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I recently had a chance to visit with Ray Palmer and Steve Smith at Barking Dogs Studio. It's been over three years since the last Soundsmyth CD and I wanted to find out what was going on with the band. The environment in the building was relaxed and inviting so I took the opportunity to check out the bands gear...especially Steve's vintage Marshall. The guys showed me around before we sat down for a brief chat. As we talked it became apparent they didn't want to dwell on ex-members, their difficulties with drummers or the untimely passing of Steve's brother David. Therefore I kept my questions centered on current events. Below is an excerpt from that conversation.

So when did you guys decide to record a new CD?

Steve Smith: The minute we moved over here. We were rehearsing new songs before *Allegory and Allusion* was even released.

So why has it taken so long?

SS: Nobody wanted this CD out faster than I did. I wanted to make a statement. But things happened - some within our control and some not. When it became obvious it wasn't going to happen fast - I resolved myself to doing whatever we needed to do to make the best CD we could - no matter how long it took.

Ray Palmer: This one's been a long time coming - we've had plenty of setbacks in the personal department. We've built and furnished our own pro recording studio with the best gear we could afford. We've worked and reworked approximately fifteen new songs - this took a lot of time - and we never stopped.

Is having all this new gear going to change the way you record?

SS: Not really. We're still kind of old school in that regard - no copying or pasting. For this one we intend to record the backing tracks with everyone playing together. We want to capture a performance - something we couldn't do before.

How would you compare the new songs to the ones on the first two CD's?

RP: This is the new Soundsmyth - kind of the same but only different. I believe there is a higher quality of musicianship on this record. The new material in my opinion seems a bit more radio friendly - but it's still Soundsmyth. At the end of the day no matter how fast or slow - how hard or soft - it's about the story we tell with our music. We're story tellers - Rock & Roll storytellers!

While the last three years have not gone as planned, I came away with the impression the guys are pretty content with where they are. When this CD is finished, it will be as much a testament to their perseverance as it will be to their creativity. I for one can't wait to hear it!

Kris Muncie