

DON'T LOOK AWAY FROM *THE GRINNS*

BY DAVID ECHO



PHOTO BY KEVIN FOCUS

Every band wants to breakthrough to a greater level of exposure, wants to reach a wider audience that will engage with their music enough to show their support. However, not every band will vocalize those desires, or maybe they just don't know how to. Lead vocalist Joey 'Sci-Fi' Kolk, of The Grinns, doesn't have that problem. "I think we're well on our way to being the slickest band in the whole entire universe," he proclaimed during an interview at Nothing Fest 2021. With Joey as the vocalist; guitarist Francisco Jorquiera, drummer Frederico Hadyka, and multi-instrumentalists Ramtin Khoe and Mike "Deffie" Perry, The Grinns' growing discography backs the statement as simply being well-intentioned determination.

When they began, "Our high school had a rally stage where they would hold dance competitions and we formed a band to play those," said Joey. There's no room for lack of confidence, or flair, in a band that started out jamming the dance stage at their Mission Viejo High School. It's a classic origin story for a band that ascends into the crowded musical space of Southern California. When asked if they expected their success, drummer Frederico Hadyka muses, "We did not anticipate it... when it comes to us we really just tried to make good music...we put our own

money into the band, we were really trying to do something, so it feels good that people enjoy what we put out."

The Grinns' sound comes with a seductive strut. Accompanied by the influences of nearby beach rats and suburbanites, their sound makes for an airy concoction of genres. They feel like a band born from the slick-talking, Tarantino universe, scoring the soundtrack to their own carefully curated moving picture.

Though the roots of their music are more firmly planted in the musical stylings of surf rock and shades of dreamy feel-good indie pop, The Grinns newest release, "Let's Go Out", sees the band venture further into a bouncier, funkier mixture of what rock could be when it's not crammed into its familiar conventions. "Let's Go Out" comes with its own unique attitude that can only come from a band comfortable and confident enough to roll the dice with its audience, while being in full control of their sound. It truly feels like The Grinns have only begun to scratch the surface of capabilities of what their sound can be.

Don't be fooled by the smiles and infectious grooves of The Grinns, it takes more dedication and time than most people realize to get hype going



POLAROID BY JULIANNE BAUTISTA

around a band. When asked about the anticipation of future success, Joey said, "People that are starting bands as young kids tend to imagine the long run of success. But it's literally a first job, first priority all the time." He added, "I like to say it's like the family business, you gotta keep it in the family. Trust each other, make sure to pay attention." Some artists and bands find out later in their journey how exhausting the music industry can be. Others find out what they're really made of, taking their losses and setbacks as motivation for the possibility of an even greater success down the road. Joey and his band are the latter. The Grinns are a growing, young band that's bold enough to believe that the peak of their success is closer than most think. They continue to hold firm in this belief to achieve their goals. As Joey puts it, "We always wanted to be successful and the biggest band in the world... and I think that hasn't changed."



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