

FEE LION

PANTERAH

Interview Elizabeth Rhodes
Photographer Jacq Trezzo
Fashion Stylist, Makeup Artist, Hair Stylist & Model Panterah
Fashion Stylist & Special FX Edit Owen Blodgett

The slithering sensuality of the electronic sounds and haunting vocals delivered by the artist Panterah are a standout among young artists in recent years. With dancefloor-worthy melodies, a curated aesthetic that is at once sexy and compellingly strange, as well as lyrics that are disarmingly vulnerable from such a mysterious chanteuse, the allure of Panterah is obvious. Formerly known by the name FEE LION, the transformation into a new creative personae has yielded newfound creative energy and the courage to explore new depths in Panterah's sound.



WHO IS PANTERAH? PANTERAH IS LIBERATION.

Who is Panterah?

Panterah : Panterah is liberation.

For readers that knew you as Fee Lion, can you describe what led to your decision to change the name you perform as?

P : The evolution was inevitable. The first time Panterah came to mind, my reaction was so visceral. I knew it was me. I hadn't planned to change my persona but it hit me like a brick wall, Panterah is my calling. Simultaneously terrifying and electrifying. I was experiencing a giant metamorphosis and as I shed my skin, along went Fee. I realized that I hadn't felt truly connected with Fee Lion in a long time and as a result I was suffering and so was my creativity. I find that I need an emotional connection to all parts of my work. With Panterah I feel that personal connection, I see room to evolve even further, I believe in her, I'm inspired. Fee served me well. I learned so much about myself through Fee Lion and was able to connect with an incredible web of people that I am deeply grateful for. Although it is a monumental change, Fee Lion is the blueprint and will forever remain the effervescent water body that Panterah emerged from. This is a dive deeper into my truest self. For anyone who may be in a similar place of transition, I support

© @PANTERAHXXX

you wholeheartedly. The things that will come from following your truth far outweigh any negatives. Never forget where you came from, listen closely and evolve with pride. You can do it.

How did you know when it was time for this sea change in your creative persona?

P : It happened so organically. I had developed a new routine of running on the beaches in Chicago as a sort of self-prescribed therapy. I was learning about discipline and slowly outgrowing my inner saboteur. I became obsessed with the challenge of running through sand, withstanding uncomfortable weather, scaling the rocks without being swept away by the tide; each time encouraging myself "to the end, to the end." Eventually, I began jumping into the water. I would have visions of a slimy, spiky, hairy humanoid creature, wet and glowing with promise. This was the true birth of Panterah.

Tell us about the projects you are currently working on as Panterah.

P : Everything is on the horizon, new music, videos, collaborations. I recently unleashed my first NFT in collaboration with Owen Blodgett on Foundation. It has been incredibly rewarding to collaborate on 3D work because it allows for extreme experimentation in storytelling. I look forward to developing and executing more of my wildest ideas. I can't give too much away just yet but by now we all know I love a good spectacle!

How would you describe the vibe of the music you create?

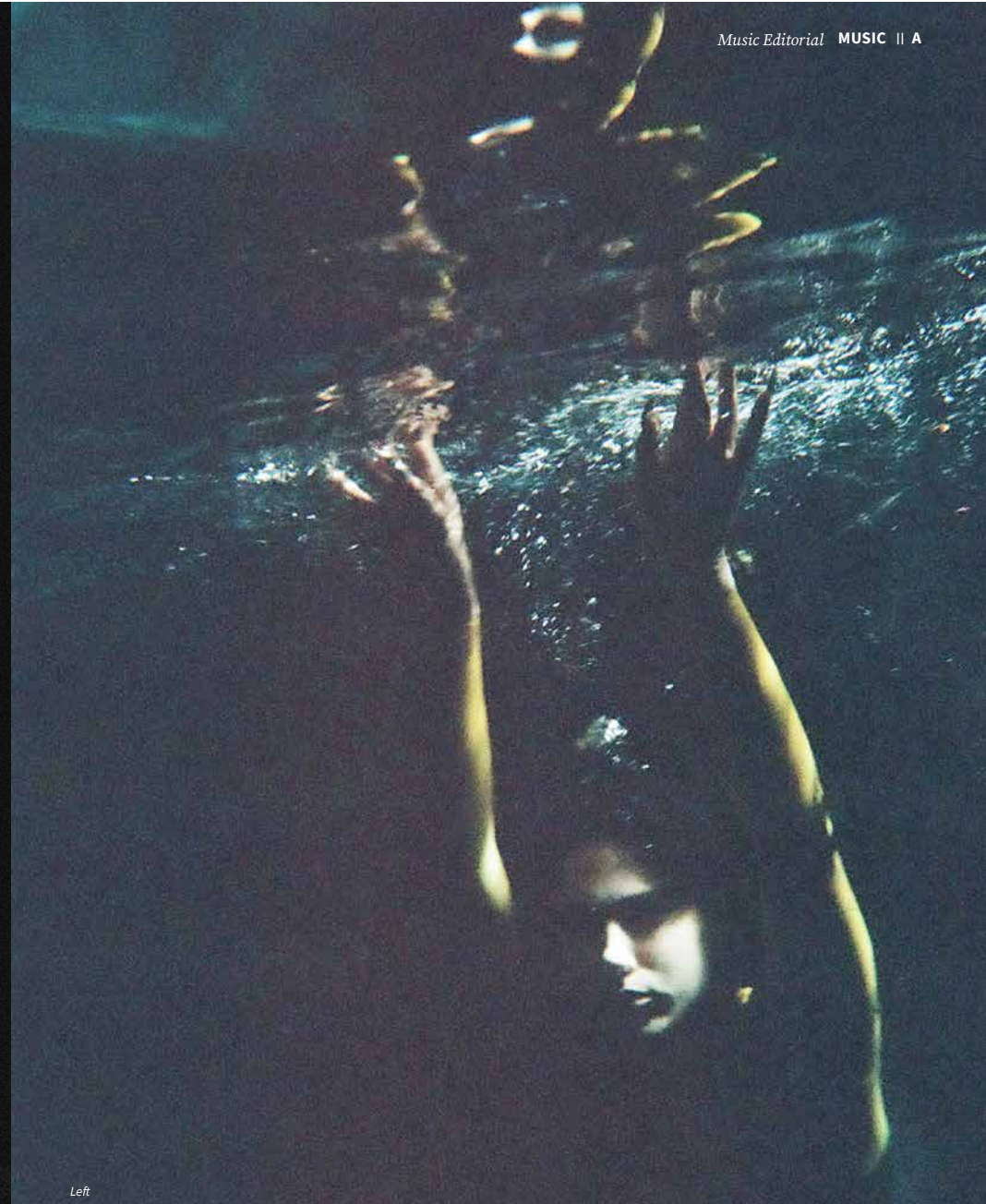
P : So much of my journey into Panterah has been about fearlessness in re-discovery. The audacity to follow your truth. I'm exploring avenues I didn't get a chance to as Fee Lion and just pushing the envelope in general. I feel liberated, endless and very much alive. I hope that feeling translates to my listeners.

Your voice is powerful and unique, sometimes soft and delicate and at other times seductive and provocative. Who were your creative influences growing up and now?

P : Thank you! Becoming reacquainted with my voice has been powerful. I wasn't singing much or even talking much during the 2020 quarantine so finally making music and vocalizing has been transformative. I stopped creating because I felt as though I had nothing to say. Throughout my life, I've learned the importance of expression from icons Debbie Harry, Diamanda Galas, Björk, Jyl, Gina X. Time and time again they inspire me to speak up.

You've played with visual representation of your art through music videos, album and promotional stills as well as live performances. How does visual storytelling work for you? Do you write the music with images in mind or have separate processes for the music and visuals you create?

P : So far, my process as Panterah has been very heavily dance based. I've been allowing the movement to inform the music and the lyrics. Must be some of my Grotowski training resurfacing! I was a dancer and actor for a good part of my early life and this feels like



Left
Panterah wears Libidex.

“MORE
WOMEN,
MORE
FEMMES,
MORE
QUEERS,
MORE
TRANS
PEOPLE,
MORE
PEOPLE
OF COLOR,
MORE
MINORITIES,
MORE
MORE
MORE.”

THESE ARE
THE VOICES
THAT NEED
TO BE
HEARD.”

PANTERAH

a natural merging of the two. Of course I was integrating these concepts as Fee Lion but creating as Panterah feels more experimental and, in many ways, more free because my relationship with myself has come a very long way. I'm excited to experiment further with my process and discover new ways of making work.

What is it like to be a female creator in the music industry today?

P: I think the fact that we still need to ask this question reveals all. Inequality in the music industry is a big reason why I've stayed independent all of these years. More women, more femmes, more queers, more trans people, more people of color, more minorities, more more more. These are the voices that need to be heard.

What do you have coming up that you're excited to share with your followers?

P: All of it. The unveiling of the beast.

Tell us about what inspired the images you co-created exclusively for this Auxiliary editorial.

P: This editorial is a take on the very first visions I had of Panterah. The metamorphoses, the birth, the surfacing. Creating these images with Jacq [photographer Jacq Trezzo] and Owen [Blodgett] has been spiritual. Thank you for believing in me time and time again. I am incredibly grateful to share this monumental part of my life with this exceptional team and with you. Panterah, to the end! || **A**

Follow Panterah on her Instagram @panterahhhh to keep up with her latest projects and releases.