

WORMBOX



By Ryan Dyer

Trudging through the metallic moat of Calgary's underground scene, one would notice an infest of vermin, all looking identical and with similar intentions. Come Wormbox, the unique Calgarian parasite who bring the

spectacle back into the now cool-to-be-plain live concert agenda. This type of act digests your adrenaline but gives it back tenfold, a supervening black muscle on a smokey soapbox which has broadened beyond our own citie's

stables. I talk with Mark Fiset, engineer of the worm about their biggest show to date at Locofest, Cyclone Records, and Gore Games.

Tell us about the festival you played at in Massachusetts, how did Wormbox get chosen for it?

On September 9th we played an outdoor festival called LOCOFEST which took place at the Tweeter Center in Mansfield, Massachusetts, just outside of Boston. This was the 16th year for the festival which has a big focus on independent and unsigned bands with the addition of big headlining acts. This years headliners were Heaven & Hell, Alice Cooper and Queensryche, so on top of everything else going on we were sharing a bill with some legendary bands. This year there were about 45 bands some from as far off as Tokyo and Australia playing on 4 stages throughout the day ending with Shadows Fall, and then Queensryche started up the main stage.

We found out about the show about 6 weeks before it took place and on their website it said they were still accepting more bands to play, so we thought we'd give it a shot. They were taking band submissions through a site called sonicbids.com where we already had our E.P.K. set up, and within a few days I got a call saying that we were in. There were some tense times trying to figure out how we were going to make the trip happen, only one of us had a passport and we needed to pool some cash together to make the trip - quick! But everything kind of fell in to place and worked out great. There was no way we were going to say "We could have played a festival with Sabbath but". I think it had to have been the best weekend any of us had ever had, our set went great, got a really good response and met a ton of cool people.

You guys are getting airplay in England and Greece, any plans to do a Euro tour?

This last trip out to Boston really opened

our eyes to the possibility of doing things like that. Europe has been really supportive in general, and our radio play there is really branching out. So we have talked about putting our foot down and saying "you know what, we ARE going to Europe", there's

a lot to look in to to make something like that happen, but if you're determined enough to do it then it'll happen. And we're fucking relentless when it comes to acheiving goals that we set for ourselves.

How has Cyclone Records elevated

Wormbox's career?

Well, one thing I should point out is that we actually aren't signed to Cyclone Records. There definitely has been a working relationship there but up to this point we just haven't seen the need to be on contract. And let's face it, getting "signed" just isn't what it used to be. But to get back to your question, Cyclone has been very helpful. Shortly after we released our first E.P. we did end up doing an online distribution contract with them which got us on to Itunes, napster and bunch of other online retailers. What really helped though was the promotion and just getting the music out to stations that would play it, so they really played a role in just getting the name out there. There are still things that come up with them, one being a compilation CD called "The Greatest Underground Show On Earth 2" we had a track on the first one that came out a couple years ago so when talks of doing a vol. 2 came about we wanted in on that for sure. Another thing that's coming up is a bit of a licencing deal, we'll have some of our music featured on an Extreme Snowmobiling film that will be released shortly, so that should be interesting to see. Up to this point we've been completely self-financed and self-managed but it's getting to the point that some help in those departments would be nice, especially management. Pretty much all of my time not spent at work or at rehearsal is spent on the phone or the computer trying to get something going on.

How has the response been for The Judas Chair?

The response to the new CD has been awesome, and has won us a lot of new fans and put us in touch with a lot of really good contacts. Initially we sent out the new disk to people and radio stations that were asking for it, but right now we're in the process of getting a mass campaign happening and getting it out to anywhere that will play it.

CALGARY CARNAGE

You guys design and illustrate everything yourselves, who designed the Judas Chair cover?

I do all our design work myself including the artwork on the new CD. Although Alex did contribute some art for the CD booklet, all of the little letterbox drawings that are in with the song lyrics were done by Alex. The rest of the guys are always coming up with ideas for things too, I'll come in with a design for a gig poster or something and the wolves will start picking at it and sometimes their right and other ideas will be used.

One thing that makes Wormbox unique is their stage presentation, the soapbox type thing Alex stands on, who came up with it, would you call it the Wormbox Soapbox?

The "Blumpy Box" as we've come to call it was Alex's idea. and the main reason for it aside from having something to add to the show, was to have a little extra stage space. Most of the places we've played in Calgary are pretty skimpy in the stage department and a lot of the time Alex would end up standing on the floor in front of the stage. So he came up with the box idea and it's served us well, plus he's got his own light and fog controller on there.

Tell us about the Goregames show coming up, what do you have planned for it?

The Goregames show is happening October 27th at The Underground in Calgary and it's shaping up up to be a very interesting

night. We talked about doing a show with just 2 bands and having some kind of Suicide Girls burlesque show instead of more bands. We talked to some people about it and they jumped on the idea, I think they came up with the Bloody T-shirt Contest within the first couple of minutes. It's happening on the weekend just before Halloween so it's definitely the right time for it. MissDemeanor and Sickfuck Productions stepped up in a big way and have put a lot of thought, time and effort into making it a unique and bloody night. The show will start off with a few different Goregames events then POINTZEROEIGHT will hit the stage. Inbetween their set and ours will be more of the Goregames and partway through our set will be the Bloody T-shirt contest. The Goregames will be a series of Fear Factor type contests done Halloween style. I can't get into a lot of the specifics but just to give you an idea, one of the competitions will be transferring blood from a gushing neck wound using only your mouth to a container, whoever collects the most in the time allowed wins. That's the kind of thing you can expect to see at the Goregames show, and the quality of the makeup and effects will be totally pro from what I've seen of previous shows they've worked on. There will be lot's of prizes on hand, as well as a booth set up where you can get a zombie caricature of yourself done, and who knows what else will come up between now and then. What better way could there be to celebrate Halloween than with Blood, Babes and Metal.?

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