

# Nice little KITTIE

## Girls going death metal

Text: Daniel Källmalm  
Photo: Metal Blade  
From: December '09

Canadian kittens are back with their fifth album called 'In the Black' which was released some time ago and which this writer considers as one of the real top albums of the year, I was fortunate to have the chance to exchange some questions with the band in order to get some things about them as a band and the record clarified.

In this article you will be able to read about some of the things I have learned about the band.

Kittie is an all female rock band, but not your everyday female rock band. Singer Morgan Lander mixes some extreme style growling with clear vocals. The other members of the band are also female which makes them a rather unique feat in the genre as most rock/metal bands with female singer consist of men. This is according to the band both a positive and a negative

- I feel like being women may draw attention to us and perhaps may allow curiosity seekers to

take interest in us, singer Morgan Lander explains, but at the same time there are people who may not even give us the time of day for that same reason.

I belong to the first group but I also know that the metal/rock community is a rather conservative thing which also consist mostly of men but also many of the female are rather possessed with the macho man thing that started this genre so as Morgan Lander points out it can be hard to even get the chance by some of

these conservative people.

- People who feel like they don't like the idea of women in metal or feel like its not our place. There are always pluses and negatives to every situation, and no matter who you are there are always obstacles to overcome.

### **Macho men... and Ozzfest**

If Kittie were new today I think they would actually have an easier time being noticed and get the ability to record a record as the scene is getting more and

KITTIE



more fed up with music that is the same, cool and macho men releasing variations on the same theme. Therefore an all female band would probably be very appealing for a record company, they are different from the masses and can be more easily marketed.

I for one tend to find female fronted bands more interesting than the regular bands, not necessarily better but more interesting. And for an all female band it is even more interesting, but I understand their standpoint as they started their quest during the nineties in the era of power metal bands with macho manly attitudes as knights with swords slaying dragons, that cannot be said to be a female undertaking. Still they released their debut in 1999 and now ten years later it was time for their epic masterpiece, not only have they survived, they have thrived and sold records in millions rather than thousands, which is pretty cool for a metal band today.

Picking up a memorable moment over the career though seems to be rather difficult and Morgan names several of them:

- Touring South America, Playing in Russia, Touring with Pantera and the Ozzfest... she replies, releasing our first album. There are so many important and special moments that have defined our career.

Speaking of standing out, being different and so fort, what sets Kittie apart from other bands in the genre?

- I think our accessibility as people, but also the dynamic that we bring to the music, Morgan replies. We have always been about the balance between dark and light, brutal and melodic, and I think we are able to achieve this balance musically in a way that not many other bands can.

When it comes to 'In the Black'



that thesis stands quite strong as I believe they have achieved a fantastic balance between the light and dark elements in their music, I am however not that sure about their previous efforts.

### Success

Kittie is a successful band with over a the million sold records according to the facts I have gotten my hands on. I have often wondered what happens when you reach such status as successful band and being named with

## KITTIE

respect by fans and having a large following of fans. Do these "stars" or successful bands see themselves as a success? Well the answer is somewhat ambivalent.

- Yes and No, is the answer, though there is something of a followup to that reply.

- I am so unbelievably proud of what we have accomplished, but I also feel like there are always boundaries to push and greater heights to reach. There is always something greater to achieve.

For sure you can always reach even further, I don't think the tar-

get can ever be reached for the one who is striving to be better. However, a side effect of this is the fact that people you don't know seem to recognise you more often, that can be a problem, but is it something that happens to Kittie or are they still to small? The

answer can maybe be said to be something in between.

- It depends where we are..., Morgan explains. In my hometown, not really. In the US and Europe being recognised happens more often.

Of course that thing might only be due to the fact that people in those places know the band are coming there and recognise them because of that. No mention of it being a problem though.

### Bomb drop

Then I dropped a bomb, I first heard Kittie in 2004 on their record 'Until the End' which I really didn't like, it was a rubbish album according to me. I asked Morgan about the different between that and the new album, for me the answer is clear but how about Morgans thoughts?

- I think where we are now is light years away from where we were in 2004, she explains. With every album, we learn a bit more about who we are, and push the boundaries of what we are capable of. It also helps that we have two amazingly talented people who joined the band after that album was written, who have brought so much ability and diversity to the band.

That sounds great, it is also great that the fact of me not liking something they have done doesn't seem to affect them too much. They agree with me about the lightyears ahead thing and sees the 'In the Black' album as a new beginning for them.

- A brand new starting place for the band, we can only get better from here.

That is of course a good statement for a band to make, one will always be able to get better from the point where one are with the correct attitude of course which this band seem to have. But the fact that betterment can always be achieved is not necessarily a

hinderance for being satisfied with recent achievements which is something Morgan seem to agree with.

- Looking back, I do have to say that there are always things that I would like to change with every album, although generally speaking I am very satisfied with how 'In The Black' came out.

With that statement I am quite sure there are things she thinks they could have done better.

- Always, she states, but sometimes the things that seem like mistakes are the best ways to grow and learn from.

### Sorrow I Know

But as 'In the Black' is a great album it also has some great songs, *My Plague* and *Die My Darling* are two of my favourite, Morgan likes them as well but also picks out *Sorrow I Know* and *Forgive And Forget*.

Then I look into the promotional things, sending out promos and saying nice things about the bands are what record labels do, they also promote the possibilities for interviews which is all nice and good, then there is Myspace where most bands put out a few songs for everyone to hear, a site which we always link to in our reviews.

Besides doing interviews there are one more thing the bands can do to promote themselves and that is the touring thing, you know get out there and play in front of the people. Morgan states that Kittie will do a lot of touring as well as releasing another single and video in the early 2010, *Sorrow I Know* will be that single.

### Canada

As I have already stated, Kittie is a band from Canada, a nation i usually connect to fantastic progressive rock band *Saga* but of course there is a metal scene, I probably just don't know enough

of it. Morgan knows some of it.

- There are a lot of amazing metal bands from Canada, Morgan points out, so there is definitely a thriving metal scene. Locally there are not as many clubs and places to play, but there are still a handful of great local bands that have done well for themselves.

I can't really at this moment name any metal band from Canada but then again I have probably heard some of them but just cannot remember them. Still as Kittie by this moment is the only metal band I know from Canada, I have to look into their being in that Canadian scene, how is their status on the Canadian metal scene?

- We do well in Canada and have a decent fan base here, Morgan explains, but are far more well known musically in the US and in Europe and even South America.

With this I have started to wonder why so many bands seem to be more well known outside their own nation than they are in that same nation but with those answers about the Canadian scene I feel that I don't need to look further into it. I know that the band seem to like to visit the US or Europe rather than play at home in Canada. And with that time is running out and I will just ask the one question I add to every band I interview: do you have anything more to add to our readers? They always have something, as does Morgan:

- Thank you so much for all of your love and continued support over the years. We appreciate it! Pick up 'In The Black'! You wont be disappointed. See you on the road!

With that we say many thanks to Kittie both for their new album and for the time that they took to answer the questions we had. And hopefully we will see them on the road, make sure you do.

Dir.K

