



BREAK THE ICE

MINDLESS SELF INDULGENCE

The Soundwave festival will be Mindless Self Indulgence's first Australian tour, and patient fans couldn't be more excited to finally get a taste of the band's live show. Mary Borsellino grabbed 10 minutes with frontman Little Jimmy Urine to talk touring, technology and toothpaste.

"Anybody can make a song on GarageBand; you have to give a lot more if you want someone to pay for a CD, USB or a download," says Jimmy. "There better be really amazing cover art and extras to make the official version worthwhile. The world's just starting to wrap its mind around things like the internet as platforms for music, which is bizarre for us because we've been doing it for so long. And musically, too - I hear Justin Timberlake and Gwen Stefani's songs and they're just starting to experiment with effects that we've been using for a while. Sitting in the future - it's tough," laughs Jimmy.

Trying to pin a genre on Mindless Self Indulgence (MSI) is a pointless, ridiculous and time-wasting exercise. But since pointless, ridiculous and time-wasting exercises seem to be one of MSI's favourite things, they've made up a genre of their very own: "Industrial jungle pussy punk". That makes them sound like they belong in a tiny, obscure niche, though, when nothing could be further from the truth. "It's a different animal when we play with bands like My Chemical Romance or Korn to when we're doing our own shows," Jimmy explains. "Because when I'm onstage I don't want to break anything, because it's not my stuff. And I think of our own shows, where it's just us playing, as being like Rocky Horror in a lot of ways: we're all there to be entertained and everything goes at a million miles an hour. I gotta say, though, I sometimes wonder how people manage to crowd surf in full Tinky Winky and Blue's Clues mascot outfits!"

MSI's infamous stage shows have, until now, eluded Australian fans. Jimmy sympathetically offers an explanation for the band's absence: "You're underneath the world and bands can't always get down to tour - especially because you're almost all around the coast on this huge island, and so it's a matter of flying from place to place. We get so many emails about it and we've been trying to get down. That's why Soundwave is such a great opportunity."

Being as left-field and unclassifiable as MSI are can sometimes lead to being misunderstood. "Some people take the immediate face value of what we do, and miss that what we're saying is the opposite. We get called racist when we cover Method Man," says Jimmy after I tell him about a letter I read in Kerrang! calling the band misogynistic. "I hadn't heard 'misogynistic' before, though. It's really odd. There are ladies in the band," he points out, referring to drummer Kitty and bassist Lyn-Z. "You should check out the follow-up letter in the next issue. That writer didn't get anything of what we were doing, things the crowd loved and he didn't understand," Jimmy says diplomatically. Then, after a pause, he laughs, "He didn't think much of getting toothpaste poured in his hair, either."

Soundwave Festival at the Riverstage, Brisbane on Saturday February 23.

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