

Lindsay Schoolcraft interviewed by Animal
English Version:

I've been listening to Cradle of Filth for years and years, a classic in its genre, everyone knows that. I've learned to growl and play the keyboard to their songs, searching for harmony by ear and up to now the albums they've released are on my phone's playlist what the people whose skins I tattoo can easily confirm, since I often have to explain why „he's screaming like that”. And no, I can't turn down the volume, listen, you don't have this at home. They usually calm down right after the entry of the female, classical vocals, which fantastically underscores a section's brutality, the sharp guitar riffs and „Jesus being raped” screams, as one of my tattooist colleagues called it, regularly forced to familiarize himself with this band when he shared a tattooing space with me.

My musical fascinations, especially the vocal ones, eventually become drawings and paintings, so one night I sketched Dani, posted it on Instagram with the appropriate hashtags and some time later was very surprised to see a like and comment under the picture from Lindsay Schoolcraft, the new vocalist and person responsible for keyboards in Cradle of Filth. We talked for a while and when it turned out that the beautiful, talented and, most of all, humble Lindz confirms the online stereotype of a Canadian citizen (meaning: super-nice; that's right, it appears all the memes are true:)) I also drew her. You can read the outcome of our chat about online trolls, synthesizers and an upcoming new solo album below. With a photo of the drawing. Enjoy the read!

Animal: You are fresh after a couple of concerts in Poland, how was it? How did you find the Polish audience(s) and scene?

Lindsay: “It was a great experience and the crowds were very welcoming and you could tell were having a good time. I know Poland is the home of a lot of great black metal coming out right now. And though we have some undertones of black metal I wasn't sure about how we would be received. But the response was really great with the sold out shows.”

Animal: Do you listen to any Polish bands?

Lindsay: “Mainly Behemoth and Batushka.”

Animal: Cool, I like 'em a lot.

Animal: Since I follow your Instagram and social media content, I know that your solo album is almost ready and you've finished recording vocals, would you be so nice and tell us what we can expect from it?

Lindsay: “It should be out later this year. It's in the mixing stages right now. I get to hear some of it in a few weeks and I'm over the moon about it. I can't wait to share it with the world!”

Animal: What are the main differences between working alone and with Dani and the guys? What brings you more satisfaction?

Lindsay: “With Dani and the guys there is a system and structure to follow and a lot of the time what I contribute does not get used or changed. It's for the better of the band and to keep Cradle's sound. We often move pretty fast and it's very stressful. I worked on my solo

project between tours and I found it very enjoyable and I get to take my time with Antiqua which makes it a very enjoyable outlet. I'm currently working on lyrics for my second album while on the road and I'm finding it very fulfilling. I know Cradle will start writing later this year and I may try to contribute, but usually they just call on me last minute for vocal lines and narration."

Animal: What inspires you when it comes to music?... and what inspires your lyrics?

Lindsay: "People and their stories or my own heartbreak and hardship. Mainly topics that are close to my heart and I know many people have gone through. I like to write a story about it. And sometimes I'll just write fictional nonsense because that's what I'm feeling that day. I find I do better in writing when someone presents me a musical idea, even if it's just small to start."

Animal: Is there anyone you look up to when it comes to writing in general, both: music and lyrics?

Lindsay: "Absolutely. I have quite a few artists I look up to. My long time idol and now friend Rocky Gray has always been an influence and recently I got to do a song with him for his horror anthology 10/31. I also look up to Ben Moody, Amy Lee, Björk, Thomas Holopainen, Dimmu Borgir, The Birthday Massacre, Jon Crosby of VAST, Johnny Cash, and an endless list of trip-hop acts. A lot of my close friends in the industry also inspire me too. You have a whole new respect for people when you hear their stories and see them go through the process."

Animal: A more technical question, but also connected to the creation process: why did you switch from Roland's Triton to the A500pro? Can you tell us more about the setup you are using onstage and at your home studio if you have one?

Lindsay: "It was honestly a much easier midi control to travel with and work with on the road for our live show. I still have my Numotion revo-1 which is currently on vacation. I don't have a home studio, I work out of Monolithic Productions in Oshawa which is a studio run by Tyler Williams. I usually bring along my Yamaha p-80 for tracking and demoing."

Animal: I could not help but notice your fascination with sacral art... What's your attitude to religion?

Lindsay: "I was raised catholic and at the end of the day it just wasn't for me for so many reasons. I found a home in First Nation Native American spiritually. But for some reason Gothic architecture just speaks to me and I love visiting old churches and studying the designs and stained glass. I think it's the most beautiful form of art along with art nouveau. So you can imagine how over the moon I was about seeing Alphonse Mucha's stained glass in Prague."

Animal: hahahah, I can imagine it very well, I am big fan of Alphonse Mucha and secession style. I've been recreating his works and style when I was younger.

Animal: How are you doing on a scene dominated by men? Is it hard for you? How you are dealing with all the cyberbullying and trolling that always follows success?

Lindsay: "I feel like it was harder in the beginning, but now that people know I don't take shit from anyone (along with the #metoo movement) things have died down quite a bit. Björk was

right when she said that “as a woman you have to say things 5 times more than men who only have to say it once”. Men are bad listeners and often times I find they have a common respect amongst themselves but when it comes to women they are unsure on how to approach us and can come off and disrespectful and condescending. I’ve learned how to combat it, even if unfortunately they feel I’m threatening. That’s their own insecurity and that’s not my responsibility. I have a good working relationship with the guys in my band. Which I’m grateful for.

As for cyber bullying: I’m often finding it’s coming from only males. I haven’t had hate from a woman in years. There has been a great influx of it recently for some reason and I just have to laugh. They have no idea who I am or what my relationship to Cradle of Filth is. Often times it’s just ignorant hate and I honestly feel bad for people who have nothing better to do with their time. I find life is more fulfilling when you lift others up. I grew out of my jealous, hateful ways in high school.”

Animal: What's the view from the metal top of the world?hahahahaha just joking, I was curious if your tight studio schedule and tour dates affect your private life? What your boyfriend and this sweet doggo that you are posting sometimes are thinking about your frequent travels?

Lindsay: “I do my best to take a few hours to myself every week whether it’s watching makeup tutorials or playing the harp. My boyfriend and I have a special relationship. We started out as friends before we started dating and are both working musicians. We always clear one night a week to catch up and watch our favourite anime. Now that I’m on the road he calls me on my days off. I know his dog misses me. I miss them both. But he understood what he was getting into when we started dating. I feel cared about and supported and I couldn’t ask for more.”

Animal: Thanks for a lovely chat, wish you quick return home and well deserved time for yourself, Lindz:)