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LIVIN GARDEN



Gabriel Connor...

... tells Hek82 all about the band Livin Garden and what it's like for being from Brazil, creating their own music, videos, and a new DVD all about their US tour. They love Curitiba, Brazil; LA, California and the United States. They are planning future shows here in LA county and the US as well as their homeland.

www.livingarden.com.br

In the shade of a pomengranate tree...

Hek82: ... Gabriel Connor you're the lead singer and bass guitar player of the band Livin' Garden!

Gabriel: Hellyeah!

Hek82: Hey, Gabriel what's goin' on?

Gabriel: Hey, Kate how ya' doin'?

Hek82: I was happy to be able to hear your band play at Whiskey-a-Go-Go last week!

Gabriel: Yeah, it was a great show.

Hek82: It was a great show! Did you enjoy playing at that venue?

Gabriel: Yeah, for sure! It was our second time there. We played there last year when we toured the entire US. So, it was really good coming back to the Whiskey.

Hek82: Oh, awesome. Well, your band is cool - you guys are excellent players and I like the way the music sounds. It was like TNT! Really great metal. The songs are cool. Right now I'm sitting in a garden... There's an apple tree, a pomengranate tree... I'm in shade and feeling cool.

Gabriel: Awesome, what a sight!

Hek82: So, your band has four members. Gabriel on bass and vocals, Paul and Nate on guitar/ backup vocals and Iago on drums.

Gabriel: Yes, exactly.

Hek82: As I understand you added him as a new member not too long ago.

Gabriel: Well, we had two members actually... Iago and Nate joined the band last year. So, we don't consider them new any more but they are new guys.

Hek82: How long has the band been together?

Gabriel: We've been together for 9 years.

Hek82: Well, it is a tight sound. I suppose it is nice to change up

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Hek82 loved the Livin Garden show at the Whiskey-a-Go-Go! They supported the Appice brothers and Drum Wars!

players. I know a lot of bands do that. So, they do that and the sound is still there or has made improvements.

Gabriel: For sure. When you love what your doing you've got to remain focused on your main goals and what you want to achieve. That's basically what we've always done- and here we are!

Hek82: You're from Brazil all of you, correct? It certainly lends a lot of fascination for the audience, I think, to your fan base Um, so is your native language Portuguese then?

Gabriel: It is. That's our first language.

Hek82: I know that in Brazil some of the concert venues are popular. Even bands that I know like metal bands play there fairly often. Every year they don't miss stopping in Rio de Janiero and playing. So, what is the concert scene like there?

Gabriel: Brazil's rock-n-roll scene for foreign bands is really good. Metallica, AC/DC, Guns-n-Roses, really good. People like the foreign bands- even the smaller metal and rock-n-roll bands; but if you're a local national act they don't give a shit. Basically that- we got tired of not having any support in Brazil, and that's why we pursued audiences outside of Brazil. Wherever we could go and the greatest response was always from the United States, so that's why we're focusing our work here lately.

Hek82: Cool.

Gabriel: We feel really good, whenever we play here we feel like home. People here are really nice to us, every time we play and wherever we go.

Hek82: Great.

Gabriel: Yeah, it's awesome!

Hek82: Uh-huh. You mentioned that you've already done a US tour.

Gabriel: Yes, twice.

Hek82: So, you got to play some great cities and some great venues in the US? Maybe supported some other terrific famous bands already...

Gabriel: Yes, on the first tour which was 2011 we played with Ronnie Monroe who is the lead singer of the band Metal Church. On the second tour which was last year we played with Eyes to Kill at the Whiskey... so, those shows we always headlined. We've played smaller venues, bigger venues, everywhere! Last year we played 50 cities in the entire country for 4 mos. So, we've been everywhere like N, S, E, and West. We even released a DVD about it. There's a documentary and there're two live shows on it called "Tales from the Living Beast". That's our RV, the Living Beast!

Hek82: Ok. cool! You've even supported acts like Black Label Society.

Gabriel: Yes, we supported Black Label Society back in Brazil.

Hek82: So you will go back and play shows in your home country too.

Gabriel: Sure! Whenever we can. We did s show there in April in our hometown and it was packed. It was awesome to see, because for local bands there it doesn't happen a lot. It was really good.

Hek82: Cool! As far as Los Angeles, do you like the club life, have you met a lot of bands?

Gabriel: Oh, yeah- we've been here for two months I guess. We've been going out playing and meeting new people. It's a great city... music culture itself! Everybody I know now is doing something related to music, movies and entertainment in some kinda way. It's a really good environment for us. We always end up meeting a lot of interesting people.

Hek82: You are interesting people also.

Gabriel: Thank you!

Hek82: You mentioned the DVD you put out, that's cool. I've seen some of your videos online and they're really neat. Where did you produce your music videos?

Gabriel: It was back in Brazil with a director named Lelo Penha. He's really good he does a lot of movies and a lot of commercials in Brazil. He has a pretty good vibe and knows what he wants to show in music videos, a really good approach to doing it.

Hek82: They're interesting to watch and the songs are great. You have two albums out- one came out in 2009 which is the "Where can I Breathe" album and the latest in 2014 which is "Bring it On". Was that produced in Los Angeles?

Gabriel: Bring it On was produced by the band in our hometown Curitiba; but it was mixed by Sylvia Massy and Ian Rickard. Sylvia is a great producer here, she's not from LA but she's from California. Now she's in Oregon and used to have a studio in Ca. She produced bands like Tool and Red Hot Chili Peppers; and worked with Rick Rubin for a Slayer album, and a System of a Down album. She's an amazing talent. It was a great pleasure to have her mixing our album.

Hek82: Really impressive! I love to see women too who are so much of a success especially in the music industry- finding new talents too.

Gabriel: Exactly she's been doing this for a long time and is really great. She has nothing to prove to anyone... Top notch!

Hek82: Fantastic, I was happy to have the opportunity to hear some of the songs from the new album, like Bring it On!.

Gabriel: Glad you like it, really appreciate it.

Hek82: Yeah! Well, you've also got a website and merchandise up online. Nice to see.

Gabriel: We just released our official online store. Go to our official website at : livingarden.com.br/shop . Go there and find all the Cds, tee-shirts, and the new DVD as well. A lot of cool stuff. A really great store we're proud of it!

Hek82: It is cool. I also like the Reverbernation site, everything's on it- music, videos, albums and all that great stuff.

Gabriel: Yeah, it's reverbernation/livingarden , we have everything inc: Facebook, Twitter, You tube, which is actually livintube, once you find our channel all the videos are on it.

Hek82: Ok!

Gabriel: We try to be everywhere we can. We want to be available to everybody who wants to listen to our music and see our videos and come to our shows, that's what we're here for.

Hek82: Absolutely! In 2015 in the months ahead what's upcoming for the band?

Gabriel: Right now we're writing new stuff, new songs for an upcoming album. I'm not sure it's gonna be a full album or an EP or maybe just a couple singles. We're still deciding that. We'll also be releasing a new lyrics video soon. It's gonna be great, one of my favorite songs. I can't tell you right now. For now that's pretty much it we're working on new music and playing shows. That's what we're doing. Also promoting the new DVD that we just released.

Hek82: Great! I noticed your albums are available at Amoeba Records, have you had an in-store signing yet?

Gabriel: No, we haven't had the chance. We would be more than happy to do so with an invitation. The album is doing great there, way better than I expected actually.

Hek82: Any venues that you're looking forward to playing in the Los Angeles county area?

Gabriel: Everywhere.

Hek82: House of Blues, maybe?

Gabriel: There're closing the House on Sunset.

Hek82: Oh, that's right. Come to the HOB in Anaheim.

Gabriel: Too bad they're shutting that one down.

Hek82: We'll be looking for you here in Orange County, maybe come to Santa Ana.

Gabriel: Okay, sure!

Hek82: It was wonderful to meet you and your band members as well.

Gabriel: It was my pleasure!

Hek82: I wish all of you the best of luck and I hope to hear more from your band soon, anytime.

Gabriel: Hope to see you out at one of our shows soon. Pleasure to meet you also, thank you very much.

Hek82: Absolutely. Hek82 which is my show is weekly on Tune In an app for cell phones, a totally new wireless app... I'm gonna play Living Garden on an upcoming Saturday night episode!

Gabriel: That's great, let's check it out.

Hek82: Thanks, Gabriel!