



COUNTERPARTS



Collateral damage is damage to things that are incidental to the intended target. It is frequently used as a military term where it can refer to the incidental destruction of civilian property and non-combatant casualties. It can also be an episode of television series Edgemont, an episode of the science fiction television series Stargate SG-1, an episode of the HBO TV series The Wire, an episode of television series NCIS, an episode of television series CSI: Miami, an episode of the science fiction television series The Pretender. Or a 2002 action film starring Arnold Schwarzenegger or possibly an instrumental solo by Muse from the album The Resistance. In our case though it is an Italian band which we have had the fortune to ask some questions.







Collateral Damage pointing towards the stars, promotional photo.

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PHOTOS: SIMONE SILVESTRI, OR AS STATED ON PHOTO  
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The name of the band is a bit curious using such term for a band, maybe that was what happened when the band was doing their live shows with broken stuff in the venues or something. And this might not be that far off considering the band got their name from their fans after their first live shows at a time when rock music was changing to a more modern costume. The band describes themselves as the collateral damage of this change. And their "alchemy" was born during their high school years, since then they have two albums under their belts with the latest one called "The Carnival" released this year. Their music comes with a war-

ning and a dream.

- After two albums and a European tour the dream of a life full of exaggerated rock nights burns more and more within us. But be careful, prolonged listening may cause serious side effects such as uncontrollable desire to have fun and be free!

The influences comes from the big names with Wasp as their biggest influence for their dramatic rock atmospheres they create and the same goes for Alice Cooper which is another idol of the band. But many big bands are influencing the band both on a live performance level as well as the song writing level.

- In addition, large groups of the hard rock scene as Motley Crue, Def Leppard, Kiss, have definitely influenced the way we play live even if on a compositional level you may notice yet a footprint

of heavy metal from artists such as Ronnie James Dio and Judas Priest.

#### A visit to the circus

The second album of Collateral Damage was released this summer and it is a conceptual album where the story takes place in a circus tent.

- An evil auctioneer accompanies us in every songs that represents the obsessions and fears with which each of us is confronted every day. The journey begins at the entrance of "The Carnival", going forward we will find a variety of attractions that will make us understand how to overcome fears and paranoia created by today's society until you reach a Nirvana where all the problems seem to fade away.

But it is never that simple, is it? There is a fear none of us will

ever be able to overcome, according to the band, and that is the fear of the end of the world.

The difference between this new album and the self titled debut is according to the band was that the debut was well produced but without any real definition, I guess you could describe it as fragmented. The Carnival is more structured.

- With "The Carnival" we decided to follow some guidelines, to take the Hard Rock of the 80s as the basis of composition. With simpler and more direct songs than the first album, but taking a heavy metal vein that inflames the live public and refill energy.

They are pleased with "The Carnival", that like its predecessor is self produced and they are proud to carry it out.

- Undoubtedly there are many aspects that we can improve but

we think that some songs of this album will be in the history of Collateral Damage.

Why create a concept album?

- The idea of creating a concept album was really very interesting and helped us to create our own well-defined image, also the sound that we have taken us a lot of energy on stage and we are able to transfer it also to the fans who listen to us.

And which is the favourite song of the album?

- Maybe *Drag Me To Hell*, is the song that more than any other represent the change of our sound and certainly this will be the way that we will take for our future works. The theme also belongs to us very much, unbutton ourselves to the emotions, even when we know that they will put us in trouble.

The reactions for the album

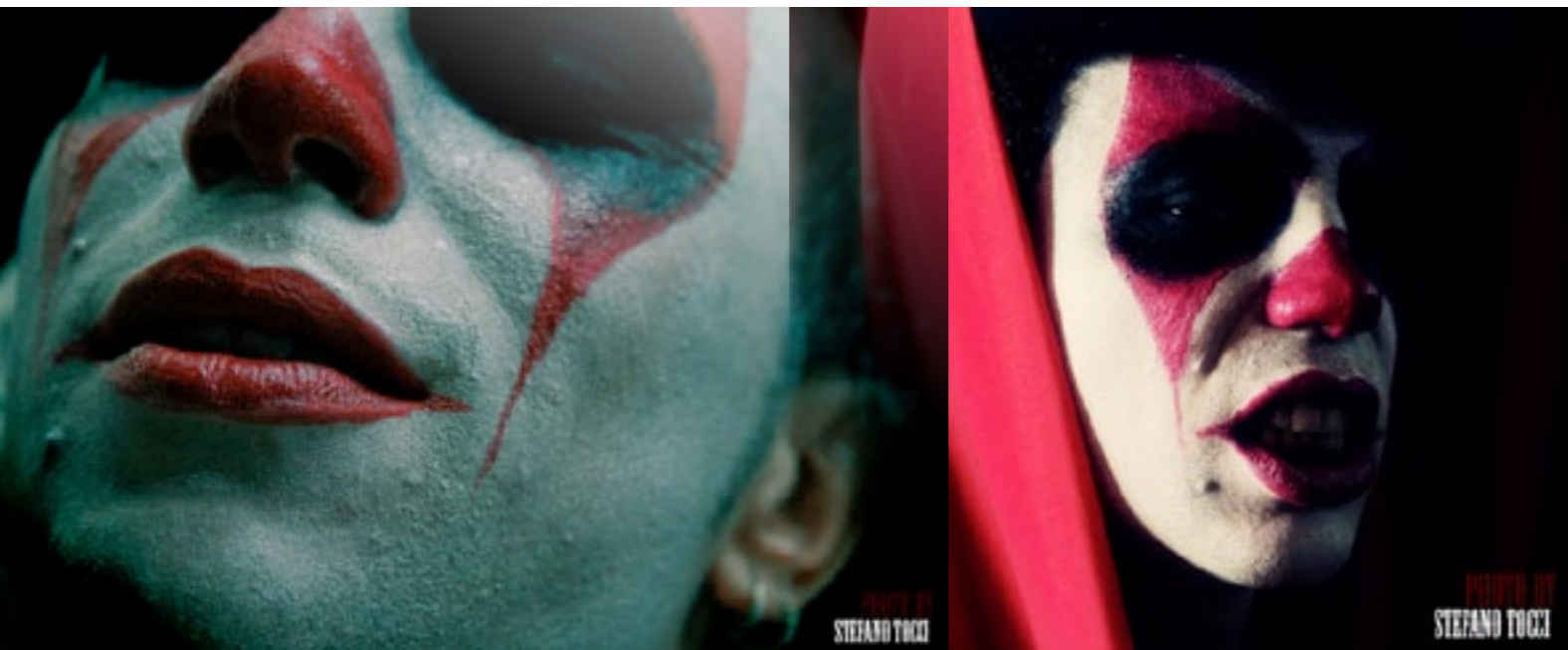
seem to have been to the bands satisfaction with audiences learning the choruses quickly and they think their music can embrace fans of many genres.

- Under the point of view of the media there are differing opinions, we highlight some talking about "The Carnival" as a great album, others try to give us advice on many aspects that could be better, hoping to see better works from us in the future, and we can not wait to do this!

#### Taking it to the crowds

The band has been supporting Lordi during their Beast or Not Tour and they collected some good reviews for their shows in Spain where they will make a new visit towards the end of this year. They are also working with promoters for Germany, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe and the





USA to be able to do some more touring in order to promote "The Carnival".

- The stage is our home, when we hear the screams of the audience and the lights that warm our skin we feel ourselves as never before, we try to interact as much as possible with the public, which becomes an integral part of our show, we can offer moments of pure adrenaline energy combined with other more atmospheric, sweet and romantic.

So the band enjoy being on the stage and they consider their live show as one of the best aspects of the band.

- Every time we try to offer different shows and we consider very important to play with our songs so that the fans can have two different experiences listening to the record and listening to a live. Surely on the stage we could show the best of ourselves.

The future plans are to bring their music further out to the world, there are new ideas in their minds, like a new video clip.

- And a live album and we are already creating several ideas for our new studio album. We are

only at the beginning of our journey and we look forward to producing new material for our fans.

Hopefully you now know these guys a little better and I guess we'll leave off with another quote from the band.

- We would like to send a message to the younger generation: "Hey Guys, always continue to believe in your dreams, do not bend down to play what the music industry or the society in which you live requires, you have to create your songs, always following your wishes and make sure that the people loves what you create. The music needs constantly new ideas so if you have a tribute band melt it, create original music, yours at 100%, do not waste your talent with genres that do not belong you and play endlessly songs already written by others."

And with that we thank the band for their time and wish them the best of luck in their album and live album endeavours. Lets just leave the final words of the article to the guys of Collateral Damage.

- Thanks for the space that you

have offered us, follow our music, and never stop to have fun and to enjoy every single moment of your life.

#### More Collateral Damage

Our review of The Carnival  
[collateraldamageofficial.com](http://collateraldamageofficial.com)  
 on reverbNation  
 on youtube  
 on Myspace  
 Their label's info

#### Collateral Damage are:

Matteo Matt the Monkey - vocals  
 Alessandro Alex Damage - guitars  
 Valerio Blade Harrow - guitars  
 Stefano Steve Jordan - bass  
 Federico Slam Cage - drums

#### Discography

Collateral Damage (2009)  
 The Carnival (2013)

