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February 6, 2008 - Wednesday

INTERVIEWS with TEMUJIN, NOYZE, SOCIETY 1, TEMTRIS, and DOCTOR BIZARRE
Category: [Music](#)

INTERVIEW with TEMUJIN (Australia)



By Jeanne Thomas

MUEN: What does the name of your band mean, and why did you decide to use this name?

[Kelly] "Temujin" is the tribal birthname of the Mongol warlord Genghis Khan. We chose it because it has a great history behind it - this is a man who rose from humble beginnings to rule most of the known world. And it has a good look and feel as well!

MUEN: Temujin consists of just two talented people doing all the instrumentation. How do you approach practicing and recording, and are there ever more musicians used?

INTERVIEW with DOCTOR BIZARRE (United States)



By Lissy MacMillan

MUEN: WELL HERE WE ARE, DOCTOR BIZARRE! OBVIOUSLY THAT'S NOT YOUR REAL NAME. WHY DO YOU GO BY DOCTOR BIZARRE, AND HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THAT NAME?

DOCTOR BIZARRE: Well when I first started recording my solo project with a friend of mine named Jake Samson, a jazz bass extraordinaire. The sound that came out was quite unique, fierce and strange. I immediately recall saying "this is quite bizarre" so hence the name Bizarre was born. After months of recording I decided to get my PH.D in Abstract Abnormalism therefore the sobriquet Doctor

INTERVIEW with SOCIETY 1

An interview with band member

MUEN: Alright now a little hardcore music war going on with ministry, a few members of one band jumping add some tattooing, naked women, some theatrics and stir it with the transcendental satanist, suspenseful lead singer Matt Z directs porn and he got you one bad record called Society 1 that's off the top of that to the limit, an interview with the newer members of Stevil (Steve Helmer has almost as much as lead singer Matt Stevil has two other that are just on the burner right now, I his own band, it's moving along and definitely is something to keep an eye out for comes together and the second one is crazy "Hard Till Death" that's Nigel Murphy of The Shawn Brown from Crack, Phil Burstein from Zombie/Last Crack, Marshall Beck from

[Kelly] We write as a two piece only, but for recording we do use other musicians occasionally. We're fortunate enough to have access to some very talented individuals - friends who are more than happy to do session work when we record.

[Karl] When we practise it's most often just an extended jam - I play guitar, Kelly sings and plays keyboard. Occasionally we play with friends, and I swap to bass and work on fills if we are jamming with another guitarist. For recording, it's all layered and recorded in stages anyway, so there's no need for session players except for some of the final touches. We used two guests on the CD, and they played some fantastic solos on a few tracks.

MUEN: Do you have any plans on expanding the band at some point down the road?

[Karl] At this stage the dynamic when we write is so good that we don't really want to mess with that. But anything is possible. If we end up working with someone who shares the same vision and style as we do, and they want to be a part of what we are creating, then I can see us adding other permanent members. Especially if they are really really rich, or their father owns Sony.

MUEN: Will you be doing any touring soon and if so how will you go about hiring guest musicians?

[Kelly] I'm keen to get back on stage this year. I've just broken a bone in my right hand though, so that's going to put us 4 to 6 weeks (at least) behind on various plans.

[Karl] One of the key plans for 2008 is to play more live gigs. And hopefully outside of Australia ... we're working on that at the moment.

[Kelly] We don't "hire" guest musicians as such, we have a

was added to my title and there you have the Doctor of Bizarre.

MUEN: HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED PLAYING THE GUITAR? AND WERE YOU GIVEN LESSONS OR ARE YOU SELF TAUGHT?

DOCTOR BIZARRE: I started playing guitar at the age of 12. At first I was self taught then after a year or so I decided to seek further knowledge of the instrument. Lessons began with an older gentlemen and rebel rouser named Clem Furnia who did his time in the country circuit in Texas. He would teach me some country "pickin and grinin" then immediately following lessons we would break into a boxing session. He said "if your going to be a musician your going to have to learn how to fight too". So as well as learning the guit-fiddle as he would call it, I would also learn a few things about boxing which has payed off in the long run. After studying with Clem I decided to step it up a notch and pursue Jazz Guitar lessons from Carmen Carmonica who was the touring guitarist with Lou Rawls in the 70's. Carmen taught me wealth of knowledge about jazz, guitar, and music. He is an amazing musician and I thank him for everything he has taught me. I started teaching other students at the age of 16 and still do to this day.

MUEN: HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN RECORDING MUSIC AND WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT YOU WANTED TO DO?

DOCTOR BIZARRE: Since I was a young lad I have always admired musicians and their ability to play and record these brilliant masterpieces known as Albums. I started recording with my Band "Simon" back in the mid 90's. We were an indie/punk style band. We recorded in a couple of studios and released an EP. Following that I bought a

A good friend of his Smally will be doing bass playing and the pork Belly is making appearance on drums guys are using music they wrote, that they or did not use in the and are in the process recording this. It is interesting to say that Right now he has juggle so first up for Society 1 and getting to start recording at studios Hollywood

MUEN: Sin Quirir band and is now Ministry, how did about that you are apart of Society 1

Stevil: I am glad you that correctly. Sin never fired. Its real story how I came to the band. I was sitting in Chicago working on my own material and I got an email from (Society 1 bassist) asking me wanted to come on and audition. Its not unusual for bands up to see if I want to join their band. I relatively often but I go to do some work on the band to see be worth my time. When I went homework on Society was very clear to me a major deal. All I had to see them live on video at the Download Festival front of 40 thousand screaming fans. I had all their songs, was 150 videos of then past. Those videos some very high production videos they did with Earache Records. I also read a ton of interviews with Matt I could get a feel for kind of guy he is. The signs pointed to me I should do it! I did

pool of people who are more than happy to play live for short periods of time but are not looking for a full-time commitment.

[Karl] Basically, they are all busy with other projects/bands, and for them playing with "Temujin" is a chance to just kick back and enjoy it - no pressure. Makes for a good vibe live...

MUEN: Have you both played in metal bands previously to forming Temujin?

[Kelly] No, Temujin is my first metal band.

[Karl] Yes, I have done plenty of recording and live work with previous bands. Lots of touring, lots of volume, lots of fun!

MUEN: Your songs are both haunting and beautifully written. What influences you when you write a song? Do you both pitch in with the writing, and does just one of you write the lyrics?

[Karl] Thank you. I'm not really sure what happens when we write a song we just play. Often I start the ball rolling with a riff or chords, and throw down a very rough arrangement. Then Kelly starts refining it. She has a fantastic ability to write melodies straight off the top of her head, and so many of our songs have only really taken shape once she starts adding the vocal melody.

[Kelly] I write almost all the lyrics, and all the melodies. I often take a quick recording of a basic music arrangement away for a few days or weeks, and just sing with it until an idea takes shape. Then we start adjusting the arrangement to suit the melody I've come up with. Ideas for lyrics are normally personal - what I see or what I feel about various issues.

MUEN: How is your form of gothic type metal received in your area of the country? Can you explain the music scene

Macintosh computer and with the help of my good friend Tom Schmitt, put together a modest recording setup. Years of recording and fine tuning has given me the knowledge to record in my own studio and release a viable product.

MUEN: WHEN I FIRST TALKED TO YOU, YOU ASKED ME WHICH SONG OF YOURS IS MY FAVORITE, I SAID I REALLY LIKE "OPAQUE" - WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SONG AND WHY?

DOCTOR BIZARRE: That is a difficult question. Every song has a different meaning to me. For every style of music I do it is almost like an homage to that style. Some styles lend themselves better to express myself in a certain mood or idea. Whether it be Metal or Jazz or Classical. I plead the fifth. I love them all. Although Opaque does have a special meaning to me because it was a song I wrote in memory of my late father and his ghost that has been with me as a reminder of his great soul.

MUEN: EACH SONG HAS IT'S OWN STYLE. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MUSIC TO SOMEONE IF YOU WERE TO SUMMARIZE IT IN THREE WORDS?

DOCTOR BIZARRE: If I were to pick three words to explain my music i would have to say Eclectic, Diverse, Intense and Inventive. Four is a better number than three so I named four.

MUEN: NOT ONLY ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OUTSTANDING GUITAR PLAYING BUT YOU ALSO DO THE VOCALS AND THE OTHER INSTRUMENTS ON THE TRACKS WHICH CAN INCLUDE: DRUM PROGRAMMING, BASS AND MANDOLIN. DO YOU PLAN ON EVER PLAYING LIVE, AND IF SO, DO YOU HAVE MUSICIANS IN MIND FOR THE

think I was gonna I mean I rehearse material for a few I hours before comi I'm not all that full I guess. I was just c to be getting a shc really loved the ma though and knew i up my alley. Its thi cool mix of influen just get into. It's ve industrial but at the time it has all thes influences like thra and doom metal. \$ hardcore in it too I its surrounded by ; industrial over lord

MUEN: We will go Ministry and Soc the "stuff" that is the bands, but ca us what made yo become a part of

Stevil: I asked my honestly how muc the songs and the was I totally got inl of the band. It was music though. It's combination of wa work with very mo players who are al creative. Its not thi atmosphere of ass though at all. Matt know what they wa so my role is to ke presenting them w ideas and learn all equally as well. Th is this perfect mus that makes for gre and great executic

MUEN: "Society ' the essence of at overkill and ultim inspiration..." Thi the Society 1 pag Society one to yc more music? Mo More theatrical? complete melting of everything?

Stevil: For me its inspiration of all of things. I spent ove getting into this ba

overall?

[Karl] Australia is a strange music scene. There's strong grassroots support for Metal in all its various genres. The ticket sales for touring overseas acts shows that easily. But the local industry has no interest in Metal at all. In general record companies won't touch it, radio won't play it, venues won't book it. Makes it tough to do much more than just survive here, and that's why the internet - and things like MUEN - are so important to us. We need to reach the wider world in order to progress.

MUEN: What genre would you classify your music as?

[Kelly] Gothic/Metal/Rock is a genre label that seems to fit well enough. Genres are so hard to get agreement on anyway, so we prefer to let others tell us what they think - and 'Goth Metal' seems to be the answer we get most often. We don't try to capture any particular genre when we write, we are just us.

MUEN: What has been a big turning point for your band thus far?

[Karl] Well, the first major goal was to get the CD recorded and released. It's out and selling through mail order and independent record stores, which is a good start. But we think the real turning point is just ahead...

MUEN: What has the internet done as a whole, to help promote your music and help you get the word out on Temujin?

[Kelly] The internet has been a key to what we've been able to achieve so far. It opens up the world to us. It has also brought us some wonderful friends over the past 12 months - some of the people we have met through Myspace and last.fm have been turned out to be great people. That's something we hadn't

BAND?

DOCTOR BIZARRE: Well I have had the privilege of collaborating with some amazing musicians on the new release which gave me more time to focus on the guitar alone but there are a few instances on this album where I played some bass and programmed some drums and of course sang, but I truly owe the musicians that collaborated with me a lot of credit. They are listed on the album as well as on the Doctor Bizarre Myspace page. Right now I am really busy with recording and teaching guitar, but in the future I do plan on putting together a mix of eclectic musicians to play my hybrid style of music. The only person I have in mind so far would be my buddy Jake Samson on bass. The rest will follow in due time. If you build it they will come.

MUEN: YOU COLLABORATED WITH SOME VERY TALENTED MUSICIANS ON YOUR SONGS INCLUDING A JAZZ TRUMPET PLAYER FROM RUSSIA. HOW WAS THAT ALL POSSIBLE? DID THEY HAPPEN TO BE IN THE AREA WHILE YOU WERE RECORDING?

DOCTOR BIZARRE: No I met these musicians through a website called www.macjams.com. We basically traded files and wrote songs via the internet. It's a new wave of recording and collaborating and I highly recommend it to anyone out there looking for a new experience. It has given me the chance to find truly talented musicians across the globe to work with and I owe them a huge thanks for being a part of this release with me.

MUEN: WHERE DID YOU RECORD YOUR CD, AND WHO WAS YOUR PRODUCER? ALSO DID YOU HAVE SOMEONE HELP YOU WITH MIXING AND PROGRAMMING?

there were some v times along the wa here. The list of ba have accomplishe of accomplishmen few in the grand sc all the bands in the

MUEN: What is it working with Mat You and him both hmmm...like to li work with your pl always full.

Stevil: hahaha.... to Matt once. I do have our similaritie ways.

I cannot just sit in do nothing. Always busy busy. I play in bands, and I also management com with Val Brutal of C Media and Joe Ho NYDM called Brut Management. So t more time left in a fall asleep at night so what is it like w Matt ? I hate that f haha no no no just That is one thing I liked about Matt is brutally honest. If I what I am doing su then he will tell me my face.

Some people can't that but I actually p over just being tol everything I do is c just more honest that way and I kno make for a better r the end. I have do four versions of ev on the new Society 1 release : Messiah that will b 2008. How much c ideas will actually the recording I don't know, some least I hope.

MUEN: What do t cause for the jum Society 1 band m Ministry?

Stevil: It does see

expected.

[Karl] We have been able to spread our music around the world. We have 2 mp3 files from the CD that are free to download, and they have been widely distributed. We have also had reviews published in 9 countries (5 different languages), had radio airplay in 6 countries (that we know of), and had friend requests on our Myspace page from 71 countries. For a small band that is only possible because of the internet - it's a strange new world for music that we're entering.

MUEN: Is there anything new coming up that we can all look forwards to?

[Karl] We have a few short term goals in sight at the moment : A video, a new web site and Myspace upgrade, and getting ready for the retail release of "1000 Tears". We hope to get all of that sorted in the next few months. Then we might stop for a minute and have some pizza or something.

[Kelly] Looking forward to getting the full use of my hand back again, and then the video shoot. It will be great to get a song onto film and out into the big wide world.

MUEN: Where can we purchase cd's and other Temujin merchandise?

[Karl] Right now we are using our Myspace page as the main point of contact - just head to "www.myspace.com/temujin1" for all your Temujin needs!! We will have the 'official' site up soon with both TShirts and CDs for sale. Anyone's welcome to drop by our MySpace page and send us a message or comment - we try to reply as quickly as possible to comments and messages.

MUEN: Is there anything else that people may not know about you that you would like to make us aware of?

DOCTOR BIZARRE: I recorded my CD in my own studio and the musicians that played on my album recorded in their own studios and sent me their tracks via the internet. I produced the album and for the most part mixed the entire CD. Dave Rockower a talented musician and sound man did a wonderful job with the final mix and mastering of the album. I also photographed and designed the album art work and had a friend, Mark Boyce Art Direct the project.

MUEN: WHERE CAN SOMEONE GO TO PURCHASE YOUR CD "BLASPHEMOUS CACOPHONY"?

DOCTOR BIZARRE: The album can be purchased right on the Doctor Bizarre Myspace page through my label The Lost Records.
www.myspace.com/doctorbizarre

MUEN: ASIDE FROM BEING A MUSICIAN, WHAT ELSE DO YOU DO? DO YOU HAVE A "DAY JOB"?

DOCTOR BIZARRE: I am a freelance Photographer and Photo Illustrator and also do photography work for a mid sized newspaper. At the moment I am working on publishing a book of my own photography and art work that should be out soon.

MUEN: WHAT ELSE DO YOU ENJOY TO DO? DO YOU HAVE TIME FOR ANYTHING ELSE OR DOES YOUR JOB AND YOUR MUSIC PROJECTS TAKE UP ALL YOUR TIME?

DOCTOR BIZARRE: I teach guitar lessons on a regular basis. I mountain bike and hike in my free time. I tend to a collection of various indoor plants including Bonzai trees and tropical plants. I have a toddler at home so I spend alot of time teaching my son Gavin Miles how to rock out. It's not easy I tell you!

MUEN: SO WHAT'S NEXT

trend huh ? Let me the record that I w join Ministry ! LOL is a better band. oh ? did i ju out loud ? I guess given a Warner Br promotional budge would certainly give Mini: for their money. Fi someone with the kick down that lev budget is yet anotl story. So I would s ONLY cause for th from Society 1 to I the money. I really saying that I have never owned record and I never to see them live. S would go see.....ir going to see them the stage ;)

[Karl] I'm often mistaken for Brad Pitt when I walk down the street ... what, why are you laughing????

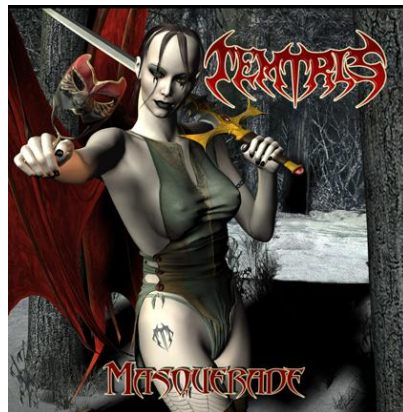
[Kelly] I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you ... and we like you too much for that! But if anyone wants to know something, just ask ... I might answer!

MUEN: Thanks for the interview!

[Karl, Kelly] Thanks for the opportunity! We love what MUEN is doing to support bands like us, and it's greatly appreciated. Keep doing what you're doing...

Interview by Jeanne Thomas

INTERVIEW with TEMTRIS (Australia)



By Lissy MacMillan

**FROM DOCTOR BIZARRE?
ARE YOU CREATING MORE
MUSIC FOR ANOTHER CD?
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR
2008?**

DOCTOR BIZARRE: I am working on shooting a video for the song "Anger and Rampancy" from my new album with the help of a talented artist named Mark Boyce. It's going to be a wild Sci-Fi video and an audio-visual assault on the senses. I also have a bunch of songs and am writing new material for the next release which has no foreseen release date as of yet. The next album will have a sort of concept album feel. That's all I can tell you so far.

MUEN: THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

DOCTOR BIZARRE: Your welcome and hope you enjoy the music. Stay tuned for the new video.

Interview by Lissy MacMillan

MUEN: YOUR SONGS ARE A LOT MORE MELODIC AND UNIQUE THAN WHAT I'M USED TO WHEN I HEAR METAL AND DEATH METAL. WHAT MUSIC WERE YOU LISTENING TO LEADING UP TO THE NEW ALBUM THAT INSPIRED YOU? ALSO ARE