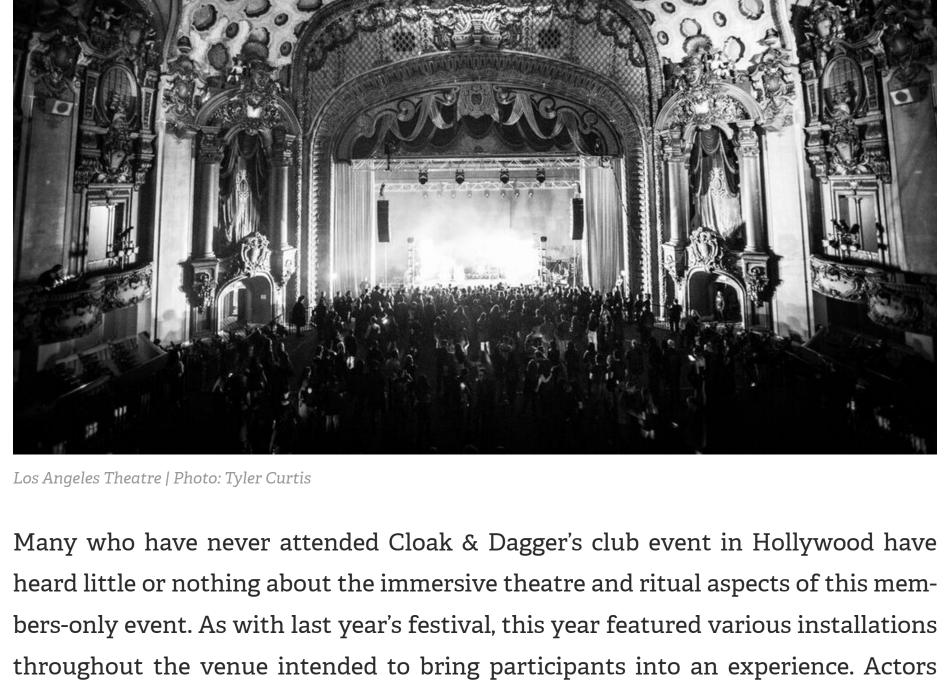
NEWS

IN ATTENDANCE

CLOAK & DAGGER FESTIVAL 2018

DECEMBER 6, 2018 | ELIZABETH RHODES | LEAVE A COMMENT |

The grandeur and nostalgic opulence of this venue, built in 1930 with a grand opening in 1931 premiering a Charlie Chaplin film, befitted the vibe and needs of an event held by Cloak & Dagger founders Michael Patterson and Adam Bravin. The various levels of the venue and architectural details proved to be perfect for the crowd: a large anteroom in the ladies bathroom lined with mirrored vanities, grand staircases and stately chandeliers provided a glamorous backdrop for plenty of selfies.



these experiences were invitation-only or VIP-specific. As with everything related

to the Cloak & Dagger weekly event, discretion is everything and this applied to the installations throughout the event.

were staged at various locations in the venue as guides, among other roles. Some of



consistent with this year's lineup: the main stage hosted well-known acts and the more modestly sized downstairs venue hosted emerging artists. For music lovers

Photo: Tyler Curtis

BOAN, Black Mare, Body of Light, Death Bells, and headliner Boy Harsher.

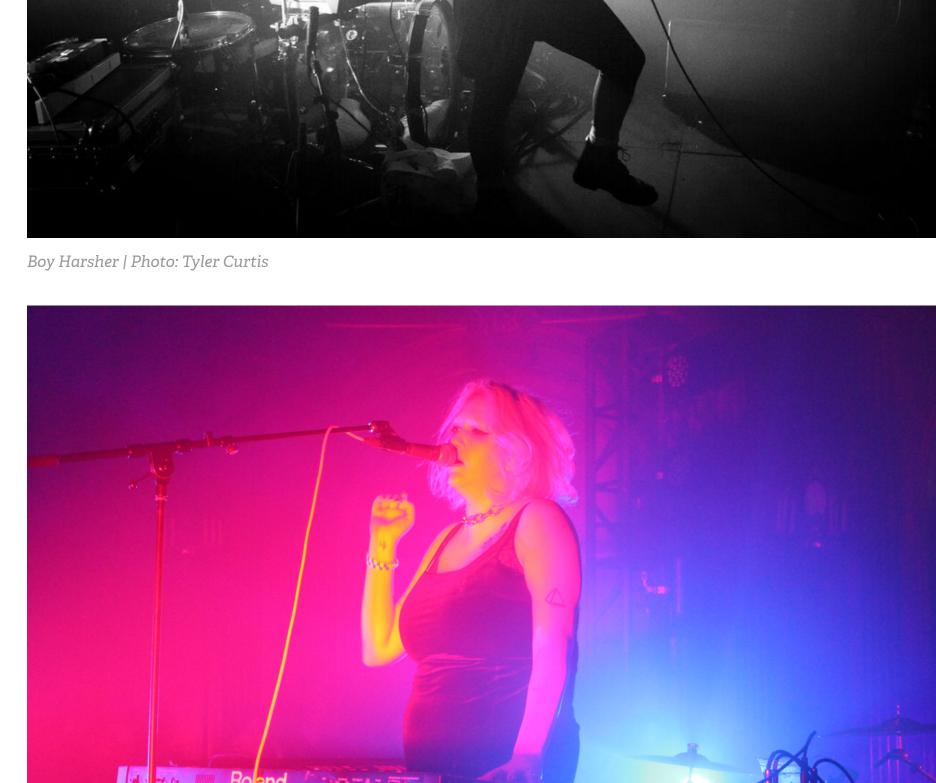
The musical lineup was the main focus of the festival, headlined by Bravin's band

with Justin Warfield She Wants Revenge (remember when their song "Tear You

Apart" was featured in a scene of American Horror Story: Hotel introducing Lady

Gaga's character The Countess?). One aspect of the festival I loved last year stayed

like me, the festival really caught my attention with emerging artists including



SRSQ | Photo: Elizabeth Rhodes

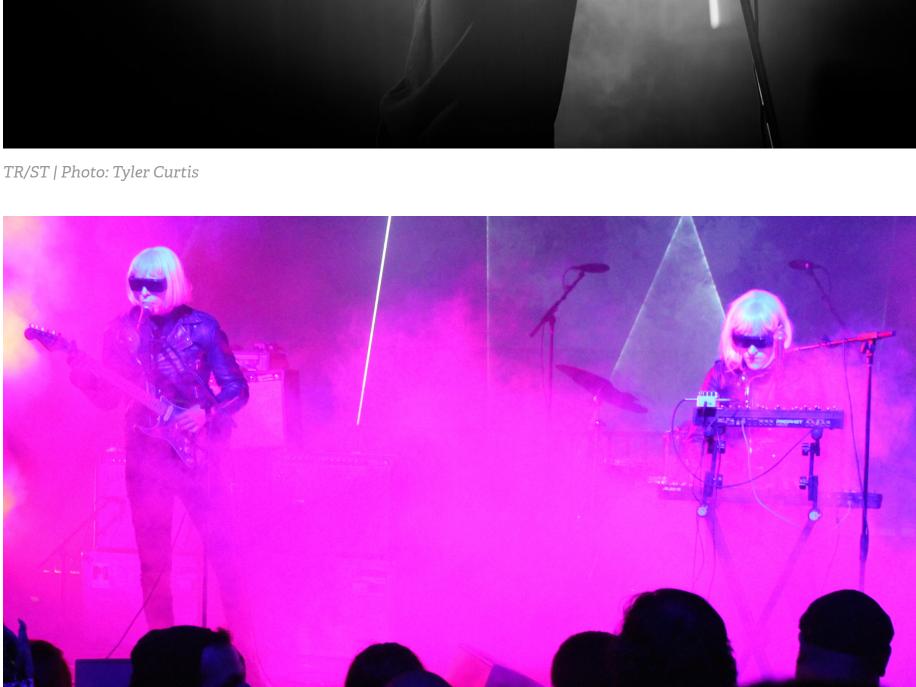
struments simultaneously.

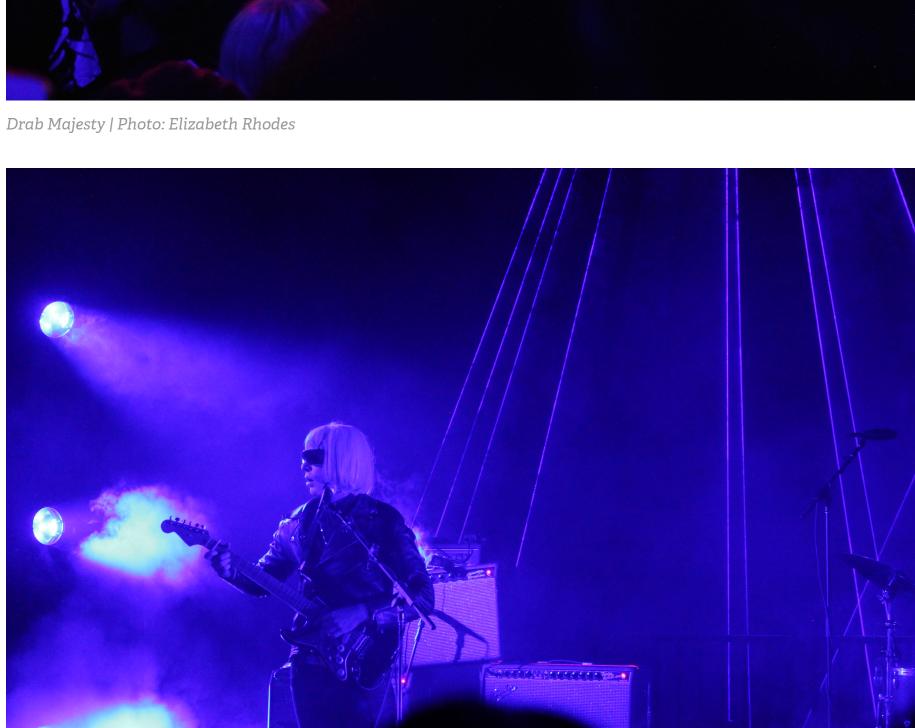
A standout of the 'emerging artist stage' lineup was SRSQ, the latest solo project of

Kennedy Ashlyn (Them Are Us Too). Of all acts at the festival, she had the most

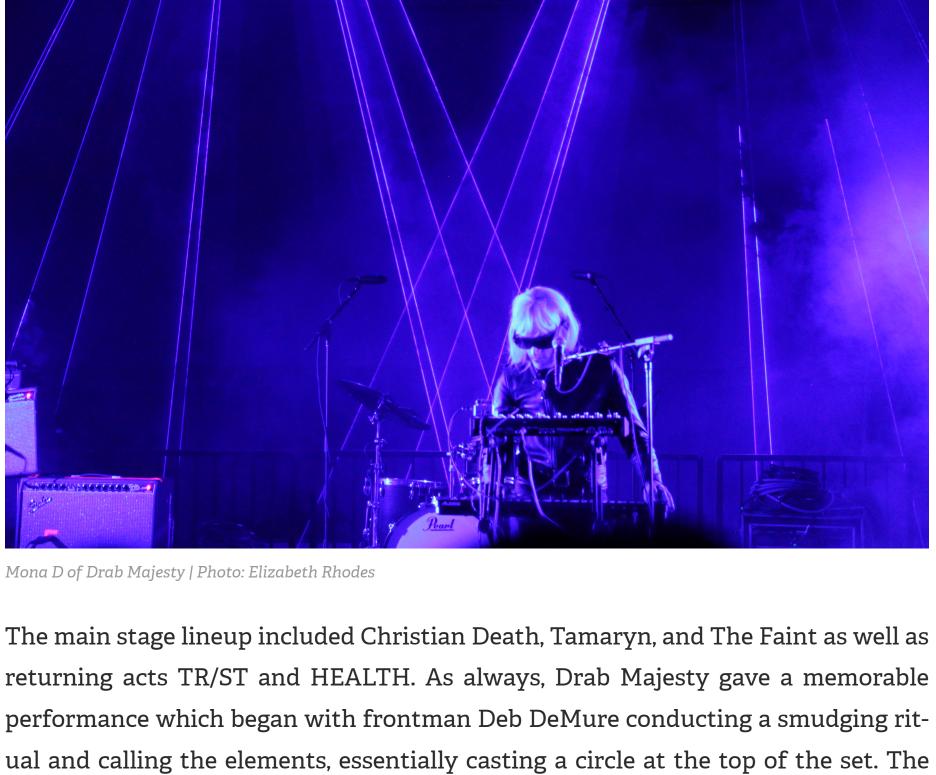
pared-down set up and delivered an extraordinary vocal performance full of inten-

sity and raw emotion. It was impressive to watch her sing and operate multiple in-





Deb DeMure of Drab Majesty | Photo: Elizabeth Rhodes



joy of following a band over time is seeing their evolution and Drab Majesty did

this once again with a stage set up that departed from previous years with statues

and visual projections. For their appearance at Cloak & Dagger Festival, with a de-

cidedly minimal stage set up, Deb DeMure and keyboardist Mona D wore their sig-

nature wigs, all-white stage makeup and sunglasses with leather motorcycle jack-

ets. Their set featured longer breaks in between songs with Deb performing ethe-

real interludes on his guitar accompanied by Mona D's haunting synth. Their

sound has become more akin to a soundtrack or soundscape, a welcome evolution

from a band notable in the dark alternative scene for the quality of their songs as well as musical talent.

My favorite area of the event was the merch room because it brought together par-

ticipants and performers to dig through the vinyl on sale in the makeshift record

store and pick up coveted items from each band's merch table as well as merch for

Cloak & Dagger itself. One aspect of Cloak & Dagger Festival that cannot be over-

looked is the participants themselves. The event is truly a showcase for members

and non-members alike to put on a spectacle of dark fashion ranging from the

stayed goth club attire to fetishwear and glam rock ensembles. The aforemen-

tioned anteroom to the women's bathroom was a perfect meeting ground for participants and became a hotspot for selfies and impromptu photo sessions. Perhaps it is the paradox of the secrecy so inherent to Cloak & Dagger the concept/event and the desire of its participants to create and photodocument the community cre-

Photo: Tyler Curtis

ated therein that makes Cloak & Dagger Festival such an interesting social experiment. For more information on Cloak & Dagger as well as the Cloak & Dagger Festival visit their Instagram @xcloakanddaggerx and website. For more of Tyler Curtis' photography visit his Instagram @tyliner and website. Read about 2017's Cloak & Dagger festival in our Fall 2018 Issue. -Elizabeth Rhodes Elizabeth Rhodes is the Associate Editor of Auxiliary. Based in Los Angeles, she is a writer, DJ, modern mystic, and astrology junkie. d THIS ARTICLE IS TAGGED UNDER

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