

Attached you can find the original interview in English between Jannik for Soundmagnet.eu and Derek for Classless Act.

Hey guys, thank you for your time! How are you on these days during the release of your actual album *Welcome to the Show*? Could you briefly introduce yourself to our readers, please?

Soundmagnet, thank you so much for having me. My name is Derek Day and I love to briefly introduce myself and the band. I am the lead singer of Classless Act. Franco Gravante is the bass player, Griffin Tucker on lead guitar, Dane Pieper on rhythm guitar and Chuck McKissock on drums. And we all sing and write music for the band.

In 2019 you met each other on social networks and thus laid the foundation for Classless Act. Who came up with the idea of founding a band and how did it ultimately come to this?

It wasn't really one particular person. I can tell you *that Dane Pieper* was or is the most long lasting original member of the band. Because we must have gone through four different drummers, three different guitar players, three or four different bass players. This band had a long evolution. And we never have thought it would be something long lasting. It was kind of like this project that felt dangerous and we just want to give it a shot, we didn't think we would be on a stadium tour and really at the end of the day it was just: We found the right five people, we are sort of simultaneously just agreed like okay this is our band, this is our thing, this is our family we are gonna make this as big as we can and go all the way with all truth in art.

On your debut album *Welcome To The Show*, which just released, you play really varied rock that is difficult to compare with other artists. But still: Who are your personal role models who have inspired you in your music?

You know, the whole band, we all have different answers for that question. Musically we love people like *David Bowie*, *Guns N Roses*, *Led Zeppelin*, *Queen*, *The Beatles*, you know, all the classics. For me personally, I love *Tom Waits*. I also love different artists, I'm a big movie buff, so I love directors, I love *Quentin Tarantino*, *Francis Ford Coppola*, *Christopher Nolan*, *Martin Scorsese*.

A lot of that sort of type of directing and screenwriting. And I love actors like Daniel-Day Lewis and Joaquin Phoenix, Tom Hardy. I take a lot of these great artists and I try to implement maybe their style, maybe subconsciously or consciously into my music in some matter and it also extends out into painters, like surrealist painters like Salvador Dali or Vladimir Kush. There are also different writers like Charles Bukowski, Jack Kerouac. And I think it's safe to say that a lot our band members reach out to different forms of art as long as we are truly inspired. Our role models are our family, Our Parents, everyone's individual parent is so supportive of what we do and they just show the most love and they have just always been there and we have brothers and sisters and we just love our families. We are big family type people on top of the art and we are grateful.

Your incredible tour with the rock idols *Mötley Crüe*, *Def Leppard*, *Poison* and *Joan Jett* starts these days. What was your first reaction when this was clear and what are you most looking forward to on the tour?

Well, so far we've played about six or seven shows on this insane stadium tour and it's just been mind blowing and euphoric and positive, very positive and a lot of hard work but really fun. My initial reaction was disbelief, I've never thought it was real. And I couldn't fathom what it would be like. I've never played a stadium before, I've never played to that many people before, I just never got to experience that before. So there was no real reaction it was just kind of like a surreal "where am I, what is this, is this really happening". But I do remember on the first day I kind of had this demeanor like "oh its not a big deal". I walked out there to the stage doing soundcheck and I'm like "yeah this is really cool, but no big deal". I think there is something about me that was trying to downplay it and be Mr. Cool but of course when we finally go out there and you get to sing the lyrics you've written and the melodies you've spent so much time on and play the guitar chords that come straight from your heart when you do your original music for that many people on that kind of a stage I just couldn't help but just laugh and laugh or smiling ear to ear and it was just like the goofiest experience of my life.

The first show I was able to tame it for the next few shows but I can say that was my real time reaction the first day of the show. As far as getting the news I just couldn't believe it. What I'm looking forward to the most on the tour is just becoming a better musician, better performer and just having a great time, good experiences, hanging around with my band, with other bands and creating memories!

As part of your new album there is also a song together with the awesome *Vince Neil* from *Mötley Crüe*. What was it like working with such a legend?

I tell you one thing: Its already such an honor that we're on the same bill as this rock n roll legend. I mean this guy fills up stadiums. His whole band fills up stadiums. Me as a singer I really look up to him and his energy and his vibe and his swagger and everything! When we asked him to do the track, if he wanted to sing on our namesake song Classless Act, we were on tour and he was in rehearsals in Nashville for the stadium tour, so we couldn't meet up, everyone was just so busy, the world was opening up again, there was not a moment in a day to really meet up in a studio and make it happen.

But we can say that he sent over like just a couple of tracks, he killed it, immediately he did it in a few days and sent them over. He was happy to do it, he was very sweet and even though we didn't get to meet him in person, at the time it was just a really awesome gesture and super kindhearted of him. He didn't need to do it and I think it was his way of welcoming us to his show.

You've already done a few club shows and now the first stadium shows are coming your way.

What exactly do you like about club shows that stadium shows don't have?

What I like about club shows that stadium shows don't have is probably the amount of work that goes into a club show. A stadium stage is much bigger its like a big playground, you get to run around, you have your in ears in, so your monitors settings are set, like there's not much trouble on a stadium stage. Its really all about performance and having endurance, but when you're in a club you kind of have to deal with different sounding rooms, different walls, cement walls, metal walls, wooden walls, because its kind of s a smaller space there's a huge difference in sound, when it's like 50 people vs a hundred people more or less. If there's 150 people or 200 the sound changes drastically and I like that, I kind of like the challenge.

One of my favorite artists *Jack White* would say, he likes to fight his guitar, he likes to have a boxing match on stage, he wants the blood, he wants the sweat, he wants the tears and that's something I enjoy because it brings about creativity, it brings out sparks of inspiration, spontaneity, it kind of brings out more of your true character and so that's a fun thing. And it's always cool to connect with your audience more. I've found that in a club I connect with my audience more because they're just closer, but on a stadium I connect with my band more, because the audience is a little further away but my band is the closest thing to me, you're kind of with your pirate ship crew and you just got to kind of like a deal with your mates and sail to victory.

How well did the recordings for your debut album work out and what do you particularly appreciate about each other?

The recordings for this debut album turned out I would say pretty damn good. It happened over the span of two and a half years, but if you think about it, it only took about two and a half months to make. We just started recording half of it right before the world shut down and when the world shut down, producers had to fly back to their hometown and we kind of had to rearrange our lives a bit, we wrote new songs in the meantime, we had to replace some songs, but it took about two months to make, I'd say overall I'm pretty proud of the material, the lyrics, the melodies, the structure, it pays homage to our influences, but I think it opens up new avenues.

I think it's a good debut album for Classless Act, because it puts us in a light where we can show the world that we can do everything, not to say that each song on the album is different not in the same genre or everything, but there's a level of passion in each song, and it kind of puts out that were open to growth, to change to being classless and being rock'n'roll and at the same time also something else, were an open band and we like every kind of music and we kind of try to put that into each song and I think that's what this album represents.

We are open as much as our band name might suggest otherwise. Were a pretty open to interpretation band. What I appreciate about my bandmates is... I love everyone! This album

brought us closer, a lot of blood, sweat and tears run into this album. I love everyone of my band mates, I think we have the perfect five dudes, sitting in a room and making music together, everyone listening to each other, we all share very strong vision, everyone has just so great ideas, sometimes we clash, sometimes we don't. It's a brotherhood, it's a brotherhood of art. It has just been a fun ride. I'd say everybody has their niche and that's what makes this album as well as our future albums so fun and honest. Its like everyone brings themselves into this album and I really respect that.

What else can we look forward to from Classless Act in the future?

Touring. We just want to tour the entire planet. We finally get to release our first album, we want to share it with everybody and we think its crucial that the world will see us live, because there is a different energy when its live. Were just so excited about bringing that energy. Something we miss individually and all together is damn good live rock'n'roll shows. You just don't see it nowadays. You don't and we want to be part of the dos.

What will your next achievements be?

In some manner artistic endeavor, whether it be video or a specific rendition of a classic tune or just our own kind of music, a sonic boom, anything, something of that manner, where we can have fun, because this first album was carefully placed, it was made with a lot of thoughts and consideration for introducing ourselves to the world and we hope it will put us in a place to kind of lose it up at the shoulder, sit down or stand up and run with an idea that might be a little left of center and I think the world can expect that, its going to be an artistic endeavor and of course just constant touring as I said, showing our faces and being in your face. Thank you!

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