

Over the last decade you've toured in Europe, China, South and North America and you have an Australian tour planned for 2024. It's fair to say that you have a fairly global audience. In your opinion, what it is about Lebanon Hanover's music that resonates with people all over?

LI: It just fits perfectly in our cruel world to listen to dark and sad tunes. I never understood what people find in happy music anyway.

WM: I would guess that, they like our dark vibe and connect with a realness to our ethos how we deliver with the emotional content and over all sound.

A lot of bands would rather avoid the pigeonhole of the "goth" label, which you've managed easily with your ever evolving sound. But what about the more overarching term "Gothic" in the sense of gloom, the grotesque, degeneration and decay? Can you identify with Gothic as opposed to goth? Or maybe even none of the above.



LI: As a melancholic person I can identify with both terms but more on a deep level rather than the superficial masquerade that you find in the scene. I feel goth in terms that I've always felt attracted to the darker sides of life the topic of death. I enjoy walking around graveyards, deserted buildings in grey weather or heavy rain and obviously I always felt that black clothes reflect my soul the most.

In this way I feel like a natural born goth.

WM: We are goths through and through and we are a gothic band, always have been always will be.

Gothic to me is a way of life, a deep power I hold onto. I am daily in black, I train in black pick up my child from school dressed in black. I couldn't change my style even if I tried, I'm Goth for life

And it pours into the music either way.

Goth is death/drama/mysticism and I live my life this way. Given that you live quite far apart from one another in different countries, how does song writing and album production work for you? Are you able to meet up in the studio together?

LI: Studio time is getting more rare the more we tour and it's essential for the music we are experimenting with right now. However the process of writing new material is something we enjoy doing a lot so there will be a new album eventually.

WM: Recently we chose to meet when possible to write only in the flesh on this next album currently in the making, past albums I was writing a lot at home and Larissa would add her touch once sent back and fourth we would reach some agreements and track vocals later. It is all possible but mostly depending on timing since we also travel a lot with shows etc.

What has changed the most for you as a band since you got started?

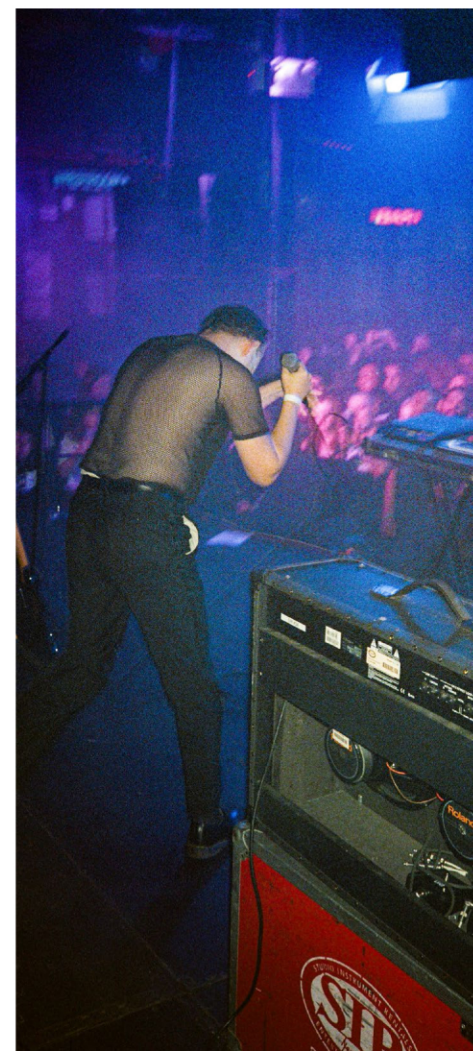
LI: We are definitely more cut for time than back in the bohemian days.

WM: I'd say not much, we are pretty similar since the start with the same mind set. Perhaps we just choose to challenge our own sound and didn't want to regurgitate ourselves too much with each developing album.

The song Alien from your 2018 album "Let Them Be Alien" speaks to anyone who feels like a stranger, alienated from those around them, which could be a good proportion of the readers of this magazine with "Gothic" right in the title. But I wonder if there's another meaning for both of you as "aliens" who live in countries other than the ones you were born in.

LI: I feel even more alien going back to the place I was born. It is solely about the feeling of being different and not fitting in society no matter where as I moved house quiet often.

There is always the majority – the others – and there is me. It is something I am trying to accept and encourage everyone to embrace their inner weirdo.



WM: Hmm well I like being anonymous, I also cherish where I live now. I think no matter where we live we're gonna be aliens in some form or another to certain people.

I think I speak for all of your fans when I say that we're really excited about the upcoming album after the release of the first single "Better Than Going Under". The cover art for this single is a departure from the typical Lebanon Hanover aesthetic style. It's very reminiscent of Current 93 artwork from David Tibet. What was your inspiration for that change?

LI: The inspiration was a napkin we saw in a German village. It was so Sol Invictus but had a little bit Current 93 vibes too. With us entering different musical realms we felt it's time to create a new mystic logo.

WM: Naturally just experimenting, getting into neofolk and Swans, early industrial etc.

Is there any truth to the rumors about an acoustic guitar and a trumpet being added to the stage line-up?

LI: The trumpet is a distant dream but the 12 string acoustic is already planned on most of the shows.

WM: Acoustic sure, but it's the first time I heard about a trumpet being added.

The sound of 'Better Than Going Under' has been compared to music from The Cure, Echo and the Bunnymen, and The Church and the B-side 'Kyiv' has a certain note of Neofolk to it. What can we expect from the upcoming album?

WM: Destruction, psychedelia, paranoia power drone rippers.

LI: It will most likely be different from what you expect.

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