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Naked Flame Biography and Discography

Written by Blue Kitty Tales.

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Origin: Dalmond, South Triston

Musical genre: Metalcore, Thrash Metal

Activity: September 1997 – December 2011, October 2012 – present

Record label: Mob Records, Blastback Records

Current lineup

Terrence Vance: lead vocals, lyrics, programming (2008 – present)

Brad Darke: bass, backing vocals, songwriting, lyrics, programming (1997 – 1998, 2003 – present)

Hannah Pearce: lead guitars, programming and songwriting (1997 – present)

Ron Jaeger: rhythm guitars (1999 – 2005, 2016 – present)

Joan Appleton: drums (2014 – present)

Former members

Wendy Garrison: rhythm guitars (1997 – 1999)

David Darlington: lead vocals, lyrics, programming (1997 – 2008) (died 2009)

Travis McCallister: drums (1997 – 2011)

Cecil Webster: bass, backing vocals (1998 – 2003), lead vocals (2008)

Lindsey Forrester: rhythm guitars (2005 – 2011) (under police protection since 2016)

Angela Philpott: drums (2012 – 2014)

Steven Harvey: rhythm guitars (2012)

Troy Borden: rhythm guitars (2012 – 2016) (died 2018)

Releases

EPs:

Twitch (December 8th 1997)

Call of Nature (July 1st 1998)

LPs and full-length albums:

Forest Fire (November 25th 1999)

Mind Control (March 23rd 2003)

Immolation (September 4th 2004)

Broken Sanity (January 4th 2007)

Dream Machine (November 22nd 2009)

Redefine Me (September 8th 2015)

Blackout (February 5th 2019)

History and formation (1997)

Brad Darke, a grey skunk with light blue markings, David Darlington, a powerfully built griffon, Wendy Garrison, a black and white panda, Hannah Pearce, a lanky green lizard, and Travis McCallister, a muscular green husky, first met at college when they had each taken a music course. The band was to get their start during their second year, when all five of them placed in the top ten students of the talent contest being held that year. Though none of them came out as the clear winner, it was at this stage that one of their tutors, a cat named Barry Diamond, suggested they form a band.

Initially Brad thought it was a rash idea, although he soon realised what potential there was for the quintet. Following this, they took lessons for their respective instruments between their studies and formed the band several months afterwards, instantly settling on the name Naked Flame.

Early releases and Brad's departure (1997 – 1999)

Jamming sessions became increasingly difficult for them to do with the preparation they had to do for the final year of school, but it wasn't long before they were able to find a label through a friend of Brad's, a mink named Cecil Webster, Mob Records, who his father worked for. His father invited them in for a session and was impressed enough to get them a contract, by which time they had composed each of the songs they planned to release for their first EP.

Once their school term had ended, the quintet entered the studio and recorded their first six track EP, titled *Twitch*, managing to get the result they desired in just a single try, with only minimal editing required. The album art only took thirty minutes to complete and it was released that October. However, due to a lack of advertising by their record label, the EP didn't sell very well.

The band embarked on writing further material for their next EP, wanting to make a better impression for their record label and the fans they hoped to draw in. And by February, they had written and recorded all eight of the tracks for their next EP, which they titled *Call of Nature* in reference to an inside joke about Brad's obsession with staying clean. This time, the release of the album was enough for Mob Records to advertise both of their EPs at once, much to their delight.

However, the band's good fortune wasn't to last for very long. On July 14th 1998, when four of the songs for their first album had been composed, Brad suddenly left the group as a result of finding his home ransacked and his father and sister having been brutally murdered by the Smokestacks Cartel when he and his mother arrived home from the supermarket. With his family torn apart, he could no longer commit to his duties in the band.

Cecil was brought in as a replacement, though after several months had passed, the band received a phone call from Brad reporting what had happened. They lost touch with him after he and his mother were both taken into the Witness Protection Program when the Smokestacks Cartel tried to raid their home a second time.

Forest Fire and Wendy's departure (1999)

By mid 1999, the band was ready to embark on their first round of tours to promote the release of their first album. Cecil had settled into the band and he was enthusiastic about showing the world what the band was capable of. But just before they could start making arrangements, Wendy announced that she was pregnant and that she would be leaving the band to devote her time to her new family. Though she had remained inexplicably committed and passionate in her performances, there was nothing that could sway her mind, though Hannah and David were able to convince her to stay for two more weeks to help them finish recording their album.

She finally left at the end of October and the band opened for auditions. A young red and white fox named Ron Jaeger proved to be the standout performer, for he had played the two songs thrown at him perfectly. He instantly accepted the position, and despite only being fifteen years old he was brimming with confidence and charm. After rehearsals were complete, the band was able to take their place on their upcoming tour and get their debut album, *Forest Fire*, released.

"We'd known for a while that she wanted to start a family." David explained during an interview with *Headbanger Magazine*. "She still had the heart to perform and she still loved playing for the band, but when she became pregnant, I knew we couldn't force her to stay. It still had a big impact, for she had a part in creating the style we're known for. But we're determined to make sure that our music lives up to her expectations. Whether we'll see her in the band again, we can't say, but she's said she'll come and find us one day."

Hannah and Travis' accidents, *Mind Control* and Brad's return (2000 – 2003)

On November 2nd 2000, during the very last stop of their tour, the band was forced to pull out after Hannah and Travis were both seriously injured in two separate car accidents taking place only four hours apart. Both of them remained in hospital for several months, with Travis having had both of his legs and his tail broken and Hannah suffering a fractured pelvis and breaking her right arm in seven places.

It later transpired that both of them had been travelling along the same road and had veered out of control upon hitting black ice. This particular road had been widely considered an accident blackspot. Rumours had

begun to circulate amongst their fanbase that they had split up, although it was not until Hannah and Travis had recovered from their injuries that the band posted a statement denying that they were disbanding.

Travis had to learn how to walk again due to the damage he had sustained to his legs. Fearing he would never completely regain the prowess he once had, he sank into a deep depression. However, his bandmates vowed to help him through his recovery no matter what it took and remained determined to keep him on. Hannah did not fare much better, for she could not use her arm and wasn't able to walk until her arm and her pelvis healed.

They finally began to write material for new music in October 2001, and six of the ten songs for their next album had been recorded when Brad returned to the band in early 2003, having finally regained his desire to play in the process of rebuilding his life. Cecil voluntarily stepped down but stayed on as the band's manager, and Hannah announced on the website that Naked Flame had returned to the limelight.

This led to them releasing their next album, *Mind Control*, four months ahead of schedule, with this production being a concept album featuring an entire lineup of songs whose lyrics dealt with well known conspiracy theories that were circulating at the time. Once Brad had learned each of the songs he had missed during his absence, the band was ready to embark on their next tour at the end of the year.

Immolation (2004 – 2005)

Brad's insistence on touring led the band to book their places on several more of them, not only as a way to get himself back into the limelight, but also as a means of allowing Travis and Hannah to regain the prodigy they feared they'd lost. Though this resulted in several mistakes from them during their concerts, these went largely unnoticed and they were able to finish each of them without any further difficulty. Travis was finding himself tiring faster than usual during the first concert, but was able to gradually regain more of the stamina he was known for as the concerts progressed. During this time, the band announced that more material was being written for their next album *Immolation*, which they hoped would allow them to fully compensate for their long absence.

At the end of the year, their record label dropped them, having started to become impatient with them due to the infrequency of their releases. They were able to find another label very soon afterwards, Blastback Records, who were keen to support and promote the band once their new album was ready to be released. It took just three days for the band to record and perfect all of the songs for the album, and it was released that August.

Ron's departure, *Broken Sanity* and the end of David's career (2005 – 2008)

On October 18th 2005, Ron announced that he would be leaving Naked Flame to focus on another band he had formed, a Technical Death Metal band named Unprovoked Attack which featured the famed Vic Hargreaves as the lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist. For the second time, this forced the band to withdraw from a tour, missing out on the chance to play alongside acts including Hatred, The Beast Within, Bitumen and Blind Bishop.

Though David offered to take guitar lessons, the other members believed that he needed to focus on his vocals and that it would take too long for him to learn, particularly as they were fearful of a second label dropping them. They remained without a rhythm guitarist until the next January, when a middle aged catgirl by the name of Lindsey Forrester outshone the other auditioners.

Dazzled by her performance, the band's line-up was completed once more, enabling them to take their place on their next tour. So determined they were to show off their new member were they that they decided to fast track the learning and rehearsal sessions and practise more songs each day, with Lindsey taking every session in her stride and showing clear determination to impress as much as she did during the auditions.

Just after the final song for their next album *Broken Sanity* had been recorded, Brad pointed out that Lindsey and Travis were spending more and more time around each other, and near the end of that December, Brad walked in to find them in each other's arms sharing a passionate kiss. Jokingly citing the stereotypical animosity between their species as something they'd completely ignored, he stated that he would have a song made about them, which would later appear with the title *Like Cat and Dog* as the album's seventh track.

This album received the best reception of any of the titles they had released, with their melodic musical style, lyrical content, performances, and the pacing of the songs receiving universal acclaim from critics and fans alike. Special praise was reserved for David's vocals, which were said to fit the tones of the songs perfectly.

Unfortunately for David and his bandmates, this would be the final time he would record an album for the band. During the fifth song of their concert on September 8th 2008, he suffered a heart attack and collapsed to the stage clutching his chest. While he was taken to hospital, the band was forced to quit their performance after only thirty minutes on stage. Unbeknownst to the band, he had a history of heart problems and had been experiencing palpitations in the months before, but had not sought any medical advice due to not wanting to abandon his duties. He eventually recovered, but on the advice of the doctors at the hospital and his GP, he chose to leave the band.

“When we found out what had happened, we couldn’t believe what we were hearing.” said Hannah in an interview with *Grey Horizon* once David was discharged. “Here he was, one of the most famed singers of North Triston, and it was heartbreaking for us to see him go through this. He could have been gone, just like that. This has had a massive impact. It feels really strange to be without him and he won’t be forgotten for his contribution. But before anyone gets any ideas, we are not splitting up, despite what Hannah and Travis have said. David has been told that he has to limit his physical activity and travel, so he will not be rejoining Naked Flame. We will be holding auditions for a new vocalist soon.”

New vocalist, David’s death and *Dream Machine* (2008 – 2011)

Until the band could find a replacement vocalist, Cecil stepped in to fill the role. After much auditioning, the band finally chose their new vocalist – an orange fox named Terrance Vance, who went by the stage name Atla Terigon. He was well known for his role in his previous band and for his wide vocal range and endurance. Though his vocals had a rather different sound to David’s, Hannah was confident that he would be able to live up to his contribution, although the other four members and their fanbase alike expressed doubts about how their audience would react to their new frontman.

To Hannah’s expectations, his first performance went without a hitch, and their audience responded enthusiastically once he began to sing. He was able to maintain the strength of his voice throughout the concert, resulting in the band proudly announcing to their audience that Terrence would be there to stay. The day their concert ended on January 4th 2009, they received an encouraging phone call from David. He said that he thought the fox was a perfect replacement for him, stating that while it was a shame he couldn’t perform any more, he would prefer to see them give it their all rather than break up.

However, only one week after this call, the news broke that, despite the medication he was taking to deal with his heart problems, he had suffered a massive heart attack and been admitted to hospital. He appeared to be recovering, but then suffered a second heart attack two days later and died instantly. Devastated by his death, the band composed a song specially to use on their next tour dedicated to his memory. Titled *Farewell, Old Friend*, the lyrics described how much he had meant to them and how long his legacy would last. They would perform it as either the very first or very last song at every destination they visited.

Once it was concluded, they took a break from any further touring so that they could begin writing the material for their next release. As a further dedication, the first five songs used his previously unreleased lyrics, while Hannah and Terrence worked together to write them for the remaining nine songs. The resulting album was named *Dream Machine* as a reference to the band having felt like they had found the dreams they had chased. It proved to be very warmly received, with many reviewers commenting that Terrence’s vocals added a more youthful sound to the band and maintained the raw passion that David had been known for.

Travis and Lindsey’s departures (2011 – 2012)

As time passed, Travis and Lindsey spent less and less time apart, and had begun to teach each other their instruments in anticipation of a further lineup change. But in December of that year, it was discovered that Lindsey’s daughter Nancy had been the serial killer South Triston’s media had dubbed The Black Widow Killer, and on December 26th, had unsuccessfully tried to kill Travis. Upon hearing about the other monstrous crimes she had committed, as well as the much publicised events on the roof of the Burr General Hospital, Lindsey and Travis both decided to leave the band the following January. Nothing the other members said could persuade them to stay, as they had both feared their own safety as well as that of their bandmates as a result of Nancy’s actions.

“We had never imagined anything like this would happen to us.” said Hannah in an interview with *Metal Brain Magazine*. “After David died, we thought that was the worst that could happen. But for Travis to almost be killed and to lose him and Lindsey like this...they were really good friends of ours, and we cannot imagine what they’re going through right now.” The band had needed to be put on hold until the investigation into the missed chances to catch Nancy was completed, with each of the members having to live under police protection due to fears of vigilante attacks.

***Redefine Me* (2012 – 2015)**

Once the investigation was concluded, the band set to work on auditioning for replacement members. Brad had initially wanted to disband now that Travis was no longer part of the band, although Hannah was able to persuade him into continuing. Hannah brought in a purple chameleon, Angela Philpott, a long time friend she had known since her school days who had performed for the Alternative Metal band Dragon's Treasure.

They got in contact with a guitarist who had impressed the members in the auditioning, a human named Steven Harvey. However, he was soon fired when the band found out he had not learned any of their songs for their upcoming tour. With no touring guitarist available, the band faced having to perform as a four piece, which risked compromising their performance, or not taking part in the tour at all. They ultimately chose to forfeit their place, but allowed fans who had bought tickets for these concerts to claim refunds.

Frustrated with Brad's reluctance to continue performing after this, Terrance invited a guitarist who had been fired from his band after an argument with the lead singer, a black and white badger named Troy Borden. With their lineup once more complete, the band was ready to write and record more material, choosing not to tour again until this new album was ready.

Hannah, Brad and Terrence wanted to release more at once than they ever had done before as an attempt to compensate for the long time between releases. Unfortunately, Angela would never get to contribute substantially, for she was forced to leave in mid 2014 as a result of family problems. Brought in as a replacement was a horse who had recently left her own band, Joan Appleton. With many delays, it was finally released in late 2015 after several delays and given the name *Redefine Me*.

The album's lyrics were the main thing the reviewers called attention to, having been written after what the past and present band members had learned in their time making music. This album, however, was not reviewed as favourably as the previous release as a result of this, but still received plenty of praise for the evolution of their songwriting while also retaining what made them initially stand out.

Lindsey's attempted murder and return of Ron (2016)

The band had kept in touch with Travis and Lindsey, but on February 27th 2016, Lindsey was almost killed when the sister of one of Nancy's victims came searching for her, blaming her for her daughter having murdered her brother. She had confronted her at her home, punching her to the ground before shooting her twice in the abdomen and then driving away. Thereafter, she was forced to live under police protection and had to change her identity, forcing both her and Travis to cut all ties with their former bandmates.

"We were shocked." said Terrence in his interview with *South Triston News Network*. "We thought all of this had been dealt with already. I remember Lindsey and Travis saying they left because she didn't want what her daughter had done 'tainting' our music, even though we felt differently. Even though they weren't in the band any more, we were still on good terms. But clearly there are still some creatures who haven't got the answers they wanted."

As a consequence of this, the band withdrew from their place on the *Trashed Speakers* tour as they tried to address the fallout of the situation. Each member had to give interviews to the police due to their links to Lindsey, but worse was to come. An armed fan who had a history of mental problems tried to break into the studio they were recording at later in the year, although he was not able to get in and was soon arrested.

Unfortunately, that year would also see them lose Troy. He had started to tire out during songs much faster than he otherwise would and was drinking enormous amounts of water. He was found to have developed a large tumour on his liver and he had to undergo an operation to remove it. Although this was successful, the impact it had on his health was significant, leading to him deciding to leave the band, leaving them without a rhythm guitarist again.

After using a session guitarist for their live performances, the band had discovered that Unprovoked Attack had split up after the murder of their bassist. They got in touch with Ron Jaeger, who enthusiastically accepted his former place in the band and was ready to perform once again. Additionally, he still remembered much of the material he had learned and required only a short time to memorise the songs they were to perform for their next tour.

***Blackout*, Troy's death and recent events (2017 – present)**

Work began on the band's next release once it wrapped up, with Brad and Hannah wanting to dedicate at least one song to each of their past members. Though they kept in touch with Troy, his health was getting worse despite the medicines he was taking. His liver began to fail and he needed a transplant, but he died before a donor could be found. Only a few weeks before his death, the band had invited him to provide guest guitars for one of the tracks, and promised him that his contribution would be the album's opening track.

The band did not take part in any of the tours offered to them in 2018, wanting to focus on recording and perfecting their next release, as well as dealing with the impact of Troy's demise. Like David's before him, his funeral was attended by a large number of fellow musicians and fans, with the funeral being wrapped up with the band performing one of the songs he had helped to write.

Blackout, named in reference to the band's inactivity in 2012, is to date their only album lacking a title track, and finally saw a release in February 2019. Each song possessed a different sound to one another, creating a mix that critics and audiences alike responded very positively to. It is also their only release to feature no harsh vocals at all due to Terrence feeling it inappropriate to use them for the subject matter. Despite his position as the frontman, Hannah is seen as the band's leader due to her being its only constant member. The band plans to embark on a worldwide tour in support of their newest material, and several music videos have been put together for the occasion.

