

## **20 Questions for Sean Thompson, Odd Logic**

1. Odd Logic is to Sean Thompson as Ayreon is to Arjen Lucassen, right?

**Yes, this is true. Although Sean Thompson is not to Arjen Lucassen. I'd say he's got a few more credentials (sarcasm just happened).**

2. Your new album, Legends of Monta is subtitled "Part 1" and the storyline does seem to end in the middle. Is there a Part 2 in the works?

**Yes, Part 2 is in the works. I'm currently working on a side-project with an Author from Seattle, WA. This will be more of a score-like album based around a modern sci-fi mystery. Legends Part 2 will follow and I anticipate a release date sometime next year. The new one will be packaged and mastered by a third party. To this point, I've done everything but cover art on my own. As Odd Logic's popularity grows, so does the ability for me to use other professional resources.**

3. When did you first conceive of the story and when did you lay down the first tracks?

**In 2004, a friend, my father, and myself started a round-robin fantasy story for our own amusement. We would each take our turns writing a few pages at a time, expanding on each previous entry. Eventually, everyday life assigned us new chores which left the story lying still. As writing music had always been my first demand on the free-time list, I had new material to sort out which in turn needed some lyrical content. I had already decided to do a concept album after the last release "Parallax Panorama" in 2003. So, I had an unfinished story and new music on the way, it just seemed to fit. The first tracks were recorded in August of 2005. Amidst my day job and family time I completed the project in October of 2006.**

4. I gather you play most of the instruments and sing most of the vocals on this recording. What do you consider your primary instrument and is it the first instrument you learned to play?

**Yes, I offered all instruments and vocals. All guests were voice-overs. The next album will have more guest musicians and speakers. I started drumming at the age of 2 and didn't stop until I was 15. Guitar took over at that point and**

although I'm 33 now, I still consider percussion my primary influence. I never mastered anything and in some ways that has held me back, but in another ways I am able to use all of my experience in different areas to make music as one entity. In other words, I consider my primary instrument to be my recording studio. I am a music maker, not a drummer, guitarist, pianist, or singer.

5. How long have you been playing, writing and recording?

**I really started writing seriously when I hit 18. Everything before that was kind of a "hey what's this sound like when I do this" period. My first distributed demo was in 1999 with band MINE!, out of Seattle/Tacoma, WA USA.**

6. Did you record most of, or this entire album in a home studio?

**Like the first Odd Logic release, this album was recorded at home. To me it's very obvious, I have never achieved the kind of production that I can really be proud of. But as any independent artist will tell you, unsigned artists get unsigned money. I'm not sad though, as soon as I look at this gig as a money-maker, there's always the chance that it will become work instead of the hobby I love.**

7. Going by the credits on the album cover, you've enlisted some of your family for certain character roles. Please explain.

**My wife contributed the female voice-over work as Nova, my father played Master Kangdon, and my grandfather proudly narrated.**

8. You also describe music as your hobby. Do you aspire to make it a full time career, or have the responsibilities of life precluded that possibility?

**Well anything's possible, but as I said previously, this will always be my first love hobby. If I make some extra dough, that's just icing on my favorite cake. We'll see what happens, I've talked to several labels but nothing seems to click. I think the big key is I'm not desperate for a deal and that's made all the difference regarding my attitude and sanity. I'm also getting into some soundtrack stuff which may pan out to more work later. {A side fact} Pieces of the MINE! demo found it's way into an independent movie score in 2000.**

9. Legends of Monta is a concept album, a Sci-fi fantasy story. Is this a genre you personally enjoy?

**Yes, I've always loved the Sci-fi/Fantasy genre. Not much more I can say besides, yes I'm a fantasy geek.**

10. I don't recall ever seeing and hearing lyrics constructed quite like this. If you read them without listening to the music, there is a story with little or no rhyme or structure, yet when sung to the music it falls into place with the melody just as well as if they were standard phrasing and rhyming techniques employed. How did you arrive at this technique?

**I had the story, I had the music. It became my task to try and fit the main parts into the existing music while keeping some sort of lyrical flow. I didn't intend to write with any particular style. Every project or album I've done was created differently, whether it be lyrics first, melodies first, music first. It really keeps it fresh for me. This time around I knew the story first, then I created the music from the beginning to end pretty much as you hear it on the album. I knew what part of the story I was at while I created the tunes. At the end, I returned to the beginning to start the process of bundling the story into lyrical packets for each scene of music. The final step was the addition of voice-overs and sound effects. This was by far the most fun I've had creating music and I suspect I will do this again for Legends Part 2. As for the side-project I spoke of earlier, this will be done in somewhat reverse order as my partner will submit the completed story in lyrical form to begin. As I said, it keeps my music vibe fresh.**

11. In a previous email you indicated to me that your previous recording(s) were not quite as heavy sounding as Legends of Monta. (or was it the other way around?) Is Legends closer to the sound Sean Thompson prefers, or do you like to bounce around with different styles for different projects?

**I do like heavy. I'm not a big fan of cookie monster vocals when overdone, but I love the balls and chunk as Portnoy would say. That being said, I'm a fan of so many styles so I can't say what Sean sounds like. I'll go where I'm taken. I don't like to push and I don't mind being led by emotion and instant gratification whatever it may sound like.**

12. Do you/have you played live? If so, what material did you perform, where and when?

**My first band MINE! did the live thing for a couple years. We toured Washington and had a lot of fun doing it. Highlights included side stage openings for Sting and Journey, both at the Gorge Amphitheatre in George, WA.**

13. What are some of your favorite recording artists and inspirations?

**So many, but I'll narrow it down to a few that have really inspired my musical approach and sound; King's X, Yes, Rush, Styx, Enchant, Dream Theater, Fates Warning, Symphony X, Porcupine Tree, Queensryche, Dokken, Tears For Fears, John Williams, Al DiMeola, Steve Morse, Joe Satriani, Little River Band, Toto, Pain of Salvation, Pantera, etc,etc,etc...**

14. For a musician doing what you're doing, I would imagine that the Internet is one of the main resources to reach your prospective audience. What is your view of the state of the commercial music industry today versus the independent artist, and where do you stand on the whole file sharing debate?

**Wow, yeah the internet has spawned a new world full of independent artist including myself. We'd never be doing this interview. Just the fact that the non-commercial, close-knit group of prog fans have places to share their interests is huge. Sadly only a few truly inventive, inspiring artists somehow emerge from the playdo hair machine that spaghetti's out one robot after another. As long as you can sing, have studio musicians accompany you, and get someone to write you're songs, you can be a millionaire star. That reminds me, I'm missing American Idol, Damn it! As far as the file sharing, I think there's got to be a happy median. I think sharing files can only excite and ignite more fans, I think it's great and actually important for bands and fans alike. At the same time, musicians should make a little money for their labors so I wouldn't be opposed to a common practice of artists choosing half of their album available for download and the other for sale. A 1/2 record teaser if you will. It may be far fetched, but what the hell.**

15. Where can your music be purchased?

**The physical album is available at Cdbaby.com and it is available for download through most major music stores and music internet stores like amazon/cdnow.**

16. What was the most recent concert you attended?

**It's been awhile, probably Dream Theater/Fates Warning/Queensryche in Seattle. Awesome show.**

17. What was the most recent CD you purchased?

**Frost\* – Milliontown. Really cool disc. Sucked to hear they were one and done.**

18. If you could spend an hour talking to any musician, living or dead, who would it be, and why?

**Probably a weird answer here but John Williams, film score composer. Being that I love to create moods and tell stories with music, this guy has adapted and created music for some of the coolest pieces of film. Lots to learn from this guy.**

19. What is the best album of all time?

**Man, to ask any prog-head this question is not healthy for the heart or mind. If I had to pick one that for me personally embodied near perfection of music, story, and emotion, I'd go with Queensryche – Operation: Mindcrime. Although some days Rage for Order is my favorite Ryche album.**

20. Open question: is there anything else you'd like to share with our listeners that I haven't asked?

**Are you kidding, everybody's asleep by now. Thanks everyone, thanks Rene. Great questions, you've been extremely generous. Stay tuned from Odd Logic, prog heavy, see you soon!!!!!! PEACE --- Sean**