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GENEVA JACUZZI, A FASHION DISASTER?



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Geneva Garvin comes from Los Angeles. She is a songwriter, a musician and a visual artist. She plays bedroom synthpop music, turns herself into theatrical stage personas and produces eighties-style video art. Her both sexy and disturbed clothing style makes her look like Kate Bush transformed into a witch. It caught our attention, thus we met Geneva Jacuzzi and took some pictures of her before her Parisian gig.





You worked with the genius Costume Designer – Seth Pratt (Grimes, Brooke Candy, Azealia Banks, Naomi Campbell...). How did you meet each other?

I've known **SETH PRATT** before Seth Pratt was Seth Pratt, hello...(laughs) I'm very resourceful, if I see an opportunity I'll take it and maximise it to its ultimate... Seth Pratt was my roommate. I told him I had a **VICE MAGAZINE SHOOT**, and asked him to work with me. I gave him such a small budget, and he said "We're going to make the whole thing out of paper, because that's actually all that we can afford," and I thought that's genius. I love Seth so much. He's really smart, and he's been doing costumes for Brooke Candy, who was also my roommate at the time too.

Do you like wearing costumes?

No I don't... actually I hate the costumes because I don't know how to sew, and my least favourite thing about the show is to figure out what I'm going to wear, and I wish I could just be myself but I'm not at the point where I can be myself yet, I'm still immature, I'm still retarded to the point where I can't just be Geneva Garvin on stage, I have to come off as some other character. For me to be myself on stage doesn't make any sense, Geneva Garvin is just a normal person who wants love, life, likes to drink coffee in the morning. The person on stage is a maniac, an alter ego, and needs a costume, its own mask, a complete transformation.

What are the main themes of your songs?

It's like a mythology. I mythologize as self, not just me, an ego, a person, because a person is made up of all these characteristics, of all these gods, dramas and conflicts, and all the songs are characters of Geneva Jacuzzi, so it's less straightforward as I even don't know how to communicate in a straightforward way, it's Geneva Jacuzzi, not me.

Do you really sell dirty pants?

Well it was a promotional joke/idea. I sold a few pairs. To me, the funniest part of the whole thing was, when you go to the **PAYPAL** click page, you could click "one-day soiled" for one price, "two-day soiled", "three-day soiled" for another price. The longer I wear them, the more money it is, I just thought that was hilarious. The people that bought them always bought the three-day soiled. It was \$150-200 for a pair of shitty underwear that I wore. All my fans are weirdos, a lot of them have mental problems, and actually I'm one of the few artists that gets all these e-mails from people opening their heart to me and asking me for advice, and so many people come to me.

You met Boy George. What was he like?

Amazing. It was an accident; I was in Brussels, it was after a show and he played at the same venue but on the bigger stage. I'm in this mime costume... I'm upset, because I got to this point on tour where I lost all my magic, and I was just wanting to get my food and I walk in and there's Boy George just sitting there, just him and his manager alone in this big room and he said "Oh don't you look amazing doll! Come join us for dinner!" and I thought "Holy fuck! This is **BOY GEORGE!**" I realised that after I had sat down I didn't have a fork and I had salmon with mashed potatoes, but I was just too nervous to just get up and leave the table that I just started eating the mashed potatoes, these smushy potatoes with my hands, and the salmon, and he said "Oh you don't know who this person is? You don't know who Amy Winehouse is?" and I thought "I live in a cave! I'm sorry!" and he said "Oh my god, how do you not know who this person is!?" I couldn't bond with him on anything but he was really sweet, very polite and very nice. He was really cool.

What are your projects for 2014 ?

I have a new record that I'm putting out, probably when I get back on tour. I have a weird method of recording where I go into a cave for a week, no



recording where I go into a cave for a week, no sunlight, no nothing, with music equipment or video equipment, whatever it is I have, and then I just go crazy and write a bunch of songs and a make bunch of videos. I've been working on videos for other artists too so I'm going to finish them. When I get back there's a whole vault of music and videos that are probably going to be released in the next six months, so it will be a lot of releasing, so I'm excited about today.

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Photos by **ELODIE DAGUIN**



How would you describe your live shows?

It's always a train wreck. It's the most sincere thing ever, but it's pretentious at the same time if that makes any sense. It's like me in a moment of panic in technical difficulty trying to pull from all of the sources I know in my mind, how to deal with a situation. I know I'm a narcissist, that was how I was born, that's before I became a teenager, I was taught by my parents Freudian reasons to be a narcissist, and I'm OK with that but I ultimately don't know what to do.

How important do you think improvisation is?

I have to go 50/50, I think I have an idea of what I want, and I know that what I'm going to get is unexpected and I never know what the people, the night are going to be like, I never know who I'm going to meet and I have no choice, improvisation forces itself on me.

What did you study?

That's funny, I don't have a degree in anything, I'm the most uneducated person in the world probably, no high school, no school, no elementary, no nothing.

I come from a very extreme religious background. My mother's weird; I went to nine schools before the 9th grade, so I had no lifelong friends. I went on for "home-schooling" which is where your parents are supposed to teach you and you're supposed to have this curriculum but I basically started working jobs at the age of 15. In the States you can take a test to show that you know all of the basics, then you can get your diploma. I did it. When I was 16 I went to cosmetology school, because my mother's a hairdresser. So I did hair for a few years in Bel Air - the very rich part of Los Angeles - and I did Britney Spears and Charlie Sheen and all these celebrities and then I quit that job. But once I started doing music it took over my world; all of a sudden I found something I became obsessed with, and I no longer was able to play that game.



