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MY DARKEST DAYS' CELEBRITY-LADEN TRACK "PORN STAR DANCING" BIDS TO BE THE NEW STRIP CLUB ANTHEM

You couldn't fault the guys from My Darkest Days for thinking they've already made it. Their first single, "Porn Star Dancing," is a perfect storm of party rock, talented musicianship and big-name cameos. It's inevitably destined to become a true strip club anthem, in the same vein as classics like "Girls, Girls, Girls"—and not by accident.

"We were all big Motley Crue fans growing up," explains My Darkest Days' lead guitarist Sal Coz Costa (pictured above with the mohawk haircut). "We have a ton of songs on our record about break-ups and heartbreak and we've explored those themes many times. So we wanted to just write a song about the other side of us; the party, happy side. We just said, 'We should write a song, literally, for strip clubs. It'd be so cool to walk into a strip club and hear girls dancing to our song.'



"And it just kind of grew into a monster," says Costa. (You can pretty much hear him grinning.)

It's hard not to agree with him. With the perfect, grinding, dirty rock sound that a girl can dance to, and all the inspiration she'd need with lyrics like, "She don't play nice, she makes me beg/ She drops that dress around her legs/ And I'm sittin' right by the stage/ For this porn star dancing,"

you can tell the quartet (which also consists of vocalist Matt Walst, bassist Brendan McMillan and drummer Doug Oliver) from the small town of Norwood, Ontario, hit the mark.

The video, however, really sells the story. Filmed on the roof of the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas, it features crowds of gorgeous women climbing over and clamoring for the band mates. "Some of the girls were flown out from an agency in L.A.," says Costa. "Then, literally, we just pulled a bunch of girls in from strip clubs in Vegas. We got to handpick some, which was really awesome. We got a set of porn star twin sisters. That was pretty rad."


And that's just the start. "Porn Star Dancing" also features a cameo by the reigning king of party rock himself, Nickelback's Chad Kroeger, a killer breakdown from hip-hop star Ludacris, and a beast of a guitar solo from former Ozzy guitarist and current Black Label Society frontman/guitarist Zakk Wylde. It's safe to say that this one is going to be big.

"It's awesome having those three, huge names on that single, and we're so grateful and excited about it," says Costa. "But at the same time, you don't need three famous people to launch a successful band. It's going to be a bit hard to follow 'Porn Star Dancing,' but we're very confident that the music we've created is going to last a long time, and we have some really great sounds to put out there."

With an extensive tour currently underway and their debut album due out in September, Costa is still grounded. With a debut song this big, no one could really fault them if they did get a little ahead of themselves. But reality is always there to keep the guys' egos in check.

"We're in Vegas, on the roof of the Hard Rock, with helicopters, a bunch of porn stars, a bunch of strippers, Chad, Ludacris, Zakk Wylde—and everyone's attention is on us," Costa says. "For a second, we were like, 'Wow. We did it.'

"And then we came back to reality really quickly," laughs Costa. He admits that the day after the video was shot, their tour van broke down on the way to a show.

"We had to use my parent's van," he recalls. "We could barely see each other because there was equipment everywhere. It was like, 'Are we serious? Did we not just shoot a video with Ludacris, and now we're in my parent's 1994 Chrysler Voyager, trying to get to a gig?'" 



Pantera "Cowboys from Hell" (reissue)

It's hard to believe that it's been 20 years since Pantera released "Cowboys From Hell," a disc that would propel the Texas-based quartet out of obscurity

and into the hallowed halls of heavy metal history. To celebrate the anniversary of this timeless metal classic, Rhino Records is set to re-release "Cowboys From Hell" as a three-disc deluxe edition with rare and unreleased demos and live tracks on September 14. The latest installment of Concrete Marketing's "StripJoints" CD (Volume 25), features the blistering and badass title track.

While the release and the disc's 20-year anniversary is certainly worth celebrating, it is nevertheless bittersweet; the band's lead guitarist and co-founding member, "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott, was shot and killed while performing on stage at the Alosra Villa club in Columbus, Ohio, on December 8, 2004.

Abbott's brother, Pantera drummer Vinnie Paul, is a co-owner of The Clubhouse, a very popular and successful adult nightclub in Dallas. Paul currently plays drums for the metal quintet Hellyeah. — *Dave Manack*

It's Alive "Liar" also on StripJoints 25

Full of righteous anger and heavy riffs, "Liar," by small-town Florida boys It's Alive, is one of those mellow rock hits that fills many roles. It's easy enough to envision a dancer swinging high or grinding low and slow to the crunching guitar line, while the deceptively tender intro and verses set the scene for a dramatic, high-energy boost.



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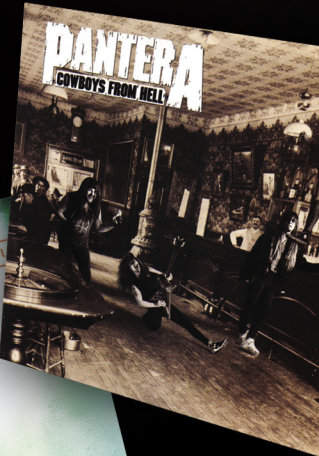
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the guitar song



MY DARKEST DAYS
PORN STAR DANCING
feat. ZAHN WYLDE



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