



INK VASION

A Tattoo Lifestyle Magazine

Winter 2025 Issue #5

Plus
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More Artist!
More Conventions!

INTERVIEW

**CARBONSTONE:
UNAPOLOGETICALLY
THEMSELVES, LOUD AND
PROUD!**





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**CARBONSTONE:
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PROUD!**

Interviewed by Chris Potts

BETH STARNER
Photography

Get ready to turn up the volume and immerse yourself in the unapologetic sound of CarbonStone, the industrial alternative metal band that's been making waves in the music scene. With their unique blend of heavy riffs, pounding drums, and soaring vocals, CarbonStone is a force to be reckoned with. But it's not just their music that's got people talking - it's their unbridled energy, their passion for self-expression, and their commitment to being true to themselves, no matter what. We sat down with the band to talk about their latest projects, their inspirations, and what drives them to keep pushing the boundaries of their music and their art. From the tattoos that adorn their skin to the stories behind their songs, CarbonStone is a band that wears their hearts on their sleeves - and we're excited to share their story with you.

Chris Potts (CP): Everyone Please Introduce yourselves.

Steve: Guitars, Ted: Drums, Corey: Vocals, Eric D.: Bass

CP: Thank you! I appreciate you for letting us come in here and talk to you people. First of all, what I think the general public of our magazine, there are a lot of tattoo-related people, I guess what they would like to know is how long have you been doing this and where are you all from?

Corey D.: So, we are from all over the place. Two are from Pennsylvania, the Westminister/Baltimore area, alright, and the other guitarist is from Alabama. He is not here today. We made this work somehow.

CP: What kind of music would you say you are into? Is it rock, or heavy metal?

Corey D.: I am pretty much into everything. Our sound is industrial alternative metal or classified

as new metal as well. That is basically the sound.

CP: What new things are coming that you are very excited about? That you can let us into?

Corey D.: There is a whole bunch of stuff. When is this going to air?

CP: This will be in the magazine.

Corey D.: Friday, I will be flying out with my wife, Crystal, to go to Oregon to track vocals with Johnny Santos from the band Spine Chick. He is already working with us on a collab effort for some of our stuff. But he will co-produce some of our songs. This will be this Friday, which will be crazy, and then in July, we will play in the Incarceration Festival in Ohio. Those are some of the pretty big things in the pipeline that we have not announced yet.

CP: I know that man very well, Mike Gilbreath, he's a very good dude.

Corey D: Awesome!

Ted and Corey D: Show January 25th Classic Brewery.

CP: Where is that at?

Corey D.: Stevensville, MD. We have never been there. It's a new venue.

CP: Ok.

Corey: We will be with our friends, Odd/Even and Silver Tongue.

Eric and Corey: We like playing breweries.

Eric: It works out great for us.

Ted: It's all about the beer.

CP: So, are you saying they give you free alcohol?

All: Yes, hopefully!

CP: You hope. What got you into music? Did you start at a young age? And you all being the band members, did you start at a young age doing that or did you wait until you got a little older? Or?

Corey: Eric you...

Eric: I was like maybe 5 or 6 years old when I started. I started banging around a little plastic acoustic guitar. That was like started where I started. Then later on I got a mid-size acoustic guitar, and I busted all the strings off of it, but I still had two strings left.

Corey D: Stilled played them though.

Eric: And I could turn on the radio and play the melody whatever the singer was singing, and I could play on my two strings and my parents were like we should get him a real guitar you know and so yeah pretty much my whole life.

CP: Very nice.

Corey D: Yeah, the same, I was an army brat so constantly traveling all over the place, my mom



was always blasting the cassette tapes of the Rolling Stones, Voodoo Lounge specifically and that's where I was like this shit sounds pretty good, and couple years later started messing around with singing and I was terrible, very, very, bad when I was 11 years old, but (all laughing) still not there yet, but that is how came to fall in love with music, just experimental stuff.

Ted: Same as Eric, started pretty young 5/6 years old, marched in drum corps for a while.

Corey: I didn't know that.

Ted: Yep, started getting into, I guess you would call my first real band per se at 15 and then after I graduated, I started playing in bands that were graduated high school started with bands that were doing traveling a few years later I met this guy (Steve) over here, and we did some work together for a little while as well and continued on up thru.



Corey: How long have you known each other?

Steve: 35 years we were in a band like in 1992

Corey: That's longer than Eric and I have known each other

Steve/Eric D.: I am only 35 years old, that's like (undecipherable)

(all talking and laughing)

Steve: I started playing like 17 after seeing AC/DC on the Midnight Special, which tells you how old I am, so that's been that

70 years ago, give or take two.

Corey D.: You are 45 so shut up!

(All laughing)

Eric: Seeing ... play a guitar the following day and then Randy Rhodes happened which changed everything and then died and then Darryl just blew me away, ever since.

CP: Very nice, now your wife is a singer?

Corey: Yes, yeah, yes and we actually met through music. Many many, many, many moons ago she opened for this band ANOXIA and that is how we crossed paths 14/15 years ago just by playing shows in the entire scene, so pretty wild. We hate their band members too.

CP: I guess another thing is, I see most of you have tattoos, I know Steve is a tattoo artist.

Steve: Sometimes.

CP: And do any of you, do you any of you have real jobs on top of this? Which I know most of you probably do, it's not tough anymore and I am aware of that, I have 5 different jobs.

Corey: Shew, music does not pay the bills unless you are a legendary band like Korn or Lincoln Parker, it just doesn't pay the bills, so everyone has day jobs and if you are a touring artist and you say you don't have a day job, you are lying. When you get back home from the tour you need to find something real quick. Everyone definitely has day jobs.

All: Absolutely!

CP: Have any of you been tattooed by Steve?

Corey D.: Not yet. But it's going to happen.



Steve: Yeah

Corey D.: Yeah, don't be nervous.

Steve: I'm not nervous at all, I have seen your fucked up shit.

All laughing: Dick!

CP: Being tattooed, does that help you open a little more on stage or not? Does, I have talked to some other bands that ok that they have no tattoos and sometimes they have said they have felt a little more open once they got tattooed. I don't understand it.

Corey: I actually never really thought of that. That is really good. You are already expressing yourself physically with your artwork and all that stuff and obviously, you are up there stripped down for everyone to judge you as an artist performing live. So yeah, I never really thought of that.

Eric D.: If you really want to be different then don't have any tattoos today you know what I mean?

CP: You are exactly right.

Corey: That trips me out when we play with other bands and the members don't have ink, that's crazy.

CP: When I talk to bands, and I talk to Biohazard a lot, a lot of those guys are heavily tattooed and some were not when they first started and they expressed themselves like when they would go to different countries or different cities and I'm going to try to get something from their culture to express their artistic side, cuz, actually you are an artist, your art is just music, His art being a tattoo artist (Steve) has both ways to do it. I feel like bands that are heavily tattooed, I think they are expressing it more, is my opinion.

I want to go see a band that is heavily tattooed and just kicking it and not afraid to say what they want, and do what they want, reminds me of the rebel days if that makes sense.

All agreeing

Corey: Absolutely, I agree with that, Hell yeah

Eric: I got my first one because I was in a really bad relationship and this woman said I would never be with a man who has any tattoos. And I didn't have any at the time and we broke up for like a week, and I thought I am going to go get a fucking tattoo right now and I did!



Corey: I remember you telling me that story, that's great!

Eric: And that sealed the deal that we did not have to get back together.

CP: So, did any of you get a tattoo with the



band logo on it? Anything like that?

Corey: Yeah, I do.

CP: Very nice!

Corey: CS (left forearm) and left shoulder has the 2014 album artwork, from what you become.

CP: I think in the latest video you just did your ink really shows up really well on there.

Corey: Yeah Echoes.

CP: I like that video!

Corey: It was a hell of a video shoot.

Eric: But I think in general if I see another musician, like yeah man, I got the band logo right here, and I'm like your band is going to be broken up in like 3 or 4 more fucking months... so just wait.

CP: So, do you think it's like marrying a woman and getting her name on there and then you get divorced in six months?

Everyone agreeing... yeah

Corey D.: I got that at 19... (laughing) ...I am 39!

Laughing

CP: You know there is that bad Juju you know that as well as I do a lot of guys or girls get the other person's name on them and if it doesn't pan out, it usually does not pan out.

Steve: I had a client who got her husband's name, right at her crotch ... free hand Scott did it all nice and fancy tattooed her, and kept trying to talk her out of it she said no we have been married for 9 years and together 13 years we are high school sweethearts.

Corey: The next year.

Steve: 6 months later I got a phone call, Scott left me for a younger woman how can we cover this up?

Corey D.: Ouch.

Steve: Every time her new boyfriend would go down on her he would say hey Scott! He started getting really annoyed, he was tired of seeing his ex's name.

CP: I'll print that part!

Ted: (Left triceps) This was kind of for my wife the Joker with the 4 aces. I did that specifically because 1. I would not put a woman's name on my body but 2. She was big into Texas Hold'em so I kind of tied that personal piece of our life together Thru that one, but I would never put her name.

CP: Yeah, I think that is bad juju.

Corey: No Names

Eric: I would not put my girl's name on it but I might put Ted's name on me.

CP: Here is a question that a lot of people have been asking is that is popular now if you had to go back 20 years from now and tell your younger self something what would you tell to do differently or nothing?

Steve: Stay Single. Stay fucking single

Corey: Steve, that's that's that's a very tough question.

Steve: That's just me personally, not him or anyone else, speaking for myself stay single.

Corey: Keep doing what you are doing.

Ted: Always believe in yourself.

Corey: Bullshit is going to happen If I would go back in time and tell 14-year-old self that you are going to spend 5 days with Santos in his studio I wouldn't believe you but that's about to happen.

Ted: We learn a lot of lessons along the way.

Corey: Yes.





Ted: Out of those lessons the biggest thing, we have all experienced this in our musical journeys you are going to be told no a lot, you are going to be kicked in the face a lot and the biggest thing is never let it stop you. Just believe in yourself and keep pushing forward, don't let anyone tell you you can't, and don't tell yourself you can't because if you say you can't then you are right you always got to believe in yourself and keep pushing forward through.

Steve: Don't let age be a factor

All agreeing

Steve: I have proven that over and over again.

CP: I agree. What about You?

Eric: I don't know. For me, the most fun is just performing on stage and it's just something I have done my whole life pretty much. For me, that is the reward.

Corey: He is the easiest band member to schedule with. I am going to make a note right here. He literally doesn't care when a show pops up. We will go through this whole are you free? Are you free? And he will just say book it and tell me later

Eric: Yeah, just book it!

Corey: And it makes it so easy for us. Just book it, Eric is cool.

Eric: It's just easier for me to say look, here's my week I am going on vacation, that's the only time I will not be available, other than that, just book it.

Corey: Yep yep that's awesome!

CP: Is there one venue that you want to play as a band?

All: Fuck it... Madison Square, Red Rocks,

CP: I have been to Red Rocks. it's Amazing!

All: Man, that's awesome!

CP: Colorado?

Corey: I want to go so bad.

Steve: Red Rocks and the Sphere!

CP: I have not been to the Sphere yet but I am going to go there.



Steve: That's insanity. I saw the outside of that last year. There was like a baby fucking in the womb, floating around, driving around it.

Corey: Fucking wild!

CP: So, is there anything else you want to announce, that you just want to throw out there?

Corey: Anything? Anything?

Ted: Yeah, Echoes, the newest single check that out. It's on YouTube, it's on all major music platforms, get it, listen to it, download it, stream it, share it!

Corey: Please. We didn't get arrested when filming the music video. Super crazy story with this. We had never been to the location. Big-ass Historic cemetery. Open to the public and we all roll up in this cemetery. It probably took us an hour and a half to get everyone together in the proper location and finally, we get there. Obviously, there are people dressed as ghosts in the music video, blood pouring out of their heads and shit like that. Just imagine if you are someone coming to a cemetery on a Saturday to pay your respects.

Everyone chattering... people driving by, fuck, Halloween is not for a few more weeks...

Corey: The amount of traffic that came through there while we were filming the music video was more than I imagined it would have been, so we are sitting there all dressed up and shit and fucking, Crystal is dressed in this red costume with the black hands on the grave like oh fuck dude!

Steve: The cemetery workers kept driving by.

Corey: Every time someone drove by us real slow, I was like we are going to get kicked out and we had to have it filmed on that day because it was already, the song was already put into the music data based to be released on 26th of October. We filmed this video on October 5th

CP: Oh WOW!

Corey: That is how quick that turnaround time was and I was in panic mode all day like man we are going to get kicked out. We are going to have to go film this in like a Wendy's fucking parking lot somewhere!

Laughing

Corey: But it worked out and there was actually some that drove by through horns up at us and filming us and we were like we are good and we are not doing so too bad.

CP: Yeah right.

Eric: We had this really cool generator blasting all day for the fog and it didn't work. But for some reason, the generator kept running and running and running and one day I was like wait a minute we could probably turn that off so we don't have to listen to it

Everyone chatting about the generator.

Corey: This is right after the two weeks of the hurricane and the rain So we were really looking for some overcast and no it was blue skies it was like 80 fucking degrees, sweating bullets. We did all this filming of me singing and walking through the cemetery that didn't even make the cut and I was just cooked by

the sun, yellow jackets attacking me the entire time

Eric: There was a snowstorm, in a drainage ditch.

Corey: Any time we shoot a music video it's just brutal

Steve: Didn't you eat a bug that day coming off the cemetery

Corey: I did eat a fucking bug that day. thanks, I was trying to forget about that.

CP: We will remember to put the links up to everything and we will get pictures from her. Thank you for your time.

Links

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/carbonstone_band

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Carbonstonemusic>