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# HYPNOISE



## "A Novella In Sounds"

Interview with P. Mike III (Guitar, keyboards and lead voice) of this great Italian band

By Sergio Vilar

**Please tell me the story of the band; under what circumstances was it formed? Please share your memories of those days.**

**Hypnoise** got together as an experimental project in 1996; the intention was to create a new personal style based on the different points of view of every member.

At that time we were, (I, **Frez**, **Sanze**), students at the **Thelonious Jazz School** in Vicenza where we had a chance to play in a few jazz bands.

Basically we weren't very interested in jazz music but we agree it helped a lot to create our style.

**Why was Hypnose named exactly?**

**Hypnoise** means Hypnotic Noise; we did think it was just right for the kind of music we like to play.

**What were the circumstances that led to the formation of the band?**

Well, **Frez** is my cousin and **Sanze** we have known years before the day we decided to put together the new band; we also had a chance to play together in some college bands under different names.

This is probably one of the reasons we're still playing together, we're good friends and music lovers!

**What or who was your biggest influence as an artist?**

We can't say just a single name because, all of us have very different artistic influences; this is probably the reason why **Hypnoise** has its own original groove and style.

I personally love **Pink Floyd** especially with **Syd Barrett** then **Led Zeppelin**, **Franco Battiato**, **Tool**, **Tchaikovsky** and **Beethoven** even if I used to listen to many different kind of music.

**Sanze** is deeply inspired by **The Beatles**, **Frank Zappa** and **Led Zeppelin** while **Frez** loves **Led Zeppelin**, **Frank Zappa**, **Tool** and many others.

**And what non-musical things influence your musical style?**

This is a good question! I'd say, the places where we live, (**Sanze**) everything good and bad that happens everyday, (**Mike**) and all the beautiful locations we have a chance to visit around the world. I've often been inspired from artistic human expressions and many times from the beauty of nature and landscapes.

**Your music it's wholly original, it's very different from most things occurring at this point in time. How would you describe or characterise your composing process?**

It's basically an instinctive composing process in fact, most of the times I compose very quickly then, with the band, we arrange the songs.

**Is there a creative scene you do identify with and consider yourself a member of?**

**Hypnoise** is an artistic project, we cannot be more easily identified or "labeled".

Many review talk about comparing us with different artists and big names; we're very proud of it even if we have to say we just play our emotions; nothing more.

**Your music it is written out ahead of time or you improvise in the studio, or is it some combination?**

It's a combination; in the studio we jam a lot and sometime we compose together; an example of it is the song "**Tripping**", (track number three of our first record "**Opium**").

Many times we arrange songs and parts I composed, far from the studio.

An interesting experiment was the recording of "**Lee Super Dark**", (track number six of our last "**St. Valentine's Porno Bar**"), in fact we took care of sounds more than the structure of the song; it's been like painting ... a tape for us.

**In my opinion "St. Valentine's Porno Bar" is a perfect album and surely one of the best published albums lately. Could you briefly explain the process of composing and recording this album?**

"**St. Valentine's Porno Bar**" has been basically composed some years ago in forty five minutes of a St. Valentine's day.

It's a concept album against the commercial part of any holy day we live in the modern age, St. Valentine's just because it's a fake, unnecessary day.

So, I wrote "**St. Valentine's Porno Bar**" as a reaction, it's basically the story of personal re-invention and inner revolution. It follows a journey of Ceasar, leaving his past in search of a new life. He travels until he finds a mystical place far from the plastic life and modern stress he has known. He descends into a world of decadence where he finally feels free enough to take off his social masks.

Despite his apparent freedom in the world of depravity and temptation, he ultimately finds peace and happiness in the purity of nature.

The "making of" is an example of "concept in a concept", the concept which influenced the recording of the album, the way the cover was designed and the video was created ... the way everything was made.

The album was recorded exclusively with analog devices like old tube Neumann mics, old tube tape machines, tube spring reverbs, tape delays, an 8 track reel to reel machine, only 4 microphones, Italian Radios from 1935 etc to create a unique, coloured and warm sound as a reaction to the plastic digital sound of modern recordings. The "**St. Valentine's Porno Bar**" recording process has no digital contaminations; it is 100% analog.

To create the cover scenes we placed classic furniture in an historic square of Venice to create a living "**St. Valentine's Porno Bar**", a magical place in a magical town that you can also hear captured in the album. The artwork consists of beautiful footage created by art director **Michele Gervasuti**, captured on 35mm film by photographer **Augusto Collini** then put together by talented designer **Federica Matietto**.

We can't say anything about the crazy video of "**Love in the Bathroom**" we finished with Movie Director **Umberto Rinaldi** of **Vocidentro Films** except, it will be presented next St. Valentine's day in Rome during another crazy Anti St. Valentine's Day.



**Can you share with us the meaning and inspiration behind the songs?**

As I told you, behind the album there's a concept, behind every song a different feeling and dream; I kindly invite all of you to close your eyes, listen to the entire 74 minutes and let your imagination soar.

**Who write the lyrics and music? All you are involved in the creative process?**

I use to compose, almost all the songs and lyrics to share, improve and arrange them with the band. Also, I use to work on them with my great friend and producer **Ronan Chris Murphy**; in my opinion one of the most talented producers in the world.

**How would you describe exactly what you're aiming for with your music, in the long term?**

We definitely want to make music, art and share dreams and emotions with any lover of all of this. We want to give everybody the best artistic product we can make, taking care of any small aspect of it, starting with the sound which is always analog all the way through to the cover and the artistic direction.

**Then, what music should we expect to hear on your new album? Will it stylistically be in the vein of "St. Valentine's Porno Bar", at least on the whole, or something completely different?**

We're working on the new album and we can say it will be pretty different but still a **Hypnoise** album. That means it already has a strong identity and our warm sound... it doesn't tell a story like the last "**St. Valentine's Porno Bar**" but the concept is there and the "story of the recording" is already there in the near future.

It will take awhile before we start a new recording session because we have to go choose and visit the places to make it ... do you remember the small church in Venice used for "**St. Valentine's Porno Bar**"?

As usual we use Natural Reverbs not Emulations so, if in "**St. Valentine's Porno Bar**" we recorded a real Church Reverb and Real sounds of Venice on a Real Revox Tube Tape Machine the next album already requires great research. It's Fun!

**How so advanced it is the work at the moment?**

Almost half of the album has already been composed, maybe more... we started arranging the first songs.

**Well, thank you very much for doing this interview. Some final message?**

Thank you very much to you!

All the best to your music lovers from **Hypnoise**! Ops ah Yeah! Support Art and long live analog!



[www.hypnoise.net](http://www.hypnoise.net)

Nucleus interview: 09/01/07

**Nucleus** [nucleus@iwind.com.ar](mailto:nucleus@iwind.com.ar)

