



PROTEST THE HERO

"SO LISTEN UP KIDS, LISTEN HARD, BECAUSE IT DOESN'T GET MUCH MORE AUTHENTIC THAN PROTEST THE HERO LIVE. PROTEST THE HERO ARE PHENOMENAL. THAT IS ALL."

— METAL-RULES

Australian fans now get the chance to witness this phenomenon As PROTEST THE HERO are headed our way!

Protest The Hero have carved an identity for themselves that is so revolutionary within heavy music that to call them "unique" would be like calling Louis C.K. "pretty funny" or the classic "Star Trek" television series "influential sci-fi." The band effortlessly balances high-minded artistry with wit and whimsy, substantive viewpoints with wanton tomfoolery and masterful musicianship with true songcraft.

Across Protest The Hero's cinematic fourth album, 2013's 'Volition', spider-fingered arpeggios, walloping bottom heavy brutality and dynamically theatrical vocals the group have

made their stock-in-trade remain unrivalled. Their storied career has earned them a Revolver Golden Gods Award, two Canadian Independent Music Awards, a Juno nomination, and millions of views online leading to a #1 debut in their home Canada. But it's the groundswell of loyal supporters who've connected with the band's spontaneity, authenticity and depth that continues to propel them forward: when they set out to crowdfund 'Volition', PTH met their goal in 24 hours and had more than tripled that sum when it was over.

"THE BAND IS ONE OF THE TIGHTEST I'VE EVER SEEN, IF YOU'RE A FAN THAT HAS BEEN PUTTING OFF SEEING THEM, OR A FAN OF PROG METAL AT ALL, GET YOUR ASS TO A SHOW OF THEIRS."

— METAL INJECTION

Protest The Hero's hyper-charged bombast is as urgent as their spiritual forefathers in Canadian agitators Propagandi and they are as skilled as any of the musical shamans who the fill pages of guitar and bass blogs. Metromix once wrote that guitarists Luke Hoskin and Tim Millar are "deserving of their own Guitar Hero game." Bassist Arif Mirabdolbaghi displays a dexterity and fluidity that sends fans furiously searching online for tips and tabs. The entire sound is all buoyed by Rody Walker's recognizable and charismatic wail, as distinctive as the voice that leads fellow Canadians Rush.

Protest The Hero's fourth album contains some of their heaviest and most progressive material, while alternately offering increasingly melodic punk elements that open the door to even bigger horizons. "The music is still bat-shit crazy a lot of the time, but there's more structure," Hoskin notes. "On our first two albums, I'd play them for friends and they'd say, 'This part was cool but it never comes back!' That was the intention at the time. Now we bring parts back and expand on them."

"THE BAND'S PERFORMANCE WAS JUST PERFECT. THE WHOLE SET WAS SURPRISINGLY CLEAN, ENERGETIC, AND TECHNICALLY ALMOST FLAWLESS"
— THE CIRCLE PIT

'Volition', boasts the heaviest song Protest The Hero has even written, "A Life Embossed," a fast-paced and complex barnstormer with dissonant guitars. It's topped with vocal declarations against breed-specific legislation regarding pitbulls. "Plato's Tripartite" is infused with even more venom for modern events, decrying the misogyny that can lead to physi-

cal abuse, demanding that society take a shared, collective responsibility.

The first song the band wrote for the album musically, "Tilting Against Windmills" (the title is from "Don Quixote"), rails against the homophobia of religious fundamentalists. "I almost called the song 'Kirk Cameron is Gay,' but I was vetoed," Walker says, with a laugh.

As much a career long culmination in style and spirit as a new chapter in their continuing evolution, Protest The Hero's 'Volition', sits mightily alongside the catalogue, the music videos, the mandatory crowd participation of their performances and every other detail of the band's expression, part of a burgeoning legacy built on truthfulness and artistic independence. Commercial conquering has never been the goal; making statements, planting a cultural flag of sorts, has always been paramount.

"TOP-NOTCH TECHNICAL SKILLS? ARE YOU KIDDING? CHECK. STAGE PRESENCE? THESE GUYS OWN ROOMS JUST BY WALKING ONSTAGE, WELL BEFORE ACTUALLY PLAYING."
— THE MUSICAL MELTING POT





EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH...

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PROTEST THE HER

Interview by Jen @justjenrees // Researched by Leeann @adnaxar

JEN: Hi Rody?

RODY: This is he!

Hi, how are you doing?

I am doing pretty well, how about you?

Yeah not too bad, enjoying the weather?

Yeah we have had a nice little week here in Canada.

It is freezing here in Australia.

I started my research for this interview by reading your bio on facebook and I have not laughed so much in ages. Usually the bios are so dry and boring but yours is classic.

Did you read it the whole way through? I have not even read all of it! Yeah I did and when I got to the part that said "I'm pretty stoked that you read this whole thing. I commend you for that. This was ridiculously long, and you probably have other stuff you could've done in the last four minutes." I was like yeah that is so true! I had 15 band interviews to write that night! But I needed a laugh. The real funny things is that I copied

and pasted that from Taylor Swift's bio and just changed the name. Really? (laughing) I am glad that you enjoyed it! I am sorry you wasted your time!

You guys used to be called Happy Go Lucky, which is not really a great name for a metal core band. Is this why you changed it?

No we were like a skate punk ska band at the time, we are talking about 1999, That is a long time ago! I usually interview those kind of bands more than heavy band. You know what I still like skate punk bands better than metal so I mean you can ask me about that if you want. Have you played with Reel Big Fish or Less Than Jake? No but I love them, I prefer Less Than Jake over Reel Big Fish, wait actually we played a festival with Reel Big Fish three weeks ago. I tried to tell the singer that he was great and he did not even look me in the eye. Yeah he is a bit like that actually. I would like to think that he just did not hear me so.... Yeah ok lets give him the



benefit of the doubt. They have been a favorite of mine, they came here for Warped last year and I met them, and yeah the lead singer did not answer anything, it was the trumpet player Scott and he would not shut up! Ha that is funny. You would think that a guy that grows sideburns like that and wears those fun Hawaiian t-shirts all the time would have a lot to say but no, I mean maybe he is just overcompensating by wearing them due to his lack of personality with his zany dress. Possibly.... (laughing) maybe he is shy? (Laughing....).

So finally Australia is lucky enough to have you come down under for a headlining tour, and even a show in Perth, not sure if you are aware but that is pretty rare for bands to do that.

Yeah we keep hearing that it is pretty rare, it exciting for us, that's what we want, we want to play more shows, that is part of a reason you join a band as you see things that other things people don't! Ha true I guess. Perth is great, great beaches but I've noticed that you don't have much time here are you planning on doing anything touristy? Well we can't wait until we get back to Canada and tell all our friends that hey Have you ever been to Perth? Even the suburbs!

You came here for Soundwave in 2011, what was your favourite city to play at?

Yep! That is a good question, we were so busy there, when we were in Sydney we did a whole lot of touristy stuff which is just kinda lame but I also think it is necessary as well, this time we are trying to go a bit deeper, we are going to ask the locals where to go and get drunk OK, that kind of stuff, Well I can help you out with that in Melbourne. Thanks. I've heard the steaks are quite delicious there, Well yeah they are any where in Australia.

Any highlights of that tour that you can share?

The shows were so miserable for me, the shows were so miserable as my voice went away like it has never gone before so I was so disappointed in myself, I mean every thing else in Australia was so fantastic, I ate kangaroo for the first time.... YUK! And probably the last time, I saw kangaroos and it was dirty and there were flies all over it's eyes and balls, yuk, I could not eat them.

"AUSTRALIA WAS SO FANTASTIC, I ATE KANGAROO FOR THE FIRST TIME... YUK!"

Did you do a signing at SW?

It was really pathetic. As there was some emo kid that was on after us and there was a huge line and it turned out that it was waiting for his autograph not ours. So there were about 3 people who knew us. At this years soundwave, Zebrahead were there and doing a signing and not many people were lining up so we kept going back and talking to them until we got told off by security. You probably made the band feel really good as speaking from experience it sucks when no one turns up at your autograph tent. It would be!

Did you do some Sidewaves with other bands?

Yeah we did a couple, 2 shows, they were great to do some bar shows not just festival ones.

Your album Volition was done via contributions from fans, and the plan was to raise \$125,000. However in reality your fans raised \$341,146 USD! You guys have amazing fans, that is so awesome! How humbling was that for you guys?

You hit it right on the head, it was humbling, it was exactly what it was, we had no idea that fans would come out of the woodwork and give that much money, it was amazing.

You had 4 fans pay \$5000 to get to sing or play on the on the album, can you tell me how that worked? What did they end up doing? That sounds like a dream come true for a die hard fan!

It was quite interesting as we worded the thing wrong! We wanted to word it that you can come and sing or play on the record and bring a friend and they hang for the day in the studio but it was worded, hey you can sing on the record and your friend can too! So instead of 4 people on the record it was 7 as one guy did not bring a friend or something like that, other than one guitarist they were all vocalist and I had to go through the songs and I had to find lyrics that I wanted to give up to them but it really ended up really well. The kids that wanted to scream could

“IT WAS INTERESTING AND HILARIOUS AND VERY SUPRISING TO SEE ANYONE GIVE A SHIT ABOUT OUR BAND.”

scream better than I could and the kids that wanted to sing were such better singers than me, I mean it was really embarrassing, but they all did a great job and I was proud of each and everyone of them. But it was embarrassing for me.

Volition peaked at number 20 on the Billboard 200, a huge achievement and number one on the Top Independent Albums and numerous other commendable awards, was this beyond your expectations?

Yeah! Absolutely, I mean the billboard like I never thought that we would get on that let alone number 20, and it was funny and maybe it was a slow week so maybe not a great accomplishment, but it is funny as we were between Kayne West and Lady Gaga so what the F*&k am I doing there! It was interesting and hilarious and very suprising to see anyone give a shit about our band.

This year you guys won the Juno Award for best Metal/Hard Music Album of the year, how did that feel?

Yeah that was cool and no one in the US knows what a Juno award is as it is only a Canadian thing but it is huge in Canada. I mean my grandma watched it and she does not give a shit about the band and it was really weird. **I think she would have been proud of you!** Yeah I guess so. I mean you would never know by the way she looks at me. It was really special for our families and our girlfriends families and it was validating.... See Mum? I am not a loser! But that was the best part, winning the Juno as we could rub it in everyones face.

Chris Adler, the Lamb of God drummer playing on Volition, do you think that contributed to the success? That must have been pretty cool.

For sure! I think it played a pretty significant role in the success of the record and as funny as it was, things were falling apart, our drummer leaving then our bassist leaving, it was really peculiar how things came together themselves, they came together to be marginal successful.

My fav song is “A Life Embossed”. You guys are clearly are dog lovers, as am I. Yeah! The message that you send with your song “A Life Embossed” is clearly a controversial topic, as it is here in Australia. I think that most dog bites could be avoided if the human owners were more responsible. Absolutely. Was this song written about the Canadian laws about pit-bulls?

The banning of any breeds on any continent is pretty similar. It is discrimination. I mean that is about a ban in Ontario Canada, but it is that in the UK, US, even Australia that bans any breed. It is discrimination. Like we can fix dog bites or attacks by destroying any breed of dog is absolutely ridiculous. The only way to get rid or reduce dog attacks is to educate people who own dogs and the proper punishment of the





people who own dogs who attack people. It is the only way.

What was the feed back you got from this song's message? I read some of the comments on the YouTube clip, should not of done that as some were just weird.

There is some ignorant bullshit that goes on

about that, and it is really stupid how the mother f*&ckers who listen to our band are.

Have you any messages for the readers of our magazine?

Yeah! We are coming to Australia in September and we are excited to be coming again, we have our fingers crossed that people show up to our shows, even if no one shows up to our shows then we will still be delighted to be there. **Your VIP packages, and some places they have already sold out.** Damn! I did not know that! **I will be there.** I look forward to meeting you. **Sorry we went over time, I think we had a bit of a laugh, it was an enjoyable interview.** For me as well. **Thanks Rody, see when you come down under. See ya!**

What a great interview! Rody was fun to talk to and I had a great time. Please check this band out!

