



[THE KINECTED

Life through the lens

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Photopass Magazine: So, you guys are fairly new- you guys got together in January 2011, right?

Alex: Yes
Photopass Magazine: So, how long have you guys known each other, and what made you guys decide to form a band together?

Alex: Well, I've known Ron, the keyboard/vocalist, for a long, long time. I've been in a couple other groups that we just had like a musical kinship, if you will. Usually people form groups always have a common interest in not only making the music, but the music that inspires them and that was the case with him and I. As we went along, we played with a handful of other people- some adequate and some not so- and I don't know how, but by some strange, crazy awesome turn of events, Ron's brother ended up playing bass for us because he was always a great guitar player. At one point, we just had to really get rid of some other joker that was playing bass, and got the best one that was in our circle. So, it ended up that way. Then, with drummers it was also back and forth- not quite as a necessity to change the other people, but more so like life getting in the way, and beliefs and things like that. We had a drummer before who was a great guy, a great player, but he was born again Christian, and at that point he was really torn by his beliefs and we- not that we're anything too crazy or diabolic, satanic group, but it kind of conflicted with his spiritual beliefs, so we ended up running into Mark and we're pretty much all on the same page, you know.

Photopass Magazine: You guys all have the same passion and want the same thing in the band?

Alex: Exactly, exactly. We're conscious, we're not born again, but we're also not selling our electronics for heroin.

Photopass Magazine: How would you describe your band's sound to people who haven't heard of you before?

Mike: You know, it's tough to answer that question. We get that all the time, and I lean towards saying- kind of like a 80's vibe. We pride ourselves on trying to be really original and unique with what we do, but we definitely take from who we're influenced by. We're heavily influenced by the 80's, and bands like Duran Duran, and Depeche Mode, Rolling Stones... So, we take our influences and we just try to make it our own. I would definitely say it's like a modern to futuristic 80's.

Alex: If I may, because there's a wide definition of 80's, I just want to kind of break it down just a little bit more. Because 80's had like a couple different decades from Europe, they had a lot of synth pop, which is more what we love,

again, Depeche Mode, even Tears for Fears, Bowie- I mean, Bowie's been around forever, but he's done every movement and he's probably one of the premier- especially his early 80's sound, which was like great some kind of futuristic R&B. What I mean by that is not like R&B of today, but very funky- also organic instruments, but the music sounded really futuristic. So, as opposed to 80's- I mean, a great group like Guns N Roses who defined 80's rock. They're more metal, and they were also brilliant. And, a huge influence of mine personally as a guitar player. I mean, I love Slash. We also love some 70's, but where The Kinected is, has got a lot of keys in it, it's one of the main colors in the painting. So, I guess, there's a lot of heavy bass with nice atmospheric keys and that also adds a nice color to it- gives it a mood. And then, my guitar lines kind of weave in and out like a little rhythm snake.

Photopass Magazine: I like that description because when I saw you guys live, you kind of- in the 80's they did a lot more guitar solos than they do nowadays, and you guys kind of kept the guitar solo alive a little bit. I noticed you guys were doing that, and I kind of- my mom was with me and she described you guys as that. That's why she liked you guys, because it reminded her of that.

Alex: Well, thank you. I'm glad that you actually picked up on that. I don't know why that went out of style. It's something that's really cool, somebody just kind of came in and said "Hey, this isn't cool anymore," and a bunch of people just jumping on that bandwagon. But, I think people kind of are gearing more toward- with internet and everything like that- really what you like from- not like Mtv just played this video 50,000 times, I guess it must be good. Or, corporate radio that just crams some stuff that you really don't like down your throat. So many people can just go on, click on that and make a playlist out of it. That's really, really cool. They make their own decision.

Rob: I think you get to have a taste of your skill on the guitar on the songs, and then really come with it live. And, extend the original music live and show your chops.

Alex: Like Mike said, we are trying to do something a little different- so it's not a guitar band that's just cranking in guitar in your face all the time. It's a little bit of everything- it's a pizza with everything on it.

Photopass Magazine: Where did you guys get your name from? Is there any significance behind it as well?

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Ron: We spent a while, actually- sometimes when you speak to some bands, they say, "No, it just came. It was just quick," and they didn't have too much to think about, it just worked. We bounced back and forth with a whole bunch of names, kind of trying to find a word, and a name that embodied everything that we represent, which is hard. In a nutshell, I guess, the way that The Kinected came about as a name, was kind of a combination of a few words. We combined the word Kinectic, and kinetic energy which is kind of like the study of motion through sound, which is what we want people to do at our shows- an energy that often a band makes people want to move- with the word Connection, which is what we also want to do with people. We want to connect with them, whether it be lyrically or musically. So, the word Kinetic and Connection- we just created a hybrid of the two words and spelled it Kinected. We really think at the time it wasn't a word, it didn't exist, and then like 6 weeks later, Kinected came out. So, that was kind of funny. Because it didn't exist at the time. I mean, it was kind of wild- I got a text message with a picture from somebody that was at Burger King and they sent me a picture of a soft drink that said "Get Kinected," and I had never heard of that. That's how I found out that there was a gaming system out that was the same name. But, I want to go on the record that we created that name first, dammit!

Photopass Magazine: Well, I like the meaning behind it. I think it definitely comes across.

Ron: Yea, exactly. Connection and Kinetic Motion, all that. That's kind of, in a nutshell, how we came up with the band name.

Photopass Magazine: When you guys go to play a show, and you make your set list, how do you decide what songs to put on it? Is it a collective band decision, or do you guys have one individual person that sits down and does the set list?

Ron: Well, that's a good question, and it's a funny one, because we- God, it depends on the

show. We definitely- I mean, we write set lists, but we definitely call I guess audibles. We have to feel out the crowd. What ends up, quite often, happening is we create a set list together, and then we end up playing a completely different set list on stage. I think that's just because looking at a crowd and feeling out a crowd and the energy of them, it kind of determines what we think connects. And, right now, we're new, so it's not like when you saw the (The All-American)Rejects- they go, "Which #1 hit should we break out?" We have to- there needs to be a little bit of thought, how we put it together. It's a little bit harder for us to really grab an audience because I think people are very comfortable with something they're familiar with, and they're not really familiar with our music- the large majority of people at this point of our careers. That is changing, and we're getting out there. A perfect example is Hypnotize is doing so unbelievably well as our first single. I Heart Radio right now is discovering Uncovered, the #1 song right now, on a list that includes bands like Lucas Fiasco and Patrick Stump from Fall Out Boy, and this crazy boy band One Direction so, people are becoming more familiar with it. When something like that happens, we may debut a set list with Hypnotize, because it's getting all this attraction or maybe end a set with that. But, it really depends on the crowd.

Photopass Magazine: I do agree with you on that, but honestly, when I saw you guys, I thought you were- I would not have known you had only been together for a little over a year. You guys come across as a band that has been together for a while.

Ron: Thank you. I mean, the individuals within the group have been working musically and collaborating longer than the year that The Kinected has been together. We officially had our first gig at the end of 2010, like January 1st like New Years of 2011 was the first real show we did as The Kinected. I came up with the name probably 3 months prior to that, but we were writing music, performing

music, the individuals within the group have had a musical kinship for a little bit longer. And, the bass player is Michael, and I'm Michael's brother. Alex is our cousin, so we've kind of known each other for a long time.

Photopass Magazine: I think that's important in a band though, to have that connection, whether you're related or not. It gives the band drive.

Ron: For sure. And, I think that another thing that's important with that is, being in this industry and any industry in general, you've got to have trust. Being in a band is like a marriage, there's give and take and it's a lot easier to do that when you're a 4-way marriage. It's a lot easier, I've found, with people that we're really close with. The fact that we're family, there's a common bond and trust that comes with it.

Photopass Magazine: Well, look at- and you guys probably don't listen to these guys- but, look at Hanson. They're been together since the 90's and they're brother and they're still together, touring and making music that they love. That's a perfect example of a band that's been together forever.

The Kinected: Yea, that's what's great about it, and Mark, our drummer, even though he's not actually family. It's a kinship that we have with each other. The word Kinected- the word Kin has nothing to do with the band name. Some people ask us that, and that honestly is completely ironic and was brought to our attention in an interview once and we were like, "Oh. Never thought of that." But, that's pretty much why sometimes people get the vibe that we've been together longer than a year.

Photopass Magazine: What is your favorite song to cover, or what song would you love to cover?

Ron: Good question. I don't know what our- hrm.

Mike: My personal favorite song that we

cover is the classic song, Under Pressure, David Bowie and Freddie Mercury. Everybody knows it, it's such an amazing song. I think we do it well. One of my personal favorite songs, I love covering it. It's one that we do cover currently. The other one that I would say is probably the GnR song, Sweet Child. Ronnie takes the lead vocal in that and he sings it really well.

Ron: Thank you, man.

Mike: You're welcome. And, Alex does an amazing job of covering Slash's solo.

Alex: I think my two favorites are the Eurythmics and Billy Jean. Sweet Dreams, it's the biggest hit they had. It was light years ahead of its time when it came out in like '82 or '83 and still remixed every day by some new DJ. And, Billy Jean, the same thing, just funky classic, perfect pop song. Dark sexy with a great bass line. To me, they define what we do.

Ron: And, songs that we would like to cover, that we don't currently cover, I think depending on who answers that, you'll probably have a different answer. I don't want to speak on behalf of the whole band, but-

Alex: I was just going to say that.

Ron: OK, we're going to go with that one. It would pretty wild to cover a song like Cashmere by Led Zeppelin. I don't know if we would-

Alex: Yea, I would love to do it if we had like a \$200,000 budget and a symphonic orchestra behind us. And, maybe Robert Plant guest appearing.

Mike: And, there are some songs I think you just don't touch.

Photopass Magazine: Yea, there are.

Mike: That one's almost an untouchable in my opinion.

Photopass Magazine: What is your opinion on bands doing that? Covering songs that you think shouldn't be covered?

Alex: I think that- I don't think Ronnie would be offended that somebody covered it. No, I would, if I hear real sincerity, if someone's really doing- I've heard some ridiculous covers that had no- you never know what is touching the artist and why he's doing it. There's so many reasons. Some people might cover a song totally for the lyrics, and the version musically, lyrically, and melodically and music wise, don't go anywhere near that. I've heard that a million times, like OK, they're just doing a jazz version or something different and they're just doing it because of the lyrics. Other people love everything about the song with notes and everything, so what I feel the same way as him. Give it the best justice you can. Some artists, at least the ones that we like to cover, are so insane. I mean, Prince and Robert Plant, are really low they have such an incredible range, Bowie's the same. They start really low and by the end of the song- Bono's another one- and they're like 2 or 3 octaves above where they started, and it makes it really tough unless you have those kind of pipes.

Ron: For me, it's more of a- it isn't that I don't think people should cover songs. If anyone wants to cover anything, I think they have every right to. If they connect with it, it's great. But my biggest thing is if you're going to be intimidated, try to cover Cashmere just because of what it does for me, what it does too me when I hear it. It's a mountain. It's a beautiful song and in my opinion it's an artistic masterpiece. It would be humbling to do something like that, but I'm a perfectionist so I want to make sure we can do it justice, which is hard

to do when it comes from a band like Led Zeppelin. But, if you want to cover something, go for it. If someone wants to cover Bye Bye by NSync and do an acoustic version of it, then

you can really flop, people can hate it but when



by all means, go for that too.

Photopass Magazine: I think that's a perfect way to answer that question. your favorite part about playing in a band?

Ron: Who wants to take that? For me, because it's a relatively newer group that's getting their voices out there, being able to look into a crowd, which is starting to happen with some of our tunes, and seeing an audience of people that are singing your lyrics, is a pretty incredible experience. Because of what our band name is, people are singing our songs, it's crazy and it's a beautiful thing. Everybody dreams of that as a kid, and then you start to see it and every show you see a few more people, before you know it you see 40, 60, 100, 150, and it just grows. That's just so unbelievably- just an experience I can't really put into words when you see a group of individuals just singing the lyrics to the song you came up with. I just love that.

Alex: That's almost dead on to how I feel as well, part of the connection with the au-

ience, because you're just breaking out this little painting, of this musical painting, and throwing it out there. It does take some balls because you can really flop, people can hate it but when it does connect. If you throw something out there that you just thought of like, "Hey, this is an idea I'm going to put together vocally or musically," ok, this group, we start with the group or whatever, and people are moving to us. Cool, we created that, and they love it and they enjoy that, they're one with you, with your thought. And, it goes through the lyrics as well. When someone says at the end of the show, "What did you mean there? That's really great, that's a good line," that's a crazy, crazy feeling. But, also I'm sure, to look out and see someone moving and just being like in touch, being one with you, your creation, that's a feeling like no other. That's why you go through struggles and whatnot with a group, lyrics are easy.

Photopass Magazine: Great answer.

Mike: I, bouncing off that. I feel the same with the connection with the audience, but also one of the things of playing in a band, especially this particular band, we've mentioned before, we've been the band The Kinected for a year, year and a half, but we've been play-

ing with each other for a while, and this band particularly, there's no eggshells that you really have to walk on. We can express how we feel with each other musically, and even outside of that, and express our differences, or agree or disagree, whatever, you get over it. We don't, again, have to walk on eggshells with anybody. We've had to many times in the past. You don't want to have that feeling in a relationship, so being in this particular band, it's a lot of fun to play with these individuals. We just can get along and just let loose and vibe out and play and then make a connection with the audience.

Photopass Magazine: What has been your biggest challenge that you've had to overcome?

Ron: I don't know if it's happened yet. I mean, that's a good question. I think we're so far from our goals at this point- and I don't say that in a negative way, I just think if you set your standards high, you're always working and working harder, and once you feel that you've accomplished what you want, you're quite often capping yourself. So, I think that there's so much that we still need to do as a group, that we want to do as a group, that I don't know that we've overcome completely our goals just yet. I don't know if that's the answer you're looking for, but as an individual challenge, what do you think? You know what, maybe just completing this album. It's a debut album, it's our first album, the first album we've done together collectively. Alex and I are the singers of the group and I'm a keyboard player and a writer first, and Alex trained as a guitarist, and as a vocalist, we stepped up and sang, and are singers. That was quite a challenge personally for me, and probably for Alex. I think we can look at and say we would have to overcome our- what would it be, insecurities?

Alex: I just wanted to say, life is short and with that now that I've been able to think about, to just try to become a singer that can sound like what he's saying is believable, and the sincerity of the lyrics across through the voice. Because at the end of the day, the tone or how you're singing it, and what you're saying, has got to be believed by the audience, the listener, and give them something interesting like, "Why do I want to listen to this guy? I don't even know." It's the tone, it's how he says things, the lyrics- it's a combination of all those things and to do that- 2 years ago, if you had asked me if I was ever going to do that, I don't think I would. I loved writing songs, melodies and lyrics, but as far as throwing them out there, on the mike, I wasn't really sure I was ever going to do that. We thought, we love the Beatles, some of our best groups, or biggest influences, are a combination of people, and why don't we just do this shit?

Ron: Once you kind of put that guard down and just go for it, things kind of become easier.

Photopass Magazine: What is the funniest thing that has happened to you during a performance?

Ron: Well, I don't want to speak for Michael, and you can correct me if I'm wrong- it probably wasn't funny at the moment, but right now our buddy is in a little bit of an immobilizer cast because he fell off of the stage and really busted up his leg. Aerosmith guy did it, so Michael said if he can do it, I can do it. It wasn't funny at the moment, considering there with a trip to the ER involved.

Photopass Magazine: Well, I hope you're OK, I hope you get better.

Mike: He can laugh about it now, it's all good. The past few show have been me kicked back chillin on a stool playing

Ron: Or, hopping around on one leg.



Mike: Yea, not at the moment obviously, but we do laugh about it now. The same thing happened to Mark, I remember a gig, I remember looking at him from the side- he had his head down, he was slamming on his drums so hard during a song, and just so into it that- it was an outdoor-

Ron: Oh! I remember that!

Mike: His stool that he was sitting on, his drummer stool, the throne. He slid off the throne backwards and I just couldn't believe he was going down, I was so frightened for him. Of course- thank God for that bush! There was a big bush behind him that he fell into and that literally caught his fall, broke his fall like God's hands just there to catch him.

Alex: You gotta in-vision this. It was an outdoor venue and an outdoor stage, and at the back of the stage, there was only a couple feet, maybe a foot between the back of the stage and the wall, but the wall was like tree shrubs, and he just really got into this song and he stood on the top of his drum seat throne and when he went down to jump off of it, it came out from under him and that's when he fell. You gotta launched between the stage and the brushes, the shrubs, his legs up in the air. We're accident prone. It won't stop us from doing a gig, we've never missed a gig. I was actually inspired to tweet something about that right now.

Ron: Don't forget the hashtag, brah.

Alex: Anyway. So, yea, bloopers.

Photopass Magazine: What is a question you wish people asked you, or what is your favorite question to answer?

Ron: OK. I wish people would ask, and I wish we would have an answer for it, when was the kick off date for year 2013 World Tour? I think that would be a good question to answer. We don't have an answer to it, but hopefully I can call you up one day and say, "Hey, remember when I said.." Well, now I have an answer for it. Guys, anybody? Or is that cool? Or favorite question that we have been asked too. Another dream question, I don't know if we have to cap it at one, but I think Alex is gonna go for it as well. You might have to go with it.

Alex: It's always been, do you regret only having to write music and perform for the rest of your life and how much money do you need to do that? So, we never have to think about anything else but music for fans and people, and there's no obstruction to that. I think the ultimate goal is to be able to do that without any kind of problems or stress, because that's going to create great art. But, basically to be able to give it every once of energy you have. So, the question would be, from your boss- so, you're not coming back to work? Yea. That's probably it.

Alex: If you're going to think, you may as well think big, right?

Alex: Because they asked it in a way that means it already happens, so I can respond to it where it doesn't sound egotistical and- But, do you have a favorite question anyone? A favorite question that has been asked?

Alex: Favorite question that somebody asked us, any question that is asked about the lyrics and how it was come up with and in a positive and interesting- someone just interested, it really feels good to know that some of these songs and lyrics take up mind space in somebody's brain. To me, that's a huge compliment, and any time they want to ask me a question about the words or anything like that, that they're sincerely interested in it, those are my favorite questions.

Photopass Magazine: What do you want the world, or your fans, to know about The Kinected? It can be about your album, it can be whatever you want it to be, just a little something.

Ron: What do we want the world to know about The Kinected?

Alex: They're sincerely looking for something new, that's new and unique, of course, there's only 12 notes, so everybody is inspired by other people, but if this listener or this person just wants to find something honest and that is somewhat moving forward with music, but also rooted in the classics, that they can find it with us. And, that there's no charade or no pretense in any of the music that we have on that album. If it makes them move and bob their head or whatever, shake their ass, think or love, then that's good.

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