

WHO IS LAUREN BABIC?

Text: Caj Källmalm
Photo: Private
From: Feb '13

I don't think many people realize how much research we do at Hallowed before publishing anything on the site. We spend a lot of time searching the web and old magazines and stuff and during one of these searches I stumbled upon a young Canadian girl doing an excellent cover of a song from one of my favorite albums released last year - Scarlet by Periphery from the album 'Periphery II - This Time It's Personal'. I was literarily blown away by what I heard and as soon as I could regain my balance I decided to continue browsing the work of this girl. In the end I was too curious of her and decided to contact her and ask a few questions about her and her work.

I do believe this girl has the talent to become a super star some day if she continues on the path she's taken, but the road to success is long and demand plenty of hard work. So far, though, Lauren Babic has already had more views on some of her videos than many established acts get and most viewers also seem very positive to what they hear. Now Hallowed are able to give you the answers to all those questions you have about this talented vocalist - so first of all: who is Lauren Babic?

- I'm 22 years old, from Toronto, Canada, and a senior student at the University of Toronto.

When did you get in to music and where did it begin?

- I've been surrounded by music since I was born with artists like Sinatra and Etta James. I was fortunate that my parents enrolled me in classical piano lessons when I was 4 years old, which helped me build a strong knowledge in musical theory, however, the strict programme and teachers sort of spoiled it for me. I think I always knew that my real passion lay within writing my own music.

- My dad had this old Yamaha guitar always lying around the house so I learned to play by ear when I was in high school. I didn't start singing until I was

15-16, when I was really inspired by bands like The Used and My Chemical Romance. Funny enough, I first started screaming when I joined Red Handed Denial in 2008.

What are you doing at the moment?

- Being in a band, finishing my last year of university, and working part-time at a bank on top of having relationships with my family and friends can get pretty hectic for me at times, but I wouldn't have it any other way! I've promised myself that I would get an education before persuing music professionally. (Even though it's hard not to get distracted) [laughs]



What made you start to put out cover videos on Youtube?

- I think at first I wanted to practice sound mixing and video editing, so my vocal cover of [*&*] *Delinquents* by Woe, Is Me was honestly a trial. After it got an overwhelming amount of positive feedback, I realized Youtube would be a great tool to promote myself and the band.

Is there any particular cover version your extra proud of?

- My vocal cover of *Scarlet* by Periphery is definitely my favorite cover to date. Since Periphery is one of my favorite bands, I think my passion and excitement about

them really came through.

What kind of response do you usually get on your videos?

- I never expected to get all the positive feedback that I've been getting. A lot of listeners have commented about how they don't usually prefer female rock/metal vocals, but enjoy mine!

Tell us about *Cres Tu* and the thing you did there?

- When I was 16, I went through a weird phase when all I listened to was drum and bass, trance and house music. Inspired by these genres, I created a collection of electronic songs using a program

called FL Studio. I named the project bldpmpnggrgnmrch (pronounced blood pumping organ march) and called the album 'New High'. I recently re-discovered the songs on my external hard drive, so I decided to upload *Cres Tu* to my channel!

How much have you done your self and how much is sampled?

- All of bldpmpnggrgnmrch is from scratch. I was experimenting with different synths and it sort of just came together over time, so I threw it up on the internet for free for anyone's interest.

Tell us about your current band Red Handed Denial!

- We're currently in the studio recording our debut full length album called 'Stories of Old', scheduled to be released this spring! After a really rough year in 2012, we're so excited to finally be recording a new album to back up our 2009 release, 'Eyes and Liquid Skies' EP. I have so much loyalty and faith in this band. Our musical influences span from metal to jazz to punk to ska, and this album is the amalgamation of every genre we are influenced by. I think listeners will be able to connect our songs to every emotion and feeling. Each song on this album is so different, but still

keeps that RHD sound.

How are you recording and releasing the album?

- We're releasing 'Stories of Old' independently, and recording it with Mark Jossul of Mobus Music! The album encompasses all of RHD's musical influences and I'm sure it will connect with music listeners of a wide range of genres. I honestly can't wait!

How did you become a member of Red Handed Denial?

- When Myspace was a thing, I discovered RHD was seeking a vocalist via their page. I emailed them, and the rest is history! :) **What's happening next for Red Handed Denial?**

- Once the album is released, we hope it gets to the right people's ears! Optimistically, we want to tour the world someday!

How much live have you done so far?

- RHD has been together and playing shows since 2007, but we haven't played outside Canada yet. I've played a couple of acoustic shows solo.

And what's happening next for you?

- Only the future knows!

What can you tell us about yourself that people don't know?

- I wanna rock and roll all night, and party every day. ;)

Last of all: is there anything you want to say to your fans?

- I love them and appreciate their support every waking moment! They motivate me and inspire me to keep on writing and singing!

See Lauren in her band Red Handed Denial:
<http://www.youtube.com/RHDTV>
<http://www.facebook.com/rhdband>



Lauren with her band Red Handed Denial