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Photos by
Walter Wlodarczyk.

Blu Anxxiety

Roll Call

Chi 'Dracula O' Orengo : Vocals

Justin Schmidt : Guitar and Synth

Robert Hoffman : Guitar and Synth

When did the band get started and what was the original intention of the band?

In 2017 we were jammin' in a shipping container that Justin lived in and we wanted to write about the trauma that builds up from repeated police brutality and systemic racism in this country. We wanted to make a band with a new type of sound that had influences of goth/industrial, hip hop, and freestyle, but with a political message centered around police and prison abolition, indigenous resistance, and dismantling white supremacy.

Tell us more about your name: how does it communicate the sound or vibe of the band?

Blu Anxxiety means PTSD from a police state, which we felt like there was never a definition for; we wanted to define that, the way police presence and overreach causes psychological trauma for people of color in this country.

How would you describe your music to someone who has not yet checked you out?

It's a mix of anarcho punk, latin freestyle, new wave, goth and industrial.

What inspires you to create this style of music?

Crime life and night life.

What influences in fashion, literature and culture impact your creativity?

Aesthetically, we love and take a lot of influence from campy horror movies, street life in New York, John Waters, drag, graffiti, and vandalism.

What other bands are inspiring you right now?

Our friends' bands that we play with regularly, there's a lot of amazing music coming out of New York right now. We are huge fans of the bands on our label Toxic State Records (NYC) and Synthicide Records (Brooklyn) as well as our friends at Corpus Records (NYC) and Chicago Research (Chicago).

How would you describe the current alternative music scene where you live?

We're in a mix between the New York street punk scene, goth/industrial, even some techno and noise. We make aggressive electronic music and we make it political with pretty wild 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 bar scene and entertainment industry. Because of that, we attract people of all ages and genres from noisers and raw punks to candy flipping dance kids.

What are your favorite tour or stage stories? Share 'em here.

One time we were playing at The Glove and this girl got so excited about our set she grabbed and bit Chi. Generally, we get some pretty strange reactions from people when we are playing, mostly enthusiastic but like in a crazy way.

Tell us about your latest release.

We just released a split with Anatomy put out by Synthicide Records, it's our three favorite songs we've made so far because with every release we get better at recording and mixing which we do ourselves.

What's next for your band?

We got a full length coming out later this year and hopefully Mexico and European tours will get lined up when the COVID world comes to an end.

Where can people find out more about your band and any other projects members are involved in?

Our Instagram has the most info @bluanxxiety. Chi and Justin's personal pages are @1_800_posessed and @princesscovfefe, respectively. Justin does a solo industrial project called X Harlow and Chi plays in a new punk band called Children With Dog Feet. Also, Chi's streetwear company 1 800 POSSESSED, you can find out more by checking out his personal IG page as well.