

Mankind is Obsolete

by badgirl

Whenever I am presented with the opportunity to review a band, my first task is to grab a copy of their latest CD and stick my head between the speakers. If I make it through the entire CD, it is a safe bet that I am going to write a good review. That is just what happened with **MANKIND IS OBSOLETE**, also known as **MKIO**. Whatever you groove to, you are certain to enjoy *Mankind is Obsolete*.

Mankind Is Obsolete was birthed into existence by its parents **Jon Siren** (drums, keys, programming) and **Natasha Cox** (vocals) in Los Angeles in the fall of 2002. Natasha and Jon laid the groundwork for *Mankind Is Obsolete*, which helped pave the foundation for success. They were soon joined by **Mark Nurre** (guitar), **Gordon Bash** (bass), and they recently added **Brian DiDomenico** (keyboards).

MKIO released a full-length CD, *Rise*, in June of 2005. Prior to this, the band released their debut CD, a six-song EP entitled *Metamorph*, in August of 2003, selling as many copies overseas as in the US, igniting a loyal fan-base and receiving excellent feedback from their buyers worldwide.

MKIO performed two self-promoted-and-sponsored tours in 2004. The first covered the Southwest US, and the second took the band through California, the Pacific Northwest, and New Mexico. They have played venues such as The Key Club, the El Rey Theatre and the Venture Theatre, opening for big-name bands such as *KMFDM*, *Pigface* and *Collide*.

The band has also released a video for "The Rapture" and is currently putting the finishing touches on a new video for "Still Right Here," which is expected to be released early January 2006. The band has a flair for deep, passionate lyrics.

Natascha Cox (lead vocalist) began her musical adventure as a classical pianist but took a detour to pursue a heavier style of music. As a self-proclaimed computer geek, Natascha started out as the band's keyboardist and programmer until it was decided that she should take center stage as lead vocalist. Jon Siren (drums, keys, programming) relocated to L.A. from Columbus, Ohio, to join the legendary So-Cal industrial group *Hate Dept*. Jon, who was recently voted "personality of the week" with *Underground Press*, says, "The best thing about band life is performing for people and meeting people that connect with our music." If you look at the band's website and myspace account, you can certainly sense a big interest in connecting musically with their listeners.

Mankind Is Obsolete's sound spans the musical spectrum of indie to synth-infused rock. Their collective musical influences help to imbue a

rare sound with expressive and melodic rhythms. Musical influences for *MKIO* include *Nine Inch Nails*, *Marilyn Manson*, *David Bowie*, *Depeche Mode*, *Neurosis*, *Iron Maiden*, *Judas Priest*, *WASP*, *Otep*, *The Beatles*, *Eminem*, *The Ramones*, *The Misfits*, *Skinny Puppy*, *Ministry*, *KMFDM*, *Portishead*, *Atari Teenage Riot*, *Siouxsie and the Banshees*, *Joy Division*, *Interpol*, and *The Dresden Dolls*, just to name a few.

The vocals for *MKIO* certainly augment the band's unique sound. Their musical approach is reminiscent of rave-band-meets-metal-meets-industrial-rock: a sound to which you can both dance and headbang. *MKIO* are sure to be a "don't miss" live performance.

The band's drive and passion is to create songs that are reflective of observations and stories from around the world. *MKIO* strive to create music with conviction and intensity and to connect with their listeners.

If you like music that takes you from one spectrum of emotion and then jolts you into the next, then I recommend you check out *Mankind Is Obsolete*. I believe I even detected a hint of classical influence in some of the heavier tunes.

MKIO's website is interactive. You can see past reviews and pictures, you can be linked to their live-journal and myspace forums, and you can vote for your favorite *MKIO* song. Before I go, I'll leave you with some lyrics from my favorite *MKIO* song:

Smile in the Dark
Alone I'm standing here
With the thoughts I've grown so used to
The faces in the air that remind me of my home
The trails of letting go,
Softly drifting further,
Hear a smile in the dark
And I realize it's my own
—"Smile in the Dark"

For more information, music samples and pictures of the band, please visit:

www.myspace.com/mankindisobsolete,
www.mkio.com, or send mail to
contact@mkio.com.

