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# C'est La Vie

that's life !

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# THE EraserHeAds

## FOOL BLAST!!

Interview by: elisa p. perez and Totel V. de Jesus

What do Mongols and Parker Pen have in common?

They are both means of transferring your brain's ek-ek on paper. But what if there's something wrong? You want to replace what is already a printed, buried ink. The

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Photos by: Liziel A. ORCAJO

LaYout , GraPHIX by: tOni M. berNaL

# EraseRHeads

PHOTOS BY: AARON FAVILA & LIZIEL A. ORCAJO

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mongols have a rubber on its tip. Parker pen would need a bottle of liquid paper. Both have erasers. Both are essential to life. Our lives.

For almost an hour, we threw questions to the group who's responsible for erasing the conventional patterned pop music scene, imprinting in young Filipino's mind the spirit of free thinking, camaraderie, spontaneity, responsible restlessness and how to take life not so seriously.

The band is so popular we feel like we need not write that Ely Buendia is on vocals and rhythm guitar, Marcus Adoro is on lead, on the bass is Buddy Zabala and on drums is Raymund Marasigan.

Also, it would be so redundant to remind everybody that their albums (Ultraelectromagnetic Pop, Circus, Cutterpillow) have reached the multi mega-platinum marks in sales. And forgive us if we include that they are the yardstick which other bands measure success.

Let's listen to the wit and philosophy and whatever of the band who never runs out of songs that keep on making the whole nation smile, laugh, cry, dance and yes, sing.

Q: Why Eraserheads?
Ely: Always the first question.
Buddy: How na lang.
Q: Okay, how come the Eraserheads?
Ely: Pare paki-sagot nga. It was so long ago that I forgot how we came up with a name.
Buddy: It's just a name.
Q: What's in a name anyway?
Ely: Nothing
Q: Paano kayo nagsama-sama as a band?
Raymund: Dormers!
Ely: Dormates sa UP. Yun.
Q: How were you discovered?
Raymund: We weren't.
Marcus: Meron kaming ginawang demo tape sa UP na nag-circulate sa friends.
Ely: After that, we were accepted sa Dredd. One year kaming nagse-set d'on. Tapos marami ng nakarinig ng demo tape. Tapos one of those people na nakarinig ng demo tape was the BMG people. To make a long story short, sinayn-up nila kami.
Q: When was that?
Marcus: 1990 yata.
Q: How about Prof. Banlaouy? Banlaoi? Is he a fictional character?
Ely: Ahhmm. Marcus?

Marcus: Oo, fictional character.
Q: Hindi ba s'ya yung naka-discover sa inyo?
Ely: (laughs) No, there's a lot of people who helped us along the way. Like Robbie (Sunico) and Patrick (Reidenbach) of Dredd.
Marcus: Mga orgs sa UP na pinatugtog kami. Mountaineers, mga ganu'n. Fine Arts.
Q: When you were starting, ano 'yung mga difficulties na na-encounter n'yo?
Buddy: Major difficulty namin 'yung cash flow.
Marcus: Kasi, una wala ka nang mabiling equipment, wala ka pang pambili. N'ong 1989-90 'yun. Hiram-hiram, gano'n. Sa mga kaibigan.
Raymund: May mga concert no'n na hiraman lang ang mga banda sa equipment. Tulad last month, may in-attend-an akong concert. Mga sampung drumsets y'ong dinala doon, kasi marami nang equipment ngayon na available, eh. Noong kami noon, limang tao ang gagamit ng gitara nong ka-dorm namin.
Q: Sino 'yung closest band na halos kasabay n'yo na nahihiraman?
Raymund: Ang dami-dami eh.
Buddy: Alamid. Athena's Curse pa sila no'n. Color It Red.
Raymund: The Youth.
Ely: 'Yun. Sila talaga 'yung kasabay namin no'n. As in kasabay. Gigs namin sa Dredd, Tuesday night people kami noon eh.
Raymund: Lahat ng nasa lumang Dredd. Pag kulang ang tumutugtog, pati myembro, hiraman na rin. So ganu'n.
Q: You've been in the business for seven years, what would you consider your most trying moments?
Buddy: We were? We have?
Ely: Seven years? O, seven years na pala tayo. (laughs) Hindi naman. In the business, we were a professional band a little later than four years.
Buddy: Kasi 'yung mga gigs naman no'n eh, once a month lang. Once every two months. Far and away eh. Depende sa season. Pag walang pasok, walang tugtugan kasi nasa probinsya kami.
Q: For four years, what would you consider as your most unproductive moments?
Ely: Uproductive? (giggles)
Q: Meron ba?
Raymund: Siguro 'yung mga first two, three years kasi ...
Ely: Eversince naman, nag-start kami, we've always been productive. (laughs) We never stop working, actually. Ewan ko. We would like to be unproductive for a while pero ... we can't.
Q: How would you describe your music?
Raymund: Filipino music!
Ely: Pop hybrid. According to Fidel Ramos. It's a combination of different influences like jazz, punk, rock, soul ...
Raymund: You can hardly call that a type of music kasi wala namang banda na isang group of influences lang.
Q: Before you were doing songs by The Cure?
Ely: Yeah, we've always been.
Buddy: Hanggang ngayon.
Q: So who do you consider your major musical influences?
Raymund: Ang dami-dami.
Q: Can you just name a few? Who do you look up to?
Raymund: Madami, talaga eh.
Q: Individual na lang. Ikaw (to Raymund), sa drums.
Raymund: Ako? Chad Smith (giggles).
Ely: Sino?
Buddy: The guy with the VHS ano.
Q: Ikaw (to Buddy) sa bass?
Buddy: Actually si George Benson. Pero hindi s'ya bahista eh. Hindi mo kilala si George Benson? (to Totel)
Q: Singer?
Buddy: Siya rin yun. Nag-gigitara rin s'ya.
Q: How about you? (to Marcus)
Marcus: Freddie Krugger. Yung hindi nagpi-pick.
Buddy: Oo, wala s'yang pick.
Q: Ikaw Ely? Sa pagkanta mo? Sino ba 'yung Curt Smith?
Ely: Curt Smith? Meron ba non?
Marcus: Baka Kirk Hammet.
Ely: What made you ask that? (to Totel)
Q: Nakita ko sa album n'yo? (confused)
Ely: Baka Robert Smith?
Q: Oo, yon. At tsaka Kurt Cobain. Pinagsama ko.
Ely: Anong pangalan no'ng nasa Tears For Fears?
Buddy: Roeland Orzabal and ...
Ely: Curt Smith
Q: How about sa pagko-compose?
Ely: A, madami. Paul Simon. Syempre Lennon and MacCartney. And Harrison and Starr. Si Chopin (laughs). Hanep no?
Q: How did you all feel when you're compared to Beatles?
Ely: 'Yun, flattering, pero at the same time nakaka ...
Marcus: Gutom.
Ely:(giggles) Nakakatakot, kasi maraming expectations to the point na nakaka-annoy. Much as I like the Beatles syempre ... tama na yun, di ba? Hindi naman kami ganun ka ...
Buddy: Beatles
Ely: Unlike Oasis na halos every song eh ganun. I can say na yung mga songs namin eh ... they do not sound at all like the Beatles. We try to emulate the way they write their songs, the way they project themselves, 'yun lang. Hindi namin sila ginagaya talaga.
Q: How long do you compose a song?
Ely: I can write a song siguro as fast as five minutes. Or it can take years. Depende sa song, sa gising mo sa umaga. Depende sa inspirasyon na nakuha mo for writing the song. There are songs na you can finish in one day lang and there are songs na one year. Yun. Depende.
Q: Like Huling El Bimbo.
Ely: Ah y'on, madali lang y'on.
Q: May inspiration ka ba don?
Ely: Oo, kasi, I was talking about the pop culture noong pinaglakihan ko in the provinces, n'ong seventies. Yong mga sayaw-sayawan no'n. Yung mga El Bimbo.
Raymund: Bayle
Ely: Bayle (laughs). Yun ang mga kinikwento ko n'on. Pero madali lang gawin yun [illegible]
Q: Pero, totoong nauna ang El Bimbo [illegible] slamdancing?
Marcus: Oo naman!
Q: Sabi ko na nga ba, totoo 'yun eh.
Marcus: Kasi no'ng pinanganak ako 1971. Para sa akin nauna yun ha? Kasi grade two pa lang eh nag El Bimbo na ako. Tapos no'ng high school eh, slam dancing na! So, nauna 'yung El Bimbo, para sa akin ha? 1978 lang yung slamdancing eh. Kahit sa US, nauna pa rin yung El Bimbo.
Q: Every single n'yo eh naghi-hit. What is it about your song na people love?
Ely: Ewan ko, judging from the feedbacks na nakukuha namin sa mga fans, well una, natutuwa raw sila sa lyrics, yung melody daw, catchy, yun.
Q: How about rivalry? Minsan nako-compare kayo sa AfterImage, RiverMaya at Introvoys.
Ely:-----
Marcus:-----
Raymund:------
Buddy: ------
Q: Describe na lang these bands.
Ely: Describe? Bakit hindi n'yo pa ba sila nakikita?
Q: AfterImage?
Ely: AfterImage, mas mahahaba ang buhok.
Q: In terms of music?
Ely: Si Wency, trip n'ya 'yong mga ulan, araw, mga panahon (giggles). Very majestic yung ano n'ya, style. Pang-pelikula. Pang epic scale. Sa RiverMaya, very good compositons. Very good songs. Si Rico Blanco, he's a very, very good songwriter. Nagustuhan ko 'yung bagong album nila. Ano pa yong isa?
Q: Introvoys.
Ely: May sarili silang style.
Q: How about Electric Sky Church?
Ely: Sino nga ba 'yon?
Raymund: Yung mga bata.
Ely: Siya, madalas siyang manood no'n.(pointing

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to Raymund)
Raymund: Ako, gusto ko sila.
Ely: Ah, yung mga bata na death! Oo, ang galing no'n.
Marcus: Pero matagal pa silang mamatay, mga bata pa sila eh.
Q: What do you consider your most unforgettable songs? Individually, yung pinaka-gusto n'yo.
Raymund: "Magasin".
Q: Why?
Raymund: Wala, gusto ko lang siya.
Buddy: (laughs) Why, give them an idea.
Raymund: Naaalala ko yong kulay ng drum set eh.
Buddy: Ano ba'ng kulay?
Raymund: Green!
Ely: Ako, hindi ko makalimutan yung "Shirley".
Q: Why?
Ely: First feedback na ginawa natin sa studio (giggles). Di ba nag-live tayo? Sabay-sabay 'yung gitara. Napaka- exciting ang recording no'n, kasi first time.
Buddy: Ako, "Pare Ko".
Ely: (guffaws)
Buddy: The controversial kickdrums.
Q: Who composed that?

Buddy: The controversial kickdrums composer. Hindi, loko lang.

Si Ely.
Q: How about you?
Marcus: Ako? "Ligaya" (everybody laughs).
Chorus: Ha?
Marcus: Ako kasi ang nag-mix no'n.
Q: Tips para sa mga upcoming bands.
Raymund: Last week pumunta ako sa battle of the bands. Parang kailangan kasing galing mo yung mga foreign e para ma-consider ka as magaling. Pero mas elibs pa ako don sa mga gumagawa ng komposisyon nila . Hindi nga ganon kaganda pero yun na yung simula non eh. The fact na sinubukan mo mas okay, hindi ka na mangongopya lang, yung hindi ka papalakpakan dahil nakapag Rage Against The Machine ka or Pearl Jam. Not that we hate those bands. In fact we love those bands. Pero, kung ikaw yung artist, gawin mo talaga yung art mo, di ba?
Q: What is you final message sa lahat ng fans nyo?
Buddy: Wala. Amm, part ng personal success ng isang tao eh yung masaya ka. Yun lang naman. If you don't like what you're doing, if you feel like napipilitan ka lang huwag mo nang ituloy, madi- disappoint ka lang.
Raymund: Yun lang naman.
Q: Eto kahit hindi nyo sagutin, gagawa ba kayo ng kanta tungkol sa langaw?
Buddy: Langaw?
Ely: Why, do you have something philosophical about langaw?
Q: No, kasi di ba you get inspirations from the environment when you compose?
Buddy: Ah off-hand lang.
Ely: Eh sinabi mo na eh, di hindi na ako gagawa (giggles).
Pero bakit langaw? Marami ring ipis sa Pilipinas. Marami kang pwedeng gawin. Basura.
Marcus: Dahon. Ayun o.
Q: Message na lang?
Marcus: Merry Christmas!
Ely: Take care. God bless.