



Lyrical Spell Magazine

2016 February

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*Aziza Poggi:
"Keep metal alive!"*

Hi darlings!

Gosh...time really does fly, doesn't it? I honestly feel like it was just yesterday, that we were celebrating 2015, wrote the first post in our webzine, got the first readers and now... it's all over. Truth to be told it was an incredibly awesome year full of wonderful concerts, articles, reviews, releases and meetings with wonderful people. The Lyrical Spell magazine is grateful for every moment, for every comment in our FB page, for every single one of the amazing people and artists we had a pleasure to personally meet, for every thankful message, for every smile and every memorable photo. In this first real The Lyrical Spell magazine we wishing all the best in this world to you and lots of passion about the things which you love. Enjoy this magical time with our magazine in your laptop, tablet or phone. LOVE, LOVE, LAUGH and be gratefull for every great thing you'll learn in the upcoming year. Cause 2016 is going to be fabulous! Dream, be confident in your own strenght and knowledge, cause dreams do come true if you work hard enough. And what greater work is there than the one of your dreams?!!

Goodnight, ♥

The Lyrical Spell magazine team.

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Aziza Poggi is the singer of Aria Flame, a symphonic metal band from West Michigan, USA. Beside being a vocalist, she also has her own business in vegan fragrances and many more. Luckily for us, this busy bee had some time for a chat!

A World of Silence

Aziza told me about the tour with "sister band" Mercy Isle. "We are great friends with Mercy Isle and we share the same keyboardist so it was perfect for us to tour together. Joop, (keyboardist) made it from the Netherlands to the USA so it was a special tour for us. We really had a blast, saw some great bands, met a lot of new fans, friends, and familiar faces on the road." A World of Silence is her favorite song, "It's wild, sweet and lullaby-ish all at the same time. There are a lot of transitions and emotions in the song, and it really is a great song to perform live. Fans really get into that one. We will be shooting a music video of it later this year!"



A World of Silence has a story to it. "All of Aria Flame's first songs such as My Muse, My Own Little Hell, and The Lonely Phoenix were written when I was stuck in a wheelchair recovering from my first foot surgery. I felt lost and confused where my life was going and which direction to take it. That is when the phoenix popped in my head and came to life. I felt that I had to evolve and progress my life just like the phoenix. The whole album is about a person evolving. The songs "Divine World", "Realm of Hate" and the title track "A World of Silence" were written at a different phase in my life. The band was together and my drive for doing music again was in full force. The songs escalate from a dark place to a

warm one.” They use the phoenix in our artwork and logos as a character shifting from realm to realm and progressing with each good and bad experience. The music also reflects their artwork and name because they shift back in forth from positive to negative in our songwriting.

Realm of Hate has a very dark meaning, it is based on true events. “I literally, was kidnapped when I was 19 years old. I never used to openly talk about this because I don’t want people feeling sorry for me. I was fortunate that nothing bad happened. Basically, I had a boyfriend who refused to accept that our relationship ended. He kidnapped me for over 24 hours and I was strapped to a chair while he threatened suicide. Luckily, I was not assaulted or hurt, but it was traumatic and scary! I was young and naïve. I didn’t pay attention to the numerous warning signs that this guy wasn’t all there mentally. That experience from my own life, and the more recent kidnappings in Cleveland inspired the



lyrics for that song. I combined my story with their story. It says "viewer discretion" because it might not be a good idea for a young child to see the video. It may give him or her nightmares.”

Singing & writing

The band has already started working on new songs. ‘We have 7 new songs in the works for our next album due out late 2016. We are really anxious to get it released but we also must take our time and write a few more songs to add to the full album. We want our most recent music, to be our best.’ Aziza gets her inspiration from other artists and singers. She also uses her own life experiences. “Things I see, things I hear, and the people who intrigue me to get inspiration. I also am very intrigued by composers Danny Elfman, Tangerine Dream, Howard Shore, Hans Zimmer and many other great film composers. Listening to soundtracks from films really helps draw inspiration and

makes my mind drift. It relaxes me and often I come up with my most favorite songs this way.”

Aziza started singing by herself. “I started taking lessons in 2002. I quit shortly after that because I had a teacher who didn’t allow me to really learn and kept putting a book on my belly instead of working on actual vocalizing. I understand what the point was as it applied to breathing, but it wasn’t working and it went on for several months. So, I studied on my own again until 2004. I found a good local teacher named Dale Schriemer who taught at one of the colleges in town and then Melissa Ferlaak (ex-

Visions of Atlantis, Plague of Stars). Later, I went back to college in 2009 for voice, and that is really when my heavy training came in and I took it to the max. I studied with Met Opera performer Nicholas Loren, Diane Koperski, Bill Bokhout, and my current teacher Stephen Barton. Later, I learned from Mary Zimmer (White Empress) and Pamela Moore (Pamela Moore & the voice of Nikki in Queensrych's "Operation Mindcrime" album)."

Patience

I asked Aziza if she makes her stage outfits herself.

"No I do not. I cannot sew! I can do a little mending here and there but nothing like making a costume. My friend Amanda Benes designs and makes most of my costumes. Other ones I get from just seeing things that catch my eye and then I put pieces together to make my own costume and look." The biggest thing she learned through music is patience. "When I first studied singing, I was not very patient. It wasn't until I accepted that singing takes time (as well as music business) that I noticed I was progressing as a singer. My band started progressing after as well."

Memories

"Aria Flame is my baby" Aziza said, "My fire that needs to be nourished, so it means a lot to me. Our music isn't for everyone, but I never been someone to put out music that was popular or catered to the masses." I also asked her about her favorite Aria Flame memory "My best memory was when we performed at Metal Female Voices Festival in Belgium on October 18, 2014. It was my first time in Europe and the first time I met Val from MFVF. I have known Val for a long time. She designs our artwork and also the labels for Aziza World Fragrances. It was the first time for a lot of things! It was the first time we performed with our keyboardist Joop live and we had three fellow Eves Apple singers on stage with us doing backup vocals! Grace Meridan, Cassandra Novell and Sabrina Cruz were our guest vocalists and they really helped hype our show up and eased my nerves. I finally got to meet my fellow Eve's Apple Members from Europe and many bands such as Skeptical Minds, Draconian and more whom I have admired a long time."

Aziza World Fragrances

"I am a perfume junkie!" Azize tells me, "I used to mix my own oils and perfumes together to make my own scents. I became real serious about it when I was in a wheelchair because I had a lot of time on my hands. I am allergic to most perfumes due to the alcohol in them. Alcohol evaporates the oils, and causes the sneezing and headaches many get from perfumes. I get a lot of amazing reviews because many people don't realize the alcohol is what can cause the headaches and sneezing and now they can wear my perfume and not have those allergic reactions. I get emails all the time about this thanking me for my perfumes." Aziza makes all kinds of products, to sum it up: perfumes, colognes, roll on oils, Whipped Shea Body Butter, Organic Body Butter,



Aromatherapy Massage Oils, Hydrosols, soy candles and custom orders in almost all of these products. "For instance, you can order your own scented body butter or have me design your own perfume. Customs are a huge part of my business." Her products are 100% vegan. "I don't believe in animal testing and so I started my company with this in mind. Many of my clients are vegan too. They respect this and feel content ordering from me."

"I always wanted to work for myself and have my own business." Aziza said, "I come from a family of entrepreneurs and learned how to run a business through my mother who owns a real estate company. I use to own a talent management company and put extras in films such as "Hardball" (Paramount Pictures with Keanu Reeves & Diane Lane) and "61" (HBO) directed by Billy Crystal with Berry Pepper, Thomas Jane, Anthony Michael Hall, & Christopher McDonald, I learned a lot by running that business and managing talent."

Do you have anything left to say to our readers?

Yes! Thank you for reading. Thank you for supporting my band Aria Flame and my fragrance line at Aziza World Fragrances. Support all your favorite bands and keep music alive because every little post, every little bit of support, helps us grow.

I also want to say that I will offer 15% discount to everyone who mentions this interview on my fragrance line up to April 1st, 2016. Use coupon code :DARKLOTUS1 at checkout via etsy. www.etsy.com/shop/azizaworldinc



Tim Tronckoe: „What's ugly to most people, will be incredibly beautiful to me“

Every person who's in love with metal/rock music know him. He's one of the most talented photographer in nowadays music's industry and photos taken by him are on the posters, CDs/DVDs covers, calendars all around the world. Photographer Tim Tronckoe gladly answered to a few our question about a photographer's career and revealed a veil of his wonderful personality.



Let's start from the early beginning. What was your inspiration to start a photographer's career?

I was about twelve when I first found out about taking pictures. I just loved documenting things around me. My family, our trips and my collection of action figures were the main subjects of those photos. At the age of 16, when I started attending concerts, I knew what was going to be the main subject of my photography. However, I couldn't possibly realise how big it was going to become.

Why was it your choice to become a band photographer?

Well, first and foremost, I love rock music. Secondly, I have a strong passion for photographing people. When I combined the two, I knew that bands were going to be my main subject. If you'd ask me if I ever wanted to become a street photographer, my answer would be 'no'. Why? Because I'm horrible with letting go. If I work with people, I want them to be as prepared as I am. I want to engage with them to a certain level where they can also look back to.

What are your favourite things about being a photographer? What are some challenges you've encountered ?

My favourite aspect is the people I meet along the road. I've met some incredibly talented people., whether it be musicians, photographers, designers. Those I've collaborated with quite a few times are people I'll never forget. Those who there from the very beginning will always be able to count on me. But really, getting to know bands isn't really that special to me. It's more the art we can create together, things fans don't get to see, that's exactly what makes it all worth the while. Great if I can make money with it, but that's not the main goal. That's probably the reason I've got an agent now, so that's one less thing to worry about.

To me, every assignment, every shoot is a new challenge. I always try to do something new, something refreshing, without ever leaving the brand I stand for.

How has photography influenced you as a person?

If I had to name four things that have made me to who I am today, it would be my family, friends, music

and photography. These aspects have not formed me separately. It's the combination of those four that has really made me the person, the photographer, the teacher that I am. I see things differently. I know exactly what I want. The path I take is not the easiest. The people around me and the music I listen to have been paving that path for me we ever since I can remember.

Is there something you always ask yourself just before you push the camera's button?

I never think it over. I feel what the image should be like. Of course, this works differently for live pictures and portraits. For live pictures, everything is quite out of my hands. I have to feel the moment, I have to see what's going to happen and anticipate to that. In that case, I'm not really thinking. I just feel what works and what doesn't.

For photoshoots, I overthink everything in advance, sometimes an hour, sometimes a week, sometimes even months, just to be prepared, in order to feel assured, to leave nothing to chance. Once all the pieces come together and the artist stands in front of my camera, I just try to feel what works best to make the image shine. However this might

sound sweet, there's also a bitter part to it. My biggest fear comes from it as well: the fear of losing that feeling, that drive for creativity. Sometimes, there's so much effort that goes into a photoshoot that I feel that I'm losing some of the passion. It's only when I get to the exact location of the shoot, that this inspiration starts to flow into adrenaline again. It's a weird feeling, but realising this has really worked for me a lot.



It seems you have a very good relationships with a bands you're working with. Maybe some of them are really good friends of you?

It's just a matter of mutual respect. When I show interest in what they do and I prove that I'm capable of doing a pretty good job, they will mostly share the interest. It's easier to get to talk about something different than the music. You know, you've always got these photographers whose egos are bigger than the artists'. In the end, they will lose the game. I try to be very humble and distant. If they let me into their private world, I'll get the invitation, if you get what I mean. So far, quite a lot of band have accepted me into their friend zone, which really feels great. We get to talk about God knows what and we really care about each other, personally and professionally. It's the best feeling there is honestly.

What is hard about taking a good photo?

To me, it's the people. I know this sounds weird, because I'd just mentioned how much I love photographing people. It's just that, everything comes down to how they look and how they feel. I have to

be the one who will make them ready for the picture, no matter how bad they're feeling, no matter how far we're behind on schedule. It's a good learning school in communication, let me tell you that.

Some photographers say that they see the world differently than other people. That's true?

I think that's true. Sometimes, when I'm looking for cool ideas and locations and I consult the people around me, they'll tell me that it's a good idea to shoot at the park because the flowers are blossoming... When I look at a filthy worn out wall with awe, lots of people will call me crazy for it. What's ugly to most people, will be incredibly beautiful to me.

In addition, first thing I look at when I'm at a certain place, is light. How does the light fall here? How could I modify it? How could I use it? How could I put a model in this light?

Maybe you can tell us a funny story that happened during your photoshoots?

There are plenty. I'll save those for a book later ;)

If you could take your art in any direction without fear of failure or rejection, where would you lead it?

What new things would you try?

I'm now starting to do more work in fashion photography. I feel that this kind of photography has no boundaries. As for work with bands, you're quite restrained to what the manager, editor ... wants. For fashion photography, the sky is the limit. That's why I love both or combining the two.

The last question. What does it take to make a good photo?

Patience and passion. If you have those, you're fine. Add a camera to it and you're ready to go.





Mercy Isle is an American-Dutch symphonic, heavy metal band with members from Wisconsin (USA) and from the Netherlands. Their sound is influenced by European symphonic metal, death metal guitars, 80's synth and pop/rock melodies. For the first edition of Lyrical Spell Magazine, we invited Joop de Rooij (keys) and Cory Scheider (guitar) for an interview with us.

Touring

"The tour was short yet intense in a positive way", Joop said, "For me and Chad it was double duty, playing 2 gigs every night but we handled it pretty well." (Joop and Chad are both in Aria Flame and in Mercy Isle). "It went really well. We all got along so well and it was great to get to see Aria Flame play live every night! All of the shows went well and we got a good response live. It was a good first tour to "test the waters"." Besides sharing musicians they also shared everything else like a true group of friends. "No negativity, just a group of like minded people making an effort to make the best of it!"

Crowdfunding campaign

Mercy Isle has already started writing for a new full length album. "It's still in the early stages but we all have a bunch of ideas going around. I'm currently working on some of Joops ideas, adding guitars and some of my touches to the songs.", Cory tells us. "We aim to release a full length album at the end of coming year. There will be a crowdfunding campaign prior to that, since a lot of resources are needed to bring our fans the music they are waiting for. We will not settle for anything less then live up to the expectations of our fans. This means an excellent studio, a professional producer and an ace in mastering. Next to that, we need a very talented and professional artwork designer.", Joop said very excited. "The inspiration comes mostly from the eighties pop, rock and nowadays metal music. All members have their musical roots in this period of time and it shows with each and every idea that is brought into the band. Think synthesizer-based pop, new wave, old school and new heavy metal music."



International

While everyone from Mercy Isle is from the USA, Joop is from the Netherlands. Since there is a big distance between them, we asked Cory and Joop how this works. "We have an awesome writing system. We can send files back and forth instantly. It is actually almost like working in real time with each other. If we are all online at the same time we can complete ideas like a band would normally do in a jam space.", Cory

said. "For the past tour, everyone rehearsed his and her parts, so when we got together, it all fitted perfectly. It all is a matter of discipline and respect towards each other." Joop explains, "When it comes to songwriting. Someone creates an idea and makes a project of it and places this and all connected audio files in "the cloud". Then another member creates his or her own copy of this project and adds their own stuff to it. It is basically a matter of sending back and forth ideas and adjustments until it has grown into a full song."

Memories

"We are honoured to have reached this amount of fans on such a short notice. I believe the music and also our personalities are credit to that. Most of us have been in the music for a long time and have played internationally on various occasions. Most people we have met during those adventures over the last few years became supporters of us no matter what we do and what we stand for. We must admit, the short timespan in which our base has grown took us by surprise as well, but in all honesty, we actually know a huge part of all of those fans or at least we know where we have met them. That creates a bond which we cherish." Joop said. "Right now, Mercy Isle means a big part of our lives. We all feel that we are a bunch of people who share similar ideas and characteristics, both in music as outside it. This is seldom found in a group and we cherish every moment." "For me it has been great just getting together with some killer musicians and being able to just dive right into this band.", Cory adds, "We have all played together in the past



and it just clicks really well in this band. It's a good fit for all of us. The best memory has been the successful release of our E.P. and tour. Being able to just put a band together and go for it!"

Dark Moor - Project X

REVIEW



After two years since their last release, Power Metal legends Dark Moor are back with Project X, one of the nicest surprises of 2015. Ars Musica, released in 2013, left me really unimpressed as it felt shallow and weak compared to Dark Moor's epic curriculum, but I can already give you some spoilers about this review: Project X brought my faith in the band up again.

A little back on Dark Moors story, we had the epic Autumnal, a symphonic metal opus which is held dear as one of the best power metal albums I ever reviewed. Ancestral Romance flirted with more emotional nuances of sound and already showed that the band was pushing towards a more classical rock and metal oriented style. Done majestically, of course, but nothing we haven't been hinted since the days of Tarot and Beyond the Sea. Ars Musica, on the other hand, felt extremely boring as it

seemed Dark Moor tried to go too fast into the less heavier side of their musical spectrum, what resulted in a ballad-heavy album that didn't do justice to the band's story. Who would guess that the grandeur would come back with a synth-heavy album about aliens? Yes, you didn't read wrong, aliens! Lay your prejudices aside and let's really start this.

Project X picks up where Ancestral Romance left us, giving us a bombastic intro in the style of Gadir and Swan Lake in the duo November 3023 + Abduction. Never been the synths and electronic effects been so present in Dark Moor's music and it really work well here, doing a fabulous work in transporting us to the sci-fi world Project X is about without losing Dark Moor's signature epicness.

Since the debut of Alfred Romero in the band, Dark Moor have been slowly flirting with hard rock and classical rock/heavy metal, changing little by little elements of their style as the albums went by. Today, they achieved something very close to what Queen would sound if they played epic metal and that can be heard clearly on Beyond the Stars and I Want to Believe. I could listen to a little "Bohemian Rhapsody" feelings here and there and that felt perfectly in place.

Conspiracy Revealed shows consistent guitar work, starting with a memorable riff. Some nice guitar solos can be heard through Project X, as in Bon Voyage!. This song is incredibly fun, I would dare to say a breath of fresh air on metal nowadays. Again, influences from old school famous acts can be heard and one must be very creative and brave to insert those elements on a metal album. The up mood, claps and choir during the chorus make this particular piece sound like a mix of Abba and Queen on Symphonic Metal. Who would say that this would work? But it did. Flawlessly.

The Existence opens up like the soundtrack of a 90's game, holding its track like a nice mid-tempo classic metal song. The double bass drums were a thing I heavily missed throughout the album and could have contributed to add even more to the album as whole. Imperial Earth is simply amazing, a series of right things done in the right order and in the right time. A cinematic intro supported by orchestral and synth works, Alfred Romero's beautiful voice, strong guitar works bringing back once again the glory of classical metal, an epic choir. It is a pity it ends so soon, but the next song,

Gabriel, starts where Imperial Earth ends, delivering a nice catchy single with a bombastic ending.

A paragraph must be written about Alfred Romero's voice. For many years, I've been insisting that he is the best metal singer around and I would hold this album high to show what I mean. After thinking I wouldn't see a performance like Swan Lake or Mio Cid again, Alfred shows that he grew up majestically on those last years. His voice control, projection and versatility are prime, not even starting to mention how gorgeous the color of his voice is. He even risks a more classical approach on There's Something in the Skies, flowing between a sweet Broadway-like style to an almost operatic technique on higher notes. Alfred Romero's voice stands out as one of the brightest jewels on the metal world.

If you grab the special version of the album, there will still be remakes of five other Dark Moor classics to listen to. In general, Project X is a brilliant work, something so unexpected on such a crowded scenario that deserves to be remembered for the next generations. If Abba and Queen had a child and sent the kid to Broadway to sing about aliens in a heavy metal musical, you would have Project X. This last sentence may not make sense at all, but listen to the album and you will see what I mean.

Score: 9,5



What to Expect in 2016?

The Austrian metallers Visions of Atlantis have written their names on the scenario as one of the most iconic acts in symphonic metal. Whether for the various lineup changes or the diversity of the music found on their records, VoA has always been known for delivering surprises to their fans, but nothing as we saw at the end of 2013: the announcement of a complete line-up change with the return of former members and a return to the roots of the first record. To further explain that, we have to travel a bit in time with a brief recap of Visions of Atlantis story.

Their first album, *Eternal Endless Infinity*, was released in 2002 and delivered the experience power metal lovers would call a masterpiece. Fast double bass pedals, epic stories being told on the lyrics together with wild keyboard melodies gave life to a promising band. 2 years later, with *Cast Away*, Visions of Atlantis tried a less heavier approach with their music, focusing more on the melodic metal spectrum instead of the power metal done in the first album. This was also the first recording with long time male singer, Mario Plank, a record which brought mixed feelings towards the fans and media.

2007 saw the release of one of Visions of Atlantis biggest masterpieces, *Trinity*. Melissa Ferlaak replaced Nicole Bogner (R.I.P) on vocals and sung to what came to be VoA's heaviest record to date. Heavy guitar riffs and many influences from more extreme metal styles made *Trinity* a very aggressive album, something unique on the band's discography, as the tides would once again change on the following years. Melissa left, Joanna Nieniewska joined, Joanna left and Maxi Nil joined. 4 years passed in this process, with the comeback of long time guitarist Werner Fiedler, until Visions of Atlantis released *Delta*, probably their best album to date. A mix of the symphonic elements of *Eternal Endless Infinity* with the epic feeling of *Trinity* made *Delta*, full of fast, catchy and emotional songs, an unforgettable album. After the release of the EP *Maria Magdalena*, a natural continuation of *Delta*, the unexpected happened.

Their fifth album, *Ethera*, was something no one saw coming. Heavily relying on synths and bringing within its lyrics futuristic themes, *Ethera* was much more of a prog album than the expected symphonic/power metal Visions of Atlantis was known for. Gone were the fast double bass pedals and, in their place, came the futuristic ambience in the keyboards. A great album without a doubt, but something was going wrong with the VoA backroom as long times of silence followed its release. That is, until December 6th 2013, when was announced that the band had a friendly "break-up". They would return to their original formation, seen in *Eternal Endless Infinity*, and to the style done in this first album. A decision from the only remaining founding member, Thomas Caser, which had the support not only from the now ex-members, but from the crew that after long gone were returning to the ship: Werner Fiedler, Cris Kampfer and Mike Koren.



On the vocals, two well-known metal stars joined: Siegfried Samer, singer from the Austrian Power Metal band Dragoni, and Clementine Delauney, French soprano known from her work with Whyzdom, Eve's Apple and Serenity. Those choices say a lot about the future the band has chosen for themselves. Siegfried's voice and technical approach is everything a Power Metal band can want: high pitched notes masterfully done with a shiny and powerful voice. Perfect to achieve the Power Metal feeling of *Eternal Endless Infinity* in a new record with even more strength in its execution. Clementine's voice is also a return to the operatic female voice style *Visions of Atlantis* was known for on the beginning. If they wanted to

deliver a classical soprano on their upcoming works, they have definitely chosen the best girl for the job, as Clementine is not only extremely competent with her technique, but has a killer stage presence.

Talking about shows, being present at the two very first concerts with the new formation, I can securely say: the chemistry between the band members is simply bombastic! It says a lot that the show opener was also the opening song from their first album, *Lovebearing Storm*, showing how serious they are about returning to the roots, so we can be sure to listen to some mind blowing symphonic power metal hymns on the upcoming album. The bright voice of Siegfried and the powerful voice of Clementine fit together impressively and made iconic songs like *Seven Seas* and *At The Back of Beyond* seem like brand new ones. Indeed, the old songs seem reworked to fit the VoA's new objective, seems clear how focused they are into bringing the style seen in *Eternal Endless Infinity* back to life.

It is important to notice that it is highly unlikely that the 2016 album will be an *Eternal Endless Infinity 2.0*. *Visions of Atlantis* has a legacy of delivering albums very diverse between each other, so even if the new album will bring the epic sea inspired tales of 2002 back, one wouldn't bet on a copy of a previous work. We can bet on fast double bass pedals, as drummer Thomas Caser is a master on this, and I would also bet on one or two longer epics, as those are Symphonic Power Metal trademarks. VoA's longest track, *Memento*, still brings shivers down the fans spines after all those years and having another dose of that would be very much welcomed. Ballad-wise, could we also expect a more ethereal vibe like what was given on "Atlantis, Farewell"? Or even a concept that would link *Eternal Endless Infinity* with the 2016 album? As cheesy as it may seem, I wouldn't mind having the new album starting exactly where *Eternal Endless Infinity* left off, maybe an ethereal-like intro saying hello to the very same Atlantis we said farewell 14 years ago. Going even further, what if we had *Eternal Endless Infinity* completely rerecorded and reworked as a special release? After all, 2016 will see a very special release from *Visions of Atlantis*, nothing more appropriate than making this landmark even more special.

The journey through not-so-new shores will be everything but boring. Having learned from the strenght of *Trinity*, the epicness of *Delta* and even the experimental vibe of *Ethera*, *Visions of Atlantis* has on their very capable hands the opportunity to deliver a hell of a musical experience. More news regarding the new album should come soon, so let's wait to see the surprises that the "Lords of the Sea" are holding for us.

Reviews

IMPERIA - TEARS OF SILENCE - By now, everyone who likes female fronted symphonic metal should be familiar with Imperia. They've been in business for over 10 years, and they still sound as great as ever, which Imperia proves again with Tears of Silence. This new album has a lot of folk influences, and the rock sound from the 80's sometimes. Imperia's sound has always been epic and bombastic, and they carry this out in every song they make. The cover art is also truly beautiful! Totally worth the listen! *Rating: 7/10,*



Kliodna - The Dark Side of the Stories

The album begins with the intro, it sounds like an epic adventure right away. Then the song Kliodna starts, perfectly mixed with the intro and it directly fades in. This band always knows how to make something powerful, which they showed us earlier with their EP. A lot of songs from there are also on The Dark Side of the Stories. Road to Anywhere has great lyrics and an awesome melody, just like a lot of their songs. My absolute favorites from this album are I'll Do The Haunting and Blood in the Sea. These were already on their EP, but they are still brilliant. I'll Do The Haunting has been stuck in my head for weeks, and that is a good sign! Like Helena said in the interview, Dead Princess Dreams is a really energetic songs, a lot of work on the keys there. You can really hear this song is more inspired by older heavy metal. Frozen Soul and Northern Wolf are also excellent songs. The album ends with Set Me Free, I must really say that they leave me hungry for more! Excellent album!



The Fall of Eve

The Fall of Eve is an alternative rock/metal band, formed by Evangeline and Michael Moffat from Scotland, United Kingdom. Lyrical Spell Magazine got to do a quick online interview with Evangeline, their lead singer.

“Eternal Embrace is a step into the world of The Fall of Eve, we hope it takes the listeners on a journey to a dark but joyful place and shows a more gothic side to the lyrics.” Evangeline said. Eternal Embrace was crowdfunded, the goal was reached quite easily. “We ran the campaign for thirty days and reach the target plus an extra 50% of the goal amount!” Her own favorite song is Forgotten, “it is a track that shows a more stripped down version of our music but still has power and a vibe to it”



We asked Evangeline about live performing. “My favorite must be Dames of Darkness in Bilston, UK in May 2015. We had lots of fun and meet lots of great bands and their fans.” The Fall of Eve also has supported Leaves’ Eyes, another

Lyrical Spell Favorite. “That night went by so fast, our set was great from the sound to the fans we couldn't have asked for better, and to top it off we got to watch Leaves' Eyes who were amazing! We learnt a lot from that gig.”

“The biggest thing I learnt through music has to be to respect the hard work that other people do around us that helps us do what we do.” Evangelines favorite memory of Fall of Eve is the Dames of Darkness concert, “walking off stage at Dames of Darkness and seeing a large queue of fans waiting to have merch signed by myself.”





Kliodna is one of Lyrical Spell Magazines most beloved bands. They were the first band to get reviewed on the old website and we thought it would be a good idea to feature them in our first magazine as well. We got to do a small interview with their singer, Helena Wild.

Personal

Helena started singing at the age of 14, "I realized my desire to sing for the first time. I joined a vocal class, but I was too shy and didn't have enough knowledge in this field, therefore it was really difficult for me to develop my skills there. When I was 16, I started to practice with a private singing teacher, only then my passion for singing became serious." Evanescence inspired her to start taking lessons. "my Lee is an incredible singer and the songs from this band were making my days for many years. And then I came across Nightwish's album "Once"... I still remember my childish delight, when I heard Dark Chest Of Wonders."

The Dark Side of the Stories

The Dark side Of The Stories is a kind of collection of grimm fairy tales. Every song is a new story. Helena also tells me that the new album is completely finished! "We only need to choose a photo for booklet." Kliodna has already done a show with German a capella metal band Van Canto, and they were also invited to open for Nightwish. "Actually, we are not sure about Nightwish's concert yet. The organizers in our city offered us this amazing opportunity, but Nightwish must accept our application first. At the moment we are waiting for their final answer." Helena has always dreamt of touring with AD/DC. "They are extremely cool! There's no need in any other reasons. When I was



three, my father instilled love for this band in me. And now when I want to better my mood I just need to turn on their music."

Her favorite song of The Dark Side of the Stories is Dead Princess Dream. "It is very powerful and energetic. It always pumps me up!" Kliodna has already gone back to writing on a new album! "Some songs are already finished, while others need further modifications. We will begin recording them soon." "Music is everything for me. I can't imagine my life without it. It is the meaning of every action, every step of mine. Singing is the greatest gift that was given to me."

CONSPIRACY OF SEVEN

WILMA KOSTERMANS

Conspiracy of Seven is a Dutch symphonic metal band. They are inspired by some of the world's greatest power metal bands and a dose of childhood memories and fantasy. They try to tell a story, translated into songs that take you to another time and place. We had a quick chat with Wilma Kostermans, the lead singer of Conspiracy of Seven.



The Dutch mini-tour

Conspiracy of Seven is halfway through their Dutch mini-tour with Dance With Dragons, "We are preparing ourselves for the gigs that are still to come. The tour is still expanding and we are very excited to do this tour with Dance With Dragons. We met them at a gig last year in HPC Den Haag (Netherlands) and there was an immediate "click" between us. When we searched for a band to do this tour with, they came to our minds immediately."

The band has been writing a lot of new songs the last few months, some songs are already in the setlist. "The new songs are all part of the project Carnival of Lost Souls, our second project after the start of the band and in new formation. The songs we are bringing live already are Eye of Providence, Bloodmoon, Wheel of Fortune, Theatre Bizarre, Ghost Ride and House of Desire. The songs of The Legacy are still part of our setlist off course."

Carnival of the Lost Souls

Wilma's favorite song of the Legacy is "The Golden Key". "This was the first song James wrote and when I heard it I was really blown away. There wasn't even an intention of starting a band for James but I sort of pushed him into writing the rest of The Legacy. We found some musicians who were so enthusiastic about this and Conspiracy of Seven was born.

So for me The Golden Key will always be the start of a great adventure." All of Conspiracy of Sevens songs are composed by James, "we have been working very hard on our new project Carnival of lost souls and have been writing a lot of new work. I think with this project everybody participated a little in the writing process. It is a bit more heavy than The Legacy, but I think it shows that the band has grown in the last two years. There are still a few songs that we need to write to complete the project. But there is a big difference in this project and The Legacy. This is telling a story as well, but it's completely made up by ourselves."

Carnival Of Lost Souls is about two children, a boy and a girl, who sneak out of their beds at night and end up at this creepy Carnival. "It's about childhood memories and fears.

About the thrill of the rides, about the dark things in life, our fantasies and nightmares. About friendship and having fun. About the demons in our heads. You can see it as fantasy, but maybe also as reality, it's completely up to the listeners. The idea was born at a Halloween fest, where there was a fortuneteller and grew further on sharing childhood memories and putting some fantasy into that. I think it's a great project with much diversity in the songs. Off course I have a favorite, that is Theatre Bizarre. I really love that one because people are judging on looks and what the world tells us is beautiful. I think a lot of people will be touched by the lyrics of it:

One of the curious, pay for a peek,
life is full of surprises
Deformed and mutated, ugly as sin
A freak is never safe, difference never wins
You bought a ticket, there's no turning back
Who is the star on this freakshow
Your sticks and stones, may break my bones
They will never hurt my soul

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder
pretty faces fade as we get older
what is the story behind the scars
we are all just prisoners here
of this theatre bizarre

What's normal for the spider, is chaos to the fly
depending on your point of view
Judgement is always a simple veil



Of our own twisted souls”

Basically anything gives ideas for new songs. But the base of Conspiracy of Sevens songs is fantasy. “James as a composer mostly has an idea that “pops” into his head when we are planning a new subject for a song. And I myself usually write the lyrics, that often just come to mind. Most of the time, it matches with the idea that James is having. It is such a pleasure working on songs with him, and when we are forming the songs during rehearsals with the entire band, everyone can add his own touch to it.”

Personal

Music has always been a passion for Wilma. “Only I really started singing in my late 20's. I was more of a pop music kind of girl first but a few years back, I was introduced to metal on a festival where Helloween was playing. I was sold! And now I hear metal music in every type of music. Silly isn't it? But I have my sentimental days and then I can listen to all sorts of music. From golden oldies, to pop

music, to classical music, and everything in between. Why I love music so much? It's just in my blood, something I was born with I guess. And if I am on stage, I can really be "me". I feel free and strong there, and wouldn't trade it for anything." I asked Wilma a less serious question, what bands would play if she had to create her own music festival. "Our own festival? Of course we would like to play there ourselves then, haha! For the line-up I think there would be mostly power metal and symphonic metal bands. Although it would be great to have big names as Nightwish, Helloween, GammaRay, Epica, Dream Theater and so on, I think that the smaller bands, the underground bands, and the starting bands would deserve a big role in our own festival. It's hard these days to get gigs or to be seen, because there are a lot of good bands in our genre. I think if we stand together and work together we can make it out there. The crisis and all has laid a big pressure on the venues and for them it's harder as well. We need more metal festivals in the Netherlands I think. There is a larger metal scene then most of us know and there really would be an audience for it."

Looking back

"Conspiracy Of Seven is like a child to me." Wilma tells me, " I figuratively gave birth to it and will take care of it and fight for it. I sometimes get comments from my family that my music is all I can talk about and I'm driving my husband and kids crazy with the songs I am working on over and over again. But I really believe in Conspiracy Of Seven from day one. I see it grow and am really proud of what we do." She can't choose a favorite memory of the whole Conspiracy of Seven journey, they are all great. "e are like a family and sure, we have our ups and down. But we are such a close group and we all have the same ambitions. That is really great, working with talented and passionate people. So if I have to chose, the best memory is the day I heard The Golden Key....because that's where it all started."



Tamar

Manager/Writer/Reporter/Admin

Hi! I'm Tamar and I am from the Netherlands. My favorite bands include: Nightwish, Arch Enemy, Kamelot, Delain, Epica, Within Temptation, Alestorm, Rammstein, Gloryhammer, and many, many more. I like writing, reading and playing guitar.

Vita

Designer/Writer /Admin

Hey all sane and insane people! I'm Vita. I'm from Lithuania and I'm metal music blogger at „Fairytale of Metal“, manager of the biggest in Facebook Within Temptation fan page „The Heart of Everything“ and manager of „Kamelot Lithuania“. My favorite bands are: Kamelot, Amaranthe, Within Temptation. Always the credo of my life is „Music is the wind beneath my wings“ ♥

Yasmin

Writer/Reporter/Admin

Hey I'm Yasmin. I am from The Netherlands. My favorite bands are Epica, Nightwish, Within Temptation, Arch Enemy & Delain. My hobbies are listening to music, writing, drawing, reading, watching anime and tv shows and hanging out. I love chicken and sushi.

Maayke

Photographer/Writer

Hey, I'm Maayke. I am the Netherlands. My favorite bands are: Epica, Delain , Within Temptation and more. My hobby's are reading, watching Anime/Series/Movies, Cosplaying since 2009 and I really love Photography

Drake

Writer/Reporter/Admin

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