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On April 30th, 2010, **Girl in a Coma** arrived in Montréal, Canada part way through their North American Tour, in this portion of their tour they were the opening act for Sia. The band's name is a tribute to the Smiths' song *Girlfriend in a Coma*, which appeared on the Smiths' last studio album. *Girl in a Coma* are from San Antonio, Texas, USA. This rock band's three energetic musicians are: Nina Diaz as Lead Vocal/Guitar, Phanie Diaz on Drums and Jenn Alva on Bass. Upon arriving in Montréal, Phanie notified their fans via twitter and facebook concerning their show that night at Club Soda. Next Imprint caught up with them for the interview before their show.

Question:
How was *Girl in a Coma* formed?

Phanie Diaz:
We formed in 2000...

Jenn Alva:
2000 but 2001.

Phanie Diaz:
It was her (Jenn Alva) and I at first and we were having trouble finding a guitar player/singer. She (Nina Diaz) was 12 at the time and she showed us a song and we loved her voice. So we started to play.

Question:
How did you learn to play the guitar?



(From left to right: Nina Diaz, Phanie Diaz and Jenn Alva)

Nina Diaz:
Phanie, one of her first instruments was the guitar; I would come, just play with hers when she would be gone. When I decided to get my own, she taught me power cords. Then from there, I just taught myself.

Question:
What gave you your inspiration to write your songs at that age?

Nina Diaz:
I don't know, I guess I was just bored.

[Laughter]

Nina Diaz:
At home alone all the time and I wanting to be living this kind of life so I just wrote about it.

Question:
Were you surprised by your original success your debut album "*Both Before I am Gone*", having reached 23rd on Billboard's Heatseekers chart and 21st on iTunes, and in 2008, the song *Clumsy Sky* winning the Best Punk Song in the 7th Annual Independent Music Awards.

Nina Diaz:
Yeah. At the time when we found out about it we were on the road so we really didn't have a moment to really notice what we have done. When we got home and we look back at everything that has happened to us and we hope to happen to us, we just know we are going to work hard.

Question:
I read different stories on how each member of the band meet Joan Jett, do you mind sharing your story with us?



(Nina Diaz)

Phanie Diaz:
No not at all. (In 2006) We were doing a TV documentary show on what it was like to be in an indie band. Kind of struggling, first starting out type thing. They were following us around. The element of the show is at the end she was supposed to surprise us by like, "yeah I'm here and I'm going give you advice."

But she ended up coming to our show that we had that night in New York's Knitting Factory. She took us downstairs and signed us on the spot (on Blackheart Records label). Which is what every band wants. We've been working with her since then and it's been great.

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Question:

You mentioned you own album as apposed to CDs. Don't you miss opening up an album, reading the covers, putting it on?

Phanie Diaz:

Oh, yeah. That's the big thing.

Jenn Alva:

That's what we were saying. Even records or CDs whatever, that was the point. When we were younger, we would save up. Then go get that album, finally get it. Put in on and sit on your bed. Read along to the lyrics, if there was lyrics then dissect it in your head.

Phanie Diaz:

I would even read the credits and see who the group was thinking...

Nina Diaz:

Yeah.

Phanie Diaz:

...and then I would check out that band because they liked this band.

Jenn Alva:

Right, yeah, we are very obsessive, everything that has to do with them. The art too, of the cover, which is a lot of fun to have in your hands. Now it's just different, it's like ADD; "Oh. I like that song; I just downloaded it, cool, what's the next song?" It's not the same. That's another reason why we did the covers.

Phanie Diaz:

We only did it on record but we had to do it on digital, because everybody is downloading. So we had to cater to what's happening now, but at the same time...The covers of these EP's if you put them together it's a board game that you can play.

Jenn Alva:

We had to think of something clever for people who want something in their hands.

Phanie Diaz:

You can appreciate the albums for the cover.

Jenn Alva:

So yeah, it makes a board game so hopefully people will say "Oh I'm going to buy this for the records whether I own a record player or not. I just want to own it" We'll see.

Question:

Are they ever going to appear as a CD?

Jenn Alva:

No, it would have been cool, but no not right now, maybe later.

Statement:

Thank you very much for your time.



(Nina Diaz)