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[KROQ Exclusive] Get The Scoop On Locals Only Band Kill The Complex

Derek Waltz | Writer

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KROQ Locals Only, Music
6/16/2011
6:30 pm

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For too many musicians, we discover their drive is fueled by the prospect of fame, wealth, and megalomaniacal dispositions of grandeur. Not so for Dann Saxton, lead singer of the LA based rock band **Kill the Complex**, "I wanna touch as many people as I can. That's the goal." If you're a fan of **Locals Only** with **Kat Corbett**, you've no doubt exposed your ears to their single "Shine," which has subsequently flooded our request lines since it hit the airwaves. Kill the Complex are on the cusp of becoming one of the rare and exceptional unsigned acts to breakthrough, and perch themselves onto the mainstream platform. Eagerly awaiting to perform at this year's Sunset Strip Music Festival. I was fortunate enough to talk with the four-piece rock troupe, and get the scoop on one of LA's newest up-and-comers.

“ I wanna touch as many people as I can. That's the goal. ”

Dann Saxton

Like the majority of Los Angeles residents, the members of Kill the Complex are transplants, actually they're really a geographical mutt. Saxton is from Minnesota, drummer Ted Barakat was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and bassist Mike Elling hails from New Jersey. Guitarist Gabe Heredia was born in Burbank, but lived in Buenos Aires, Argentina as a teenager.

Saxton and Barakat joined forces and formed the punk rock band Butane, with Heredia coming into the mix two years later, where Butane eventually evolved into Kill the Complex. Mike Elling, the most recent addition, has been described by drummer Ted Barakat as, "the perfect complement to the band. Only since Mike joining have I really felt like we were complete."

I asked Dann the meaning behind the name Kill the Complex, and if it entailed any psychological sentiments, "Mostly everything for me is mental, and just really trying to kill the complex of your heart and fighting for control. That being the huge disconnect between human beings really. You know, everyone just takes things too seriously I think. I think we can all just get along."

Shine

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What makes Kill the Complex so unique is their ability to grab different genres and sounds, and commix them to form music that is truly authentic. They can be atmospheric, alternative, and punk rock all at once. Saxton was open to talk about his inspirations, "Influences, well it's all over the place. For me, it's a lot of punk rock. I mean when I first felt like I found music that was me was when I found **Rancid**, and **NOFX**, and **Goldfinger**, and **Reel Big Fish**. I played trombone for 12 years in school."

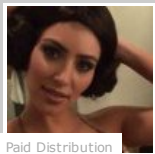
Barakat added, "I grew up with 80's arena rock bands, Gabe was a **Pantera** freak, Dann is everything Tim Armstrong and Mike is all over the place...Very rarely I'll feel something where I'll say to myself a certain drummer would just destroy a part and play in their style. Dave Grohl, Travis Barker and Jorma Vik (The Bronx/Mariachi el Bronx). They're amazing drummers and I love to listen to them."

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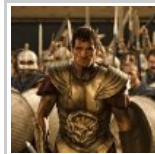


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Nicole Alvarez

June 16, 2011 8:24 pm

This is one of the best live local bands out there too. They sound amazing on their albums, but when you see them live, it takes it to a whole other epic level!

Such a great fucking band!

Reply

Kim

June 16, 2011 8:50 pm

Great interview. If I wasn't already a big fan, I would definitely become one. I love these guys!

Reply

Sarah Udaa

June 16, 2011 9:13 pm

wow, just DL the evolution album. these guys are amazeballs!

Reply

Emily Ardolf

June 16, 2011 10:27 pm

I have such great respect for Dann the Man and he's AMAZING, sings amazing, is a studly beast, and looks so much better in long hair than I do! 😊 Grrr baby!

Reply

@SCHEFFXP

June 16, 2011 10:41 pm

Love Dann and KTC, amazing dudes and time to BRING the rock!

L

Reply

nikki frick

June 16, 2011 10:44 pm

Been a fan since they started! I love them & am soooooo happy I get to hear them actually spreading their talent on the air waves for more people to enjoy. Keep up the good work, Kroq! <3

Reply

Weston

June 16, 2011 10:45 pm

Wow...intense article. "Shine" is so deep it only makes sense that this group of guys would have an amazing story. I can't wait to hear more of Kill The Complex -- please play them often, we just can't get enough! The last paragraph of this article has it right -- watch out music world, Kill The Complex is here to stay, and we will all be better for it!

Reply

brandon m

June 16, 2011 10:48 pm

An epic sound and the humble interview shows true passion for their music, good job gents!

Reply

Amy

June 16, 2011 10:53 pm

They are an awesome band who are AMAZING live!!! This CD lives in my car and makes me so happy!

Reply

Dave Smith

June 16, 2011 10:59 pm

Great music, great guys ... It's their time.

Reply

Richard Amaya

June 16, 2011 11:09 pm

Heard them on locals only, very cool band. I would like to hear more of them for sure!

Reply

Mark

June 16, 2011 11:17 pm

Love...touched people as far away as Fairmont Minnesota. Definitely an amazing local band, yet better.

Reply

dane byrne

June 17, 2011 12:14 am

!!!!!!The best f@&*ing band ever its time for the real music to get played on the radio....KTC baby aguante El Horse.

Reply

Little Loobieloo
June 17, 2011 12:43 am

These guys are epic. From their lyrical genius to the best drumming ever, they rock in every way. Therapy for your soul.

Reply

Rick
June 17, 2011 1:26 am

who are these guys?! really really good stuff, way to go Kat!

Reply

Jenn
June 17, 2011 4:40 am

Awesome story, awesome band!! Keep it coming KTC!!! <3 – AND KEEP PLAYING THEIR SHIT ON THE AIR!!

Reply

Lois
June 17, 2011 5:47 am

That's my boy ! Great to hear his dream is coming true ! Thanks to you" KROQ" it is all happening.Play on and on "SHINE" and the rest of "Kill The Complex"

Reply

Maria
June 17, 2011 7:39 am

I love the fact that these guys don't come off as spoiled or jaded. It's nice to here talent backed by substance. Can't wait to hear more of them on KROQ!

Reply

JohnnyHostile
June 17, 2011 7:48 am

Kill The Complex is the greatest band. They just Rock!!

Reply

JohnnyHostile
June 17, 2011 7:56 am

Kill The Complex just Rocks!!

Reply

Brenda Leinonen
June 17, 2011 9:57 am

This article is awesome! I guess I'm a little bias as Dan is my brother. Kill the Complex is a band made of great people & their music reflects that. Someone really needs to sign them soon!

Reply

Vanessa
June 17, 2011 11:47 am

I had the music "SHINE" on my Ipod way before the album came out... well.. the family has to hear it first.. lol it was the Acoustic version and it was actually pretty good too... MORE POWER TO KILL THE COMPLEX...!! we love you D!!

Reply

damien byrne
June 17, 2011 2:17 pm

KILLLLLLL THEEEEE COMPLEXXXXXX
ROOOOOOCCCCCKKKKKSSSSS!!!!!!!

Reply

damien byrne
June 17, 2011 2:19 pm

I LOVE THIS F**KING BAND!!

Reply

Amanda Janssen
June 17, 2011 2:36 pm

Great friends of mine!!! They make some great music!!!

Reply

Frank Retana
June 17, 2011 3:33 pm

Awesome Band. Can't wait to hear more on KROQ. May all your dreams come true, KTC.

Reply

Bets
June 17, 2011 5:44 pm

why do I have to look at Justin Beiber on the cover of Rolling Stone when KTC should be there?
God, why?!

Reply

Michelle Metzger
June 17, 2011 6:25 pm

I first came to know these guys and there music while helping them do a show in MN. It was then and there at that event I knew these guys had incredible talent and would go far. There music is everything music should be Good work guys and keep it up. YOUR AWESOME!!!!

Reply

Zach
June 17, 2011 6:27 pm

I just bought my ticket to see them at Sunset Strip Music Festival!!!

[Reply](#)**Thessa M'loe**

June 17, 2011 7:41 pm

I have seen Dann and the rest of this sensational band perform several times ... and it is always an amazing live experience! I also have seen them try to expose there music for many years now and am so happy that they are finally getting the recognition and exposure that they deserve. I know there will be plenty more to come from these guys and I look forward to it :)

[Reply](#)**John McCoy**

June 17, 2011 10:52 pm

Heard the song Shine, really enjoyed it. I like the change ups & I like the vibe. I think this band's got some long term value, you should consider playing them more!!!

[Reply](#)**Legend**

June 18, 2011 1:38 am

This article managed to make me like this band more than I did before I read it, which I did not think was possible. Soooo awesome!!! LOVE this band!!!

[Reply](#)**George**

June 18, 2011 5:15 am

A fresh new sound! I think it is great that this band is exploring and succeeding in offering new and intriguing music--great!

[Reply](#)**Lauren**

June 18, 2011 7:20 am

You know how you hear a song though someone telling you to go to their website and check them out and then you wonder, this song is so good, why have I not heard it on the radio? Well KILL THE COMPLEX is one of those bands and I am so happy that they are finally being heard because it can only get bigger and better from here!

[Reply](#)**joe**

June 18, 2011 10:52 am

Definately an eye opening band. when you see them live you can feel the intensity of what they are feeling when the play. See them live you wont regret it.

[Reply](#)**RLB**

June 18, 2011 3:45 pm

Sweet interview. Good job KROQ for bringing this band to the masses. Shine is great and the remainder of the album is just as rockin.

[Reply](#)**Jamie Winegard**

June 18, 2011 7:20 pm

I love Kill The Complex! Please keep playing their music! These guys have a great message and outlook on life. They inspire young people with their lyrics and are very passionate about their music and cause. Thank you for the interview!

[Reply](#)**Tina**

June 18, 2011 10:23 pm

Can't wait to hear more from this band. I love their sound!

[Reply](#)**damien byrne**

June 19, 2011 12:43 pm

LETS GOO KTC YOU GUYS GOT THIS !!!!!!!

[Reply](#)**Sara Afshari**

June 19, 2011 11:26 pm

I loooove KTC!! Evolution is an amazing album! We have to get more songs from that album on the air!!

[Reply](#)**Tanya Brown**

June 20, 2011 9:56 am

Way to go Dan! Killing it!

[Reply](#)**The Chad**

June 20, 2011 11:29 am

Been a huge KTC fan for ages, and these guys are as awesome (or better) live as they are on their albums...that, and they're also great to hang with. Killing it. Buy this album NOW.

[Reply](#)**Michelle Meeks**

June 20, 2011 11:41 am

Love you guys! Been a fan since the old Butane days...So happy that your music is getting out there for others to fall in love with! ZAP



Reply

Karen
June 20, 2011 1:53 pm
LOVE THEIR MUSIC...they really should be the next big thing.

Reply

Karen
June 20, 2011 1:54 pm
amazing songs, hot guys

Reply

kate
June 21, 2011 4:42 am
This band is awesome and I would love to hear more of them. Very interesting group too and a great article, thanks!

Reply

JR
June 22, 2011 6:06 pm
Love this band! Their CD is on heavy rotation! I look forward to seeing them live at Sunset Music Festival!

Reply

danebyrne
June 23, 2011 5:53 pm
the best new band cant wait for the world to hear what "kill the complex" is bringing to the music biss,you need to see them live.danerockss babbyyy.

Reply

damien byrne
June 29, 2011 12:04 pm
more KTC!!!!!!

Reply

Lois Ann
July 1, 2011 3:59 pm
Oh come on,you know "Kill The Complex "deserves # 1 spot of the top 5 unsigned artists ! Please play "Shine"...actually play the whole album !

Reply

Titletown
July 1, 2011 8:13 pm
Elling is the best. His sh*t rocks!!!

Reply

danerocks
September 21, 2011 11:46 am
!!!!!!KILL THE COMPLEX!!!! KILLED THE VIPER ROOM CANT WAIT FOR THE SHOW @ THE ROXY,,,, THE BEST FU@*ING BAD OUT THERE.!

Reply

danerocks
September 21, 2011 11:48 am
!!!!!!KILL THE COMPLEX!!!! KILLED THE VIPER ROOM.GREAT SHIT CAN'T WAIT TILL THE SHOW @ THE ROXY

Reply

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