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DJ Dad Shirt Calls it Quits

The band is unable or unwilling to reinvent itself into a 'new normal' with no probability of a return to live performances on the horizon.

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Monday, July 13, 2020— Las Vegas electronica jam band DJ Dad Shirt has called it quits after only one year together. Formed almost by accident in the Las Vegas Arts District, the band developed quickly and played over 50 live shows in a span of ten months, as well as recording a live album at the legendary Studio of The Palms.

But after four months of being unable to play live venues, drummer Jonah Shulman has this to say: “The end of a live music era. The Dad Shirt has been retired and buried. Only from its ashes will a new sound rise to fuel the masses into movement.”

All of the venues the band would play have been variously shut down, gone out of business, closed, or restricted. Las Vegas and the State of Nevada have even gone so far as not allowing dancing in licensed venues, which was an obvious deal-breaker for the band. “18bin, out of business. Huntridge Tavern, closed. ReBAR, closed. Tealet, not open to the public” lamented band leader TerboTed aka DJ Dad Shirt.

The group was unable or unwilling to reinvent themselves into a 'new normal', which typically means options like performing at house parties, illicit desert raves or live streaming. “There’s no vibe in a live stream” explains Terbo. “There’s this Hindu term, prana, which means breath or air or spirit, it could be energy or an aura. If we are in the same room, there are particles flying through all of us, there’s a breath and energy we share. That doesn’t come through your phone, you have to be there.”

Oddly, the band’s breakup doesn’t follow any of the stereotypical reasons for bands parting ways. The band members are all still in personal contact and plan to somehow continue with various musical projects, together or separately.

“Two months into the shutdown, we decided to start rehearsing, which is something we never bothered with when we were actively gigging once a week or more. It was awful. With no audience, there was no energy to feed off of, so just us in a room, when we’re bummed about not being able to play shows, that’s the sound that’s going to come out of our improvisations, the sound of us not feeling it. It would ruin our band to continue that way. Even when we recorded our album at Studio at the Palms, we invited a bunch of our friends to the sessions, to create a party like atmosphere, people were drinking, smoking, we brought lights and even a smoke machine. Vibes from an audience are that important to us.”

DJ Dad Shirt does leave behind an album “Wait to Cross Fourth Street” which included the singles “Feel the Nite”, “Storming Area 51” and the title track. It can be streamed prana-free on Spotify, iTunes, amazon music and more.

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