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CALIFORNIA THE RETURN TO PSYCHO CALIFORNIA THE RETURN TO PSYCHO



Welcome to the Hotel Diablo, such a lovely place, such a lovely face. So, what is the price of a room at the Hotel Diablo? Hallowed had the fortune to speak with Alex Grossi and Rick Stitch about the Hotel, California and a lot of other things.

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The story begins with four guys from Hollywood getting together to form a band and then make the record they thought was missing from the rock scene, the result of that was a band that was given the name *Hotel Diablo*. I as an imaginative writer find myself wondering why *Hotel Diablo* and not *Hotel California*, wouldn't that fit brilliantly? But the name became *Hotel Diablo* as that was something that has been around for a while Alex Grossi explains.

- Our bass player Mike Duda had it kicking around, once we got together for the first time it seemed to fit us perfectly.

The members of the band may have been around for a while in other bands and such but the band itself is new, they have just recently put together their first album. But what inspires guys like

this when it comes to albums like this? Singer Rick Stitch explains that it is life itself and true events that inspires them to write songs.

- I have never been one to conjure up a story and try and sell it to the listener. The things that have effected me most in life is life itself. This goes for the rest of us in the band. For better or for worse, trial and error has always been my learning curve and inspiration.

If life is the inspiration and the music is filling a previous void in the rock music genre, how does this music sound? What kind of music is this void filling music then? Rick Stitch explains what kind of music this hotel is all about.

- *Hotel Diablo* is a hard rock band that is melody driven. Backed by intelligent guitars and a brutal rhythm section, it's a solid platform for the messages we are conveying.

Psycho California

"The Return to *Psycho California*" is the debut album of *Hotel Diablo* and it is according to Rick a collection of stories, but not only that as it is a collection of true stories even.

- Experienced during a time when our lives were filled with mind-altering shots of wretched adrenaline, "Strings got bent, knobs were turned and an uncontrolled visceral energy screamed life" into what has become "*Psycho, California*".

The album title is something of

an illustration of the reality and the world they are living in with the starstruck people that come there to climb the ladder of success according to Rick.

- The title of the record captures the moments we've experience and are living in. Here in California, predominantly Los Angeles, it can be a very bizarre and

strange place. With all the star struck people and the growing number of individuals moving here from around the world to climb to the top on a daily basis, really makes an interesting mix. Watching people get devoured and succeed day in day out really can effect ones train of thought. This is our "*Psycho, California*".

These exist all around the world. We did our best to capture these experiences.

The title and the songs represent the guys' vision of the place where they live, a somewhat psychotic place but what about the musical



PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS SWANGER



view of the band, does this album represent the musical view of the guys as well? According to Rick it does.

- The four of us share the same roots. The meat and potatoes in our musical tastes is Rock n' Roll. We all dabble in different styles and genres, but at the end of the day we are all here because of our passion for the culture and sound of rock. The record displays where the band is and where we are headed musically and vision wise.

It is an album that was a priority for Scarlet who is handling the worldwide release of this album, it is also one that I have seen some fuzz about in the emails from the label and Alex explains that the buzz around the band has been

bigger than they could have ever expected.

- There is a big radio station (KLOS) out here in LA that hasn't gotten behind a local band in almost 10 years that has gotten behind us, which is really exciting.

But that isn't all for these guys as they headlined the hisky A Go Go for the Sunset Strip Music Festival some week back and Alex explains that the amount of people already knowing the words of the songs was overwhelming to them. But that isn't all either as the band are "pick of the week" on the new "That Metal Show" on VH1 and Alex explains that the band are very excited about all that is going around them at the moment. And it sure seems as though there is much going on

around them for sure.

As I stated earlier this album was a priority for Scarlet, or so they told me. This is something that means much to this band as well making them work harder themselves to promote their work for the world explains Alex.

- Enzo, Filippo and everyone at Scarlet have been great and we are very excited to be working with them. The fact that they are so behind this project is making us work even harder to not only promote this one as much as we can, but to keep writing and growing as a band that could actually have a career and not just put on one record then disappear.

But not to disappear a lot of promotion is needed, has Scarlet provided the band with the

promotion they need to get anywhere? Alex thinks that they just might have.

- So far, so good! - We have been doing a ton of press and getting a lot of very good reviews.

Psycho song and more

When sweeping the net I found more or less the same with mainly positive views on this album and quite a lot of interest in writing about them as well. So it would seem as though the band are getting very noticed, but what about the songs? It would seem as we along with many other reviewers likes *Taken* and the title track, the Hallowed reviewer also liked *Bury You* and *All These Years* which means that he likes the one Rick singles out.

- I really like the way *Bury You* turned out. You can hear the band growing in that song and the raw emotions we're captured very well. It was a memorable experience recording the vocals and I really put it all on the table in that one. Its a vulnerable song that really slams hard.

Speaking of songs there is one that is instantly recognisable amongst anyone knowing anything about music, the song *Wonderwall* which is known for being an Oasis song but it can also be found on this album as track number eight. Rick explains that the band has a list of several covers they would jam out but this one had something more than the rest which is why it ended up on the album.

- It had a great response live and it was just one of those things where while we were in the studio, we just laid it down. Lyrically, the song ties in with the rest of the tunes on the record so we decided to keep *Wonderwall* in as part of the collection.

At the moment *Hotel Diablo* has no shows booked, Alex Grossi explains that he would like to visit Europe and South America but that we shall see what happens. At some point they are looking to go out on the road with the complete band, they are doing some stuff now but not the full band.

- For now Rick and I are making the rounds with some acoustic on-air stuff to co-incide with the albums release.

With all that work and the good



reviews surrounding this album, are they guys excited about this release? Rick explains that they are.

- Hell yeah! To watch something like this grow from one demoed song into a full, world-wide record release is a great feeling. Especially having the support from Scarlet Records and E1 Entertainment, we are able to get the music into hands of many people that may haven't had the chance to give us a spin.

And they are satisfied with it as well explains Rick and states that it is an album that the entire band can stand behind.

- A lot of thought and effort went into this record as well as spontaneous moments that we were able to capture.

And with that I hope you have gotten to learn something more about these guys, at least something additional to add to the review that we published some days back. Alex Grossi wants to remind you of keeping in touch with the band at their official website where new stuff is being announced all the time. "The Return to Psycho California" has worldwide release on september 25 through Scarlet Records and so far it has been well received

even by the overly critical reviewers at Hallowed.

Be sure to check out our review and to follow Alex's recommendation to regularly check out the website for tourdates and all of that. And with that we thank Alex and Rick for taking their time to answer our questions.

Hotel Diablo are:

Rick Stitch (Vocals)
Alex Grossi (Guitar)
Mike Duda (Bass)
Mike Dupke (Drums)

On the web:

Our review
Official website
Hotel Diablo soundcloud
On youtube
Scarlet Records

Tracklist on The debut:

1. Taken
2. All These Years
3. What You Do To Me
4. Psycho California
5. Bury You
6. Set It Off
7. Wicked Lines
8. Wonderwall
9. Trigger
10. What You Do To Me (ALt. VERSION)
11. Bury You (ALTERNATE VERSION)