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Mattachine Social Interview Continues from pg. 50

JW: I've known Tammy forever. We kinda grew up together in Vancouver. At first she was just emceeing. Then we discovered she was musically inclined.

TW: They just gave me a tambourine and told me to shake it real hard.

AK: She's our Neko.

Ben Jansen: I grew up playing in punk rock bands. [Andrew] didn't know if I was any good.

TW: Girl, lemme tell you, he is magically delicious. And he sounds good too.

AK: I had done electro-folk stuff, opened for the Butchies, on the east coast. But I was really out of practice. Our fourth show was as a local headliner for Pride. That was Tammy's first official show. A mic, a big dress, and a triangle.

Q: That was last year?

AK: Yeah. Electronic music during the day in the rain. Ben's first Pride.

BJ: I got free underwear.

TW: It was a visual feast.

Q: Are you playing Pride this year?

JW: We are. And we just got confirmed to play the 2nd Annual Queer Music Festival [in July] with Imperial Teen, which we played last year.

AK: We've also applied to play Seattle Pride.

JW: We applied for HempFest and the Capitol Hill Block party as well.

TW: Heavens to Murgatroid what am I going to wear to that? An all hemp tinsel dress? Justin will design it.

Q: What do you each bring to the table in terms of musical and fashion influences?

JW: I'm very influenced by all the glam rock that came out of the 70s and also the New Wave from 80s London. I kind of try to make everyone wear what I want.

Q: Fashion Police?

JW: We like to have a cohesive look.

AK: Color coordinate. Musically, I grew up on post-punk like Joy Division, Echo and the Bunnymen...riot-grrl, college rock.

JW: Me too, but I'm also influenced by 20s/30s music.

AK: I also like difficult listening music like Sigur Ros. Fashion wise it's between a schoolboy gone wrong and a corrupt professor. I don't look good in jeans and a t-shirt. I like dress clothes.

JW: We like to sparkle on stage.

Q: You all have very different aesthetics that you like to bring together by theme or color on stage.

JW: Exactly. But I don't push anyone to wear something they don't want to.

AK: Gold lame cowboy shirt last time. Never doing that again. It was cooking me on stage. But it looked great.

BJ: Musically, I was into punk and 90s rock, Smashing Pumpkins, and some southern hip hop and rap. Now prog rock and jazz. Independent hip hop. David Bowie.

TW: I have a weakness for the tender mom hits. Everything you used to get a contact high in the back seat of your mom's station wagon. Plus I like bad girls and Motown.

Q: Is it as much about the spectacle as the music?

AK: It went from being two of us and a laptop to four of us and video screens, and glitter canons and projectors...

JW: We like to put on a show but the music is most important.

Q: Tell me about your new album coming out.

AK: In June we're putting out an EP with 3 new songs and 3 remixes but we also have a new album coming out in the Fall.

JW: Somewhat all recorded we just need a producer, although we sort of have one.

AK: ...Jesse Holt up in Seattle, who has worked with a lot of amazing people.

Q: And what will the new EP be called?

AK: Nice is the new punk rock.

BJ: We'll probably have videos for download.

AK: Holly Andres might be at the helm of one of them. She actually did the photoshoot for our album cover.

Q: You have a sort of neo-gothic/old-timey aesthetic to your videos. One even delves into the zombie craze. Where does that come from?

JW: "Risers" [their zombie video] was about a different subject entirely and we went literal with it. But it's really about how culture has gone downhill...

AK:...clone culture.

JW: A comment on shallowness.

Q: So is Portland queer culture less mainstream? More interesting?

TW: I think the gay community here...they don't think "I'm gay" initially. "I'm just here." Everyone is more accepting and tolerant as long as it's consensual.

JW: Every bar in Portland is gay friendly.

AK: The problem here is that all Portlanders look the same.

Q: And how do you feel being the token straight, Ben?