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Exclusive The Iron Maidens interview!!!
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this is the first interview that we're putting online before its printed version is available. The full length interview will be featured in our January issue, which will be on sale 15th January. So here is the special edited version. The interview is done by [Tolga Camli](#)...



Iron Maiden... The "hero" band of many music fans. What can an Iron Maiden fan do? Aja, Linda, Elizabeth, Sara and Wanda thought what they gonna do and decided to form world's only female tribute to Iron Maiden band! What a real great

decision! Haven't you listen them yet? If not, read this interview then listen. If yes, read the interview while listening The Iron Maidens.

RS: First of all, I have to congratulate you because being a real tribute band is really fantastic. Could you tell that how did you decide to form The Iron Maidens?

LINDA: Thank you! It's also a lot of fun! The local music scene was dwindling here in Los Angeles and playing in a tribute band seemed to be a great escape and alternative to the dying scene because it celebrates music that everybody already knows. What better band to pay tribute to than Iron Maiden, especially with all women playing it?

SARA: I've been listening to Iron Maiden ever since I picked I my guitar - what a great band with soaring vocals, awesome musicianship, and intelligent songwriting. Iron Maiden is a main influence for me as a musician - what better way to pay tribute!

RS: What is the main point of The Iron Maidens?

LINDA: To spread the word and love of Iron Maiden music far and wide! It's also a great way to spotlight that girls DO love to play metal too! We need more female metal bands!

WANDA: Simply to have fun.

AJA: People come up to us after shows and thank us for playing music they rarely get to hear live, which we really appreciate because we work hard to get it as close to the real thing as we can. And as women and musicians, the Iron Maidens prove that there are no limits except the ones that you set for yourself. As far as the audience is concerned there's a definite hunger out there to hear real music played by real people. Especially with the younger generation, who have more than their fair share of artists lip synching and performing to tracks as opposed to experiencing the power of a live band performing exceptional music and want more than the cookie cutter bands that the corporate music establishment doles out to them. We have an obligation, as musicians, to show that there's much more to music than just

samples and rapping and more to talk about in songs than just bling, bitches and ho's. The music of Iron Maiden does all that and more.

LIZ: Show the world women can rock just as hard as men.

RS: I think you must be so brave because to be a tribute band of Iron Maiden is not so easy, because everyone knows them very well. Have you ever get negative reaction from the audience?

SARA: Not really no, besides the fact that it's hard to pick a setlist without leaving out a favorite song, everyone is very supportive of our tribute to Iron Maiden. Honestly, people are mostly surprised we don't suck cuz the material is difficult and because female musicians generally are not rehearsing to play this sort of music. As a band we feel strongly about not dissing Iron Maiden by mishandling their songs ineptly.

AJA: We're not brave, crazy maybe... hahaha! Seriously though, that's what makes the people in this band and this project so special and keeps us going with it through thick and thin. We're not about taking the easy way out. We want to be involved in something that is a challenge to us and Iron Maiden's music is certainly that! The Iron Maiden fans know that this music is not easy to pull off and they really understand and appreciate what it takes to do it justice. Though there may be a few skeptics out there, this band has established a great reputation as a live act and the audiences I've played to express their approval with a LOT of enthusiasm at every show.

LINDA: They will complain if Wanda doesn't wear her stripey pants! LOL! Just kidding! Once in a while we'll get an email from somebody bitching at us for not doing an original project accusing us of not being creative enough to write our own songs and stuff. All of us have or have been in our own original bands so it kind of makes me chuckle when I hear this. And some of us have had the major label deal, toured extensively, etc, and are having just as much fun doing this tribute band as we do when we play our own material. It's all about playing good music to great crowds, and Maiden is definitely some of the finest!

WANDA: We always get a great reaction from our audience. Occasionally, there are people at our shows who have this preconception that women cannot play this style of music competently. However, once they see us pull

it off, they generally let go of their preconceptions and start having a good time. It's fun seeing the surprised looks when people see us play well: it's as though they weren't expecting us to sound good.

LIZ: Not yet...and if they have anything negative to say, they can go ahead and kiss my ass and after that try and get on stage and pull off what we do.

RS: What are the reactions of the members of Iron Maiden when they saw you first?

LINDA: I think they were looking at us and noticing how little we actually looked like them. Ha ha.

SARA: Sweet guys, and we meet part of their families as well who greeted us with open arms. They were all very flattered that 5 girls loved their music so much that we started a tribute project to Iron Maiden. I was flattered when Dave started asking about my touring schedule! It was a lot of fun - I was stammering cuz I was so shy to meet the guys who'd been on my wall posters while I listened to their music with my guitar in my hands.

WANDA: They were very friendly and an absolute pleasure to be around. We'll never forget meeting them

AJA: The only member I've personally met so far has been Nicko McBrain. He's a very friendly and gracious person and was quite kind to us all. One day I hope to meet the rest of the band, as well.

RS: Could you tell me about your CD. When and where did you record it? How are the reactions of your CD. Will you want to release one more CD in the future?

SARA: The responses of praise has been nothing we could have ever expected! We did the whole thing ourselves, from saving up the money, picking out Silver Cloud Studio in Burbank last year, produced it, secured the artwork from Riggs, promo....I'm happy our hard work is being enjoyed by others and spreading the gospel of Iron Maiden! UP THE IRONS!!

LINDA: Ya, it was a little rough getting all the tracks done in less than 48 hours per person, but entirely doable at the end of the day and, thanks to the wonderful staff at Silver Cloud, we were able to make it the best we

possibly could considering. We're gonna hit the road pimping this cd and the music of Maiden so stay tuned! This CD is the very first studio full-length CD recorded entirely by one band paying tribute to one artist and is starting a new trend in tribute bands already. You'll be seeing more tribute bands to other artists putting out cds soon, watch, but none of them have a brand new, CUSTOM, ORIGINAL piece of artwork by Derek Riggs. :-)

WANDA: The recording process took about a week and a half and was done at Silver Cloud Recording Studios. Bruce Dickinson has also recorded there. The artwork was done by Derek Riggs who designed a female monster just for us. So far, the CD has received a very positive response. It would be fun to record another one day but we haven't really talked about it yet so I guess we'll have to wait and see what happens.

AJA: Recording at Silvercloud was a very surreal experience, in more ways than one. Knowing this was the place where Bruce Dickinson recorded so many of his solo works was intimidating and inspiring at the same time! The music was recorded in about a week and we tracked the vocals in about 2 1/2 days (leads and back ups), which is not a lot of time for a record, so it's very close to what you would hear in a live show. The reviews and feedback have been overwhelmingly positive, which is very gratifying because we've put a lot of love into it. As far as releasing another CD - well, that depends on the fans - it's because of their requests that we did this one. If they want more, we'd be happy to give it to them!

www.theironmaidens.com

interviewer: Tolga Camli

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