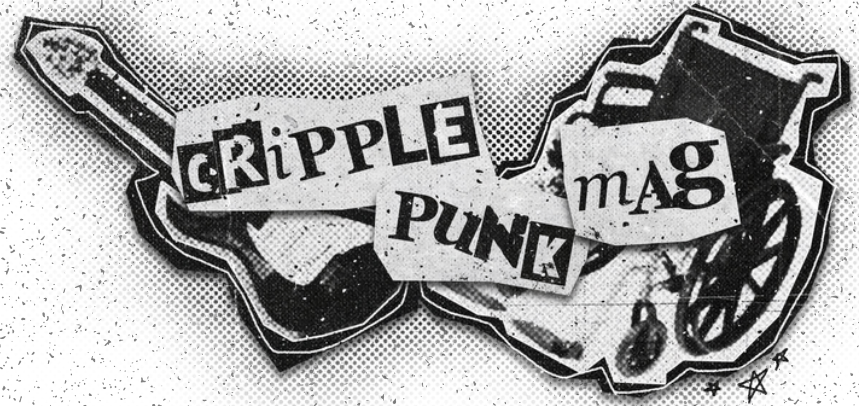


**"I WOULD LIKE TO BRING MORE  
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THEM TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE LOVED  
AND THEY ARE WELCOME AT  
WINTERWOLF SHOWS."**

**-JEY OF WINTERWOLF**

**@FIERCE\_INVALIDS  
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**ACCESSIBILITY IN LOCAL MUSIC**



**INTERVIEW WITH PUNK  
AFRO-SURREALISTS  
WINTERWOLF**

**JULY/AUGUST 2022**

**THIS IS ISSUE 1 OF CRIPPLE PUNK MAG. HERE WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT MUSIC, ACCESSIBILITY AND HOW WE CAN MAKE THE LOCAL SCENE OPEN TO EVERYONE.**

**WANT TO SUBMIT SOMETHING? EMAIL MERLIN.SABAL13@GMAIL.COM. SHOW REVIEWS, ACCESSIBILITY RATINGS FOR VENUES, OTHER RESOURCES, BANDS TO CHECK OUT ESPECIALLY LOCAL DISABLED MUSICIANS) ART, YOU NAME IT.**



**LOGO COURTESY OF : @PARTIALLYPOISON**



### **WINTERWOLF - JULY 2022 -NYC**

Tony Syxx- vocals  
“Jey” Jehiel Winters- bass  
Nate Harris- drums

Latest Release: Unwell on Academic Punk Records  
Recommended Tracks: Creep, Blue Lights  
@winterwolfnyc

Winter Wolf is a 3 piece band from Harlem, Brooklyn and Jersey City. Their music is often described as punk/hardcore, but its textured and complicated by the rhythm, gospel and blues influences that Tony, Nate, and Jey grew up with. Their shows are high energy, full of both joy, fury and chaos. Tony started off their most recent show at Punk Island 2022 by shattering two tambourines against each other before breaking into a furious vocal performance.

**THEY GENEROUSLY SAT DOWN WITH ME TO TALK ABOUT MUSIC, ACCESSIBILITY, AND WHAT THE LOCAL NY PUNK SCENE IS LIKE SINCE COVID, AND EVEN OVER A ZOOM CALL ON A WEEKNIGHT, THEY ARE WARM, CHARISMATIC AND WONDERFULLY EFFUSIVE. I TOOK MY WHEELCHAIR TO PUNK ISLAND AND FELT VERY WELCOME AT THEIR SHOW, AND I WILL DEFINITELY BE TRYING TO CATCH THEM IN THE FUTURE**

**MERLIN:**  
**SO FIRST OF ALL, HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MUSIC?**

**NATE:**  
Okay. Well I describe music, I'd call it maybe like, like soulful punk, afro-surrealism, cuz, we're heavily influenced by Jordan Peel's work and a lot of what Daniel Glover has done on Atlanta. If you've ever seen that show, if you haven't please go watch it. It's amazing. They use a lot of just Black trauma and also just anything that has to do with black people. They add a form of myth, a mythos, and mysticism to it. And then for us, we just add mostly just horror. We've been adding horror, but we've also been adding a lot of other different sort of like contextual things to it. And we wanna definitely continue to do more. So Afro surrealism would be, was pretty much a way for us to describe it; but we were like Harlem rhythm punk for the longest time.

**MERLIN:**  
**HOW HAS THE SCENE CHANGED SINCE COVID?**

**JEY:**  
That is a good question. That's a great question. Has the scene changed much since COVID I don't, I've been going to shows lately. I don't know. <Laugh> I've been seeing more mask wearing, right? Yeah. Or masking people. People taking care of each other, but that's always been in the scene here people, quarantine people, a lot of quarantine people go in quarantine when, when they find out they're sick or they have COVID they try to stay away. I would say. I dunno, but the ethos is still there. The punk ethos is still, you know, there,

**TONY:**  
What I've noticed is that I've noticed that the crowd of the people that used to frequent certain venues now have returned, it's a bit of more gratitude, you know, gratitude for just shows being here because during the pandemic, a lot of shows weren't happening if not none

**TONY:**

Besides Rebelmatic at the, you know, the popup shows, most venues got shut down. Most venues that we love dearly. We used to frequent them prior to the pandemic. So when you go 12 months or however, 10 months without that, and then it opens up again gradually, it's like, wow, you never realize what you have until it's gone. You know, just to see people that you haven't seen this so long, it's like, yeah. Trying to take life seriously, cuz you know, it all just like that it could be gone. So I would say more gratitude at these shows.

**NATE:**

And definitely a lot more-There's definitely been a lot more shows where it hasn't been like one niche thing. Like I've seen promoters and bookers take a lot of risk with who they book, who they put on bills like from before. It was very rare to see like hardcore bands with scrams and vice versa. And now because there have been such like an influx of shows, they're just adding whoever and I absolutely love it.

And we've been getting a lot of just love from different different scenes. Cause we pretty much played like we played with hip hop groups. We played with emo groups. We played with a whole bunch of different people. So, and I, yeah. And personally I like seeing mixed bag shows like that.

**MERLIN:**

**GETTING INTO THE MAIN TOPIC, WHAT IS ANY OF Y'ALL'S BACKGROUND WITH DISABILITY OR ACCESS ISSUES, FOR YOURSELVES OR FAMILY OR FRIENDS**

**JEY:**

I've called myself, like, immunocompromised. I had, well, I do, I'm in remission right now. Cancer. I have a bone marrow cancer. So I, I try and take, you know, some precautions when going to shows.

**MERLIN:**

I'm glad you're in remission. Congrats.

**NATE:**

Thank you.

**MERLIN:**

What about Y'all?

**NATE:**

I don't, I don't have any disability or anything, but a couple of our other friends who have like- who's autistic and some [people in other bands we know] are going through other different disabilities, you know, it hasn't stopped them from being great people and incredible musicians.

**JEY:**

Exactly. Yeah.

**TONY:**

Mm-Hmm well, I don't know if you call social anxiety a disability, so I don't wanna discredit any <laugh>. Yeah. I can't speak for everybody, but I can say that it's literally no joke. And some people think that you could go one day into therapy, it'll be over like that. No. For some people, speaking for myself, it takes a very long time to get to the root cause of what causes any type of anxiety or whatever's going on within just to fix it and just, you know, to say, damn, I'm going to be okay or I'm struggling or I'm not okay. That takes a lot. You probably can't talk to, you know, most people in your family, in your inner circle, at your job about it.

So I don't wanna sound preachy, but it's real. And I feel like that's another, getting back to the other questions, I feel like that's another thing that people are more conscious of, you know, is like, if you need help, just say it don't be afraid. You know, I know sometimes it's hard to, you know, channel that inner shadow work, but once you say it and you admit something, you know, take baby steps, then you'll be okay, we're all in this together.

**JEY:**

There's strength in that. Yeah.

**MERLIN:**

Well, thank you so much. Yeah, I really appreciate that. For this interview and in my general work work I'm operating from like the broadest possible definition of disability. And then when we talk about accessibility, it's gonna be with the acknowledgement that accessibility is always changing and has to be fluid and you know, there's not really sort of a one size fits all situation for any person. So, anyway, I would count anxiety as a disability. Cuz it is disabling.

**NATE:**

Ok so have anxiety! <Laughing>

**MERLIN:**

**SO WHAT KINDS OF VENUES DO YOU PLAY? WHAT SIZE AND THEN WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THEM, IF YOU HAD TO GUESS, WERE ANY KIND OF ACCESSIBLE?**

**JEY:**

Right now we're usually playing smaller venues, outdoor venues. Not all I say a small percentage are totally wheelchair accessible, excluding the outdoor venues, all the outdoor venues are wheelchair accessible, but it's the indoor venues that are not, not, wheelchair accessible or accessible to different types of disabilities. Which is I think a big problem, you know?

Cause it's, I wanna welcome all types of people, you know, to our shows and you know, when there's a flight of stairs in the way, it limits it hampers the ability to draw our crowd that I would like to have.

**MERLIN:**

**ARE YOU ABLE AT ALL TO THINK ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY WHEN BOOKING?**

**JEY:**

Not right now. We don't really have those capabilities. I wish we did have that type of pull right now to put it in riders to, to have only, you know, handicapped, accessible facilities and buildings, but we just don't have that type of power right now. Unfortunately. But, when we do, when we do <laugh> when we do!

**NATE:**

But I do like, I do like that question because some of the shows, some of the shows that we do play, like some of the venues, they don't have stairs, it's all like one room and oftentimes you don't really think like, oh, because everything is in one room there's no stairs, you know, we should put it out there, say like, oh yeah, by the way, this is also wheelchair accessible so y'all can just come through as well. So that is a very good like food for thought. Like whenever we announce shows we kind make it known, like, you know, if anyone that's in a wheelchair just it's also accessible for you.

**JEY:**

Also something I wanna keep in mind when we book future venues. Yeah. It's something that absolutely wanna keep in mind

**MERLIN:**

Yeah! For when you're famous.

**TONY:**

Speak that into existence.

**MERLIN:**

**WOULD YOU BE OPEN TO INTEGRATING SOME SMALL ACCESSIBILITY MEASURES AND WHEN YOU PERFORM, LIKE PUTTING UP SIGNS ABOUT STROBES OR JUST PUTTING THE INFO ON FLYERS?**

**JEY:**

Absolutely. Yeah, yeah. That's something actually we can do going forward.

**NATE:**

Actually. It is very interesting you say that cause this the, I, well we play the venue Sultan Room and one of the bands who I had actually found out was an epileptic had to go to the sound person, says no strobes. Unless you want a problem on our hands. So yeah. I feel like it's very important for bands to look out, not just for people who are able bodied, but also who have medical conditions as well.

**MERLIN:**

You guys are doing great by the way, cuz you are answering questions before I get there.

**JEY:**

<Laughing> no, but this is a very interesting topic. I wanna see more, you know, have, more of a disabled crowd. I wanna have a varied community engaged with us and this is something that really interests me.

**MERLIN:**

**HAVE YOU SEEN ANY OTHER REALLY GREAT VENUES THAT REALLY HAVE THEIR SHIT TOGETHER?**

**NATE:**

Yeah, no. Yeah. Certain venues [Like Baby's All Right} do have ramps.

**JEY:**

Not, no, no. The problem is not enough venues have these type of facilities.

**NATE:**

Yeah. And I feel like if they're trying to garner a crowd, they have to be accessible for everybody.

**MERLIN:**

Right. And I mean, the problem is like, you don't think you'll all be able to go, so you don't ever try to go, so you never, so then like nobody ever sees you in the scene and [it feels like there's no place for you].

**JEY:**

There's no representation. Yeah.

**MERLIN:**

**LASTLY, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU WANNA BRING UP EITHER ABOUT THIS OR ABOUT INTERSECTING TOPICS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU ABOUT LOCAL MUSIC?**

**JEY:**

I would like to bring more visibility to my disabled crowd and disabled friends that can't always attend shows or who don't feel like they're included. I want them to know that they are loved and they are welcome at Winter Wolf shows.

And if you ever feel intimidated or feel like you have a specific accessibility problem, just let us know, somehow some way let us know and we will do whatever we can to get you there.

**NATE:**

Yeah. Even if, even if we gotta have like a whole team bring you downstairs.

**JEY:**

Right, right. Yeah. We will do it.

**NATE:**

I've done it before.

**TONY:**

My mother, she came to like three of our shows and she's disabled and Jey and Nate'll tell you, you know, we make sure that she's okay. Yeah. You know that she has a place to sit, even if they don't have seats, we stress to like the venue, like, listen, we need a seat, you know,

**NATE:**

I'll rob somebody for their seats. <Laugh>

**TONY:**

So yeah. So we're not just saying that we really mean it.

**JEY:**

But everyone deserves to be seen, you know? Yeah. Everyone deserves to be seen and felt represented.

**NATE:**

Absolutely. That's the beautiful thing about what we do and you know, our scene in general, we come from just a labor of love for everybody and we want everyone to be represented and we want everyone to have a good time at our shows. Like we don't want anyone to feel outcast or anything. Cause it's about just having a good time and enjoying this post. Cause you're already coming from a stressful environment, stressful world. So, you know, kinda just come through and then, you know, next thing you know, you're all smiles.

**TONY:**

Yeah. We wanted to feel like recess.

**JEY:**

Oh absolutely. Well, you know, people see themselves in us and it's all about communication and just having a good time. Just having fun.

**NATE:**

It's rock, let's rock and roll baby. <All laughing>

**MERLIN:**

**SO I WANNA SAY THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME THE ENERGY AND BEING SO GENUINE AND OPEN. LAST QUESTION IS, IS THERE ANYBODY WHO YOU'RE LISTENING TO RIGHT NOW WHO YOU'RE REALLY INTO?**



**CHECK OUT THE NEW EP FROM WINTERFOLF 'UNWELL'**

**WINTERWOLFNYC.BANDCAMP.COM**





**FROM LEFT: NATE, JEY, TONY**

**NEXT ISSUE:  
TIPS TO MAKE SHOWS MORE ACCESSIBLE  
FOR BANDS AND VENUES,  
VENUE REVIEWS, MUSIC RECS, AND  
PERHAPS SOMETHING FROM YOU, DEAR  
READER!**

