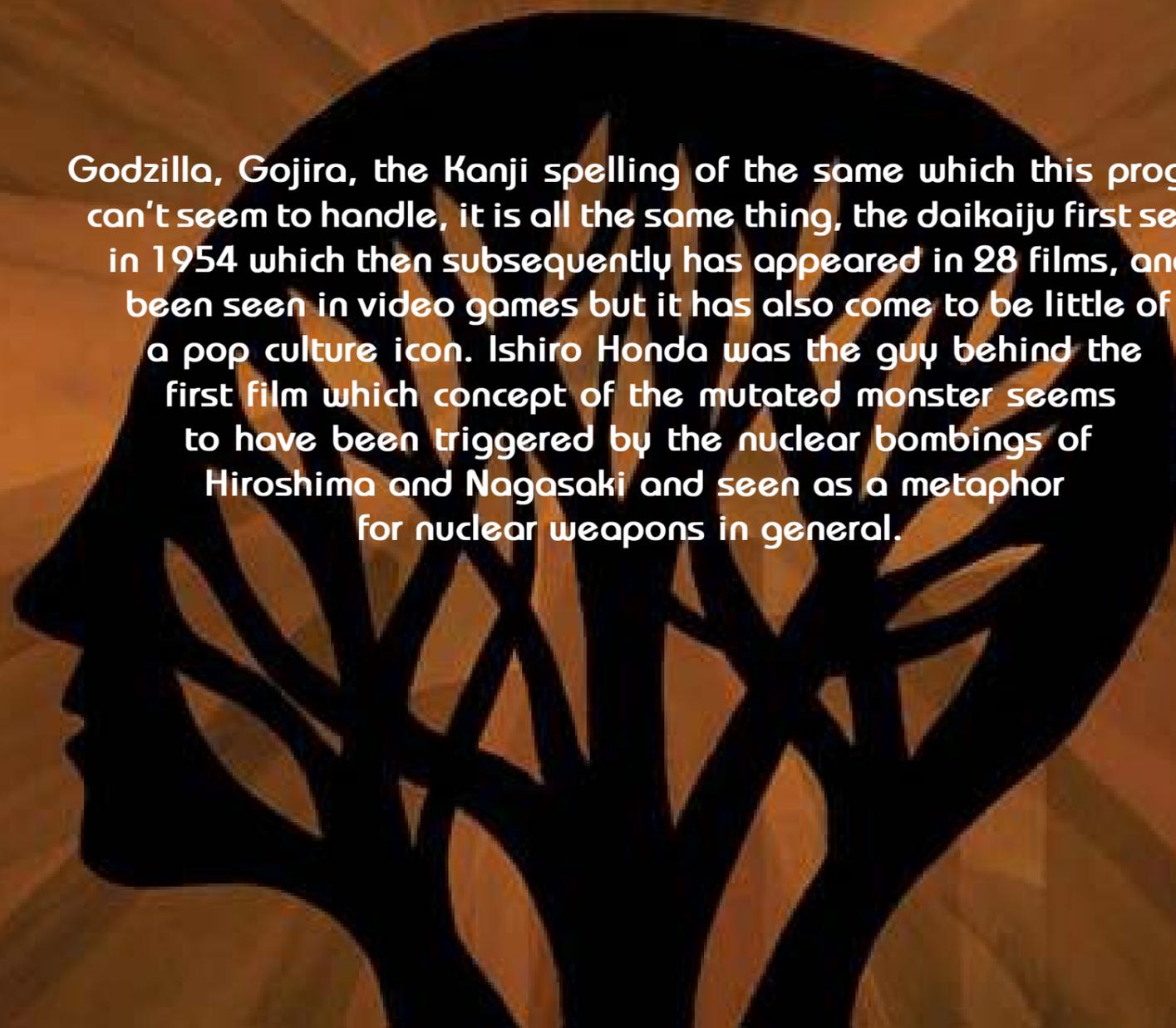


GOJIRA

L'ENFANT SAUVAGE

Godzilla, Gojira, the Kanji spelling of the same which this program can't seem to handle, it is all the same thing, the daikaiju first seen in 1954 which then subsequently has appeared in 28 films, and been seen in video games but it has also come to be little of a pop culture icon. Ishiro Honda was the guy behind the first film which concept of the mutated monster seems to have been triggered by the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and seen as a metaphor for nuclear weapons in general.





WRITTEN BY DANIEL KÄLLMALM
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The story begins in Bayonne, France and it is a story about Godzilla. That is what the french band called themselves before changing name in 2001 to the romanization of Godzilla in the Kanji spelling which turns out Gojira so in a way they still have

the same name as before. This change of name came for legal reason albeit the name Godzilla was selected by the band because of what it signifies. Joe Duplatier, vocalist and guitarist of the band explains how the monster signifies the destruction of nature by man. Nature and the environment is something that means a lot to Joe and his friends in Gojira, something that has been with

them for their entire life. And according to Joe this nature is threatened by humans "fucking with it" as he expresses it and this is something that needs to be addressed and what better way than those with a voice that someone listens to like people in the entertainment business, like Gojira themselves.

- We live on a small planet, in the middle of the infinity of spa-

ce, so we should just take care of this planet. Because issues we see, they are everybody's issues. I think when you have people's attention; you have a responsibility to bring the light on issues that matter.

While they are often described for their environmentally orientated lyrics it is something that is being downplayed by Joe

- We've been called environme-

ntal fighters or environmentalists so many times. It's because some songs are undermining environmental themes or are environmentally orientated, I guess. We care about the environment, of course but wouldn't say we're special, we're just normal guys. We live on this small planet in the middle of the infinity of space, so we should just take care of this planet. It's both ours and

our children's, so we're nothing special, I just think were normal people.

With nature being a very diverse subject and there are many conflicting views on things like global warming, hunting, deforestation and as we are not really a webzine focused on the environment even if we do our part to save forests by not printing what we publicise and use energy effi-



cient equipment and all of that, it is fair to say that it is a complex subject that means a lot to this band and they are doing their part to get the message out there.

Evolution

The band started out in more of a death metal style of music but their music has changed a little over the years with some thrashy, groovy, with touches of progressive music if we are to believe what reviewers and other people describing them states. Joe himself confirms that it is rather difficult to describe the music of Go-

jira and it has changed much over the years since the debut 'Terra Incognita' which was released in 2001.

- It has changed a lot over the years, we are better now.

But just because they are getting better, things are not getting easier. With more skills comes higher demands and the bar of what is good music is constantly being raised and what was good before might not be good enough now as Joe explains that he is more selective today than he was something like ten years ago.

- A lot of people think that

bands in general become lazy and sometimes it's true, but in our case it's that we work harder to make a song good because we have more experience and we want to raise the bar.

And raised the bar they have, nowadays they are reaching higher positions even on the Billboard charts and they have made a name for themselves as both an influential band and also a highly regarded band amongst the metal press and fans. And this has led to the band touring with greats like last time out with **Metallica**, a tour that has meant a lot to Joe

Duplantier who also explains that they gotten to be quite good friends with the guys of **Metallica**, something he didn't believe before they went on tour with them but they have and Joe explains that they are to tour with **Metallica** again and have already been playing some shows recently with them and has more upcoming in June. They will also do shows with **Slayer** and some with **Mastodon** two bands they share their new management with.

The management isn't the only thing that has changed though, they do have a new label in ame-

rican Roadrunner Records, a label with many commercially successful band on their roster. Joe explains that Roadrunner was a logical choice because they needed a bigger label to reach wider audiences from better promotion and the label had been chasing the band for some time now.

- For us, the way that we see it is we needed a platform to be promoted and distributed properly. We've been in touch with many labels lately since we finished our contract with Listenable. To go on with Listenable was not an option, even though we had an

excellent relations with them as we really needed a bigger platform, and Roadrunner offered us a great deal.

L'Enfant Sauvage

The first album on this new label we talked about earlier is 'L'Enfant Sauvage' which means "The Wild Child" or something in that region of meanings but don't let the french title fool you as the songs are still sung in english. This album is to be released in late June so it is still a bit early to say anything about the critical reception of it but Joe says the



feedback from the ones interviewing him has been positive and the one review I know of which happens to be my own is positive.

When asked about this album, how it sounds and is compared to the earlier works Joe says that it is a bit hard to describe.

- It's Gojira but wiser and heavier. Our music is always evolving. I hope there is more to come from us! I believe we can get heavier and deeper and more magical than before. I respect everything that's been done before, but I hope we're digging in another direction. It's not a technical direction. It's a more spiritual direc-

tion. I think we're getting closer to the core of why we're doing this music. It's hard to describe it.

When reviewing this album I myself found it a bit hard to put into words how the album sounded but the story of it is down to asking of questions about life, responsibility and freedom. The idea of the wild child reflects on a child not effected by society and child free of preconceptions and free in spirit, at least that is how Joe Explains it to me when I ask about the title.

When asked about the fan interest about the album he points out that the album is yet to be re-

leased which I of course already know, after all I did not ask what they thought about the album I asked if they had noticed any anticipation of the album from fans. He explains that they are not really good at the social medias but they are trying to connect with the fans and that it seems like the fans are anticipating 'L'Enfant Sauvage' which is to be released the 26 of june. With hopes high for a new album following the recent success and the rather long wait for a new album, is there any pressure on the band to produce something extraordinary? Joe explains that it is.

- When people say that they can't wait to hear the album, it's a message and we receive that message. And we have to make a good album but at the same time we want to make a good album because it's a way for us to be balanced in our lives, we sing what we believe and we have to be proud of our music. It's not about just making a CD and giving it to the fans, we must do something important to us.

So is it? Is it an album they are proud of? Joe explains that it is, that it is better and more mature than what they have done before and that he is very satisfied with

it and he hopes that the fans will enjoy the album as well.

Ending

Due to a terrible connection on the phone when talking to Joe there was a lot of things that I couldn't really make out from the recording and didn't quite hear when conducting the interview as well which is why this interview is somewhat shortish as I did want to make something more out of it but when every questions and answer was a struggle it wasn't the right moment and somehow I doubt that information about this album will be lost on you any-

way, Gojira will be doing some tourdates in Europe in June and one in July as it looks then they will embark on a North American tour in august and september and then some dates in Miami in december to round of the year as it stands now. This may be subject to changes which is why it is good to visit the band's website to know more and be sure to check our review of 'L'Enfant Sauvage'.

With that we thank Joe for answering whatever questions that he was able to make out on the phone and Joe wants to thank you for reading and your interest, be sure to meet them on tour.