

THE UNDERGROUND NETWORK



Broken Strings



Broken Strings is a pop-punk band from the Philippines. I interviewed vocalist and guitarist Aldrin Mananes to learn more about them.

Underground Network: How did Broken Strings come together?

Aldrin Mananes: Broken Strings came together when we were in high school about 6 years ago. We formed the band just for our graduation party and we were called C2FYS (the 2 is squared) and when we graduated from high school we decided to continue the band outside of the school. A couple of members came and go

but the friendship still goes on, as we said here we are not just a band we could be your friend to.

UN: What bands influenced your sound?

AM: Bands that influence us is mainly Green Day, blink-182, all time low, simple plan and all pop punk bands from old school to modern days.

UN: How would you describe your sound?

AM: we describe our self as a mixture of our inspirations from progressions to melodies and we always like to make a new kind of sound and always experimenting on every genre trying to mix and hoping we could get the right one.

UN: What struggles are you facing getting your music out there?

AM: well the struggle really is making a following and make people accept what we do and what we sound like its always hard to get our music out there cause of our genre, we passed

our songs to some big Label company but ever since there is no reply and people here in our place don't really appreciate Local artist.

Check out their music here:

[https://soundCloud.com/aLdrin-mananes-](https://soundCloud.com/aLdrin-mananes-147735241)

[147735241](https://soundCloud.com/aLdrin-mananes-147735241)

Follow them here:

<https://www.facebook.com/BROKENSTRINGSOFFICIALPage/>

[cialPage/](https://www.facebook.com/BROKENSTRINGSOFFICIALPage/)



Gig Review:

The Interrupters at The Van Buren in Phoenix, AZ. with Masked Intruder and Rat Boy.

The Interrupters never fail to bring an uplifting and high energy spirit with them wherever they play, and this was no exception. Although harshly judging Rat Boy before the show, I was immediately proven wrong as soon as they stepped on to the stage. They sound like a mix between The Specials and The Beastie Boys, a combination that makes for a high-energy show full of their combination of ska, hip-hop, and punk rock.

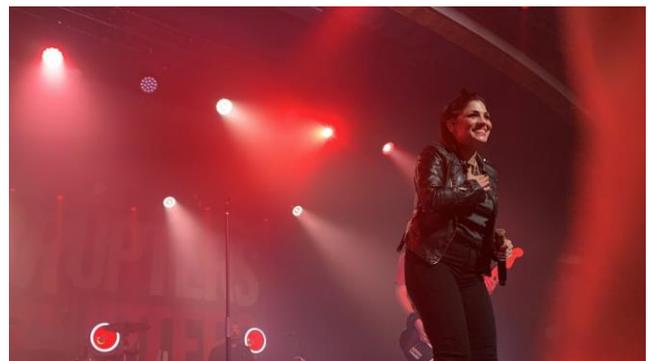


After Rat Boy, it was time for Masked Intruder. Masked Intruder is a band that combines high-energy pop-punk with themes of crime and Love, with the comical nature of their crime committing schtick. Although the thought of the gimmick might make you turn the other way, their Live show will make you think otherwise



(especially their dancing court issued parole officer, Officer Bradford). They sounded great and played a handful of their fan-favorites including: Crime Spree, No Case, First Star Tonight, and the duet about a showing up a woman's house and singing her Love song, Heart Shaped Guitar. The Masked Intruder bassist, Intruder Yellow, got arrested robbing a Liquor store and although I was initially disappointed hearing this, Intruder Black took his spot for the time being and she absolutely killed it. Their set left me wanting to go see them play a headlining set. By the end of their set, you know that all they want is Love (and maybe some free booze).

By the time The Interrupters hit the stage, everyone was immediately greeted with a sense of unity. The Bivona brothers instrumental work is extremely tight and Aimee Interrupter is a BEYOND powerful vocalist that sounds better Live than in the studio and on this run they are joined by Billy Kottage of Reel Big Fish



on keys and trombone. If you've seen The Interrupters before, you know they typically start their set with their anthem about friendship, A Friend Like Me, but this time around they have decided to start their set with the Lead song off their album, Fight The Good Fight (which also the album they are currently touring on), the song is about fighting through tough times, Title Holder. The change was refreshing and was a strong start to a great set. This show is also the first time they played their track, Rumors and Gossip. Other than that, the setlist seems to be about standard for one of their sets. This is also one of the first shows they have done where they had a proper encore break. For me, the highlight of their set is always when they play the 8th track of their first album, Easy on you. The Interrupters are a band that no matter how many times you see them, they always leave you wanting more. A lot of the time, bands that use the theme of unity and family are often hypocritical, but The Interrupters make you feel like family from the second you walk through the doors of the venue. The Interrupters are some of the kindest people I've had the pleasure of meeting and their fans are also extremely kind. Like at the end of any show you want a setlist, guitar pick, drumstick, or autograph, but at one of their show, more than anything you want a chance to tell them thank you, so thank you Aimee, Kevin, Jesse, and Justin for creating an environment of family, unity, and high-energy fun. Do your self a favor and make sure you catch them before their headlining sold-out arenas, which at this rate will be around this time next year.

News You Might Have Missed

Ska/Punk band, The Interrupters released a music video for their song "Gave You Everything," watch the video here:

<https://tinyurl.com/gaveyoueverything>

Fat Wreck Chords signed Australian punk band, Clowns. Pre-Order their new album here: <https://tinyurl.com/fatwreckclowns>

UK ska band, Sonic Boom Six, have returned to the studio to record album six.

Baltimore Feminist Hardcore band, War on Women, release new single, "The Ash is Not the End" via the Adult Swim Singles program, Listen here: <https://www.adultswim.com/music/singles-2018/28>

Fat Mike has announced a new album has his alter-ego, Cokie the Clown. The album is produced by Danny Lobner (Nine Inch Nails, A Perfect Circle) and features, Travis Barker (blink-182, The Transplants, Goldfinger), as well as many others. Pre-Order here: <https://tinyurl.com/cokiepreorder>

Reel Big Fish and Bowling for Soup announced a summer co-headline tour in the US with openers Nerf Herder (June 19-29) and Mest (July 21-August 3).

Tours and Festivals



Buy tickets here:

<https://www.bouncingsouls.com/>



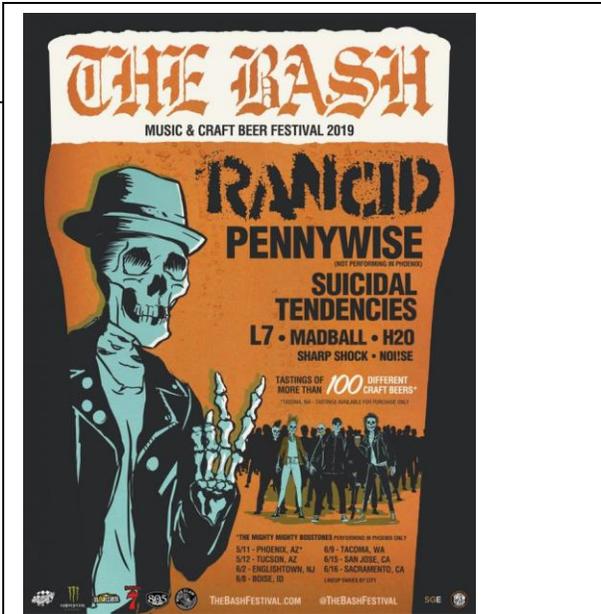
Buy tickets here:

<https://www.bowlingforsoup.com/>



Buy tickets here:

<http://www.Lessthanjake.com/shows.html>



Buy tickets here:

<https://thebashfestival.com/>

Album Releases

January 25, 2019

“Internationally Unknown” Rat Boy

February 1, 2019

“Encore” The Specials

March 1, 2019

“III” Masked Intruder

March 8, 2019

“Brain Invaders” Zebrahead

March 15, 2019

“Stay Rad” Teenage Bottlerocket

“Crucial Moments” Bouncing Souls

April 12, 2019

“Nature / Nurture” Clowns

April 26, 2019

“You’re Welcome” Cokie the Clown

May 3, 2019

“Age of Unreason” Bad Religion

May 10, 2019

“The Holy Spell” CJ Ramone

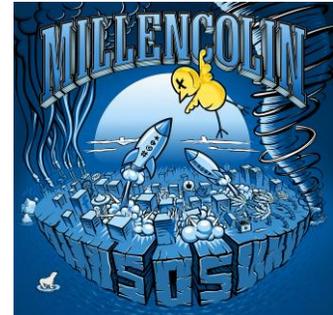
WARNING: OPINIONS AHEAD!
ALBUM REVIEWS BY SAGE HUTCHENS

Hi, I'm Sage and this is my new album review column that I've decided to call "Warning: Opinions Ahead". You'll figure out why pretty quickly. Also, if I sound like I have no idea what I'm doing it's probably because I don't. Anyway, here's 5 albums and EPs that caught my attention over the past couple months. We aren't going in any particular order here, so let's just start with...

Millencolin – SOS (Epitaph)

Genre(s): skate punk, pop punk

I hate that Millencolin are only known in America as "that band from the Tony Hawk game". I love "No Cigar" as much as anyone, but Millencolin have so much more to offer in their catalog. This newest album from the Swedish skate-punkers is another great example. On this album in particular the lyrics shine through, with the band taking aim at politics, society and the climate crisis, and it's all backed up with the same kickass



melodic skate punk and pop punk music we've come to expect from Millencolin. The album isn't perfect – I'm not a fan of the overly pessimist themes in "Sour Days" or the clunky meme reference that "Yanny and Laurel" is built around – but despite those tracks' flaws I can't deny they've been stuck in my head since the album came out, so maybe I should stop complaining.

Final Score: 4 out of 5

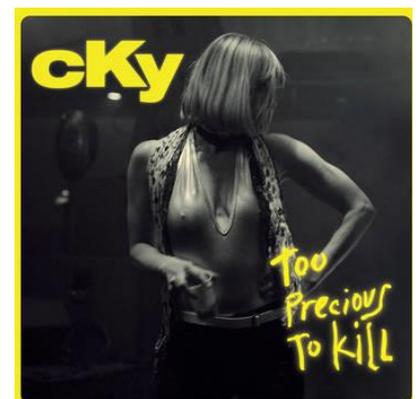
Favorite tracks: "SOS", "Nothing", "Reach You", "Carry On"

Listen here on Spotify: <https://tinyurl.com/sosspotify> Listen here on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/millencolinsosyt>

CKY – Too Precious To Kill (EP) (Entertainment One)

Genre(s): alt metal, stoner rock, punk

Okay, can we all agree that CKY lost a step... or six when Deron Miller quit? I feel like I was the only person who didn't hate their 2017 album The Phoenix (their first without Deron) but even then I felt like it had too many filler tracks – and for an 8 song album that's a problem. So a 4 song EP seems like a good idea for them at this point. And overall, I enjoyed this EP. It feels like a natural progression for CKY. Chad I. Ginsburg still lays down plenty of his trademark gnarly riffs, and while his vocals



will never match Miller's, they still have that distinctive CKY feel. It also sounds like they've been taking some pages out of the Monster Magnet playbook, but I like Monster Magnet so I wouldn't say that's a bad thing. The opening track "Chase Me" is a strange direction for the band and I'm not sure how I feel about it. I'm also not sure how I feel about Chad's attempt at screaming vocals on their cover of GG Allin's "Bite It You Scum". But CKY has proved to me

that they don't need Deron Miller to make good music and I'm curious to see what they do next.

Final Score: 3.5 out of 5

Favorite tracks: "Fists To The Sky", "One Step Ahead"

Listen on Spotify here: <https://tinyurl.com/ckyspotify> Listen on YouTube here: <https://tinyurl.com/tooprecioustokill>

Bring Me The Horizon – amo (RCA)

Genre(s): trash

On "amo", Bring Me The Horizon very directly give the middle finger to the rock and metal community that got them where they are today. So, as someone who writes about rock, punk and metal, I refuse to give this shameless cash-in an actual review. And believe it or not, I think I still put more effort into writing this "review" than Bring Me put into this album.

Final Score: 1 out of 5

Favorite Tracks: "Wonderful Life" and "Mantra" are okay and that's pretty much it

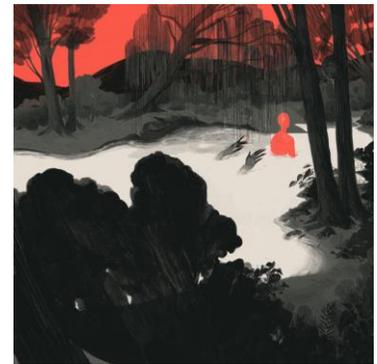
Listen on Spotify here: <https://tinyurl.com/amospotify> Listen on YouTube here: <https://tinyurl.com/bmthamoyt>



As It Is – Denial: Reimagined (EP) (Fearless)

Genre(s): acoustic pop punk, I guess?

So if you're not familiar with As It Is's 2018 album The Great Depression, it's a concept album split into four sections of three songs each. This new "reimagined" thing is a project they're doing this year where they're releasing reworked versions of each section as an EP. I originally thought they were doing acoustic versions of the song, but it turns out it's more in the vein of Alkaline Trio's Damnesia, where "acoustic" is used in the loosest sense of the word. These songs are definitely slower and stripped down, but other than that all bets are off as to what "reimagined" means. I think I actually like this album's version of "The Great Depression" better than the actual album version, it almost sounds like a movie theme or something and I love it. And "The Fire, The Dark" has been turned into a really beautiful acoustic pop punk song. "The Wounded World", however, has been turned into a fucking Post Malone song, with trap beats and Patty Walters' voice being autotuned into oblivion. What the hell, As It Is? I'm sick of bands selling out to the BS "SoundCloud rap is the new punk" mentality, and since it's one of only 3 tracks I'm docking major points for it. Do better, guys.



Final Score: 2.5 out of 5

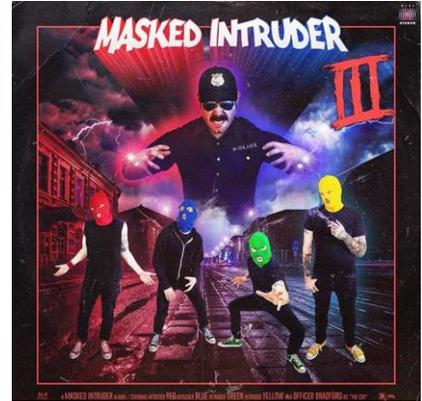
Favorite tracks: "The Great Depression (Reimagined)"

Listen here on Spotify: <https://tinyurl.com/denialspotify> Listen here on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/denialyt>

Masked Intruder – Masked Intruder III (Pure Noise)

Genre(s): pop punk, comedy

Everyone's favorite bank-robbin' heart-throbbin' pop punk bandits are back with another album full of hilarious and catchy-as-fuck songs about crime, girls, doing crime with girls, doing crime for girls, and trying to get girls while simultaneously doing crime. And if you're wondering "how is that different from their last two albums?" the answer is: it's not. At all. But honestly ask yourself: do you really want to hear something new and experimental from Masked



Intruder? I know I don't. Masked Intruder are probably going to keep making this type of music until they die or break up and they're exactly the type of band that can make that work. That said, how much you like this album is definitely going to depend on how much you already like this band's sound and your tolerance for their gimmick. If you hate Masked Intruder, this album isn't gonna change your mind. In fact it will probably make you hate them more. But personally, I think Masked Intruder are a lot of fun. Therefore, I think this album is a lot of fun.

Final Score: 4.5 out of 5

Favorite tracks: "No Case", "Just So You Know", "B & E", "Stay With Me Tonight"

Listen here on Spotify: <https://tinyurl.com/IIIspotify> Listen here on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/IIIyt>

Well that's it for this week's album reviews. Thanks for reading and for supporting The Underground Network. I should probably go now, I think Masked Intruder are trying to rob my place because I didn't give them a 5 out of 5.

Booking Information

Southwest Independent Booking

Eyeconik Records

Event Coordinator: Destine Jade

Phone: 575-915-8134

Email: Destinejade@yahoo.com

224 N Campo St, Las Cruces, NM 88001

Art Obscura

Phone: 575-494-7256

Email: artobscuragallery@yahoo.com

3206 Harrelson St, Las Cruces, NM 88005

Rockhouse Bar and Grill

Phone: 915-591-7625

Email: m.me/rockhouserdiverbarkitchen

9828 Montana Ave, EL Paso, TX 79925

Lowbrow PaLace

Email: christian@LowbrowpaLace.com

111 E Robinson Ave, EL Paso, TX 79902