

# Q.aaqe



What was looking as a big success story a couple of years ago turned in to a nightmare for the German living Romanian musician Cosmin Marica.

But from his setbacks, Marica has found inspiration and ideas that now has given us the second out of four biographical albums with the "success story" as a theme. This is Q.Age.



Written by: Caj Källmalm  
Photos: Press & promotional photos  
Made: May 2013

# Q.aaqe





**Cosmin T. Marica** is a Romanian musician that came to Germany to make music professional. After his years in Germany Cosmin have plenty of stories to tell and that's why he's started a four album big project telling the story of his experiences.

Hallowed felt we wanted to help Cosmin tell his story, so here it is in Cosmin's own words:

- I'll try to tell this as a story I love to tell, like my grandfather did in front of the open fire: After 12 years of working and many many mistakes, I finally had the feeling that i am close to it. I had the dream team. From investors, to my bandmates, from well known producers to well known places, all wanting me to be a part of them. It seemed like every

puzzle went well.

- I thought I was on the sunny side of the beam, I had an album ready to reach the world with beautiful heartfelt songs, co produced and mixed by top producers. Expensive videos, a booking agent who was really into investing for the future of our band. "Friends" wishing me

well, "Friends" with good intentions. More than that - a promotion company, who was about to start an extensive promotional campaign with Apple on our side, chosen as one of the six bands in Europe to be promoted big time. A dream, that every musician would pray for, was ready to take shape.

### The downfall

So what went wrong? What happened to make Cosmin's life a nightmare? Well, the downfall started with the people closest to him...

- All sudden the manager decided to change the name of the band with the intention to only feature the singer, and the clocks went like this: The album rights

were signed over to the managers company. The singer left with the manager. The other band members left as well a couple days later. No more energy on my bank account. And some serious health problems occurred out of the stressful situation.

- It was a cold autumn day and i thought that this is the day that ruined my life - but actually that November day was the day that changed my life completely. I discovered that there was a power somewhere in me that really was waiting for that day to get out. I realized that the whole foundation the house was build upon, was sand. I realized that, for the first time, I took possession of my own mind. Finally I started to work on my foundation.

- I was always looking to write a concept album about my life and I delayed it from one year to the next. Up to that point I was always looking for somebody to help me writing and for a singer to sing the songs. I realized that I can have more than one singer to sing the songs, since we are all so interconnected. I saw a plain field of possibilities.

- All the hopes, dreams, inner conflicts went (and is still in the process of flowing) into a 4 piece-concept-album. Fifty-two songs spread over four seasons, representing the life of a musician today. I just let it go and the doors I was talking about started to open. I stopped looking at my financial aspect before doing things. I focused only on "the idea" and the idea made it possible. Andy Hofmann came into the picture. The energy of the idea created a real place in the world.

### The rise

So what has Cosmin learned from this experience?

- I had to be cut down to zero to realize that believing is indeed the cornerstone of what I can

# Q. age

build upon. I had to go down to that same freezing point to realize that nothing can be called failure until I accept it as such. I had to build on sand and then restart building my foundation on solid ground to realize that I want to have a mission in life not just a career. And all sudden i realized that I don't want to get rid of the journey for the name of the destination.

- But most of it I realized that I had friends, "winds" and family on my side that supported me the whole time, friends and family that I didn't see before.

And from this, Cosmin has grown massively as both a human being and as a musician. He says he want to speak to the listeners in his own way and that it doesn't matter if you like it or not - he understands that everyone can't like what you do so you need to focus on the people that does rather than those who doesn't.

- Q.AGE represents the era in which we take full possession of our own minds. The "Q" in the shape of a key symbolizes the moment of realization. The birds stand for the feeling of freedom, that one gains afterwards. We know that we cannot please everybody. So if someone doesn't like us we keep on liking him. Our music is made for an overnight success where the night is a bit longer. We focus more on the people who like us.

## The key

The Q is they key, Cosmin says and continues by connecting his reasoning to a lock...

- I use the drums, the songwriting with notes and words. If you like it, I would continue speaking. If you don't like it, I would choose another door but still come back from time to time and knock. If your door continues to stay closed i would hope that the message will get through the keyhole. Though i have to say that in the last couple of years I like more those doors that open when you knock. I also realized that I come further when I focus on that second kind of doors.

- I speak in my own way. I know that whatever my mind can conceive and believe, my mind can achieve. Believing is my key (in shape of a Q.) to get to what I want. Sometimes it's hard to believe because this kind of "operation" is not media sponsored. And when doubts get in the way, I go back in myself and get that power to believe.

But how did it all start for Cosmin? Well, it actually started in the grave.

- I left the Transylvanian woods, which I miss, to be able to make music somewhere in the west. From working in a cemetery to washing dishes, from the bar to the morning after, i did everything i could, and tried not to complain. Another thing i tried was to forget about short cuts... I don't know if I succeeded all the time, he smiles.

## The scandal

Success or not, that has become a bit of a side story for Cosmin as it's now about creating this project of his that he's focused on. In the beginning, though, success was his goal and as we've heard that success was not far away at one stage, so how did he come to that point in the first place?

- After we formed the band back then under the name Quaad H. the private radio station Radio Gong encouraged us to write a song for their theme "Sail 2000". This was the beginning of the tune *Waves* which was a big starting shot for us. The editor-in-chief, Bertel Bähring claimed that it was the first time that Radio Gong, being one of the most popular German private radio stations, played a home recording production in their hit rotation. The song climbed up to position 3 of Radio Gong charts, right behind Reamon's *Supergirl*.

- The demand for *Waves* was incredibly high. Because we had no label deal at that time, we approached the record companies. Through the ongoing rejection letters, we wondered if the A&R managers ever listened to the material and tried to call attention to us with a trick. We made demo CDs, but with no music. Only a voice was there telling the record executives to call and ask for the CD personally. Instead of calls, we got more standard rejection letters with phrases like "...we listened to the music VERY care-



fully..." and "...it doesn't fit in our concept at the moment".

### After the scandal

- We didn't let this go by, and took it to German TV station SAT.1, who produced an exclusive report on their show BLITZ and got us a lot of publicity. After SAT.1, the "Bayerische Fernsehen", major record labels, and other interested parties called and negotiations began. We went in to studio to produce the first album. At the end of 2001, Oliver Schwarzingler left the band not being comfortable with the direction the music was going in. As a result, the album wasn't finished and other members left the band.

That's when Senta Studer came in to the band and after recording a lot of material left with the ma-

nager. Cosmin released the first Q.Age album with Studer on vocals despite this and he insist they haven't fallen out because of what happened.

- Senta Studer is working with the manager (mentioned above) and a very good producer on her solo album. We are still friends. I think I would probably not do it different if I would get that chance.

Today Cosmin have a new band around him and he's very happy to work with the musicians he has around him at the moment. In April they released the second Q.Age album, called 'Stop The Clocks'.

- I have a very good team right now. Andy Hofmann who is complimenting me very well. He is the "structure" itself. It is good

to see how the idea becomes reality through him. Beside playing guitar he is responsible for all the design. And Andreas Kämmerl is indeed the best singer i ever worked with and even though he has his own career i would like to continue working with him. He also plays all the guitar solos on the record.

### Cosmin's cards

And despite everything we've just heard, Cosmin still has a few ace up his sleeve to reveal about him self that you might not have expected.

- I like DJ-ing and would like to combine it with the handmade music we do. On each Album we have a "bit different kind of Electro-song", that allows me to DJ. I have over 5 000 original Albums

from Rock to Jazz, from Electro to Death Metal, from Classic to Acoustic guitar, Romanian Folk music etc. So I listen to a lot of music.

When it comes to live, Q.Age have a few "frequent guests" to help his live performance and Cosmin him self is often found behind the drums.

- I'm playing drums on stage, because we play live and we would like to play even more. For that reason we are looking for a reliable booking agency in addition to what we can do on our own.

With that job application we leave Cosmin and his Q.Age for now. I'm sure we'll have plenty of reasons to return to this project later on in the future, even though Cosmin keeps the future

of the story a bit in the dark (revealing only that there are two more albums to come).

- It is a true story that happens as we go along. I would like to keep it a bit secret since there are things still happening in the story.

Cosmin then ends by thanking all the fans and readers of the article for the support. We thank him for an interesting story!

Fixxxer

### Usefull links:

[http://www.hallowed.se/english/music/reviews/2013/q\\_age-stop\\_the\\_clocks.html](http://www.hallowed.se/english/music/reviews/2013/q_age-stop_the_clocks.html) (our review)  
<http://www.qage-music.com/> (official site)  
<http://www.myspace.com/qage> (official myspace)  
<http://tt7-records.com/> (label)

