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Behind the Scenes with...

CHRIS DANE OWENS

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Having been a musician since age 13, he's rocked out in bands for years. Now, as a solo artist, he released his first full-length album. He also has one of the hottest music videos right now. Come into the fantasy world of the "Shine Kingdom."



We love your new album.

Where can our readers get it?

Thanks for the support **gendance!** I had a fantastic experience while creating the new album and music video; I can honestly say this has been my most personally gratifying endeavor so far. *Blue Stone* is now available on **iTunes**. You can also get the 2-disc set at www.CDBaby.com.

Visit www.ChrisDaneOwens.com for all the details.



What's your favorite song on the album?

I enjoy "Wicked" the most. Originally, the album was going to be mostly techno-rock jams, so that track reflects the album's origins.

The "Shine On Me" video is so unique in today's pop culture. Any good stories behind it?

That's a tough one; we have so many. They range from: suddenly discovering that our lead actress is allergic to horses, to some really embarrassing costume malfunctions, and of course, the one with me walking around for days in completely water-logged boots because I forgot to get a backup pair. (Our first scene on the production had me sloshing around in deep marsh waters). But it was all good fun!

Sounds like it was. Did you come up with the concept?

I really enjoy sketching, and storyboarding is an essential part of creating a road map towards one's artistic destination. My sketches range from detailed color renderings to basic stick figure interpretations of what I'm envisioning and trying to communicate. Our director, Robert



Short, is a very gifted artist, so between the two of us, we had a blast conceptualizing the "Shine Kingdom".

How'd your music gain popularity on European TV?

I'm really thrilled to say that the video is international. We get emails from countries around the world. We were contacted by a European television network looking for permission to air the music video and do a "behind the scenes" piece on my whole project. I think the segment turned out really well.



Was it a dream to play the role of the "knight in shining armor"?

Absolutely! I dig wearing armor; I'm wearing it right now as a matter of fact... This whole film production was really a great expedition. On a deeper level, I really appreciated how my character, and the overall fantasy landscape, enabled us to express the ideas of romance, magic, chivalry, personal sacrifice, angelic realms, triumph over tyranny, and the spirit of adventure.



Were you adventurous as a kid?

I grew up with motorcycles, and my favorite thing back then was coming home from school, finishing my homework (sometimes) and then riding my bike in the Santa Monica mountain range until the sun went down and it was time for dinner. That was my bliss.



What's next for you?

There will be some live shows, and if the stars align, we'll be doing another two music videos for *Blue Stone*. Also, Robert and I have been working with a gifted fiction writer named Eldon Thompson, on a book trilogy based on the larger story behind the video called "Arra of The Third Kingdom". It's been really great working with these talented guys, in an area I've never ventured into before.

Who inspires you?

I'm a big fan of David Bowie, Michael Jackson and My Chemical Romance. These artists, and the talented people they work with, have produced some truly exhilarating musical and visual pieces in my opinion.

Also, Walt Disney and his remarkable achievements are always a source of inspiration.

What are the three most important qualities performing artists should have?

Believe in what you're doing. Enjoy the journey. Never give up! (And practice, practice, practice.) These seem like enduring principles no matter what a person is undertaking.

What dream do you want to achieve in this lifetime?

In the end, nothing would make me happier than to have a meaningful impact on the lives of others. So this is the course I intend to sail on. Perhaps I'll get lucky.

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Besides music, what do you love?

I'm a movie junky. I admit it...Can't get enough of the stuff. So I'm usually sitting in a big movie theater several times a week. I also really enjoy listening to my iPod out in the world. I play my guitar and piano often. Working out, and spending time with my friends and family is a big part of my life as well.



What's your best advice to next generation singers?

We live in a fantastic time for musicians and artists. There's a revolution at hand. With a laptop computer, people can literally make great records out of their houses. And with the internet, they can reach the world with their messages. I recommend that singers really develop their craft, practice their chops, pray for guidance, and always work with others who encourage the best in you.

Last but not least, what's on your holiday wish list?

That's easy; world peace, the end of starvation, and of course Heaven on Earth.

Thank you, Chris, for bringing our readers into your world of fantasy & imagination. Don't forget to check out his music at ChrisDaneOwens.com, and may all our "lady readers" fall in love with your handsome-ness in the vid, as we did. So, in that case, watch his vid now... with romance and knights in shining armor.



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