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## IMAGINE PERFORMING WITH JOHNNY CASH AT THE BRIXTON ACADEMY? NEW INTERVIEW WITH EXPOSED VOCALS

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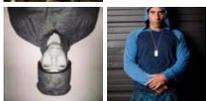
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ExposedVocals



HOT LIST



Are you hot too?

How did you hear about Exposed Vocals? What made you decide to sign up?

First of all, thank you very much for this opportunity and patience! As much as I remember it was Exposed Vocals contacting me through Twitter...? Maybe I heard of it before on Reverbnation or something like that...Could that be? This year I'm going to move to the States because, as you might know, there isn't really a music industry in Switzerland. That means that nobody needs a musician on a Monday morning... It's a feeling like as it's raining soup and everybody has a spoon, only you, you have a fork. Therefore I thought it's not a bad idea to hook up with some industry people in the States and focus on that market before take-off.

So tell us your story. Where did you grow up? What made you decide to become an artist?

Oh, okay, I'll try to tighten it up a bit. I was born on the 3rd of January 1984 in Zug, Switzerland. I and my older brother were raised by our Mother; our Dad left the family as I was too young to even realize it. My Mom was a pretty talented piano player, my grandpa played the upright bass and my uncle used to play the violin and started playing guitar as he was a teenager... That's pretty funny 'cause I did exactly the same thing. At the age of 4 I told my mother that I want to become a violinist and so she asked her brother if that old fiddle was still somewhere and if it'd be possible to borrow it for me. At the age of 5 I was finally old enough to have my first lessons and I became a pretty good soloist playing dozens of concerts all around Switzerland and Italy.

At the age of 13, as I visited my grandma in Cham near Zug, I found my uncle's western guitar in the very back of an over packed garage. That was the day I stopped playing the violin and started teaching myself to play guitar... I don't really remember how exactly that happened; guess it all seemed pretty obvious since the guitars as well as the violin are stringed instruments. That guitar I found that day still is my favorite... Today I own 12 western and arch top guitars and 9 electric guitars but not one of them has been played for such a long time as the handcrafted Cimar Hummingbird I started with. Anyway, as said, those were the days I started writing songs and play in several bands, of course as rhythm guitarist and lead singer. Just so you know, I always had a soft weakness for astronomy and physics, but I just couldn't imagine sitting on a hill in Chile or somewhere, looking at the space through a huge telescope naming stars and observing objects we're never going to reach anyway, for the rest of my life. Music always was my passion, my best friend and my deepest love... It's the only thing that gives me everything I need and also it is the most precise language I know to express myself and let other people know how I feel, no matter of which origin they are.

How did you come up with that name? What was your inspiration behind it?

Well, that's my name... My real name is Roberto A. Spring.

What do you think about online music sharing? Do you ever give your music away for free? Why?

Man that is a complicated thing, it is nearly impossible to find a solution that manages and respects the rights of the owner of the content but doesn't harm the right of privacy at the same time. There are a few solutions that could work... you know it's a matter of the device or even the whole internet. People can copy every protected media as long as they can play it... worst case they'll do it by simply recording the whole thing with a microphone in front of a speaker. What I am really concerned about are "services" like Spotify! These "platforms" really ruin the industry and seriously miss educate the whole society and its sense for the worth of music itself. Many of my friends have Spotify installed on their smart phones and when I ask them why they support such a "pain in the ass" company they look at me in a way that reveals to me that they don't even know what I'm talking about. They ask me things like "Isn't it good for you to be available on such a big platform?" or "But hey, you got that publicity through such a big brand..." ... BULLSHIT! Spotify gives away my music at the rate of 0,06 \$ per 260 streams! Look at their front pages and adds all over the internet, did you ever see any newcomer featured? No, they feature the same 9 releases that are featured on Google Play, iTunes, Nokia and so on... Why? 'Cause they have their deals with the major companies which are not interested in featuring quality but much more to make as much money as quickly as possible disregarding the damage it causes by that loss of worthiness of music in society. Services like Spotify should be prohibited and banned from the net. They came to the plan as we were pretty close to solutions that work for the users, the providers, the interpreters and of course the authors. Another thing that complicates the whole internet law is the fact that many artists don't act responsible when they publish their music on "God-knows-where" all over the internet AND want their authors to be respected. I don't think that a majority of the bands or artists who publish their stuff on youtube and so on have ever read the general terms and conditions of business of such sites. Of course I did give away songs for free as well but that was in a promotional sort of context.



Reverbnation fans and so on to watch it...

Guess it has to do with the flood of information and invitations they get through such platforms.

I will try your services as well and see if it improves the whole thing. I guess a good promotion plan and a person who takes care of it still is the best way... Just like it's been done back in the good old days of the music industry. In my case the cold fact is that I get sold out of CDs at every single gig I play while the online sales aren't really exciting. I did a handmade, numbered and signed limited edition CD that has a handwritten lyric sheet as its "booklet" and I sell it for 50.00 Swiss Francs each and you wouldn't believe it; it sells much better than my official debut album that has been recorded at a high-end studio and costs 20.00 Francs! Somehow it proves that people don't really care or even hear the difference from a high-end recording and a home recording. Lächelnd

If you could perform anywhere and with any artists (Dead or Alive) where and who would it be with? Why?

That'd be a few... A cool thing would be performing with Hank Williams Sr. or Johnny Cash at the Brixton Academy or at the Hammersmith Odeon, both in London. I had the honor to be performing one of my favorite songs together with one of my favorite acts last winter... Madison Violet had a show at the Parterre in Basel, Switzerland, and somehow they knew I did a cover version of "The Woodshop" and asked me, without any warning, if I wanted to perform that song with them... Damn, I did like 400 shows in my life and hell, I WAS NEVER THAT NERVOUS before!!! You know, these two women are both AWESOME singers!

So, what's next? Any new upcoming projects that you want to talk about?

Yes, I got a few things coming up! I'm going to release TWO new records in spring 2014! The first one is a home recorded LP and the second one's an LP I record with my new live band "The Calling Sirens" ... We'll record that one in a big house near Zurich and most of the instruments will be recorded live, the only overdubs we'll do are vocals and maybe some lead guitars. Since the Calling Sirens are a band on their own the record will be released under the name "Bob Spring & The Calling Sirens". Further there's a huge change for my life coming up; I'll move to Nashville this summer! There still are a lot of things to fix concerning this matter such as an affordable accommodation for example... And of course there's the question how I'm going to make enough money to make a living... If you have any idea or contacts I should hook up with feel free to send them my way Lächelnd I used to have several office jobs... so that wouldn't be a big deal for me... I learn pretty quickly! Lächelnd

If you weren't making music, what would you be doing?

Hmmm, guess I would have studied Astronomy or Physics... I am pretty addicted to fancy and well done Graphics as well... You know, there are a lot of things I'm interested in and I LOVE to learn, no matter what. I think that a day you haven't learned anything new, isn't a day lived. Further I think that, no matter what you do, important is that you do it with all of your heart and passion!

Do you remember buying your first album? Who was it? What was going through your head?

Sure I remember! I wanted to buy "Use your illusion II" of Guns 'n' Roses but they didn't have it in stock so I bought "The Spaghetti Incident"... I couldn't recall the band's name at the counter 'cause I was a very shy boy and so I tried to describe the music I was looking for which sounded more or less like: "Ahm, excuse me, I'm looking for a band that sounds like razor blade somehow and has wet evil vocals screaming for riot..." and; "There are guns and a blood stain in their band logo..." Haha ! Damn, I was like 7 or something and that record just changed my whole life! It represented everything I wanted, everything I hated and everything I loved! Still GnR are one of my favorite bands ever... That band wasn't a re-make of a revolutionary attitude or wannabe-bad-motherfuckers... Damn, they really didn't give a shit! No band before or after them combined such a good songwriting and performance with such an authentic Rock 'n' Fuckin' Roll attitude. I love 'em.

How do you juggle the rest of your responsibilities while trying to stay ahead in your music life?

Don't ask! (My girlfriend is helping me a damn lot regarding that kind of matter...)

What should fans look forward too for the rest of 2014 and beyond?

Well, as I said, the two records coming up this spring and of course I'm going to do more shows in the States since that'd be my primary focus this year.

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