

Teen **NO** 54

SUPREMACY

INTERVIEW

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SAVING ROEL

SCOTT WILSON

HERE AND THERE:
A STUDY IN SUPREMACY
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SHE'S NOT SURE IF
YOU'RE A BOY OR A GIRL
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MY OWN ENEMY
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INTERVIEW SCARLET

Aura

Just like Romania as a nation, the Romanian music scene is “developing”. It has become a very good place to catch big acts from abroad, whether in concerts or festivals. Still, it is a rare event for a Romanian act to truly make it outside, and even more so when it comes to rock music. One of those rare stars is Scarlet Aura, the melodic heavy metal band. With many shows and fans abroad, a single out at September 1st and an album to come, they are ready to take on the world.

After what she calls a turning point moment with the “Falling Sky” album, the band settled in into their new style and found their way on the metal stage. Their new single, “The Beast Within Me” is a very important step for them, allowing them to be on the international stage. It is an original song, written by Mihai, who really wanted to make a song featuring powerful male vocals and he chose Florin Costachiță, the vocalist of An Theos. It was new for Aura to sing a duet with a male, but she enjoyed the experience and thinks of the song as being “full of energy and it gives you the emotions we want to transmit.”

But are powerful vocals – meaning growling – here to stay? “Never say no.” Aura adds that “Not 100% of a song. Maybe at about 5%. Not growling. Maybe screaming. By the way, I don’t know how to growl but I will learn that one day. Now I am just learning the screaming part, which has to be natural with the sound and the message of the song.” She actually admits that she didn’t use to like growling at all, but “I had the honor of meeting bands that are growling. After knowing the bands and seeing their passion I started to understand it and not like it that much, but respect it and appreciate it.”

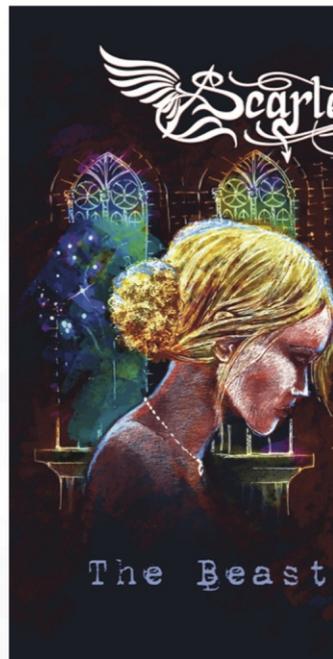
Scarlet Aura have definitely been known for their covers and it was only natural to create an album of them. Instead of running away from it, they embraced it and released a full album, filled with ...”Memories” from their touring days.

The idea to put it all together came from Mihai, the guitar player and songwriter. Their ultimate goal was to pay tribute to the artists that came before them and who were such a big part of their life, while keeping true to their style. It all becomes even more than that, as she says

that “we are trying with this album to show to our generation very important music that wrote history in metal.”

Talking about the album, she proudly tells us that “All We Are is a song that shows to the world that a blonde girl can sing metal or hard rock. That was an important thing for me. Then we go to Judas Priest with Breaking The Law, which is a song everyone knows. Metal was born singing Breaking The Law. Every song on this album has a story and we are going to show that story with some videos.”

The songs on the album became theirs. They worked on them and redid them, they played them as their own. The fans didn’t fail to react.





Aura recalls a festival in Bulgaria, where “after we finished the concert the people started to scream ‘All We Are, All We Are’, but not because Doro was coming up on stage but because they were used to the song being the last one played in our show. But we didn’t sing it because it was Doro’s song and

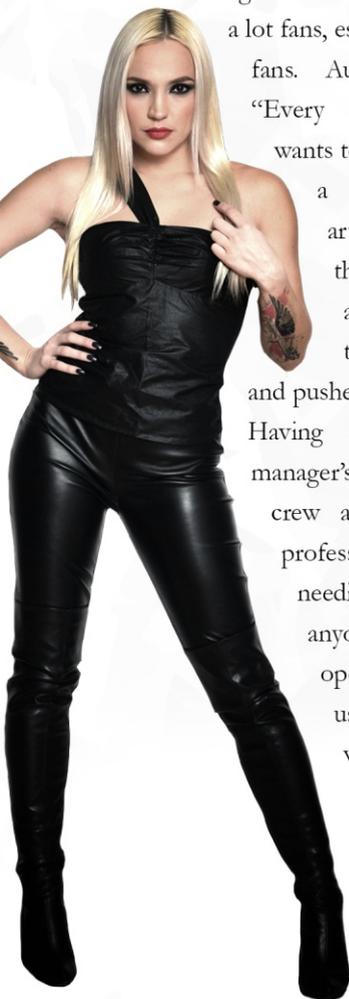
she was actually singing later.” The aforementioned festival also saw Aura take the stage with Doro. Meeting Doro was an honour, as Aura recalls that “I was trying to control my emotions and not look like an amateur. It is not a bad thing because pure love is amazing and I can look like an amateur. We started to know each other by talking about my hairbrush.” The duet made her nervous. She had big expectations coming up on that stage, even if just for the chorus. “It was a big thing to me and I was really, really excited. When I stepped on stage, I just realized that this was not Doro’s greatest moment in the world, not by far. But that moment is for the public who see Doro and Aura on the stage singing their favourite song, and in that moment all my emotions went away and I had a good relation with the public.”

It was a moment to remember for the Romanian singer, one to give her more confidence that what she does is appreciated and to push her forward. Her story with Doro is definitely a long one, being associated with her since the beginning of her band. If there was a constant critique of the band and her in particular on the Romanian web-space, it was that she was a “Doro-wannabe.” But that didn’t get to her, as she tries not to pay attention. “They can say whatever, I don’t care about that. All I care is the fact that at some point I was being originally, 100% myself and someone came up to me and said that I look and sing like Doro Pesch. Before that I never looked for her or studied her. I listened to her every now and then, but I was not the biggest fan. After someone told me that, I studied and saw the resemblance of me being on the stage, blonde, and having that half screaming-growling in the voice. So I said why not? I can accept being compared with such a great lady of the rock stage. “

The other big inspiration for Aura was the one and only Tarja Turunen, whom Scarlet Aura supported on a German Tour. If she is being honest, and she is honest, Aura adds that “I have educated myself in a way that Doro or Tarja are acts on the stage or in life or on social media. I think I can learn from them. The things they do on stage and I like of course I will try to do. I will work on that move or that note. Because come on! From whom do I have to learn, if not from the ones who came before me?”

I wasn't born knowing how to do this and I had to learn it all on the way. I am not ashamed to say that. I am not copying anything, I try to make it part of my personality. I am not Doro Pesch and I will never be. I am just being myself and I want to be the best that I can and have the best band that Romanians can now be proud of."

Speaking of the German Tour, it must be stated how important that was for the band. It allowed them to grow internationally and have a lot fans, especially from Tarja fans. Aura tells us that "Every Romanian band wants to go on a tour with a big, international artist. We had more than that. It was an amazing experience that taught us a lot and pushed us to go forward. Having her support, her manager's support, her crew and us being really professional and not needing anything from anyone has someone opened the doors for us. She enjoyed our work out there. Her and her band and crew were the best teacher ever for us to know how to be in a big a tour."



The recognition abroad isn't quite the same at home. For some this might be fun, while for others it might be frustrating. For Aura, "the only thing that might be frustrating would be to NOT have it. We only had one year in Romania before going abroad, so it wasn't such a big time for people to know us. Before having Scarlet Aura or Aura, me and Mihai were in Steelborn since 2009. With that project we sang opening for Bon Jovi in 2011. But after we continued our work with Scarlet we wanted to put our attention abroad first because we thought that it's more important for us to go outside and after that we can combine it."

Speaking of the Romanian public, it will be treated with a special release concert this September. Scarlet Aura are coming with a new song, new moves, things people have never seen or heard. But it's all very hush-hush, as they want to keep it a surprise. It is however a huge honour for them to play in Hard Rock Café.

Singles, albums and concerts, Scarlet Aura have a voice and sound to be heard. They are working hard and putting everything into it and it's starting to pay out. Look out for them, world, because they are coming and they are not stopping. They have gathered some very loyal fans around the way and they come with the premise of new and exciting music. Let there be Scarlet Aura!

Interview by Simona Mihalca