Judas Priestess

The World's Only
All-Girl Tribute to the Metal Gods
America's All-Girl Tribute to the Metal Gods

... is a NYC-based band of hard rocking chicks hitting stages across the Northeast USA and tearing up the classic headbangers of the undisputed masters of metal, JUDAS PRIEST. Formed in late 2009, this spike & chain clad group of loud and grinding heavy metal lovin' gals crashed head-on into the music scene that November, making their debut headlining at the legendary Stone Pony in Asbury Park, NJ.

The following excerpt is taken from that concert review in the Aquarian 12/2/09, from their very first show:
“The five-piece that took the packed Pony on a glorious tour of the Stained Class kids’ best hits, misses and anthems, pausing long enough to get you used to the ringing in your ears before continuing their aural blitzkrieg. Well-executed songs, top-shelf musicianship (these girls are better than most dudes in the biz) and killer presence caught my attention quick”.

Judas Priestess was introduced to the metal/hard rock world of television viewers in November ’09 on VH1 Classic’s hit tv show: “That Metal Show” during the “Stump the Trunk” segment, after which they also met heavy metal god Rob Halford, who gave the band his blessing.

Their performances have garnered rave reviews from the press and this group has immediately established itself as one of the most acclaimed and top ranking bands in the greater New York area, while creating a world-wide reputation during the few months of having been together in this project. Fans crowd to their shows chanting “Judas Priestess! Judas Priestess!” between songs, and a frenetic mosh pit is not uncommon at their gigs as these women explode through the classic hits and deep album cuts of Judas Priest. Glowing press quotes like the ones below are an indication of the industry buzz surrounding the fledgling Judas Priestess!!

Some Press Quotes:

“Metal's top female tribute - Judas Priestess” - Steel Mill/ KK Downing legendary Judas Priest guitarist

“KILLING MACHINES! - a combination of showmanship, skill and balls-out rock. Judas Priestess combines gimmick with chops, and all with a name so perfect, it’s hard to imagine why it took 30 years for someone to put it all together.” - Crispin Kott

“Metal Goddesses... this relatively new act is already drawing crowds larger than those of many established national acts who perform in the tri-state area rock clubs.” - MTV Music Blog, John Ostronomy

“All-Girl JUDAS PRIEST Tribute Band Tearing Up Stages!” - Blabbermouth.net

“Judas Priestess were nothing short of awesome...wow! they're all female and a kick ass Judas Priest Tribute band. They did an amazing job - my ears are still ringing!” - Ian O'Malley, Classic Rock/Metal DJ ... Q104.3 FM NYC

“These girls are lethal musicians that just happen to be drop dead sexy. A winning combo in my book - John Pfeiffer, The Aquarian


“New York City’s Judas Priestess are not the kind of girls you want to take home to mother... because mother would likely ditch dear ol’ dad and run away with this bunch of leather-clad heathens.” - Jeanne Fury, Decibel Magazine

“All girls playing all Priest, it doesn’t get any better than that!”- Talking Metal Radio
The members of this five-piece tribute band are: MilitiA, Vocals; Rena Sands, Guitar; Josette Guitar, Gyda Gash, Bass, and Hillary Blaze, Drums. This killer lineup is comprised of the best heavy metal women musicians possible to pay tribute to the Metal Gods! Each member of Judas Priestess brings a unique quality to the mix as well as the technical prowess to make this group extraordinary.

MilitiA (vocals) The man who brought The Beatles to America, SID BERNSTEIN, calls her "A superstar!" MilitiA has toured as the leading female vocalist in Dee Snider’s heavy metal horror orchestra Van Helsing’s Curse and in Europe with Jesus Christ Superstar. She has performed with Cyndi Lauper, Taylor Dayne, Nancy Sinatra, Sandra Bernhard and CX Kidtronik, in addition to hosting and VJ’ing on FUSE Music Television, MTV2 and VH1. She has an original hard rock band +SWEAR ON YOUR LIFE+ in which MilitiA is lead singer/songwriter and her song “Heavyhead” is featured on The Black Rock Coalition’s compilation album “Rock & Roll Reparations Vol. 2 alongside tracks by Living Colour and Fishbone. In Spring 2011, MilitiA performed this song live at the 7th Annual OUTMU-SIC Awards in NYC in honor of Melissa Etheridge’s Lifetime Achievement Award. This enormously talented vocalist/performer is featured in Black Rock Vol.1 by Earl Douglas and in the following upcoming books: Not Bad For A Girl Pt.2; What Are You Doing Here? Black Women in Metal, Hard Rock V ol.1 by Earl Douglas and in the following upcoming books: Not Bad For A Girl Pt.2; What Are You Doing Here? Black Women in Metal, Hard Rock V ol.1

Josette (Guitar) earned her heavy metal cred as a teenager in her first ever band: the all girl Hari-Kari, managed and produced by the Eric Carr of KISS. At a young age Les Paul playing Josette became a seasoned rock performer, sharing stages with the top major acts of the day. A New Jersey native, she cites her main influences as Jimmy Page and Stevie Ray Vaughn. She has done extensive touring with various artists such as Chud of Misfits & XWard, Erocktica, and Warped with Shiragirl. Josette also plays the banjo.

Rena Sands (guitar) is a highly skilled guitarist that has earned her place on the map as an accomplished metal musician. Rena was one of the founding members and the lead guitarist of the legendary all-female heavy metal band MEANSTREAK. MEANSTREAK made the statement that women can play, thrash, kick ass AND look good doing it too! They made their mark as one of the most powerful female bands in metal history. Rena was also a member of Lifetime TV’s "GIRLS NIGHT OUT" pit band, and more recently, Long Island’s MIXXED COMPANY. Some of her recording credits include: Meanstreak’s Roadkill, The L’Amour Rocks album, The Other Side, The Dark Gift and Mixxed Company demos. She's headlined many shows with her bands as well as opening for heavy-hitting national acts such as, MOTORHEAD, MANOWAR, NUCLEAR ASSAULT, M.O.D., ANTHRAX, OVERKILL, DREAM THEATER, MOTLEY CRUE and more. Rena wields her axe with a fire and finesse, solo after solo - that will make you melt!

Gyda Gash (Bass) In addition to having her own music released on Needleteeth Records, Gyda was the bassist in the seminal doom metal band Angel Rot, with ex-White Zombie axeman Tom Five. Also in Shewolves with The Cycle Sluts from Hell’s Honey 1%er. She also plays bass in The Voluptuous Horror of Karen Black and has toured Europe playing bass in Psychic TV with Genesis P. Orridge, and guested with David Bowie guitarist Earl Slick and Texas Terri Bomb. She also played bass in the house band on artist Mark Kostabi’s celebrity Cable TV show "Title This" joining a variety of musical guests that included jazz great Ornette Coleman, Blue Oyster Cult’s Al Bouchard, and Sex Pistol’s Glenn Matlock. Some people may also know of her from the book ‘Please Kill Me’ as being one of the first ladies of the original NYC punk scene. Gyda’s tribute band history includes bassist with’ Ziggy Starlet and the Spiders from Venus (all girl David Bowie) and lead singer in 'New Hope for the Plasematics' (Plasematics).

Hillary Blaze (Drums) comes at you hard and heavy with both feet kickin! Raised on Rock’n’Roll, she brings the fire! Devoted to her music, Hillary left her small hometown for the big city of Boston to study with world renowned drum instructor Gary Chaffee (Vinnie Colaiuta, Steve Smith, Joey Kramer) to achieve pro status on the kit. Her versatile history includes performing for 60,000+ at halftime for the NFL Indianapolis Colts at age 17 with her high school band, touring Europe, Hong Kong, and playing festivals throughout the U.S. She is also a co-founder of the original, all-female, heavy rock band Jaded that has toured and shared stages with Alice Cooper, Alice In Chains, Brett Michaels Rock of Love Tours, Buckcherry, Lacuna Coil, Lit, Papa Roach, Sevendust, Skid Row, Twisted Sister, and WASP among others. The Blaze loves it Live!!! Hillary has endorsement deals with Sabian Cymbals (the only cymbal that can withstand the Blaze!!), Vic Firth Drumsticks and Remo drumheads.
Dream Theater’s John Petrucci Performs Judas Priest Song with His Wife’s Band, Judas Priestess

Posted 01/07/2015 at 10:49am | by Damian Fanelli

Everyone eventually signs their spouse’s Judas Priest cover band—and Dream Theater guitarist John Petrucci is no different!

Below, watch Petrucci perform Judas Priest’s “Beyond the Realms of Death” with Judas Priestess, a tribute band that features his wife, Nena Sands, on guitar.

Of course, Judas Priestess is an all-female band: before this gig, Sands played guitar with Meanstreak, another all-female metal band.

The performance was shot December 4, 2014, at Club Revolution in Aventura, Florida. That’s or Long Island, for you non-New Yorkers!

Now that Sands’ guitar solo starts at 3:20, Petrucci’s solo starts at 5:10. (Note: these times refer to the top video only.) Enjoy!

Richie Faulkner of JUDAS PRIEST meets JUDAS PRIESTESS

What are you doing here? A black woman’s love affair with heavy metal

By Brennan DeFier and Mark Carcasole | GdG

“T’ve gotten, ‘Don’t you people have your own music?’” she says.
NAMM 2014 ANAHEIM, CA
JUDAS PRIESTESS LIVE PERFORMANCE
ERNIE BALL/MUSIC MAN STAGE
April 24, 2010:
Judas Priest guitarist KK Downing’s Steel Mill website features an interview with Judas Priestess on the front page!

(click on Judas Priestess photo for link to the interview on website)
Judas Priestess headlined the night, and while it's only a few shows old, the all-girl tribute to Britain's sexually ambiguous metal legends seemed fully formed. As with many tribute bands, Judas Priestess combines gimmick with chops, and all with a name so perfect, it's hard to imagine why it took 30 years for someone to put it all together.

On paper, it seems unlikely.

Fortunately for the fans of Judas Priestess, the performance—a combination of showmanship, skill and balls-out rock—takes place in the actual world, where it hits squarely in the face.

Frontwoman MilitiA's road to performing in a tribute band primarily differs from some of the others the New York Press spoke to in the details. While it might be tempting for music elitists to believe the performers in these acts are washed up notalents, the truth is rather different.

In her youth, MilitiA went to a Maryland Catholic school and showed early proficiency as a concert pianist, eventually studying at the Peabody Institute and the Boston Conservatory of Music. It was during this period that her true ambitions finally surfaced.

"I kind of looked around and was like, 'I want to play rock 'n' roll, this shit is boring,'" she says, noting that the transformation was finally complete when a guy she was dating joined an industrial band with a female singer who just wasn't cutting it.

"I said, 'I want to be in a band, get rid of that bitch,'" she says. "That was the start of everything."

MilitiA, who still performs with her originals band, Swear on Your Life, answered a Craigslist ad for Judas Priestess, and after the group rehearsed "Hellbent For Leather," she knew she'd found the perfect fit. Fortunately, local fans seem to agree, including a tall leather-bound gentleman in a crisp Judas Priest shirt who soaked up every second of the Brooklyn Bowl performance.

"I would say a big part of our audience is these guys that have been seeing Priest since 1983," says MilitiA. "Priest fans are die-hard. If they fucking love it, then I know we're doing our job.

Judas Priestess also gained approval of another key member of the Judas Priest fandom: the band's singer, Rob Halford, who the band met on the set of VH1's That Metal Show.

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One of the most entertaining bands I’ve seen in a long time is New York City’s Judas Priestess, an all-female tribute to the legendary Judas Priest. Fronted by lead vocalist, Militia (Van Helsing’s Curse, Swear on Your Life), a classically trained singer with a voice range perfectly suited for the gig, this relatively new act is already drawing crowds larger than those of many established national acts who perform in the tri-state area rock clubs.

The brainchild of lead guitarist D Mercedes, who previously led the Motley Crue tribute, Girls, Girls, Girls, the group is rounded out rhythm guitarist Grace Maiden of Metal, bassist Gyda Gash, and drummer JoJo Tubeato. After first hearing the band in a private rehearsal, I was blown away by their attention to detail in their note for note renditions of several Judas Priest classics.

What has been becoming more and more evident in New York and New Jersey, is that many metal fans would rather pay to hear classic metal covers than to support unsigned original artists. Most unsigned bands can look forward to performing for about thirty of their closest friends who sadly feel obligated to attend their gigs, while groups like Judas Priestess or Screaming Metal, my cover band with Talking Metal’s Mark Strigi and Hades members Dan Lorenzo, Alan Technio, and T. Coombs, can often sell out clubs and draw hundreds of paying customers. I’m definitely not complaining about that, but it is notable that live original metal seems to have lost a great deal of fan support.

Back to Judas Priestess, even the Metal God himself, Priest’s Rob Halford, took notice of the group when he met them on the set of VH1 Classic’s That Metal Show. You can check them out for yourself on their MySpace page and an upcoming episode of the Talking Metal podcast.
JUDAS PRIEST Guitarist K.K. Downing's Steel Mill Celebrates Third Anniversary

Hot Flashes

Posted on Sunday, April 25, 2010 at 14:47:18 EST

JUDAS PRIEST® guitar legend K.K. Downing is celebrating the third anniversary of his Steel Mill website. His statement reads as follows:

"It's time for yet another anniversary and celebration® and this time it is the 3rd anniversary of the Steel Mill.

How proud I am to be putting this blog together knowing that I could not have wished for a more perfect 3 years. The Mill has gone from strength to strength and your participation and dedication has been nothing short of amazing so a mega Metal thanks to you all! And I feel sure that the flames of the furnaces will burn bigger and brighter as each year passes.

Just before I move on from the anniversary topic I must also congratulate Rob's parents Joan and Barry on their! Fabulous 60th wedding® anniversary last month. There was an evening of celebration and a great night was enjoyed by all. The romantic couple also received a letter of congratulations from the Queen herself.

Now moving on there is loads of cool stuff in this months updates, one of which I am pleased to say is featuring the very unique Judas Priest tribute band, JUDAS PRIESTESS. I can honestly say I can't wait to check them out!
Top 5 Judas Priest Songs by Judas Priestess

1. **VICTIM OF CHAOS** from Red Wings of Distrip (2001)
   
   Victim is a amazing achievement in the history of Metal, and in all of metal head rock to my opinion. Who believes enough, who believes together as many mental elements, directions and lives, has to be inside the most dramatic and thoroughly advanced songs ever owned by a rock group. It’s very sensitive. “Victim Of Chaos” is something all fans are so much. Both the album’s shining words and musical arrangements are at the top nor my top ten through the various era and time-slam, trying a new standard for us all like a beauty and a beauty. It’s a stunning orchestration that overshadows the usual form the shell of this very top.
   
   - D. Mercurio, guitarist

2. **SNAKE PIECE** from British Steel (1980)
   
   This is probably the “UNOFFICIAL” song we all wrote. It’s with like tears of intense anger andSessionBy of the band Or copy and paste it into our own Steel. The accusations By D. Mercurio, the one that made Heavy metal. There’s that one, it’s a better part of this band and the band’s reputation with its rolling roots and platinum dollars. Not to mention, he named it a tough way “Murderer” regarding. Disturbing guitar whereas, their top ven from all, everyone’s a jackhammer, and Heavy metal’s reputation high noticed the needle. It’s not get any more metal that’s right.
   
   - M. Knudsen, bassist

3. **STARLESS** from Painkiller (1990)
   
   Released in 1991 with the addition of St. Tropez on Forex this Judas Priest song with the band’s sound and vocabulary in a whole new band of hardrock metal. Every instrument and note to this song is a full torrent from Tempest’s underwear against down onto the rhythm’s last something into. Twenty years later this song is still the standard for which every metal fan should wish to hold. “Murderer” is really a tattoo, wild stainless, metal masterpiece.
   
   - B. Nokes, drummer

4. **PAINFUL CARE** from St. After Sin (1997)
   
   A pioneering time for Priest. While from In The Shadow of a Thousand Suns (1988) this song was the cornerstone of the band’s style and sound became more for what would develop their sound in the 2000s, but by 2000 the band really felt their stride. The rhythm is primer, the verses go on for hours. A forgotten dance.
   
   - G. Howes, guitar

5. **DEEP PURPLE** from Stylized (1986)
   
   Our mission, in memory of our children’s time that I wish had been developed into a 24-hour tour. Part of a village cover of Red “Dawn” that St. Tropez. The title of this song is St. Tropez. The title of this song is St. Tropez. The title of this song is St. Tropez.
   
   - B. Nokes, drummer

*Note:* The above text appears to be a description or review of Judas Priest songs, possibly from an online magazine or website, but the specific context or source is not clearly visible in the provided image.
THE DEVIL WENT DOWN TO JERSEY

PARANORMAL BOOKS & CURIOSITIES

Asbury Park

There is one fascinating legend that turns our heads time and time again in the Garden State and that's the Jersey Devil. The sadness (I think I clipped my cell phone in a bar recently) and the origins of the two-booted wonder never fail to captivate our imagination. Hailing mostly from the South, the Jersey Devil has reportedly been spotted as far north as Paramus and eastward as in Asbury Park (no doubt in town to see Joe Harvard as well) as well as the politically monarchical capital of our state, Trenton.

Everyone has heard about how we inherited this loveable beast, starting with Mother Leeds, a charming woman that apparently had a lot of free time on her hands and birthed a bunch of children. After giving birth to her 12th child she exclaimed that if she had another, it would be the Devil. In 1735, Mother Leeds was in labor (there's a shocker) on a stormy night. Leeds was supposedly a witch and the child's father was the Devil himself. The child was born normal, but then changed form. It changed from a normal baby to a creature with hooves, a horse's head, but wings and a forked tail. It growled and screamed, then killed the midwife before flying up the chimney and scuttling towards the pines. Yep, just like my ex. And with that tale, things have been fun and games ever since.

I've followed the dark Leeds legend from deep pine barren websites to great books by the likes of horror and

JUDAS PRIESTESS

THE STONE PONY

LIVE! Nov. 14

I don't usually mention cover bands but this femme fatale Priest tribute band was so good that I just had to mention them. Not your ordinary bunch of counterfeitors, Judas Priestess features some heavy duty girls that play serious metal and have made their bones in the industry. Latest member and lead singer "Mila" boasts quite a resume performing as a lead singer with Dee Snider's heavy metal orchestra Van Helsing's Curse, as leading lady in gothic horror musical Sirens Of A Scarecrow, and in the European tour of Jesus Christ Superstar. She has played with Cyndi Lauper, Sandra Bernhard, Taylor Dane, Nancy Sinatra and more.

If that wasn't enough, other group hotshots include lead guitarist "Ol" who is Darryl Jenifer's (Bad Brains) numero uno guitarist, Gyda Gath, bassist from seminal doom metal band Angel Rot (with former White Zombie axe man), Guitarist Grace

"Maiden of Metal!" Werdoff who hosts and produces "Motorbreath" (Time Warner), and last but definitely not least you have JoJo, the skin pounding goddess that is the only drummer around that can hold a drumstick to Jersey's gun slingin' siren Sarah Tomek. JoJo is best known for having been in the legendary all-girl heavy metal band Missdeceiver as well as in The Creeps (with members of the Cycle Sluts From Hell).

This five-piece took the packed Pony crowd on a glorious tour of the Stained Glass kids' best hits, misses and anthems, pausing long enough to get you used to the ringing in your ears before continuing their aural blitizing. Well-executed songs, top shelf musicianship (these girls are better than most dudes in the biz) and killer presence caught my attention quick. There's more to these girls than grabbing easy cover money and if they're anywhere near as good with their own stuff as they are with the Priest catalog then we'll be in for a treat. Not bad stuff at all. myp道士es. judaspriestessband.

THE AQUARIAN WEEKLY

TAKES A DOUBLE VICTORY AT THE 17TH ANNUAL ASBURY MUSIC AWARDS

On behalf of the Aquarian I just wanted to thank all of our friends, clients and readers for awarding us "Top Publication in Support Of Original Music" and for giving me the "Top Journalist" award in that same category. This makes three years in a row that you've voted for me and it's a huge honor. I just wanted to say thank you to the musicians, fans and industry movers and shakers that give the scene meaning and momentum year after year in the NJ/NY area.
Videos from Live Performances

HOT LINK TO JUDAS PRIESTESS YOUTUBE CHANNEL:
http://www.youtube.com/user/judaspriestessnyc

HOT LINK TO VIDEO:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fyg8KJcsKE

HOT LINK TO VIDEO:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kpj94RjGZ8s

HOT LINK TO VIDEO:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6O50YkuIr8

Q104.3’s Ian O’Malley on Judas Priestess live

HOT LINK TO VIDEO:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLFR4HMF5NY

HOT LINK TO VIDEO:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYggeBZBqLE

HOT LINK TO VIDEO:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kycL_XANQB

HOT LINK TO VIDEO:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kycL_XANQB

HOT LINK TO VIDEO:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyel_XANQB

HOT LINK TO VIDEO:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6O50Ykulr8
Beyoncé Pays Tribute to Judas Priestess Frontwoman “Militia”

click on photos to read what the bloggers are saying
Nov. 2010 “Horns Up” Award presented to Judas Priestess by the legendary Stone Pony in honor of their one year anniversary

Dec. 2010 Drummer JoJo Tubeato featured in Modern Drummer

Jan. 2011 Bassist Gyda Gash interviewed in The Rock Pit
"Having Judas Priestess on WVOX’S 'Metal Mayhem' show was one of the biggest highlight's of my 25 year broadcasting career! The girls were awesome live on the air and we literally received calls from all over the United States. Indeed the phone lines lit up like a Christmas tree for these five very talented women. The reaction to Judas Priestess on New York radio was so overwhelmingly positive - I am already hopeful the band will come back soon! The band they give tribute to - Judas Priest - should be very well pleased as well!"

-Matt O'Shaughnessy, WVOX'S 'Metal Mayhem' - New York."
**Militia**

An interview with New York's Sexy Vocal Metal Queen,
By: Agnieszka Wlodek

**KCM:** How did you get started in the music business?

**MALITIA:** I always knew I wanted to be a musician. I started playing in my family's garage band when I was a little girl. Later, I attended Catholic high school and went to college at a music university, focusing on music, singing, and Directing. Somewhere in my intense musical studies, I got roped into one. I always loved rock n roll and was fascinated by bands but it always seemed like some far-off thing to me, like Something on T.V. I grew up in suburban Maryland. We didn't have bands where I grew up; we had Playgrounds, neighborhood pools and shopping centers. My first band was an industrial dance band called Disciples of Astraroth. We sounded like Thrill Kill Kult meets Dead Can Dance. 2 singers, 1 guitarist, and 1 guy who doubled on bass and keys while running a drum machine and sampler. We played our first show at The Middle East in Boston. The first note hit and something in me just took over (I remember it like it was yesterday.) A bunch of my friends were there that night and said "Fuck school! Baby, you're a rock star!" All I knew was that I finally felt liberated. Finally free of other people's rules and being judged by uptight folks. That couldn't and wouldn't relate to me in a million years, mostly based on plain sight. People who were clocking my mistakes rather than enjoying the music. 

**KCM:** What was it like meeting people like Doro Pesch and Lemmy?

**MALITIA:** It was very cool, of course. It's always fun to finally meet people you've admired from afar. Doro Pesch and Lemmy and I only met a few times, but it's nice to know I can even say "I met Lemmy!". After he passed, I thought about what his secret was. How can he drink, smoke, party, and go hard after all these years and survive? His answer: "Dumb luck." Go figure.

**KCM:** How many bands are you currently in, and how do you split the time between bands?

**MALITIA:** I have an original band "SWEAR ON YOUR LIFE" and "JUDAS PRIESTESS", and all girl tribute to the Metal Gods, JUDAS PRIEST. I constantly write songs on my own and I also work as a backup singer to celebrities. I just split the time as best I can, it's not always perfect, sometimes things overlap but it's all good. I like to keep busy.

**KCM:** So far which is your favorite city to perform in?
Hell bent for leather

By Paul Grimsley
For Weekly Surge

Combine lots of leather, fishnet stockings, plenty of tattoos, a heavy metal mentality, strong musicianship, and five hot chicks from New York/New Jersey - and you’ve got a bike week band from heaven... or maybe hell.

Judas Priestess, the only all-female Judas Priest tribute act will hit Myrtle Inlet this weekend, performing at 10 p.m. at the Suck Bang Blow 4 Corners (18980 U.S. 17 Bypass) Friday through Sunday. Part of a weeklong biker music extravaganza, the band will headline three nights of metal mayhem at one of the biggest, and arguably best known biker bars on the Strand.

We spoke with Militia, Judas Priestess’ lead vocalist, who says a bit of anonymity is necessary in her line of work. “Needless to say with an all-girl metal band we get a lot of stalker,” she laughed. Militia and her four band mates are hardened rockers from the Northeast who’ve toured the East Coast since the band formed a year-and-a-half earlier. Before Judas Priestess the band members came from other metal acts, and a few ladies were part of a Girls, Girls, Girls, all-girl tribute to Motley Crue. As GGG faded, they saw the wisdom in putting together an all-girl tribute to one of their favorite British hard boys, Judas Priest. “I just love to play,” she said, “and we love this music so much. We’ll play in a biker bar if someone will pay to have us - and we love Myrtle Beach. My folks actually retired to the area and live there now.”

Militia did not bristle when asked if she and her band mates were ever subjected to critics who suggest the band is strictly novelty act and even more inflammatory, that girls can’t rock as hard as guys. “It’s not the case at all,” she laughed. “There’s a lot of love and passion when we play. Anyone can see that. Judas Priest just a band we all hold near and dear and really love. Everyone in the band has all got to be great. I was skeptical at first, but I was blown away at our first [rehearsal]. We knocked ‘em dead every time.”

Sista Otis, Psych Ward, and other local, regional, and touring acts are scheduled to perform throughout bike week at SBB, including Highway to Hell, an AC/DC tribute act, for the three consecutive nights May 19-21. Check out www.suckbangblow.com for more information. For those attending the Judas Priestess shows, Militia says “Be prepared. We’ve had endless times “We came out to have a laugh, and you guys stomped us.”
Judas Priestess being interviewed by RIDE ON AMERICA host Scott Perri for their special episode on Myrtle Beach Bike Week 2011.

Judas Priestess on the cover of the Myrtle Beach Sun News June 17, 2011.
Defenders of the Faith

Saturday, July 7, 2012

Black hole taints 'ugly' Orange County town

In a stark turn of events, the Black Hole town of Orange County, California is facing a new threat from an unexpected source: a giant black hole that has materialized in its heart.

The black hole, estimated to be several times the mass of the Sun, has been spotted by astrophysicists using advanced telescopes and high-energy particle detectors. Its gravitational pull has caused a series of cataclysmic events, including the destruction of infrastructure, power outages, and widespread panic among the townspeople.

Local residents report feeling a inexplicable force pulling them towards the center of the town. Some have even claimed to see strange shapes and figures in the sky, which appear to be influenced by the black hole's intense gravitational field.

The town's mayor, Mr. Black Hole, has declared a state of emergency and has called for residents to remain indoors and avoid leaving their homes. Police and emergency services are currently on high alert, but there has been no official report of any injuries or fatalities.

As the situation escalates, scientists are working tirelessly to understand the behavior of this unusual black hole and to develop strategies to mitigate its impact on the town. The fate of Orange County hangs in the balance as the black hole continues to grow in strength and size.

In the meantime, residents are urged to stay calm and to follow the guidance of local authorities. The hope is that this event will serve as a reminder of the power of the universe and the importance of scientific research in understanding these phenomena.

For more updates and news, please visit www.blackholletown.com.
JUDAS PRIESTESS TAKE THE CONCEPT OF A TRIBUTE BAND TO A HIGHER PLACE. BY POLLY WATSON

A sleek black town car glides to a halt in front of a run-down warehouse in industrial Greenpoint, Brooklyn. The tinted rear window rolls down, and a raven-haired woman clad in leather and spikes peers at me over a pair of blackout shades, though the chilly sun is casting its last rays of the day. Behind her, a stunning girl wearing a shredded black tank top and cherry-red pint barns forward. “I’m sorry we’re late!” she offers huskily. “Where do you want us?”

No, this is not a teen fantasy, or even the beginning to an ‘90s ZZ Top video; it’s guitarists D and Grace from Judas Priestess, the world’s only all-female Judas Priest tribute band. Made up of veterans from bands as diverse and respected as British noise legends Psychic TV and seminal NYC punks the Stimulators, Judas Priestess formed only a couple years ago. Since then, they’ve built a following as rapid (if not quite as large) as that of the New Wave of British Heavy Metal (NWOBHM) gods whose music they skilfully rip through on a nightly basis.

Within an hour, the remaining members have shown up, and the tiny bathroom in the warehouse-cum-practice-space is hot with smoke and toilet-to-sink with leather and spikes. Grace pushes a double handful of weed into the photographer’s lens as vocalist Militia, bassist Syda Gisha, and drummer JoJo strut and preen around her. D has vanished, but I can tell by the dazed expression on the face of the slight, Oxford-shirt-clad girl passing me that she hasn’t gone far. Judas Priestess are an anomaly in indie-rock Brooklyn.

“What you see is what you get!” says Grace. “When I go to the store for a pack of smokes, I rock spandex, leather and chains. This is how we look every day.”

Leaning against the sink, the guitarist lights up pleasanly. Her band mates decline to join her, but because they’re anti-weed. “I think they should legalize it and tax it just like they do alcohol,” says JoJo. “Legalizing it would create jobs, boost our economy and make room in our jails for real criminals.” Adds Syda.

“Making it a crime just shows what a hypocritic society we’re living in. Alcohol, non-prescription medications and cigarettes are more dangerous than weed.”

Militia, who’s been aptly described in the press as “a cross between Rob Halford and Tina Turner,” glances wistfully at Grace. Though the vocalist favors cannabis-heavy fragrances like Cannabis Scented by Fresh, she gave up smoking weed with good reason: “It kills my throat, and momma’s gotta sing!” Indeed she does. Though Judas Priestess have broken out of the local tribute-band scene, opening for metal legends Pentagram and traveling up and down the East Coast, they know they have a lot to prove—as women in the traditionally male metal arena, and as musicians paying tribute to one of the most worshipped bands in the genre.

“Judas Priest is the gold standard of heavy metal,” explains D. “We have to deliver the goods!”

Militia agrees. “There are a lot of people who haven’t done their homework on us and come to a show expecting a good laugh. Next thing you know, they’re screaming and crying and begging to be our groupies.”

The women of Judas Priestess work hard to make that happen. “We aren’t the average tribute band who dresses exactly like the band members and play the band’s music note for note,” says Grace. “We play Judas Priest songs the way we want to play them, which gives Judas Priestess the edge of originality that most tribute bands generally don’t have.”

Part of that edge stems from their stints in other original bands. Judas Priestess are well aware of the stigma attached to tribute bands, but they’re also savvy about the music business. “We have all written our own music,” explains Militia, who cut her teeth in ginocore and industrial bands and currently sings in Dee Snider’s horror orchestra Van Helsing’s Curse. “The irony is that people’s demand for Judas Priestess is high, so we will continue to make the supply.”

Judas Priestess know that X-rated outings and XX chromosomes aren’t the reason for their success. There’s only one reason that they have gigs lined up from New York to Alaska (literally). “Good is good, no matter how you hear it or who’s playing it,” concludes D. “We’re good.”
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