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BOSTON'S BARRY GOODREAU: AN IN-DEPTH LOOK BACK AT HIS CAREER

Band: Bona Lisa
Album Title: Give It All You Got
Label: Independent
Release Date: Out Now
Genre: Hard Rock/Heavy Metal
City and Country: South Carolina, USA



Description:
Give It All You Got is the 2nd release from the American band Bona Lisa and is a well-crafted powerful 70's – 80's influenced hard rock and metal delight. Live performances are high energy sunset strip cock rock from this husband-and-wife rock & roll tag team.

Influences:
Scorpions, Motley Crue, UFO, Thin Lizzy, Gary Moore, Pat Benatar, Judas Priest, Iron Maiden
"Five tunes of greatly missed, melodic hard rock played by humans and filled with tasty guitar and aggressively powerful, yet understandable female vocals musically loaded with headbanging riffs that 80's metal fans hunger for and vocals that even the most

discriminating of metal fans would eat up."
SLEAZE ROXX writer John Stoney Cannon.

Band Line Up:
Donna Milikin – Lead Vocals
Andrew Milikin - Lead Guitars and Backing Vocals
Richard Hudson - Drums
Devin French - Bass

CD Track Listing:
1. Without You
2. Lost Son
3. Give It All You Got
4. Run For Your Life
5. I Want Out

BONA LISA, are a female fronted hard rock/heavy metal quintet from South Carolina. They have a new five track EP out now called 'Give It All You Got' which runs in at just over twenty minutes long and is the band's debut release. It is Sunday morning in Columbia, South Carolina, USA, in the suburbs where singer Donna Milikin and guitarist Andrew Milikin live. The open umbrella shades them both from the mid-morning sun which shines brightly on the elevated deck. Even in the shade, it is already a sweltering ninety-five degrees Fahrenheit. Presently, tropical storm 'Isaias' spins far away from the Carolinas' coastline which promises heavy winds and rain later in

the week. The smell of freshly brewed coffee is in the air. It is a beautiful Carolina day. Andrew won a Black Sabbath album from the radio station 'WNOX' in Knoxville, Tennessee, when he was twelve years old, and little did he know that this would start a chain reaction that would set his life on a musical roller coaster ride. Donna is the eldest of six girls in her family, and her mother ran a babysitting service for a lot of single parents.



"We always had a house full of kids. We had to find ways to entertain ourselves. My cousin and I were pre-teens and would do little 'talent shows' to entertain our 'captive' audience," she tells me. The youngsters would both use a hairbrush as a stand in for a microphone and her Dad's flashlight as their spotlight and they would both dress up in long dresses and make up and really doll-up for the shows. "The smaller kids loved it," she smiles at the memory. Donna

also enjoyed playing her parent's radio in their bedroom to listen to all the new rock songs as they came out to stay current. "I really took a huge interest in guitar due to my Uncle as he played Led Zeppelin's 'Stairway to Heaven' all the time and would show me the chords and such whenever we would visit. I guess when I was around thirteen or fourteen years old, he gave me his twelve-string Ibanez acoustic guitar and his gold music book of all the Led Zeppelin songs. From that day forward, music has always been in my life," she expresses. The songs on 'Give It All You Got' are some of the best songs that Andrew has written to date.



"Blood, sweat and gigs paid for this recording to come to life. I am happy that these songs are now on record. I am leaving something behind, a footprint in music, that I was here," he enthuses. The difference between the new release and Bona Lisa's previous release is that this time the band

wanted a more polished and produced sound. They took their time to lay down their tracks, and they would let them marinate. "They would then be reviewed with fresh ears until we were happy with the results. Our first release was recorded, mixed, and mastered in a much quicker time frame and on a smaller budget. As an aside, we have subsequently re-mixed and re-mastered our first CD with the same sound and style as our new CD and plan to re-release it at a later date," he explains to me.

Andrew's musical inspirations are the Scorpions, Michael Schenker, Led Zeppelin, Mötley Crüe, and Gary Moore. "My lyrical inspiration came from good and bad relationships and real-life situations. I just take all my influences and put them in the 'rock and roll blender', and this is what comes out," he expresses. Donna fell in love with Led Zeppelin first, because of the guitar. "I would also have to include Aerosmith, AC/DC, Kiss, Van Halen, and Alice Cooper, as these are my earliest experiences of live concerts," she points out. "I also must add my love of the voices of Sass Jordan, Pat Benatar, Ann Wilson, Paul Rodgers, Glenn Hughes, Robin McAuley,

Geoff Tate, Klaus Meine and David Coverdale which have all moulded my musical tastes to date." When he is not writing or performing, Andrew loves the outdoors.



"I particularly love the mountains. I grew up at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, kind of a counter - balance to the loud life - style. I also have a passion for growing and cooking chili peppers and especially ghost peppers," he tells me. Donna enjoys painting all sorts of styles which she sells at the band's live shows. "I also love to travel, cook, grow herbs, and enjoy doing arts and crafts," she adds. Andrew has no pretence about what he does, and he is a student and historian of all things rock. "I don't feel the need to keep up with current trends. I play and write about what I like to hear and hope there are likeminded people out

there that feel the same as I do," he says with spirit. "It's not a race or athletic event, it's entertainment. I think most musicians feel that way. I am not chasing a brass ring. I'm following my muse wherever it leads me." Andrew is of Irish decent, so the song 'Lost Son' is special to him because he wanted a song with his Father and his Father mentioned in it and how Andrew felt about his heritage. "I particularly wanted to add an intro to 'Lost Son' with uilleann pipes to set the mood for the track. I hired local traditional Irish pipe player, Bruce Nuelken, to lend some authenticity to the piece," he points out. Well this and last year did not exactly get off to a great start for the band as far as gigs go which have been few and far between for the band. "We did play outdoors with our new rhythm section. and it made an impact on us and the audience; a promise of great shows to come. We did several radio interviews, and a podcast we are currently featured on several large publications, magazines, webzines, and enjoy regular rotation on several radio stations locally and abroad," he explains to me. "We want to build up our fanbase and reach as many people

as possible. I think that hard rock is still a force in Germany, the U.K. and other European countries and we want to play, as performing is the life blood that keeps us going.



The Pandemic has made it a real challenge to get our music out there with all the music venues and live shows cancelled. Bona Lisa thrives on live performances. We are hopeful that our absence will encourage music lovers to appreciate, embrace and support us when we are performing live shows again. Until then, we are doing what we can to keep our band morale up, promote our music in other ways, and be productive during this down-time, and we want to wish everyone well and to be safe at these times." 'Give It All You Got' was recorded at 'Sugar Recording' located in Lexington, South Carolina, U.S.A., and it was produced by Donnie Scarce and Mastered by Dave Harris of 'Studio B Mastering' in Charlotte,

NC, U.S.A. The recording process was not rushed, and the band took their time until they were happy with everything which was worked on over a three-month period. For now, the band are waiting and sitting tight to see how everything pans out with this 'pandemic' situation. "In the meantime continue to work on new material. And we hope to find new ways to reach a broader audience that appreciates our music," concludes Andrew, bringing an end to our conversation. 'Give It All You Got' is available on all digital formats and streaming services, and on physical CD.

Check Bona Lisa out at <https://www.bonalisa.rocks>
<https://www.facebook.com/bona.lisa.18>
<https://www.instagram.com/bona.lisa.18>
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