

Ninja Sex Party Interview for Music In Minnesota
Interview Conducted by Dylan Novacek
Transcript Written by Kayla Erickson and Dylan Novacek

Brian: Hello!

Me: Hey this is Dylan Novacek from Music in Minnesota!

Brian: Hey Dylan, this is Brian from Ninja Sex Party!

Me: Hey Brian, how's it going today?

Brian: Good man, how are you?

Me: I'm great! Is Danny on the line with us too?

Brian: He's about to call on the other line and then we can get started!

Me: Awesome! Well, with me is my fiancé Kayla who is a really big fan of Ninja Sex Party!

Kayla: Hello!

Brian: Oh awesome! Hey, Kayla!

Me: You know it's really cool to hear you speak because Ninja Brian is always silent.

Brian: Haha! So where you guys based out of?

Me: Oh we live in Saint Paul, and we are going to be at your shows this coming week!

Brian: That's awesome- if you need tickets say the word!

Danny: HELLO!

Brian: There he is...

Danny: Hey guys what's going on?

Me: Hey Danny, this is Dylan from Music in Minnesota! Thanks for talking with us.

Danny: No worries, Dylan! How's it going?

Me: It's going real good! With me is my fiancé Kayla and she's a giant fan of the band.

Kayla: Hi Dan!!!

Danny: Awh sweet! Hey, Kayla. How's it going?

Kayla: I'm good how are you?

Danny: So GOOD right now! Thank you for being a fan.

Me: Yea, thanks for talking with us! So we wanna talk about the new album and the tour. So the new album Cool Patrol came out recently and has hit such great heights, getting millions of views on Youtube and hitting number one on the comedy charts. What's it like hitting this level.

Danny: Brian, you want to start it off?

Brian: It's really gratifying. Anything we do, you know- anything we do, a video or an album- everytime we're like "will anyone care about this one." And then the level it got to is amazing but the fact that people are psyched about what we do. It doesn't feel like we deserve it. We just lucked out and got all these amazing fans who keep showing up for the stuff we do. Videos, albums, live shows. They are always there. It's incredible.

Danny: For us, a lot of this is just day by day. We sometimes forget that it is getting crazy and then to see these yardstick markers will pop out of nowhere. Like an old friend or family member, someone outside of yourself in your life mentions how crazy this is and it makes us think, "Oh shit...this IS crazy!" It's very weird and hard to explain.

Me: So, what was like one moment where you personally knew that this has hit such a great point for us?

Danny: (Long pause) Conan O'brian wasn't bad. The whole experience of that came out of nowhere and it was all exciting and cool. But the coolest part was seeing him getting out of his desk and bopping around to the music off camera. Having him to come us afterwards and saying he liked it...it was very genuine! Just that moment of, "Hey, here's this moment of this guy I would watch on TV everyday for years and years- and he's right there. He was excited to meet us. That was very surreal.

Brian: It felt like the first thing we ever done that was kind of mainstream. Like it would reach beyond our current audience. And that's incredible.

Me: I really enjoyed that you guys censored the lyrics of Danny Don't You Know to say, "Cool as HECK on the inside".

Brian: The story of that! When we recorded the song we had a good feeling about it so we decided to make a clean version just in case. In case it gets radio play. We never did it with one of our songs before. Then we made it and we decided not to put it out. And then when we got the Conan gig we were like wait a minute we can do this. So we put it out later that week- we sort of lucked into having that! Instead of it being back in the vault, maybe as a B-Side somewhere. We were glad to have that.

Me: That's so cool! So, speaking of Danny Don't You Know- the casting of Finn Wolfhart was an amazing choice. That made me wonder- who would play an old Danny Sexbang?

Danny: Gotta be Kenny G, right?! I think someone did like a Pokemon evolution of Danny and it was Finn, myself, and then Kenny. If we could get in touch with him that would be amazing!

Me: Now how about a young Ninja Brian?

Brian: ...Ninja Brian.

(long pause)

Me: Yea I figured.

(laughter)

Me: When I wrote that question I thought, "Isn't Brian just sort of ageless?"

Brian: Yea he's immortal.

Me: Oh I believe it. Anyways! My favorite track on the album is First Date..But I really hope it's not autobiographical.

Danny: Hahah oh no.

Me: What was your real first date?

Danny: My first date? I was thirteen years old and took a girl named Jody Stark to the roller-rink. My Mom drove us over and...geez I haven't thought about this in a while. One thing I didn't know about dates at the time is that it's traditional to actually spend time with the girl you're on a date with. What the date was: Jody skating in a circle by herself while I played Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles in the arcade.

Brian: That actually sounds like an awesome date to me!

Danny: That's the thing- she didn't know how a date was suppose to be either. So the next day in class she handed me a note saying, "Thank you for the best date ever!"

Me: Awh that's so sweet!

(Collectively awthing as a group)

Me: Alright so back to the album! This album is so well produced- can you talk about some of your producers and collaborators and how it effected the overall production?

Brian: Yea! So this is the first album we put out using our producer who now does everything- his name is Jim Roach. He helped co write the album. We wrote a few songs without him like Cool Patrol, Courtship of the Mermaid and Eating Food In The Shower- but everything else was all with him! We have a new Starbomb album coming out next year that he also wrote and produced with us. He has been a big force for good for songwriting and recording. Another group that made a huge difference was TWRP. They do all the backing instruments for our tracks. For our first three albums I was doing all the instruments with computer synths- and those are great for what they are. It never really sounded real. And that's a big reason actually we have always gravitated towards synth stuff. We could write it on the computer and have it sound good. We never went into this wanting to do synth pop- that's just what we could do to make it sound the best! So having real amazing musicians like TWRP made a huge difference. Them plus Roach was a perfect dream team of collaborators.

Me: I noticed Kenny Harris of Panic! At The Disco also had a hand in one of the songs?

Brian: Oh yea! So Jim Roach knew him and they were working together. Jim played Kenny our song Orgy for One and Kenny was like, "This is awesome, I love this!" That kind of translated him to doing a guitar solo on it. He came to a recording session- nicest guy ever. He was chill and down to do anything. We thought he was just going to come and be like, "What are we doing here?" But like he had listened to the song a bunch and worked on a solo he was going to play- he just really thought about! He did a great job!

Me: Man, that's amazing. Who is one person you would want to get on board with the next Starbomb or NSP album?

Brian: The people we are inspired by like Weird Al or Tenacious D, Flight of the Concorde. Who else, Danny? There are a lot of amazing prog musicians we want to work with too.

Danny: Yea that'd be amazing- like any of the guys from Rush. Lonely Island too! There are a lot of good people out there. Childish Gambino would be awesome. But it's never been like-we want someone and go out to request them. It's always been our paths crossing in some weird way, or their fan and they come into our lives that way.

Brian: Yea- it's hard to be like "Let's get that guy". We don't really have the clout to send a raven and get whoever we want. But every once in a while these cool people pop up. Another guy that's done a bunch of stuff now- Bob Reynolds from Snarky Puppy. Again, through our producer Jim- he is the sickest horn player ever. He does a lot of stuff on Starbomb and will do stuff on future NSP- so he's awesome to work with.

Me: Well Tour De Force is coming to Saint Paul next week as well as Ninja Brian's Comedy Luau Spectacular. What can we expect from both of the shows?

Brian: They are very different shows. Let's talk about the full show first.

You should expect Planet Booty- our opening band. They do 90's style hip hop. It's the most sex positive thing you ever heard! High energy and a lot of fun. Then TWRP does a set, and they are incredible. For our songs we got a lot of dick stuff, unicorn stuff...

Danny: And dinosaur stuff too!

Brian: Oh yea. Also dinosaur stuff!

On the other show it is everybody except for Danny since he is going to be resting his pipes for the night. That's more of a variety show. Planet Booty and TWRP perform. I do a stand up set as Ninja Brian with a Powerpoint- totally silent just with the Powerpoint. I am going to host a game show- it's gonna be a secret to what it is. Oh and JP Incorporated will do a comedy music thing. It's like a comedy variety show!

Me: Well we can't wait! Next I have some fan questions for you.

From Taylor:

“How did you come up with the name Ninja Sex Party?”

Danny: There wasn't too much of a story attached to it. I realized, and I don't know if this is less fun. But it came from being in bands that went no where for a long time. So if I wanted to start from scratch a third time I would need to come up with something super eye catching and interesting. And also, there were a lot of bands I loved that had names that worked against them as far as Google searches go. Like the Music- but you can't look them up. I figured “No one else is going to have this combo of words!” And then it's when I talked to people about it their eyes lit up.

Then came the idea of what it would be. So we needed a ninja and I wanted to be a stupid spandex 80s guy.

Me: A spandex butterfly?!

Danny: YEA! And I met Brian and he was so perfect. He took the idea of a ninja who silently plays piano and murders people- he took it to a cosmic place I couldn't even dream of.

Me: So it spiraled into this awesome project.

Danny: Yea it really did!

Me: Next question from Andy Johns: He is wondering if we will be getting an NSP vinyl?

Brian: That's something we keep thinking about. The reason we haven't done it yet is because we don't want a lame vinyl. We wanna spend time designing it and making it special. Also we have been real busy with videos. But hopefully next year we will get it.

Me: So cool, so cool! And one more fan question from Mikelea: Danny, ever consider working on music for Skyhill again?

Danny: Yea- you know I would be open to it. The guy I was in that band with, Pete Linnex, is a very talented dude. I honestly don't know how high music is on his priority list. At best it would be a song here or there every few years. And that's fine. I would rather do one song where a band member is inspired rather than just cranking out music.

Also I'm so into NSP and Starbomb and this world that we made, and I'm meeting new cool musicians all the time like The Super Guitar Brothers, the guy from Dave Matthews band, we are getting so much exposure to amazing players of all kind.

The desire to look back is receding every day cause the present and the future is so interesting.

Me: For sure, and you guys do have a bright future. Just being within your fanbase- everyone is so excited for the new music videos to come out. It's a huge community between GameGrumps fans and NSP fans. You guys made something so special for everybody.

Danny: Thank you for saying that!

Brian: Really quick before we go- I have a Minnesota connection. You guys know the 93X Half Assed Morning Show? Josh is my brother in law! So some local connections!

Me: Cool! Minnesota ties! Do you plan on any Prince covers when you guys come? Every band does it.

Brian: (Laughs) I can confirm we will not.

Me: Well that's all the time we have- sorry for going over time and thank you so much!

Danny: We're always happy to make time for nice people!

Me: Oh but you guys are the nicest!

Danny: DAWH! Have a wonderful day!

Brian: All the best! See you there!

*Some contents of the transcript were paraphrased. Some audio on the interview was cut for privacy, and overall flow of the audio track. For the full unedited interview video contact novacekd@csp.edu