

Ozzie Wright

The Wizard Of Death

By Liesel Cole

Catastrophic combinations of talent, colour, mess and a massive amount of violent noise are some central characteristics of Mr Fang Fight Wright who most of us have had the pleasure of being exposed to, one way or the other. One of the rare people on this planet who do what they like, when they like, how they like, and are not confined within the borders of conservatism, this warm-hearted human has emerged as one of today's revolutionary talents in both the art and surfing worlds.



I don't know many other people who can create a band as a joke for a photo shoot, and end up doing over 30 gigs in six weeks through Japan, Australia and USA. Or a guy who can rock up to the airport for a surfing trip with no surfboards or clothes – just two plastic bags filled with Posca pens – and empty out both on the floor to find he's been travelling through Europe without a passport... and still be able to make the plane. Withstand gnarly motor bike accidents and come back surfing like never before... let alone surviving being locked out of our house in Hawaii by yours truly, after letting a tornado loose on the kitchen... (he's still asking me 10 years later if I'm angry with him).

This inspiring individual sets a true example to us all to believe that anything is possible. Why? Because the world of impossible simply doesn't exist...

I first met Ozzie about 14 years ago, sitting under a tree somewhere at one of Sydney's Northern high school drunken beach parties, where kids smash up letterboxes, and fuck on Longy golf course. Over the years, I've watched him grow from a long haired surfy kid with chicks chasing him 24/7, to a messy haired artist musician surfy punk who now has the world watching him.

Describe the kind of images you have been painting recently on your boards...

Bikey Zombies, Shipwrecks, Shark Attacks, Batman and Bunnygirls... but I've also painted my guitar, some leather jackets, cars, skateboard ramps – I've got one in my backyard with some birds and motorbikes on it. Silly, cartoony, violent stuff.

Surfing and skating obviously are major elements in your life, how do you feel these influence your art?

The surf skate community is responsible for so much great imagery and is full of great creative characters; artists, pirates, bohemians...

What other things / people influences your work, how and why?

My new characters, the bikey zombies were inspired by a movie 'Wild Zero' starring Guitar Wolf, a Japanese rock band whom I've always been a fan of. Our new EP is called Bikey Zombie.

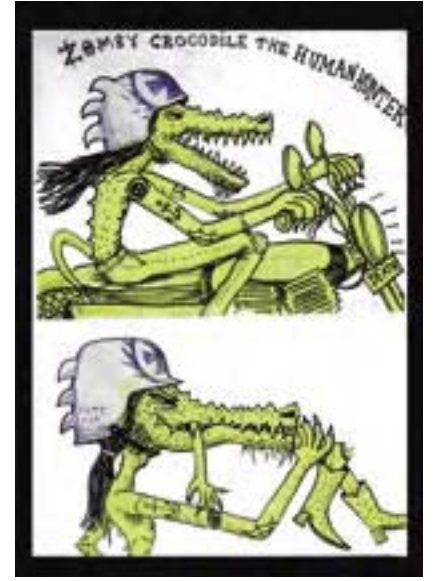
Friends and family inspire me 'cos I want to make them happy.

There have been an increasing number of pro surfers / skaters / snowboarders who are artists, why do you think that is?

Everybody likes to draw as a child but most lose interest, and playing on surfboards is probably childish. So, we who continue to express these joyous feelings through board riding and painting, singing, whatever – we're a lucky bunch.

Tell us about your adventures with Mr Perry Farrell (Janes Addiction)? I hear you met him in Sydney and he asked you to paint backdrop for one of his shows.

It was great to watch him put everything into his performance. He's a fantastic artist and he made me realize how important artists are to the community to remind them of the beautiful or the ugly parts of life they may forget.





The Goons of Doom have been raging through the streets of Tokyo, USA, Australia and now NZ. It all came about kind of by accident and has completely taken off, so tell us about the tale of punk stardom...

We were making a surf movie about us being a band. So we bought all the instruments and stuff. We'd been playing our instruments for five days and we had a gig at a party. We were ridiculously bad. We were really nervous and we sucked. And then we had another one the next week and just kept going. One tour, we did about 30 gigs in six weeks and after that we were like, I guess we're getting pretty good. We've since played Tokyo, Hollywood and we're hoping to go to New York this year. We take it seriously, but in a fun way.

We're pretty busy now. Sometimes we go a little bit crazy, but you just do your best and whatever you feel like doing, you do it. I've got to the stage where I can almost do whatever I want. We'll make up a project and go to America for an art show, have the band play and go surfing. We are having a shitload of fun getting out and playing songs to lucky people.

Also, last year I had a terrible motorbike accident in Bali. I had to lie on my back for a month with only my bass guitar to entertain me, so I learnt a little bit then.

How would you describe your life?

An incredible dream come true, with chocolate sauce on top.

One statement...

Go forth and prosper.

3 Favourites:

Albums: The Moldy Peaches, Aha Shake Heartbreak by Kings Of Leon, anything by the Libertines.

Books: Art books

Films: Chocolat, Basquiat, Kill Bill, good surf movies

Places on the Planet: Switzerland, Indo, N.Z., Mex, Barbados, France, California.

Artists: Da'shenka, Alex Knost, Ed Templeton, Neckface, Thomas Campbell, Tony Edwards and many more.

Surfers / Skaters: Ali Boulala, Christian Fletcher, Joel Parkinson

TATTOO'S ARE ADDICTIVE



BUNNY GIRL