MUSIC

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THE WRAITH REVIVE DEATHROCK IN LOS ANGELES WITH A DOSE OF GLOOM

JUNE 21, 2022 ELIZABETH RHODES

In our Spring 2020 issue we launched a new music feature, Emerging. If you've been wondering what to listen to lately or pretend Spotify and social media algorithms don't exist, we've been keeping a secret playlist for you. In the spirit of Music, this new feature is for you. We checked in with a few of the bands we think have a unique voice in the musical landscape to inspire a new generation of concert goers and record buyers alike. Our first Emerging includes Tomorrowish The Wraith, OVEIN, and Entrance VR. In this Auxiliary Online Content you'll find more background and photos on each band. Give time we are focusing on The Wraith.

by: Elizabeth Rhodes
photos by: Michaela Hines, Michael David, and Michael Thorn

Michaela Hines

Roll Call
Danny Baker: Vocals
Kate Kirby: Guitar
Paul Rogers: Bass
Anastili Lytochkin: Drums

Releasing their first EP Shadow Fog in 2021 The Wraith immediately appeals to anyone with a love for 80s tinged punk and gothic overtones in lyrics. Their first full-length release Grave Relief arrived in 2022 and received overall positive reviews. A highlight for The Wraith was their performance at the show celebrating the release of Grave Relief at the Los Angeles Theatre Center in Downtown. The show also was a sampling of Los Angeles' notable deathrock bands from the past with The Wraith being the young guns on the bill. They did not disappoint.

Michaela Hines

Frontman Danny Baker voice diversely associated with Lost Tribe also a great band has been compared to Sunfaded.wav Glenn Danzig but I hear more of a combination of Ian Curtis and Danzig with a touch of Morrissey. Baker's voice is particularly essential punk band Paul Bell, the first punk band comprised of all black members. It's this powerful vocal performance along with the current lineup of The Wraith that makes it all click into place for a record that has the gloomy essence of deathrock purposely bands with a confrontational frontman delivering poetic lyrics.

Michaela Hines

Michaela Hines

We interviewed The Wraith for our Spring 2020 issue and they provided some background on the band.

When did the band get started and what was the original intention of the band?
The Wraith: The Wraith was started in late 2016 in Los Angeles. We were writing a lot and recording demos. We released our first EP Shadow Fog in January 2017. The intention of the band was to play less inspired dark punk, post punk, etc. We wanted a style that infused the heavy drum sound of Killing Joke but with melodic guitar tone of The Clamshells.

Tell us more about your music. How does it communicate the sound or vibe of the band?
The "We were throwing names back and forth for a while until we finally agreed on The Wraith. I believe it of Scottish origin. It basically means a ghost or apparition. It's kind of a dark word so we felt that fit the tone of the band well.

How would you describe your music to someone who has not yet checked you out?
TW: I'd say it's dark punk, post punk, or deathrock. We incorporate things like synth sounds and of gothy elements into our sound but still are a heavy guitar based sound.

Read more of this interview in the Spring 2020 issue.

Michaela Hines

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Hines's their music video for "Wing of Night" off 2020's Grave Relief as a good starting point.

Vocalist Danny Baker also writes poetry and has a self-published zine called Dead Flowers.

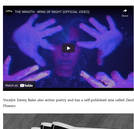

Photo courtesy of @theWraithband

Photo courtesy of the zine, as seen at the Dead Flowers zine Instagram.

Photo courtesy of @theWraithband

For a bit more, check out the killer playlist The Wraith created on their Spotify page!

Check out the interview with The Wraith in the Spring 2020 Issue. Deep Relief pre-orders and The Wraith merch can be found on the their Bandcamp Page. The Wraith is on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. To read more about bands on cover flat this/bands, check out Emerging interviews.

—Elizabeth Rhodes

Elizabeth Rhodes is the Associate Editor of Auxiliary. Based in Los Angeles, she is a writer, DJ, modern dancer and amateur gardener.

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