

RUKUS

RUKUSmag.com

20
QUESTIONS WITH
Nikki Leigh

Concert Exclusives
The Airborne
Toxic Event,
Femi Kuti and
Pinback

GAMES REVIEWED

SKYRIM

DRAGONBORN



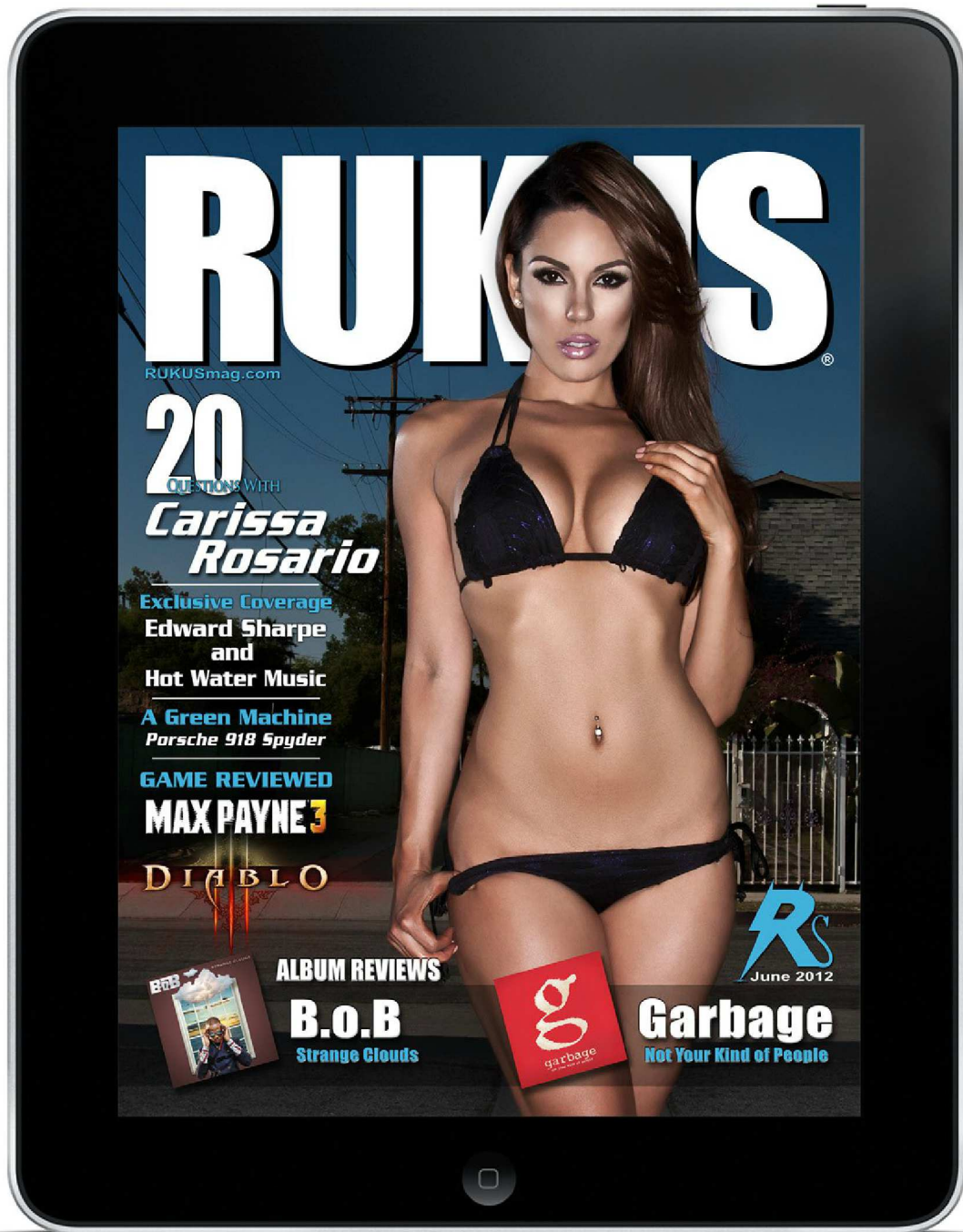
Green Day
iTré!



Game
Jesus Piece

RS
February 2013

IT'S HERE



Enjoy RUKUS on your iPad and iPhone!
Subscribe now at RUKUSmag.com

6

Nikki Leigh

February Cover Model
20 Questions with Nikki
Photography by Andrew Gates
Make-up and hair by Kimberly Hill

14

All Access

The Latest Albums Reviewed
Albums Reviewed:

Game
Jesus Piece
By Jeremy Weeden

Green Day
iTré!
By Silas Valentino

18

All Access Spotlight

Artists/Bands Featured:
No Way North, Big Boi and Bad Religion
By Jonathan Hayes



20

Live & Loud

Live Show Reviews
Featured Artists/Shows:

The Airborne Toxic Event, Pinback and Femi Kuti, and The Positive Force
By Dan Sinclair and Nicolas Bates

26

Coming Up

Models To Keep An Eye On
Featured Models:

Nina Carla
San Francisco, CA

Arley Elizabeth
Yucaipa, CA

34

Game On

The Latest Games Reviewed
Games Reviewed:

Skyrim: Dragonborn
By Josh Schilling

Devil May Cry
By Jesse Seilhan

On The Cover
Photo by Andrew Gates
Make-up and hair by Kimberly Hill

This Page
Photo by Andrew Gates
Make-up and hair by Kimberly Hill



Shoot. The Messenger.

A sleek, lightweight, street-smart satchel that hugs your body, moves with you, and doesn't cramp your style. Carries a DSLR, 3-4 lenses, laptop and accessories. Removable photo insert lets you convert it quickly from a camera bag to a book bag, school bag, briefcase or general-purpose carryall. Available in small and large sizes to hold laptops up to 15 and 17 inches. Pack what you need. Shoot what you want. **Tenba Messenger.**

 See it for yourself at TenbaTV.com



Available at:

Samy's Camera

www.samys.com | 800.321.4726

RUKUS[®]

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Andrew Gates

Live & Loud Editor

Nicolas Bates

Games Editor

Jesse Seilhan

Art Director

Andrew Gates

All Access Contributors

Silas Valentino, Jeremy Weeden & Jonathan Hayes

Live & Loud Contributors

Nicolas Bates & Dan Sinclair

Pit Pass Contributor

Andrew Gates

Game On Contributors

Jesse Seilhan & Josh Schilling

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Gates & Nicolas Bates

Contributing Videographers

Nate Olson & Toby Wilson

Contributing Make-up Artists

Kimberly Hill

Contributing Hair Stylists

Kimberly Hill

Advertising

Andrew Gates

advertise@RUKUSmag.com

Mailing Address

RUKUS MAGAZINE

11304 Chandler Blvd. #6131

North Hollywood, CA 91603

20 QUESTIONS

Get To Know Your Cover Model

Nikki

Leigh

Photography by Andrew Gates
Make-up and hair by Kimberly Hill

Nikki Leigh was born and raised in sunny Orange County, California. She is a 2012 honors graduate from Cal State University of Fullerton. Her modeling career really just began in 2012 when she was named Playboy's Miss May 2012. She is currently hosting a radio show called *Playmates Present*, which she parlayed into her own show and hosts with one of her close friend and fellow model called *Playmates* on *Playboy Radio* Sirius XM 102. Since becoming a host of the show she has been given many opportunities including hosting the ESPYS for Radar Online. She is also the 2013 calendar girl for SBT, which is a jetski parts supplier. Even though her career just started, she has quite a few notches on her belt, but wants do much more with her career. Her next goals would include some Television hosting, acting roles and singing. Nikki also has a passion for helping people and making them smile, she hopes to have the opportunity to help out where and when she can.



20 QUESTIONS

Your Cover Model Cont'd



20 QUESTIONS

1. What's your Ethnicity?

I'm Caucasian. I've got a lot of German, along with Swedish, Dutch, and French in me.

2. What's your zodiac sign?

My Zodiac sign is Virgo. Apparently, Virgo's always find ways to make themselves useful and praise others for their talents and virtues. They are also big perfectionists. This definitely sounds like me.

3. Where are you from originally?

Born and raised in sunny Orange County, CA.

4. What did you like most about growing up in Orange County?

I loved having the beach available to me whenever I felt like going. Also, growing up in Orange County you're never really bored. There is always something to do at any age and if you need a change in scenery you can go to the mountains. This allows for participation in many different sports such as surfing and snowboarding. You can do both in the same day.

5. What kind of mischief did you get into while growing up?

In my house I was always the nosey child. I would sneak peeks at my dad's *Playboys*. When I was in my teens I would always try to hang with the cool crowd at hookah bars and college parties. I never really hung out with my school friends, I liked to have my friends spread out. I was always looking for the next crazy adventure.

6. What's the craziest thing you've ever done?

You would have to define crazy. [laugh] A couple times my friends and I would go to abandoned mental hospitals and walk through them with flashlights. We would find old documents on patients that used to be there and find beds with the straps on them. Of course we would have to run from police when they saw activity in the place but I thought it was so fun and such a spooky rush.

A more sexy, fun and crazy thing I've done would be when I built a Slip 'n Slide along a steep mountain with a 6ft ramp at the end that launched my girls and I into a bouncy house, NUDE! [laugh] Talk about a slippery fun time.

7. What's your favorite hobby and why?

Traveling is a favorite hobby because I love exploring new places and meeting new people. Is watching and attending sporting games a hobby? If so, I choose that as a favorite. I love sports. Not only for the nice looking and well-built men but also for the action and the competition. I love screaming in the crowd and rooting for my team. It can be basketball, football, hockey, baseball, or even Futbol.

8. What's your guilty pleasure?

FOOD! I just love to eat. I will literally help everyone finish their plates if they need me to. Taco Bell is a big guilty pleasure. I order everything with their nacho cheese inside, you have to try!

9. Who do you admire and why?

I admire Britney Spears in all honesty. I'm a huge fan, guilty. She has been through so much and has been torn apart by just about everyone. If someone can go through all that and still come out on top while reinventing themselves then I feel that is something to admire.

10. If you could change one thing in the world what would it be and why?

Is this where I write in "World Peace?"

11. What's one of your personal goals?

To become a singer/performer. Singing is my favorite thing to do, I just need to be less reserved about expressing that.

12. What do guys compliment you on the most?

I get told that I have amazing eyes and smile. On the other hand, I get complimented on my ass quite a bit too. [laugh]

13. What's your favorite body part on yourself?

I like my legs, especially in heels. [smile]

14. What do you look for in a guy?

A guy with a great personality and manners, chivalry is sexy.

15. What's the first thing you notice about a guy?

When I first meet a guy I can't help but look at and judge their grill. Dudes please take care of your teeth, they matter.

16. What's your ideal first date?

A guy picking me up from my place and taking me to a nice dinner. Then off to an arcade so I can kick his ass in some video games. If you don't mind losing to a girl then we will work out just fine because I'll bring it.

17. What turns you on?

Self-confidence. I'm a sucker for kisses on my neck and collar bone. Other than that it all comes back to personality.

18. What turns you off?

Cockiness! Self-entitlement and when people put others down. You're not that cool.

19. What's your biggest pet peeve?

Lying. Honesty is the best policy.

20. Who's your celebrity pass?

Jesse Metcalfe.

RM

20 QUESTIONS

Your Cover Model Cont'd



20 QUESTIONS

Your Cover Model Cont'd



20 QUESTIONS
Your Cover Model Cont'd

**I'm a sucker
for kisses on
my neck and
collar bone.**

20 QUESTIONS

Your Cover Model Cont'd



STATS:

Birthday: September 13

Height: 5'4"

Weight: 113 lb

Measurements: 34C-26-32

See more of Nikki at
twitter.com/NikkiLeighxo

ALL ACCESS

The Latest Albums Reviewed

Got Game?

Written by Jeremy Weeden

West coast rapper “Game” returns with another first-rate offering with his fifth studio album *Jesus Piece*. Game has been one of the most consistent and underrated rappers of the past decade. From his classic debut *The Documentary*, to *LAX* and now his latest album, Game always delivers a rock solid album of great songs and is only further cementing his place as one of the best to ever do it. *Jesus Piece* differs from his past offerings in that the album is sprinkled with touches of Game’s recent return to religion as a born again Christian. The personal struggles he goes through with his inner demons add a personal touch to the album making it that much more insightful as the listener seems to take a ride with Game.

The album begins with Game and Meek Mill on a gangsta slow flowing track as Meek Mill continues his run of stellar guest appearances and holds his own with the west coast veteran. The album really takes off on the next track, the Florence and The Machine sampled “Ali Bomaye” featuring down south stalwarts 2 Chainz and Rick Ross. This Black Metaphor produced track has a haunting aura due to the “Seven Devils” sample and finds the three rappers going back and forth with flashy bragging verses, as Game chants triumphantly on the chorus “Ali Bomaye, Ali Bomaye.”

“Jesus Piece” is an excellent track featuring Common and Kanye West. Kanye West, unfortunately, only raps the chorus, but Common more than holds it down for Chicago with lines like “At the after party thinking what the after life’s like/He paid for our sins, is it really priced right?/Fuck it, I see the light, broads they see the light/Can’t deny my Jesus piece that’s so Peter-like.”

Bouncy club anthem “Church” is about anything but, as Game raps about strippers and Trey Songz sings “Thicker than a Bible/I need it for survival/Lord save me/Poppin bands for my baby.”

The thoughtful “Can’t Get Right”, featuring K. Roosevelt, a young singer soulfully moaning over the track “Father forgive me, ‘cause I ain’t perfect/No, no, no/Why is everything wrong/Oh I can’t get it right, I always try to get it right.” The track finds Game detailing dark periods in his life, such as his fallout with Dr. Dre and how he hated the good doctor and his protégé Kendrick Lamar at one point. He also laments how despite his almost unrivaled track record in the past decade when it comes to releasing very good albums regularly he is overlooked when the top rappers of today are listed.

“Hallelujah” featuring Jamie Foxx is a humorous look into a day at church with Game, where he notes that “You know I love Jesus, but you can’t catch the Holy Ghost in a Prius.”

“Celebration,” also the album’s first single, samples Bone Thugs-N-Harmony’s 90’s classic “First of the Month” and features Chris Brown, Tyga, Wiz Khalifa and Lil Wayne. This fun song features some of the rappers paying homage to Bone Thugs by adapting the melodic flow they were known for.

On “I Remember” Game takes a trip down south with Young Jeezy and Future on a song made for the strip clubs with crude lyrics like “Yeah, I remember that pussy girl, but I don’t know your name”

The rest of the album features J. Cole, Big Sean, Fabolous, Pusha T, Kendrick Lamar, Tank and features production from Boi-1da, Cool & Dre, Jake One and Amadeus. *Jesus Piece* is another exceptional album in Game’s discography, at this point anything less than very good from Game would be a shocker. *Jesus Piece* further bolsters Game’s legacy as one of the best rappers of his generation.

Artist: Game

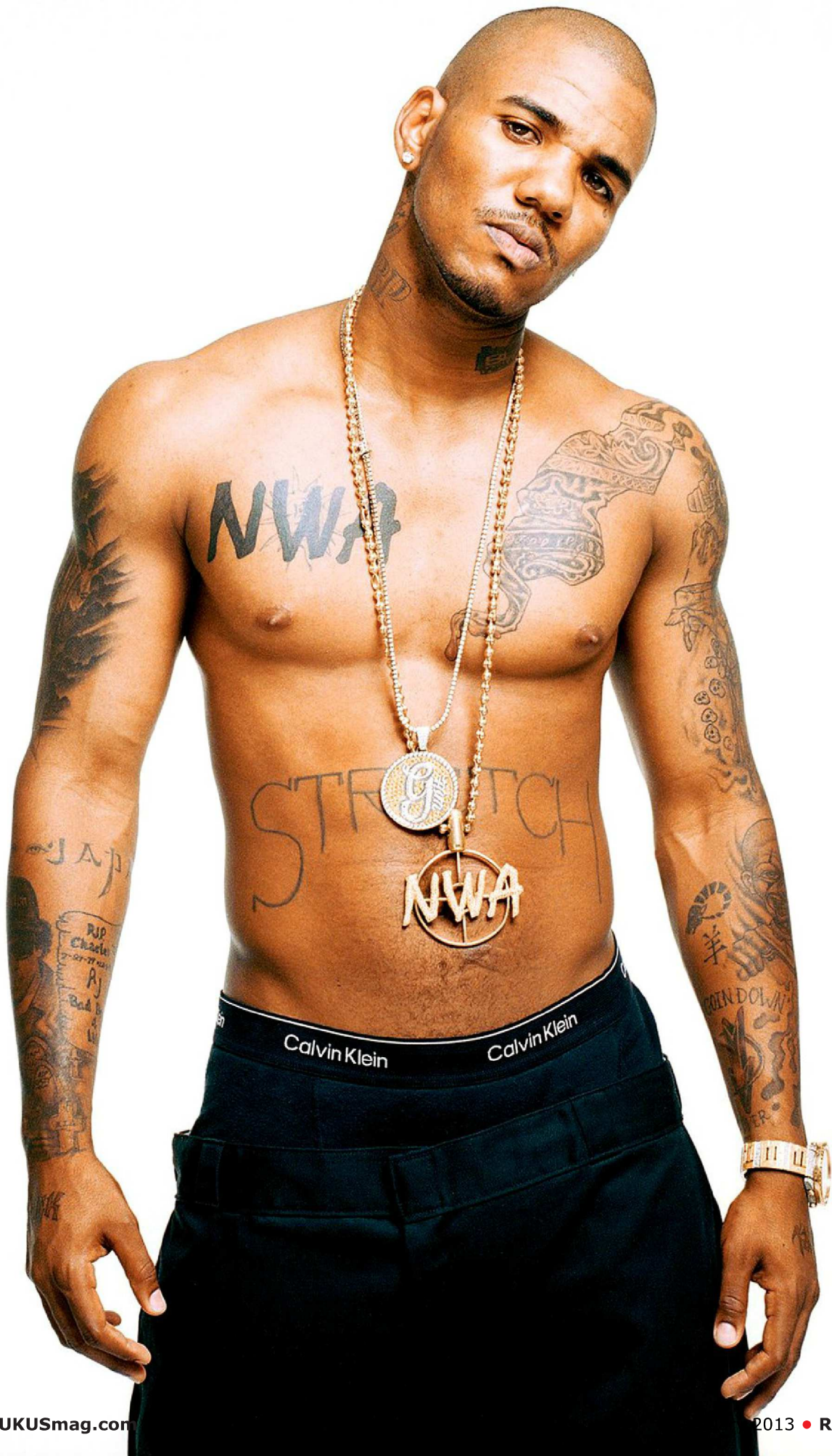
Album: *Jesus Piece*

Website: comptongame.com

★★★★☆

Label: DGC/Interscope

Release Date: December 1, 2012



ALL ACCESS
The Album Reviews Cont'd



The Power of Tre

Photo by Felisha Tolentino
Written by Silas Valantino

Green Day are more resilient than a barbecue stain on your favorite plain white shirt. They blew up our MTV in 1994 with the power punk zenith, *Dookie*, reinserted politics back into Rock 'n' Roll through 2004's *American Idiot* and today they have hit us with a one-two-three left hook. The bang that KO'd our gut is the last installment of their recent album trilogy. *¡Tré!* pauses only twice to catch its breath leaving the rest of the tracks sounding as if singer Billie Joel Armstrong dipped into his name sharer Lance's steroid stash and literally could not stop writing powerful rock songs. *¡Tré!* is fast, aggressive and further blurs the notion that Rock requires an age limit.

Green Day's track record resembles a blueprint to a Six Flag's attraction to Space. They started with a modest rise leading to a blast-off that hit new levels in the musical stratosphere, dipped down for the following years only to burst back with two back-to-back rock operas. Their recent project proves that their fiery momentum is still cracking embers. Each installment of the trilogy is meant to evoke a different aura all while staying in the realm of gritty garage/punk rock. Armstrong had a plan for each record and he describes them as, "the first one is power pop. The second is more garage-y, *Nuggets*-type rock. And the third is supposed to be epic. With the first album you're getting in the mood to party. On the second one, you're at the party. And the third album you're cleaning up the mess." (<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/videos/premiere-green-days-power-pop-new-single-oh-love-20120716>) Even though the after party mess is generally a chore spent battling moans and groans while working the mop, *¡Tré!*'s good time party feel helps get the gum out of the carpet. "8 Avenue Serenade" is Green Day finding the perfect Venn diagram between their past influences of punk and power pop. The track begins with a head-bob-inspiring riff, heads off into an "ooh ooh ooh oh" hook and ends with a clash of the titans between Armstrong, bassist Mike Dirnt and drummer/album title maestro Tré Cool. It's quick, (2:37) short, and anything but sweet. Top banger "99 Revolutions" comparison to Cheap Trick's classic "Surrender" is abundant, but it doesn't come off as a stale copy, rather as an established band paying homage to its DNA. Album opener "Brutal Love" is one of the only songs that doesn't move you aggressively, but more in the closing time at the bar feeling. Green Day's choosing of this unconventional track for its album opener reminds us that they're not afraid to continue being their avant-Punk-garde selves.

During Green Day's set last September at The iHeartRadio Festival, singer Armstrong abruptly ended "Basket Case" because the show's promoters were flashing the "one minute left" sign. Though it was both childish and metal, Armstrong ranted about being "around since 1980-fucking-8" and how he was no Justin Bieber. This act of defiance led to Armstrong checking into rehab thus postponing the band's tour, but it solidified Green Day as *the* band for outspoken Rock 'n' Roll. Their music still carries the chops and their bravado will forever remain untouched.

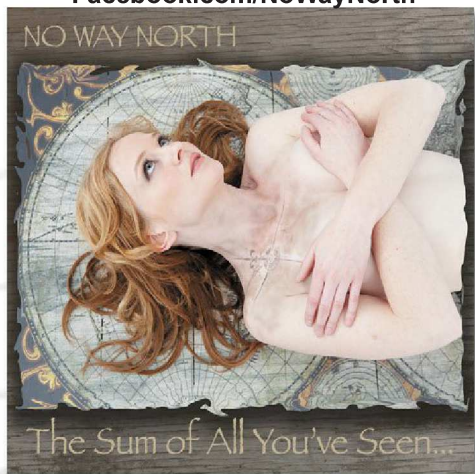
Artist: Green Day
Album: ¡Tré!
Website: greenday.com

★★★★★
Label: Reprise Records
Release Date: December 7, 2012

ALL ACCESS SPOTLIGHT

Written by Jonathan Hayes

Facebook.com/NoWayNorth



No Way North, *The Sum of All You've Seen*

No Way North is a rock band that was formed in 2010 by members Emily Dykes, Brandon Miller and Matthew Scoggins. *The Sum of All You've Seen...* serves as their first studio album. All songs on the album were written and produced by the band's three members, which is something you don't see much of with bands these days. The album features many guest spots including and Rudy Guess, Miller's uncle, who sadly passed from cancer during the recording process. Instead of letting it affect them to the point of stopping work on the album they used the experience as inspiration for a couple of the album's tracks. The opening track entitled, "The One I've Won," is a song written from the point of view of Rudy Guess' wife and "Carve it Out" is another track that speaks about the life of Rudy Guess. *The Sum of All You've Seen...* doesn't necessarily sound like a debut album since a lot of the tracks are well polished as if they are rock veterans. *The Sum of All You've Seen...* is worth a spin and features many standouts including; "Concrete City Lies," "Love On" and "Maybe."

Big Boi, *Vicious Lies and Dangerous Rumors*

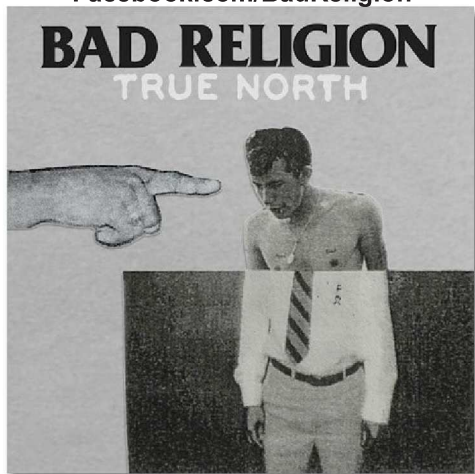
Long time hip-hop veteran Big Boi (half of the duo Outkast) has released his second solo effort entitled, *Vicious Lies and Dangerous Rumors*. In 1992 Outkast stepped into the world of hip-hop with a very unique style and very unique methods of delivery. Big Boi, arguably the lesser outcast of the duo, usually had more depth in his subjects and Andre 3000 had more depth in his delivery.

On *Vicious Lies and Dangerous Rumors* Big Boi tries his hand at giving you the best of what Outkast had previously offered, but keeping true to himself as a stand-alone artist. You get what you expect from him with new subjects along the way. The guest spots add to where Big Boi lacks, which is pretty much just the chorus'. He needs no help when it comes to holding a beat or even delivering above 16 bars. The album's first single "Mama Told Me" which features Kelly Rowland, has already gained much radio success. Other standouts include "In the A," which features fellow ATLians T.I. and Ludacris, as well as "Lines," featuring A\$AP Rocky and Phantogram.

Facebook.com/BigBoi



Facebook.com/BadReligion



Bad Religion, *True North*

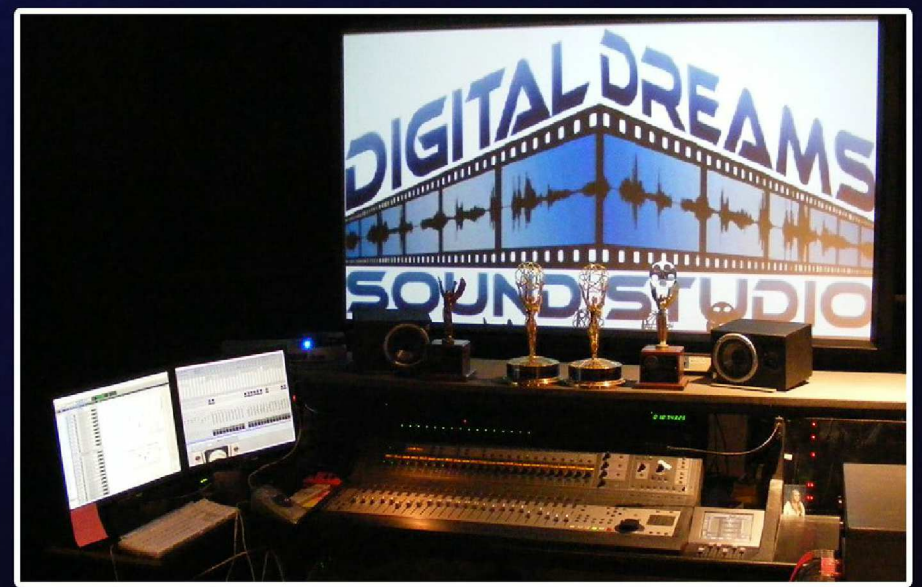
True North is the sixteenth studio album from rockers Bad Religion. Bad Religion who got their start in 1979 has featured many different lineups, but currently consists of three original members; lead vocalist Greg Graffin, alongside Jay Bentley and Brett Gurewitz. *True North* a success in itself becoming the group's highest charting release on the *Billboard Hot 200* peaking at number nineteen.

Bad Religion has always been somewhat of a more empowering and inspirational sort or band and they stuck true to that on this effort. They speak bluntly about society and political issues and make you pay attention to the issues which smother our nation. You may even hear about issues you didn't even know were present. At first listen you notice that lead vocalist Greg Graffin's delivery is fast paced forcing you to pay attention in order to hear the lyrics. The first single entitled "Fuck You," just like the rest of the album, stays in an up-tempo lane. "Just say fuck you, pay homage to your bad attitude," definitely a standout. Other standouts include, "True North," "Robin Hood in Reverse" and "Changing Tide."



WE CAN MAKE YOUR STAR SHINE!

AWARD WINNING
ADR
FOLEY
DX MX FX EDITING
SOUND DESIGN
5.1 DUBBING
...and more!!



DIGITAL DREAMS SOUND STUDIOS
1308 WEST BURBANK BLVD
BURBANK, CALIFORNIA 91506
818-557-0130

email: post@digitaldreamssound.com
www.digitaldreamssound.com
www.myspace.com/digitaldreamssoundstudios

Going Green

Has Never Looked So Good!!!

RUKUS MAGAZINE has been revolutionizing the way we view print media for over three years by becoming one of the first men's magazines to go exclusively digital.

RUKUS (RUKUSmag.com) is an online men's lifestyle magazine designed to appeal to men and women everywhere. Its viewership spreads around the globe, making it a truly international publication.

RUKUS MAGAZINE brings its readers, not only beautiful women from around the world, but also video game reviews, artist interviews, album reviews, live concert reviews and photography and information on the leading exotic cars from around the world.

RUKUS MAGAZINE has seen over a 3,000% growth in its monthly reader average from 2009 to 2011. This just goes to show that digital is the way of the future and RUKUS MAGAZINE is on the front line to proving that.

Get your Subscription at

RUKUS MAG.COM

For advertising rates email us at:
Advertise@RUKUSmag.com





AUTOMOTIVE ACCESSORIES AERO BRAKES INTERIOR EXTERIOR LIGHTING
PERFORMANCE SUSPENSION WHEELS TIRES WHEEL ACCESSORIES
CUSTOM FABRICATIONS CUSTOM BODY / PAINT VEHICLE WRAP
CUSTOM ALIGNMENTS AIR SUSPENSION INSTALLATION



[FACEBOOK.COM/PGARAGEUSA](https://www.facebook.com/pgarageusa)



[@PHANTOMGARAGE](https://www.instagram.com/phantomgarage)

OFFICE: 909.766.0726 INFO PHANTOMGARAGEUSA.COM

SALES INQUIRIES : SALES PHANTOMGARAGEUSA.COM

WWW.PHANTOMGARAGEUSA.COM

LIVE & LOUD

The Live Show Reviews

The Airborne Toxic Event

Photo by Nicolas Bates
Written by Dan Sinclair



Tonight's live performance here in downtown Los Angeles, CA is sold out and upon entrance it is clear this writer is getting nowhere near the stage as The Mayan's dance floor is mobbed with enthused fans for the city's own The Airborne Toxic Event. As I find a decent spot in the back, I am thankful for my height as I can see clearly over the (mostly) shorter hipsters in front of me. And since the band started only a few miles north of here in Los Feliz, everyone and their mother claims to be either a relative or friend. I'm sure none of them are lying... probably closer to delusional. But who cares? Let's just have some toxic fun!

Lights go down and a pounding bass drum can be heard as Daren Taylor must have taken his spot in back, while the rest of the band walks out and waves to the crowd under the giant bird

with an arrow through its head above them. Steven Chen mans his guitar to the right with bass player Noah Harmon next to him. Anna Bulbrook walks to the other side of the stage to take care of the viola for the evening and last, but not least, frontman Mikel Jollett takes center stage.

Jollett picks up his guitar and sings, "We were born without time, nameless in the arms of a mother, father and God," kicking the show off with "All at Once," much to the crowd's delight. Anna provides the soothing background with her electric viola. Everyone up front moves in rhythm to the steady beat, especially my favorite fan in the crowd this night. He is an elderly gentlemen who has to be well into his 70s, but don't tell him that as he seems to be the biggest Airborne Toxic Event fan in all the world. Nothing can wipe that gigantic smile off his face as he dances and bops his head with more enthusiasm than anyone else around him.

Jollett says, "Good evening, Los Angeles. Welcome to the rock show." And the spunky old man (and pretty much everyone else present) gets excited for the next song, "Wishing Well," singing along to every word. The old man's Adam's apple moves rapidly, "Standing on the bus stop, feeling your head pop out in the night," and he doesn't miss a single beat.

Steven Chen moves to the piano at the back of the stage for the slower "Half of Something Else," and then shortly thereafter all musicians, save Jollett and Anna, leave the stage. The pair stays to play "Duet," and "Graveyard Near My House" together for a more personal feel to the show.

Unfortunately, this gesture is marred by dozens of assholes at the bar, almost ignoring the show completely, talking loudly about bullshit as if this were some open mic night at a shithole dive bar. Seriously, every single person at that bar was a complete asshole. Who the fuck shells out \$30 for a show and doesn't listen to the music? You dicks probably talk at movie theaters, too.

But worry not, the douches at the bar were then drowned out as the rest of the band returned and played the much louder hits, "Timeless," "Numb" and "Gasoline." This really got the crowd going. The old man especially loved "Numb," as I bullshit you not, he was actually jumping up and down higher than I've ever seen someone over 50 jump (and trust me, I watch old people jump, like, all the time).

Anna continues to rock the viola and plays keyboards at times and Harmon busts out the stand-up bass from time to time as the rocking never ceases to stop for the rest of the night. Some of the highlights include "Does This Mean You're Moving On?" "Welcome to Your Wedding Day," "Sometime Around Midnight" and "All I Ever Wanted."

It doesn't take the band too long to return for an encore, and though they know they will have to share their beloved band with the rest of the world, the crowd tonight at the Mayan is thankful to have at least this one night of The Airborne Toxic Event all to themselves.

Oh, and that old man? He's still going. He's ready for like, ten more encores.

Venue: The Mayan
Website: theairbornetoxicevent.com

Date: January 23, 2011
City: Los Angeles, CA

Femi Kuti and The Positive Force

Photos by Nicolas Bates
Written by Dan Sinclair

While I cannot say for sure where Mr. Femi Kuti and his magnificently Positive Force stand on the issue of marijuana use, judging by the aroma filling the air here tonight at the El Rey, it has become fairly obvious how the fans feel about it.

The stage is crowded with instruments. There are two large drum sets in the back with bass, guitar, keyboards and all the horns you can imagine up front. It doesn't appear that the whole band would be able to fit, but the drummers and string players come out and fit in just fine. Three horn players come out and dance in unison at center stage before taking their spots next to the drummers. They all start jamming and it gets funky.

Shortly thereafter, two short young ladies decked out in traditional attire and body paint dance perfectly in sync with every beat. And as I look around at the audience, I notice those two ladies are not the only ones dancing: at least half the audience covering the crowded floor moves to the music like no one's watching. Our two tiny dancers on stage turn around and shake their booties for us much to the crowd's delight.

Last, but not least, the man himself takes stage. Femi Kuti, son of the late-great father of Afrobeat, Fela Kuti, bows to his band, who, in turn, bows back to him. The crowd goes nuts as Femi starts punching the air with all his might as the drum beats get faster and stronger. Femi starts really moving as it's clear that he really feels the music. He then takes to the keys to start playing and chanting the vocals. Everybody here is moving now. Moving back and forth across the stage shaking head and fists, dancing with the women, Femi starts to give the fans the message that this is not just a concert but a unique experience, one which many will never get to see again.

"Good evening, Los Angeles. Are you feeling all right this evening?" They are and they loudly let that be known. Femi goes on to explain how it's great to have fun here but that "Music has to mean something." He also tells us how it's not just his heart, but his "Whole body that aches" for all the people suffering around the world, mentioning specifically the hundreds dying in the Congo, the children of Syria, the people of Haiti he has not forgotten, the hostages in Algeria, all the people in Nigeria, and even the victims of the recent shootings here in the USA. And Femi's music is more than just a good time—it's about making positive change and trying to move people to rise up and stand for what they believe in.

The set spans over Femi's many years of music making, while adding some new songs for the upcoming new album—the first one since 2010's *Africa for Africa*. This crowd loves it all, whether they know the words or not, with everybody dancing and sweating the whole night. And the entire set the dancing ladies never stop moving! They have more energy during one set than I've had my entire life.

And at the age of 51 Femi Kuti shows no sign of his age, never giving less than his all on every single song played, furiously shaking his head when playing his keyboards or playing nearly every single horn known to man (most notably the saxophone).

As the show winds down, I head for the front door, and a man at the bar stops to ask me something: "Who are these guys—Femi or something?" I confirm the spelling of Mr. Kuti's name for him as he types it into his phone and simultaneously asks me if they are well known around the world. As I wonder why he's here if he's never heard of them, I assure him that they are known worldwide, but in my head I know that they are probably not as well known as they should be. Here's to the world catching on to Afrobeat sooner rather than later.

Venue: El Rey Theatre
Website: femikuti.tv

Date: January 18, 2012
City: Los Angeles, CA



Femi Kuti

Pinback

Photos by Nicolas Bates
Written by Dan Sinclair

Armistead Burwell Smith IV and Rob Crow may differ greatly on many things, such as hair length, choice of beard, body size, and the lengths of their names, but when it comes to making harmonizing, melodic, indie-progressive music madness, the super talented multi-instrumentalists do it better than most. They formed Pinback in San Diego, CA back in 1998 and now here in 2013, they stand proudly (and five albums deeper into their careers) on the El Rey Theatre's stage here on Los Angeles's Miracle Mile, and hundreds of loyal fans have packed in to see them perform live.

Pinback is hopeful to start the show right away, but hit an early snag. Rob explains that Amistead just "bought a new pedal" that apparently causes Rob's bass to send a delayed track stuck in repetition. Rob keeps talking while his buddy makes an adjustment, making sure to thank all the fans for coming out and giving props to the opening act Judgment Day. He jokes, "Don't tell anyone but they're standing right behind me."

Armistead makes up for the delay by taking lead vocals on "Victorious D," and seriously, what better way to start a show but with the opening lyrics, "On our way to death." The mellow opener gets a loud round of applause but "True North" off their 2012 release *Information Retrieved* gets even more. Rob takes over lead vocals on this one, but Armistead harmonizes perfectly with him per the band's trademark sound. And though the crowd yell out other song titles (none of which I can decipher), they are happy to hear "Tripoli" next.

"Non Photo Blue," the opening track off of 2004's *Summer in Abbadon*, gets the loudest cheers thus far. It's seemingly steady, but the slow building rhythm gets everybody swaying back and forth as they sing along.

After playing "His Phase," Armistead moves over to the keyboard to play very jazzy "Diminished." As he sits there in front of the keys, he switches back to bass for those parts as well. Did I mention that these guys were talented? He sticks there for the faster, more electronic "Sender." It's a nice change of pace from the mellow song played prior.

And since the crowd has been shouting for it all night, Pinback rewards them with "Penelope," and even though it's a relatively slower-paced song, it's played so on-point and loud here live at the El Rey, one can't help but rock along to it. The drum kick-in gets everyone moving and shaking. With that, let us take a moment to recognize the forgotten man of the night, drummer Chris Prescott. He's been the driving force behind all this harmonizing, hypnotizing craziness here tonight, but can get overlooked behind the two frontmen who are literally up in front of him, leading the way.

For a brief moment Rob plays guitar with his mouth on "Boo," which makes one wonder if it "Tastes like saltwater inside [his] mouth." He puts the guitar away and instead mans a beer to sing "Fortress." He also starts to do some jumping jacks and a not-so-great version of the robot much to the crowd's delight. He then takes on some lazy break dancing before jumping into the crowd to sing the "Stop, it's too late" part.

Armistead thought "He was going to be down there forever," but Rob returns to the stage for "Good to Sea." But he's not as prepared as he thought, as he had to make guitar noises because he forgot to pick his instrument up before the song started—d'oh! But he retrieves it quickly thereafter as the video for the song plays behind them. It's easily the best song of the night and the crowd eats it up.

The party keeps going on with favorites such as "Sherman," "Bouquet," and "Syracuse" before Rob ends the last song with a "Thank you so fucking much!" as soon as the music stops. But as I look around the crowd of giant smiles and loud cheering, I figure it is the audience who should be thankful for Pinback on this night (so fucking much).

Venue: El Rey Theatre
Website: pinback.com

Date: January 17, 2012
City: Los Angeles, CA



Chris Prescott



Armistead Burwell Smith IV



Rob Crow

COMING UP

Models To Keep An Eye On

Nina Carla

Photography by Andrew Gates
Make-up & hair by Kimberly Hill

N

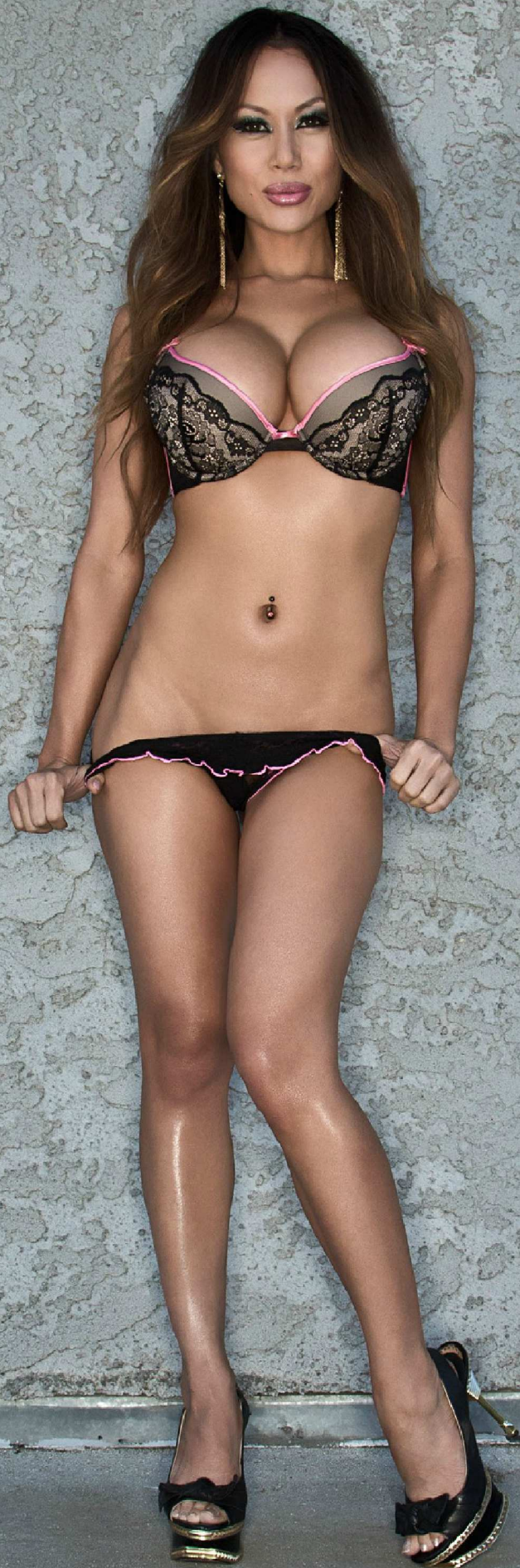
ina Carla hails from San Francisco. This curvaceous Filipina beauty started her career when she was discovered at an import car show. Since then, she has traveled the country working as an import and promotional modeling as well as a spokesmodel for various companies. She has been featured on many websites and in a few magazines where she has been both a featured model and a cover girl. Nina recently moved to Los Angeles to further her career, not just as bikini and lingerie model, but also take on some acting roles. Her moved paid off when she landed a gig CSI Las Vegas, although, she doesn't want that to be the only role on her resume. Consider this just the beginning for this girl as she strives to have more. Not only is Nina something to look at, she's also earned a Bachelor's in Psychology and Business and has a Skin Therapy license. Nina doesn't just want to be another pretty face, she also wants to make life better for other people and animals alike, devoting time to various charities and helping with animal rescue. Is there anything this girl can't do? Can you say marriage material?!



COMING UP

Models To Keep An Eye On Cont'd





THE STATS

Birthday:
September 8

Zodiac Sign:
I'm a Virgo.

Measurements:
34C-23-35

Height:
5'3"

Weight:
100 lb

Ethnicity:
I'm 100% Filipina.

Hometown:
San Francisco, CA

Turn Ons:
Good energy in a person is very attractive. You can feel somebody's energy if it's good or bad right away.

Turn Offs:
Negativity, selfishness and hypocrisy is a huge turn off. I want everyone to just be cool... respect...one love.

Ideal first date:
My ideal first date would be doing an activity together. I'm impressed when a guy can teach me something new.

Guilty Pleasure:
I'm addicted to collecting hot and sexy lingerie and swimwear. I have hundreds of pairs but can't seem to stop. [laugh]

Pet Peeves:
My biggest pet peeve is when people chew with their mouths open. It's very distracting.

Celebrity Pass:
My celebrity crush is Anderson Cooper. Such an intelligent good looking guy that travels the world...too bad he plays for the other side! [smile]

See more of Nina at
[facebook.com/Ms.NinaCarla](https://www.facebook.com/Ms.NinaCarla)

COMING UP
Models To Keep An Eye On Cont'd



Swimsuit by Gigi T Swimwear

Arley Elizabeth

Photography by Andrew Gates
Make-up and hair by Kimberly Hill



Arley Elizabeth grew up in Colton, California. Her modeling career began at a very young age, under five. As a youth she competed in various pageants and beauty contests. At age six she was enrolled in a few acting and modeling workshops to help hone her craft. By age nine Arley had been signed with her first agency. Although, there were a few years where Arley had lost interest in the modeling and acting industry, she quickly got back into it when she was seventeen and signed with her second agency, but then her family moved to a new city and her career was put on hold so she could concentrate on her studies. Finally, in 2008 Arley got back in the saddle and landed a gig hosting Bite Me TV's "Car Culture." Arley really started focusing on her career in 2010 and has made some great strides. She hopes to take her career many places and grow her fan-base along the way.

COMING UP

Models To Keep An Eye On Cont'd





THE STATS

Birthday:
March 24

Zodiac Sign:
Aries

Measurements:
32B-26-36

Height:
5'5"

Weight:
110 lb

Ethnicity:
Filipina

Hometown:
Yucaipa, CA

Turn Ons:

Confidence and respect go a long way with me. Treat me right from the very beginning; plain and simple.

Turn Offs:

I have quite the list of turn offs but for starters: laziness, carelessness, inappropriate vulgarity, poor manners, short tempers, complete disregard for those around you.

Ideal first date:

I don't like to go on dates unless I have established a comfortable friendship first. I hate the pressure of going on a date. I want to enjoy time with someone, not feel like I'm at an interview. So my ideal first date is to not have a first date.

Guilty Pleasure:

I impulse buy sweaters all year. I can't just go buy socks or underwear or something like that without getting a sweater.

Pet Peeves:

If I'm talking on the phone, don't talk to me until I get off the phone. It's rude and incredibly annoying. If it's a quick question like asking where something is or telling me something like 'so and so is leaving' then that's fine. Other than that, shh.

Celebrity Pass:

I don't have a celebrity crush...but some characters celebrities play in movies are pretty hot. Example; Chris Hemsworth is a good looking guy, but I would wreck Thor...note the difference.

See more of Arley at
[facebook.com/arrslz](https://www.facebook.com/arrslz)

GAME ON

The Latest Games Reviewed

Another Dragonborn

Written by Josh Schilling

If you have not played *Skyrim*, please do so, as it's one of the greatest console games ever created, but if you have played this game and enjoyed the open-world fantasy experience, then the newest expansion *Dragonborn* will be a more than welcome addition. *Dragonborn* adds the new island of Solstheim to the explorable world, about a sixth of the size of the *Skyrim* territory. Solstheim was previously seen in an expansion of *Elder Scrolls III: Morrowind*, and if you've played that edition of the *Elder Scrolls* tale, you will probably recognize the music as you explore the new territory in its contemporary setting. The topography of Solstheim isn't as varied or interesting as the main continent, in fact it seems like there are only two sections. In the south it is ashy and desolate, and in the north it is all mountains and snow, but this seems realistic given that you're in a smaller section of the overall world. There is a place, however, that you travel to during your adventure that stands out among all of the areas I have explored throughout the entire game.

During the main adventure, you cross paths with the betentacled, god-like Daedric Prince named Hermaeus Mora, and you get to travel to his realm of Apocrypha. With its twisting halls, Lovecraftian creatures, and buildings made of ancient tomes, it is a unique experience to traverse these halls and discover its secrets. Your character is of course *THE* Dragonborn, but it turns out there is another, more sinister, Dragonborn that has his thumb pressed squarely on the people of Solstheim. Your job, of course, is to remove this menace and take your place as the one and only. This game also offers some tantalizing additions and perks to enhance your overall *Skyrim* experience. You may now force wandering dragons to be your allies and even hop on their backs for a ride into the air. This seems great in theory, but you don't get to control the dragon except directing him to attack ground targets in the area you're forced to fly. One great additional perk is the ability to reshuffle your skill points into whatever new skill you choose. Did you spend precious skill points on the Light Armor skill before you discovered that badass suit of heavy armor that you don't want to get rid of? No problem! Just spend a dragon soul and switch them around as you see fit. Another neat addition is the Ebony Warrior. This uber-powerful, but uber-bored knight finds your character once he/she reaches level 80, and offers up a duel for the ages.

It's been over a year since the original release of *Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim*, and playing *Dragonborn* was like coming home. It was fun to relearn and rediscover all of the things that made me love the game in the first place, even though it took me a while to find all of my stuff that I had "organized" in my house. I am still in awe at the work and imagination that went in to the creation of this world, and to be able to keep a single-player game this fresh for so long is a testament to Bethesda Softworks and the respect they have for the gamers who continue to play their games.

Game Title: Skyrim: Dragonborn

Producer: Bethesda Softworks

Platform: Xbox360, PS3, PC

Website: bethsoft.com

★★★★★

Ratings: Mature

Genre: RPG

Release Date: 12/04/12 (Xbox), 02/05/13 (PS3, PC)



SKYRIM

DRAGONBORN

GAME ON
The Game Reviews CONT'D



Dante's Inferno

Written by Jesse Seifhan

Never before has a reboot been so unwanted. The fans of Capcom's original *Devil May Cry* took one look at their non-white-haired Dante and said "No thanks." They took a second look at the gameplay trailer and declared that this was a sissy game made for babies and could never be the pain-in-the-ass triumph from the Playstation 2 era they had come to love. No matter what painstaking effort developers Ninja Theory put into this project, legions of supposed supporters swore to never touch this game and those people made a huge mistake because *DmC* is a stellar game. The fluid combat, the elaborate set pieces, and the overall presentation makes for an enjoyable reboot of a somewhat stale franchise. Especially for people that have never had the pleasure of enjoying a *God of War* title, this is your chance to get as close to that near-perfect product as possible.

This game tells a weird story, one that combines parallel demonic universes, battles between demons and angels, and a soda conspiracy that involves gluttony and slavery. Yes, it is as ridiculous as it always has been, but now even more so, as the story has moved from castles and semi-medieval settings to the modern world and beyond. The new Dante, with short, brown hair and a spunky attitude, is just as charming or annoying as the old Dante. That entirely depends on how you feel about snarky young whippersnappers who happen to wield a badass sword and duel pistols. His brother, Vergil, is back and more brooding than ever, as is the newest character, Kat, a medium that assists Dante in traveling between our world and the demon universe. Once that cross-over is finished, the landscape changes entirely. Buildings become warped and ripped, roads break into stairs or steps, and lampposts and newspaper stands sink into the ground to allow for a myriad of monsters to wreck shop.

The combat is really where this game shines, as the player is given half a dozen weapons and multiple ways of modifying each one with a hold of either trigger. Combos combine not only multiple weapons per string, but also artillery, chains, air jumps, throws, and a powerful Demon form that makes Dante unstoppable. The enemies vary from the inept to the insane, with some boss fights taking every ounce of patience and energy one can muster. The game's 20 missions take about 12 hours to finish, especially if finding every hidden object is the goal. There are also a ton of challenge rooms to test your mettle, as well as the ability to play older missions with upgraded combos, allowing for faster runs and higher ranks on the global leaderboards. By the end of *DmC* you will probably take back any negative thoughts you once had about an unproven developer taking on a highly-beloved franchise. If this is what we have in store from Dante and all of his demon friends for years to come, then sign me up as this is an early contender for Game of the Year.

Game Title: Devil May Cry
Producer: Capcom
Platform: Xbox 360, PS3, PC
Website: devilmaycry.com

★★★★★
Ratings: Mature
Genre: Third-Person Action
Release Date: January 15, 2013



Get your subscription at

RUKUS
MAG.COM