

FIREBRAND

Magazine

Issue 2 • November 2012

BLACK COUNTRY COMMUNION

Black country communion release the triumphant
Afterglow... but is it their swan song?

DORIS BRENDDEL

Not Utopia



IDA ELENA

We interview the
Silver Dressed Lady

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF CORNERSTONE

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CORNERSTONE® ... WITH RICK

1

Welcome Patricia and Michael. It's been a great year for Cornerstone since *Somewhere in America* was launched - were you anticipating the kind of success the album has received?

Michael: Hello Rick, great talking to you! Yes, I have to say, 2012 was our most successful year so far: we did a great tour through UK in April, we've participated at the famous Pop Overthrow Festival in Liverpool in May (...where a certain radio-presenter, unfortunately his name escapes me, should have an appearance...:-D), and did festivals all over Austria and Germany. Our song "Right Or Wrong" received an award for the "Best Ballad 2011" by a British mag.... Of course, the album didn't chart, but I hope the next album will do, I'm sure.

2

Tell us a bit about the band and how the whole Cornerstone project came together?

Michael: The band was founded back in 1998 by Steve and me, but in the beginning it was more a kind of fun...we did some cover tunes of REM, Cure and Soul Asylum and did 3, 4 gigs per year in front of friends. In 2007 this whole train started rollin', because we were signed by American label ATOM Records, since then everything went straight upwards: 2008 we did our first UK-Tour, 2009 we've visited the states for a three week trip, and in 2011 "Somewhere in America" saw the light of the day. Patricia joined the band in 2009, and I have to say, from this moment on everything went into a more professional direction. We are very bread and butter.

Patricia: I joined the band in September 2009. The story behind is, that I moved to Vienna to join the University. After some time ago, I started to realize that something was missing in my live and that was making music. So, one day I was sitting in front of my computer surfing the internet. Because of a lucky coincidence I found an announcement, which said that "Cornerstone is looking for a female singer". After a call and an audition, I got the part. This was the best thing that could ever happen to me.

3

How does the band write - is it contributions from all members or anyone in particular?

Patricia: Michael and Steve write the songs together with the acoustic guitar at home. In my opinion, concerning lyrics and melody, they are the perfect creative team and do a great job. After they provide the basis for a song, we all come together in the rehearsal room and complete the arrangements concerning the harmony of voices, drums, etc.

Michael: Although Steve always wants to include the other members during the songwriting process, the most efficient way is and always was, when Steve and me sat down with our Acoustics, and work everything out, lyricwise and chordwise, the old-fashioned way. (*laughing*)



4

You were over in England on tour earlier this year and in particular I remember you played the Cavern in Liverpool. What was it like to play such a legendary venue.

Patricia: It was awesome, maybe the best experience I've ever had with the band. Being in Liverpool was like a short adventure. Not only that we performed in the same club as the famous and legendary Beatles did, but it was also a huge honour to be part of the Pop Overthrow Festival and to get the possibility to play three gigs in a row on

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one day! People were dancing and singing on the streets, music came from everywhere. Beatles- Fan stores on every corner and we right in the middle. As we went on the stage, I felt like being on holy floor. I can't wait to go there again!

5 What has been the highlight of the year for the band up to now?

Patricia: There have been a lot of highlights so far! One of them I already mentioned before, Liverpool. Also people's reactions to our songs during the concerts have always been positive. We brought home a lot of fans and almost every host asked us, if we could play at their venue again. Nothing makes me more satisfied than that, it's maybe the biggest compliment you can get.

6 I understand you're currently working on the follow up to "Somewhere" - care to tell us more about it?

Michael: Yes, we are working on new tunes, but so far there are just some rough ideas flying around... although we have finished a few songs, we'll record the album in fall of 2013. Working title is "Reflections", but this is no more than a working title and is probably going to change. We are really looking forward to the new album, which will go a step more into the AOR-direction.

7 If you had the chance to put the band on stage with one of you're heroes, who would it be?

Patricia: I know that I make myself unpopular in the band by saying this, but one of my idols is Beyoncé (Ex-singer of the girl group "Destinys Child"). For me, it would be a dream came true to be on the same stage as her.

Michael: Freddie Mercury would have been great, but this isn't possible anymore, unfortunately! But I guess, REM would be quite interesting. It would be a pleasure, to meet my idol Mike Mills personally. Not very Heavy Metal, I'm afraid... (*laughing*)

8 Michael, it's been a great pleasure to chat to you as always. Is there anything you would like to say to the fans?

Patricia: I speak for the band and say: Thanks for having us!! It was a lot of fun answering those questions!! Grets to all fans and readers! Hope that you'll enjoy our album "Somewhere in America". Check out our homepage (www.cornerstone.co.at) and facebook/myspace page, where you can find us under "cornerstoneaustria". Cheers!!

Michael: ...and check out our album "Somewhere in America", which is available at amazon.co.uk, iTunes, HMV, etc. We're a poor band, I need to buy new shoes! (*laughing*)

