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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

GLADIATOR ON LA, NETFLIX, THE INTERNET

Kim Reyes • AUG 8, 2013

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LA natives Dan Goodman (left) and Ian Johnson (right), known as the trap duo gLadiator (<http://www.djz.com/tag/gladiator/>), opened up the second day of HARD Summer in Los Angeles with a hot set in even hotter weather. They dropped fresh beats and new tracks, and even brought their friends LOUDEVCK (<https://soundcloud.com/loudevck>) to join them on stage.

At the end of their set, gLadiator asked the crowd to participate in a Vine video--"on the count of three, scream 'SQUAD!'"

Oops, your video player crashed ...

Play it again!

**(<http://seenive.com/v/975917525756>
[mute=1](#))**

With the whole crowd screaming and cheering, it was evident that fans love gLAdiator just as much as gLAdiator loves their fans. DJZ got the exclusive opportunity to chat with the humble dudes about what they've been working on, their appreciation for their fans, and their support of rave safety.

DJZ: So where are you guys originally from?

Danl: Here. LA!

DJZ: What part of LA?

Ian: I live in the Valley, North Hollywood.

DJZ: Cool, I'm from the Valley too.

Ian: Turn up. 818 represent.

Danl: I live in the Hollywood area.

DJZ: How has living in LA influenced your music?

Ian: Honestly, I just feel like the scene here is so amazing with so many talented artists all working in this area, so the inspiration is just endless.

Danl: It's more about the scene than anything about LA in particular, you know what I mean? It's the fact that there's such a strong electronic music scene here that we get inspired, especially by these guys (LOUDPVCK) who inspire us on the daily.

DJZ: How did it feel to be playing for your hometown today?

Danl: DOPE!

Ian: Dream come true.

Danl: We haven't been here for six months, and it was amazing. It was everything we wanted.

Ian: We've dreamed about this day for a long time.

Danl: Literally!

Ian: It was a culmination of a lot hard work.

Danl: We were booked in February and we weren't allowed to play any shows in LA since February. So after six months of waiting...it's also my birthday on Wednesday (August 7), why the fuck didn't I say that at the show? I'd just say "It's

my birthday!" and everyone would be like, "Ahh!" Anyway, I don't know, like Ian said, a culmination of hard work, it's just a great release. We played a great set.

Ian: Today is one of the best days of my life.

Danl: It was the absolute shit.



GLADIATOR

(<http://soundcloud.com/gladiatormusic>)

gLAdiator x Chromatic - GameCube

Nintendo

(<http://soundcloud.com/gladiatormusic/gladiator-x-chromatic-gamecube>)

0.00 | 3.19

DJZ: You guys made some shout outs during your set to your friends Keys N Krates (<https://soundcloud.com/keysnkrates>), and you brought LOUDPVCK on stage with you. So I'm gonna assume you hang out with these guys in your free time.

Danl: We haven't hung out with the Keys N Krates guys yet.

Ian: We hang out with LOUDPVCK a lot.

Danl: Too much! We see those guys too much, they're around too much. We need to start seeing them less.

DJZ: So what do you guys like to do together?

Danl: Dabs and hang out. We like to sit around and ask them about production tips and have them tear down our work.

Ian: It's like, dabs, Netflix, and them crushing our dreams.

DJZ: What do you watch on Netflix?

Ian: A lot of documentaries. We watched this French parkour movie the other day, recommended by Protohype (<https://soundcloud.com/protohype>) actually. It was crazy.

Danl: District 13.

Ian: Shout out Protohype on the recommendation.



GLADIATOR

(<http://soundcloud.com/gladiatormusic>)

gLAdiator x Stooki Sound - Scared

Now

(<http://soundcloud.com/gladiatormusic/gladiator-x-stooki-sound>)

0.00 | 4.03

DJZ: What's the craziest thing that's ever happened at a show you've played?

Ian: Nothing really too crazy, I'm trying to think.

Danl: Honestly, we're big proponents of like, rave safety. So we're always like, drink water, don't mosh, wear earplugs. So it's like, the craziest thing that happens is people end up going off to our songs.

DJZ: Who has been your favorite artist at Hard Summer that you've seen live?

Ian: Either Disclosure (<https://soundcloud.com/disclosuremusic>) or Flosstradamus (<http://www.djz.com/dj/flosstradamus/>) just now.

Danl: True, I agree. Flosstradamus or Disclosure, the both of them in their respective ways brought it in the way they were supposed to. Also, shout out Cashmere Cat (<https://soundcloud.com/cashmerecat>) because he was also amazing.

DJZ: You guys have a pretty big internet fan base. I know you post on Reddit.

Danl: We do. I do. Ian does sometimes, but it is mostly me.

DJZ: How does that make you feel?

Danl: The fact that we have a big internet presence? Amazing!

Ian: I feel like in today's day and age it's necessary, and it's another great way to interact with our fans. That's one of the things we're really big on because without our fans, we wouldn't have any of this.

Danl: Also, on the real, we're both really big nerds, so I'm glad people are like, "It's so cool that you have an internet presence!" It's like, yeah I'm glad you guys think it's cool that I spend all my time on the internet talking to nerds.

Ian: We all have iPhones, let's put them to use.

DJZ: Do you have any favorite viral videos?

Danl: I don't even know! I'm trying to think...

Ian: Fucking Krispy Kreme.

Dan: Oh my god! You need to look up Krispy Kreme. He's the fucking funniest rapper.

Ian and Danl (singing): I am the baddest of them all. If you don't make that money, then I don't mess with y'all.

Ian: Krispy Kreme. (<http://youtu.be/l16UsL72Ztk>) With a K.

DJZ: You guys played some new stuff today, what do you have in the works?

Ian: EP coming out!

Danl (at the same time): Nothing.

Ian: EP coming out on Fool's Gold (<http://www.foolsgoldrecs.com/>).

DJZ: Any collaborations?

Danl: Definitely none with LOUDPVCK. Not a collaboration with LOUDPVCK.

Ian: Shout out gLAdPVCK 2014, let's get it.

Danl: gLAdPVCK 2014, let's go. It's going to be some TNGHT (<https://soundcloud.com/tnght>) shit, no one's even ready. That's like two dudes, it's about to be four dudes. Think of TNGHT, times two. Think of all of the turn up of TNGHT times two.

DJZ: What has been your favorite live show that you've seen? Like ever.

Ian: Janet Jackson at the Greek Theater. Saw her two years ago, it blew my mind. I love Janet Jackson, the end.

Danl: Might be Mars Volta at the Greek Theater. That was a really amazing show. The Postal Service were amazing. Soulwax (<https://soundcloud.com/soulwaxofficial>) is also amazing and Simian Mobile Disco (<https://soundcloud.com/simianmobiledisco>)--every time I've seen them, it's been out of control.

Ian: Soulwax is really good, if you've never seen Soulwax live, see them.

DJZ: What are your guys' spirit animals?

Danl: Cat.

DJZ: And why?

Danl: Because they're independent but also affectionate.

Ian: I don't know, I guess maybe a turtle? Everybody says I'm very chill all the time but low-key there's a lot of stuff going on up there.

Danl: Ian acts like he's not incredibly sophisticated.

Ian: What can I say?

DJZ: Anything else you'd like to share with DJZ readers?

Danl: Shout out LOUDPVCK.

Ian: Shout out Flosstradamus.

Danl: Shout out D!rty Aud!o (<https://soundcloud.com/dirtyaudio>), shout out CRNKN (<https://soundcloud.com/crnkn>).

Ian: Get at us on Twitter!

Danl: Yo, just support good music and good artists because they know where the music is going.

gLadiator is currently on tour, playing in select cities across the United States. Stay up to date on what Ian and Danl are doing by following them on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/gliadatormusic>), Twitter (https://twitter.com/gLadiator_music), and SoundCloud (<https://soundcloud.com/gliadatormusic>).

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