



**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH
STREBEN**



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Name?

Atif Javed-Vocals and guitars.
Johan Roy D'souza - Bass and backing vocals.
Naveen - Drums.
Tabrez - Keyboards.

Date of Birth?

Atif - 20 Feb' 1983.
Jo - 05 Sept' 1982.
Naveen - 20 July 1981.
Tabrez - 1980.

location?

All of us live in Sharjah, U.A.E.

Hobbies?

Atif - Network games, Swimming, Working out.
Jo - Table Tennis, Playing Caroom, Music.
Naveen - Cricket, Billiards.
Tabrez - Acting, Cricket, cracking corny jokes..:P

Education?

Atif - 2nd year in Information technology
Johan- Bachelors in process
Naveen - Graduate in BBA
Tabrez- Doing 3rd year in electrical engineering

Music Education?

None of us have been professionally been trained in Music. However, Johan and Atif have taken some tips from the internet and some professional musicians

Music Equipment?

Atif - Electric, semi-acoustic and spanish guitars, Fender amps and Digitech Rp200 guitar processor
Johan - Yamaha BB1200S(For Live Performances), Ibanez 3006E(6 string, For studios), Aria Amp, Dean Markley Strings
Naveen - Pearl Forum series Drums, Zildjan Sticks and Sabian cymbals
Tabrez - Yamaha DX 7 synthesizer

Other Occupations?

Naveen is working for Intertek refinery. Rest are too lazy to work elsewhere...

Sources of inspiration (while creating music)?

Atif - Anything can inspire me. Even a statement that hits might lead myself into making music. I think one can express himself best through music.
Basically, our music defines the ups and downs of life.
Johan - Basically, everything that comes my way, for example, nature.
Naveen - My inner self....
Tabrez - Things on this earth that need to be changed. We dont know if we can, but we keep trying

What drew you guys towards music?

Atif- I started off with Music after I came across a Junoon album, Inquilaab. Eversince, i had this urge of making music & hence decided to start off with the keyboards. After a year of playing the keyboard, I got a little bored with the instrument and therefore, picked up the guitar. Eversince, there's been no stop to it.
Johan - Well, We friends were discussing on forming a band but I didnt really know much about music. Later, i picked up the Bass guitar and got into the depths of music.
Naveen & Tabrez - Music itself

Tell us something about your upcoming album?

Atif - Our debut album will be a bit of everything, of what we are and what we want from our lives. Each song will be different, yet will compliment each other.

Johan - The upcoming abum shows all our talents in different moods of music, basically experimenting on techniques, grooves, and melodies. Its gonna be funky as well, but the focus will be more towards Rock.

Naveen - The album basically tells about ourselves to the world. The album will take you to the world that we live in, the different aspects of life.

Tabrez - Will definitely be worth your buy...;)

Music Recognition or achievements?

Atif- I've performed in a lot of college gigs, and have won in a couple of events, one of them being the Spring fiesta battle of the bands, one of the biggest shows held in Dubai.

Johan - Well, I have played in my college band, gone for atour with my side project band(Sound waves) and played for lots of churches. I was also lucky enough to perform with pakistani playback singer Mujeeb Alam.

Naveen - I've played in different college gigs, and as for achievement, being in Streben itself is an achievement for me.

Tabrez - I've performed most of my gigs with Atif, and have a bit of an experience in live performances. I'm looking forward to gigs as Streben now.

Type of Music you like?

Atif - I am more into Rock & classical stuff, but a song that have a meaning to it is always amongst my top list.

Johan - Jazz, Funk, Disco and Rock

Naveen - Progressive Rock, Heavy Metal

Tabrez - Rock and classical

Type of Music you hate?

Atif - As long as it is MUSIC, i dont hate it.

Johan - Pop, and somehting which doesnt teach me anything

Naveen - Anything that doesnt sound good to the ear.

Tabrez - None

What do you think about other Pakistani Artists?

Atif - I think that this year, 2003, we have actually experienced a complete revolution in the PAki music scene...The ice has broken! New artists like Mekaal hasan, Fuzon, Noori, eP, Mizraab, etc have proved that we pakis are TALENTED!!

Johan - I started off listening to Junoon after Azadi and I really like them.

Naveen - I listen to Junoon and thats about it!!

Tabrez - I think that the new bands who've entered the scene have really rocked the nation. All I'd say is, Keep rocking!

How would you like to be remembered?

Atif - As someone who made music not for the heck of it or to get fame or wealth, but to actually make good music.

Johan - More as a composer and a musician

Naveen - I would like to be remebered as a musician who gave everything to music.

Tabrez - a music machine!!;)

Favorite musicians (Pakistani)?

Atif - Junoon, Mekaal Hasan, Fuzon

Johan - Junoon & Fuzon

Naveen - Junoon

Tabrez - Junoon, eP, Noori, Mizraab

Favorite Song (Pakistani)?

Atif - Many of them, but one song that remains evergreen is Rooh ki pyaas by Junoon.

Johan - Sajna by Junoon.

Naveen - Diye (our own song).

Tabrez - Kahan hae tu by eP.

Final Comments?

Atif - All I would want to say is that we are short of time, we wont live forever. We are humans, lets

live like humans. Love and be loved. I would like to specially thank Mighty Allah & my parents who are everything for me. Special thanks to Mahmud bhai(hypnotix) & Nabeel Aejaaz for all his support, Imran for his webdesigning, Asif and ustajee for photoshoots and Videos, Johan, Naveen,

Tabrez - Talha, Nauman, Adnan, Nomi, Afaq, Sadiq, Kamaal, Amir, Emad, Saad, Bilal, Asad and all my other friends who've supported me all the way. A very special thanks to a very close friend of mine, Rashid Nadeem, whose always helped us with his artful writing. I have a few words for him as well. This lad, creativity has no limits. All he needs is peace of mind and his inner feelings start to transform into fine piece of art. Rashid Nadeem Ghauri, the lyricist of the band says that lyrics play a very important role in making a good song. He writes on just about anything, varying from sociological aspects of life to themes filled with emotions that melts the toughest. For him, what he writes is lesser of lyrics and more of his feelings. A few of his masterpieces are the lyrics of Aasmaan and Furkat, Aasmaan that defines the passion to succeed while Furkat that shows the agony of unsuccessful love. He has provided 15-20 songs to date, some of which have been used and the band will continue to do so with the others.. Atif Javed, the vocalist and guitarist of the band says that Rashid, in this field, can be described in 2 words. A Lyrical Genius!!

Johan - Got to go a long way with my band and hope to make good music. Thanks to God, my parents, my friends and band members.

Naveen - I would like to thank God, my parents and my friends who have always supported me.

Contact Streben at: atif@karachiunderground.com



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