

## Annexe 1 : Entretien avec 鬼 de Unrequited

P : So tell me a little bit about yourself Billy, like... How did you grow up, what was your relationship with music and these things? How did you learn music?

U: Sure hum, I... I'm pretty much self-taught entirely and I didn't grow up in a very musical family or anything, nobody was hum.. Nobody was interested in music in my family it's kind of something that I dived into on my own... But say around age 12 hum.. I was kind of like a.. kind of like a weirder kid hum, didn't like have a lot of close friends hum so hum grinding metal was obviously like a big part of, hum, a big discovery for me, a big part of my identity growing up. So hum, yeah I was just a big fan of metal for a couple of years until I decided I wanted to start like writing my own songs. And that was like a rabbit hole on its own I just started only doing that with all of my time. And that kind of just... stayed with me until my twenties where it's like that is just, really the only thing that I do with my time. I don't have a lot of hobbies I don't do like, gaming I don't do a lot of really anything. It's a lot of just writing so... It's huh... And I don't, I don't speak very much I don't like to talk about a lot of things so I find putting all of my huh feelings and thoughts into the music is like the only way I can communicate that.Huh... Yeah apart from that I mean growing up, was pretty normal huh. Metal, classes, household huh, very very average huh... But yeah I mean I just always had a very very close like relationship with music and songwriting it's like the one thing that I have that huh... Makes me feel fulfilled and emotionally huh...It's the only like emotional outlet that I have you know. To put my feelings into. That is kind of my relationship with music. I guess now...

P: And so... huh, how did you learn music like huh, do you know about music theory a little bit or you just do it by... with feelings?

U: Huh... I guess at this point I intuitively know some music theory, just from having written so much music, hum, I do have like an understanding of what music theory is but I haven't like formally learned any music theory. I can't light sightread music. I don't know like, notations or anything like that. I, I just huh, I write a lot just from feeling and I think I have a pretty strong ear for huh, what sounds right and what's good, huh. So that kind of works in my favor but huh, honestly I, every time I'm writing something I'm like I don't know what I'm doing. You know, that's kind of the mindset I have on my (?) I don't know how to make this song, I don't know how to finish it, I don't know how to start it I'm just

gonna figure it all and whatever I feel, sounds right or feels right, that's gonna go into it and I'm sure I've done tons of things that were like, incorrect over the years, technically, musically, but it's just what I wanted to do (chuckles).

P: Ok, Hum... Now you said you started to compose at age 12?? Yes?

U: Well, at 12 is when I got very interested in like metal and music in general.

P: Yeah.

U: So I would say probably for the next two years, I was like only a listener of of metal and pretty exclusively metal and huh. So I think around like 14 is when I picked up the guitar and I started like writing a little bit.

P: And huh, and you you self-taught yourself guitar?

U: Right, yeah, I huh, my parents did get me guitar lessons for like, less than a year when I first started but I didn't huh (chuckles) I didn't learn anything.

P: (Chuckles) ok huh, that's fine I guess.

U: Yeah it wasn't good, yeah.

P: Hum... So you you're composing music as a one-man band, but huh before that, did you play in a some band before going solo?

U: Hum hum. Yeah when I first started playing music I was just composing for myself and just wanted to see what I could do and I guess when I was around 17 I started looking for a band here locally and. I wasn't very good at guitar so... I couldn't really get into any band so, I thought "Ok I'm gonna start my own band". So (chuckles) I just started writing like an album and.. Then I found people to play my music, and then I made a lot of very close friends from this small band I started. It was mostly like metalcore/Hardcore because that's kind of what's popular here it's like metalcore/hardcore huh... Not a lot of extreme metal or anything else but I I I still really like metalcore I still do but that's kind of that's kind of what we were playing and then yeah I made a lot of really close friends hum. Through music and we actually did really well. We toured all over the US and Canada we got (?) signed to a label. Huh so yeah I was doing the band thing for a very long time, up until 2016, that band stopped and that's actually the year that I started the first Unrequited album.

P: yeah, Disquiet.

U: Mmh mmh.

P: And so what, what made you want to go from playing a band to do your own stuff on your own?

U: Well, I was planning to be doing both of them at the same time because hum, there is another guy in the band who is like a really good songwriter too. So he was writing a lot of the songs at this point. Aaaaand I felt like, I do like collaborating and writing music with like my friends but I want to try to do something again that's like just myself. Hum... And, yeah I just happened to be discovering like a lot of atmospheric black metal and stuff at this time like... There is a youtube channel called Lightfox177 that was really really popular.

P: Hum hum...

U: And he was putting out like singles from like black metal bands and I was like rediscovering that cause I always really liked like Deafheaven and Alcest and things like that.

P: Yeah.

U: But yeah, what this Youtube channel really like made me rediscover like the genre and I was like "Woah, I think I wanna contribute to this a little bit and see what I could make" so... Yeah Disquiet was my first time ever recording myself because we always went to studios before so. I didn't know how to record and I was like "I'm gonna try and see what happens" (chuckles) . So that's the first thing I ever tried to like write and record entirely myself.

P: Okay. And yeah. And so you used softwares to record Disquiet and all euh do. Can you tell me some of the softwares you use?

U: I think the, I think that album was almost entirely like free plug-ins. Euh... So I used Logic Pro for the digital audio work station it's still what I use. Euh... I'm trying to remember... For that album like the drums were like a free plug-in, it was called like "MX Drums" or something like that. It was really just a free drum plug-in. Euh... The guitars were free drums hum free plug-ins, Hum. Poulain was the cabs and the amps. Hum... What else did I use? I think the only thing I paid for was like the strings and the choirs and the piano. It's all hum, It's all frfor the guitarom East West which is hum, I didn't have the money to buy these softwares but they have a cloud option where you can pay monthly and get everything so I

did that. Hum... Yeah, some cheap guitar that I had hum... Pff "SM 58" microphones (chuckles)

P: Okay okay.

U: Hum, Stock reverb from the hum from Logic. Yeah it was pretty much all just free plug-ins that I could find on the Internet cause I didn't have any money. Haha.

P: And do you still use the same softwares? No?

U: No, I still use the same digital audio work station but hum. No I definitely change stuffs, I mean I do still use some of the strings plug-ins cause I'm still on that cloud membership. But I have an "XFS-2" for the guitars hum... But I, but I use a lot of neural DSP aswell for the guitar amps. For drums I use Getgood drums. Which are the best, pretty much. Hum, right now and they are pretty affordable as well. Hum... I still use hum, bass plug-ins (chuckles) because I don't have a bass so I still program the bass.

P: Okay.

U: Hum, I think I use DjinnBass for that. Hum... Yeah that's pretty much it like everything else is just things that I've hum, accumulated over the years like some small softwares things that I found that I just kinda... I changed up everytime you know?

P: Yeah yeah.

U: But the bass stuff like the guitar, bass, drums, I always use the same things now. Getgood Drums, XFS and the bass thing yeah.

P: Hum, You told me that you're composing little by little like you, you start somewhere and you don't know when it will end so you're kind of improvising the next thing?

U: Pretty much. I mean it depends I think every song has like a... sometimes I have like a end goal like a vision for what I want the end of the song to be or what I want the album to be or whatever, I usually have something in mind, like uh, a story that I'm trying to tell or like a feeling that I'm trying to convey or something like that. But hum so, when that happens the song do tend to come together rather quickly and I usually have like an idea of what I want to do. But there is a lot of yeah like you said, improvising and just figuring out how to get to the end of the song. There is a lot of that happening too. I would say composing is one of those things that, even I haven't figure out like how to do it consistently, it's always gonna be different.

P: Okay? Hum So. I was going to ask you if you could show me a quick example of how you compose like. Like if you can share the screen and maybe... play a little bit if you can?

U: Sure, I mean huh, yeah I mean how I compose is kind of difficult. It would be difficult to show you how I compose because. I mean I can show you logic if you want like I can show you what I like... The session is pretty big so I can't open a session huh, it's gonna take a long time like to load up. But... What can I show You? I mean... I generally start on guitar and, because that is my main instrument so... It usually start with huh... Me trying to huh, to come up with a melody of some sort on guitar but... I'll see what I can show you here...So... This is logic. Huh Generally, I will start with.. I have like a lot of templates just like that and so, I will start with huh, I open up a drum thing... Just bare with my computer it's taking a while (chuckles).

P: Okay, no it's fine, it's interesting so, I don't mind. You're playing the drum like on your keyboard like? Or the computer?

U: Oh no no, I generally just draw, I draw all the MIDI notes instead of playing it.

P: Ah yes! Okay!

U: Hum hum. So drums huh, here let me load up, I can actually hum, I have a software guitar that I actually use for writing sometimes so, I will pull up that too. Let's just go with... Yeah so this is howden it's a a fake guitar plug-in that actually sounds, pretty realistic... So this is probably loading yeah... So it sounds kind of like a guitar right, I have some pretty... Can you hear this by the way?

P: No I don't hear it.

U: So can I stream my audio to you as well?

P: Huh I really don't know, Huh yes. I have a thing named "volume of the stream" so I guess you can share the volume... The audio the audio.

U: Ah I can do that in Discord?

P: Yes maybe? I really, I don't know but there is a... Yeah I'm not a specialist of Discord...

U: Yeah no worries, I just huh I thought there was an option here in Discord to share audio. Just kind of looking around. I'm not an expert on Discord either I don't use it ever...

P: Yeah.

U: Ok like, either way I'm not gonna write a song anyway but... You can see the the MIDI I can draw out the MIDI like this (sound).

P: Oh yes I hear it now.

U: You can hear it?

P: Yeah, I think so.

U: Oh good! Is it loud or quiet?

P: Try to play it? (...) Yeah it's like Hum and in the end.

U: It worked?

P: Yeah it worked but for a really short time.

U: Oh so you can't hear it now?

P: No I don't hear it, it's weird.

U: Ok weird, I wonder if it's maybe coming through my microphone or something...

P: Oh yes, it's probably that...

U: Ok, well anyway I'll just turn it down so that doesn't happen but yeah. I draw out some Midi notes just like that. I try to make like that guitar melody like I write a guitar melody in real life on my guitar I transpose it in here so I don't have to record it huh. While I'm writing and then...

P: huh So you make it yourself and then you just take the notes and transcribe it or do you plug the guitar in and it just writes itself?

U: No I do it all by hand, like actually I draw in the notes that I'm writing on guitar. It depends if it's something really complex maybe I just record it but... I generally hate, like recording it's like really not fun and... If I wanna like change the key or if I wanna change the tempo, It's a lot easier when it's just MIDI and I can just very easily change that. And uh, and then yeah I just do kind of the same thing here with like the drum, the drum thing. Oh this change into not drum but whatever... Huh... Yeah. I mean, it's pretty straight-forward hum... I can, I have so many like play-ins that I use on a daily basis that it will be hard to show you al of them.

P: Okay..

U: But huh I'm opening up these drums here. (silence) Yeah so this is huh, I have everything written here. So, Hum, See you have like the snare, track and you got the kick track and you got the overhead symbols you've got like near and far microphones. But this will be the huh, this is how print drums, this is like the first Getgood drums huh that they put up. Pretty affordable, sounds amazing hum, you don't have to do a lot to it to make it sound good, so it's really really awesome. This right here is the bass that I use huh that's what I use for bass, It sounds really good. You open that too it looks like this, you turn on the amp and you can use your own amp, I usually use a different amp, huh this is like a DI signal base. So yeah that's really good huh. There is a lot of stuff in content I like to use this is like a string library huh Nucleus, XL, this is like huh vocal heu, sample things sounds really good huh yeah. So those are the things that I use, pretty regularly. What else? (silence) Yeah "play" by Eastwest, this is pretty much all of my strings that I use so we're going to (...) orchestra, we have... Hopefully you can see all this...

P: Yes I can. I can't really read it but I can see it.

U: You look kinda frozen on my end I don't know why (chuckles).

P: Yeah.

U: You can see that little window that's open?

P: Yeah, yeah yeah!

U: Okay. So these are like, these are like all the strings there is like cellos, there is huh, violins and always I generally use all of those things I open them all up individually and I write the cello part, I write a string part, I write a violin part and put them all together. Hum. This also has the pianos that I use and the choirs that I use. So these are like basically the things that I use in like every single song, the drum, guitar bass and all of the orchestral stuffs, it's like in every single song that I use. I pretty much don't change that huh. It is comfortable for me and I like using huh, something that I know how to use. Don't really like trying new things so... These are pretty reliable for that.

P: Hum hum.

U: So yeah the huh the piano that I use. Now you can't hear that but...

P: No yeah, I can't hear. But okay...

U: Yeah I, like generally, my session being pretty big there is like a lot of tracks open here and I just kind of, write things as I go and I also mix things as I go just to kind of huh have an idea of what the final product is gonna sound like.

P: Hum hum.

U: While I'm working but hum... Yeah that's, that's pretty much it, it's pretty much how I write. Hum... I don't know what else I can really show you here. Then like after that. After everything is written I just delete the guitar tracks like the fake guitars that I wrote here, record them, edit them and then huh sometimes throw vocals on them. But yeah, that's pretty much it.

P: Yeah Okay. Thank you.

U: Yeah.

P: Hum and you... There was a time when you were huh like writing music on Twitch.

U: Hum yeah.

P: Like why did you do it? What is something you liked to? Or it was the communication with the people?

U: Yeah I thought it would be cool to just like have huh. A place where people could come to and like interact with me and that's not just you know social media comments and stuff because huh as much as I do try to get back to all those like... It's not very personal, I'm just saying like "oh thank you" you know? It's nothing crazy so I thought it would be a cool place to like, just be there and literally just answer every question as they come in in depth and like just talk. Hum even tho I don't like talking (chuckles) but huh yeah, the whole writing music thing is like, I did it for a while on Twitch but... I don't really like writing with an audience, like it feels strange because it feels like I'm letting people in on a really personal part of like my life (chuckles).

P: Yes.

U: So, I started like, only doing like, mixing for a little while like huh... Cause I didn't use to write like this I used to write everything in like a tablature program like guitar tablature program you know like Guitar Pro and stuff like that.

P: Guitar Pro yes.

U: Yeah, so I used to write in Guitar Pro and then I would export the MIDI and then I would set up you know all the proper instruments so for a while I started only streaming like that process you know turn on the stream and then I would export the MIDI and all and talk while I'm setting up all the instruments and you know making it sound good and then I would be like "Okay that's it, that's all I have for you guys, I don't wanna write anything in front of you cause it's weird", so... So I don't I don't know when I'll get back doing like Twitch streams, I just don't know what I should do exactly haha.

P: Okay. So what do you think is like, easier when you're practicing, composing as a one-man band or what is harder when you compare it to being in a group euh in a band?

U: Huh? What is easier and what is harder about it?

P: Yeah.

U: I guess, I guess it's harder because, like it's it's just you like you are the be all, end all, you have to make every single decisions, you have to decide when something is finished, you have to decide when something is good you have to huh, Yeah as somebody who's like maybe not as confident as other peo, as some other people. That can be like really hard because it can really get on your own head and be like "Is this (???) good?" like I'm sure there's tons of songs that like could have made it out but didn't because I just wasn't huh confident enough in them. So that can be kind of tough I mean... I ultimately think there is way more pros than cons because like, for me, being able to huh... being able to have full creative control is like super super important and huh I don't have to relinquish any like huh I don't have to compromise with others which was like a big problem that I had when I was in a band. Huh... Cause I fell like. I feel like it's cool when everybody is contributing to a song but, people start compromising and compromising and compromising until you have this pieve of music that, everybody has compromise and now it's meaningless to everyone (chuckles) you know what I mean?

P: Okay, yeah.

U: Everybody put in like what they want but then, you know the meaning kinda gets taken away and taken away and taken away and now you have this thing that everybody think like "okay now it's good but it doesn't mean anything to anyone", I don't know... That's something that I didn't really like. Huh, I still collaborate, my roommate and I still have a music project together that we huh we write music together, I still write like all of the

instrumentals like I do with Unrequited and then we collaborate on the vocals and that's fun for me because I'm not that good at writing vocals huhu.

P: Okay.

U: That's why I generally prefer writing instrumental music because that's like, what I'm good at I guess... But huh, yeah I like camaraderie and I like working with other people but I like being able to do something that's entirely my own so... I still have both of those things in my life which is like a really good balance for me...

P: Yes, and it means something to you, once you've finished what you've written... Yeah.

U: Yes, that's pretty important otherwise I, I wouldn't keep doing it I don't think.

P: Yeah, hum so you didn't write a lot of lyrics at the beginning or not at all, it was exclusively screams yeah but huh, you began to write like lyrics with huh, The Ember, The Ash and huh, the last, the split with Sadness, you've also lyrics... Is it yours? Yes I guess...

U: Yeah yeah I wrote and recorded the vocals yeah.

P: Yeah hum, and so you you... Yeah I will change a little bit the subject and so you went on tour with huh with your band when you were playing in the band. Now as Unrequited or The Ember, The Ash, you don't tour but... Is it something you would like to, to do later or is it, don't you have any plan to do that at any moment?

U: Hum. I don't have any plans to but it's definitely something that I want to do again. Huh it's just such a difficult thing to do when you're a small artist. Like financially and logistically and, it's such an undertaking unless you're like making really good money on this tour, you're gonna like (???) And you know with it that first tour when we were like, twenty years old, I guess... And we still lived with our parents so it was a lot easier.

P: Yeah.

U: But now like, we have to pay rent and we have to work to huhu to make money and like going on tour is, like when we went on tour, we didn't really make any money we were spending like ubermaxing our credit card just to get gas so...

P: Yes.

U: It was really difficult to, it was really fun it was a really good experience and I really want to do it again but it just would have to be the right tour, it would have to be the right set of

circumstances in order to make it financially otherwise that's be just digging a hole (chuckles).

P: Yes.

U: Yeah, but I do wanna do it again.

P: Okay, so hum just over the finances and all. Is the one-man band like, financially convenient? In opposition to a group, like??? How?

U: Yes.

P: Yes? So hum...

U: Yeaahh, you can finish the question yeah.

P: So if you would have to tour, it would be with a band, no? Like...

U: yeah yeah, for sure.

P: Yes.

U: Huh for Unrequited it would have to be like huh, we would have to have like session members, You know I have to have people Like... So it's still be a financial thing, like I would still have to pay people for their time and to come on tour and cover their expenses and everything so...So it's gonna be a big financial thing regardless (chuckles) no matter how I'll do it.

P: Yes. Yes, but hum, just. So a tour is not possible but huh, ah sorry... Yeah the fact to being a one-man band is financially easier that to be with a group. And so, can you huh, live with what you earn through the one-man band or is it difficult and you have to, have a work aside that?

U: I tried for huh I tried for, just under two years to just do the music stuff. But it wasn't really possible. Like, I did okay but hum, I was, my credit card was like getting pretty high and I wasn't really I wasn't really making any money, so it was a good time to just like sit down and like, make as much music as possible and be really productive but huh, it's not really feasible for me right now so... So yeah I did it for about two years and then huh. When was it? Around June, of last year. I was like "I need to get a job again" haha.

P: Okay.

U: Cause it's just not, it's not working out so... Now I'm working again but huh, I think I'll try it again soon. Hum, it just doesn't really makes sense right now because it just doesn't quite make enough money. I'm trying to like do as many things as possible like, myself to save on money. Like I started to print my own t-shirts like, you know... I don't have to pay anyone for like the music obviously cause I can do all of that myself. Hum, so I'm trying to do as much as I can in hopes to like, save money huh So we'll see what happens but right now, yeah it's huh it's a little bit too hard.

P: Yes. And you, you also make tapes yourself I think...

U: Tapes yeah yeah! I huh, I don't do any of like, I self-print them technically but it's like a company doing that obviously. Yeah, the tapes are not usually through a label I usually just do them myself. Except for the huh the Sadness split...

P: Yes, it was Flowing Downward.

U: That's right yeah.

P: And huh, so you said that it was all for you. But huh, lately, your latest releases, it's been mixed by Nekomix... Hum

U: Hum, not mixed only mastered.

P: Oh yeah mastered I huh I I...

U: Yeah he actually has mastered everything since Empathica.

P: Okay, yes. And so You did pay for that, I guess...

U: Oh yeah yeah, huh mastering is a pretty, it's a pretty fast process, like it's just huh, it's just a skill that I don't want to learn and huh it's much easier to pay somebody to do that because it's not expensive and it doesn't take a long time to master. It just takes a long time to learn how to master (chuckles).

P: Okay okay.

U: So... Yeah, so it's affordable like, it doesn't cost more than like a hundred dollars to master a full album. So...

P: Ah okay.

U: Yeah.

P: Yes and huh...Yeah it was like huh, impossible for you to do that for a living but you also made some arrangements work, like with huh Soul Dissolution...

U: Yeah, yeah I wrote I think the first half of, one of their songs, uh maybe not wrote, they gave me like a basic structure that they wanted and I huh, created an orchestral arrangement for it basically yeah. Yeah I would like to do more things like that, I've done some mixing for bands but I don't think I will do that anymore cause I'm not very good at mixing... Haha. Hum But yeah, the arrangements and like composition for other people, I would definitely keep doing that, it's fun. It's fun working on other people's projects huh.

P: And huh, was it them that contacted you?

U: I think we were friends on Facebook and he reached out yeah...

P: Ok and so do you also produce some artists like do the production?

U: Hum, the only thing I really done was, a couple of mixings huh, I'm trying to remember some of the bands I did that for. There is a band called Desolate Isolation that's like depressive black metal and I did hum, I did their mix and ... There is another band that... sounds like, you know the band Lustre? Or "Luster"?

P: Yeah.

U: Yeah, there is another band that sounds exactly like that, like I can't remember what the band is called but I did huh, I did the mix for them and I did some production too. But yeah, it's only been like 3 or 4 projects that I did anything for. I don't really do it anymore.

P: Yeah okay.Hum Yes and that's pretty much it...

U: Yeah?

P: Yes! Thank you it helped me a lot!

U: If you do have any like other questions or you think of something else that you want to ask hum, just feel free to hit me up here on Discord I'm usually pretty available.

P:Yes.

U: Well thanks for having me.

P: Thank you a lot for this one, I'm really happy I could do that with you and if I have other questions, I'll make sure to hit you up on Discord! Yes.

U: Perfect, cool have a good night thanks so much!

P: Yes, you too have a good night huh day!

U: Bye!

P: Bye!