

Emissary & Breaking Violet Official Biography

-Chapter 1: From “Boize” to “Emissary” (May 1993 – July 1993)

Emissary was a bluesy heavy metal band from Montreal, Canada. Founded in June of 1993, the band was a direct continuation of Boize, whose final line-up made the decision to change the band's name. Stephane Fania, bassist, and Robert Kourie, guitarist, had been making music together since 1986 after meeting at College Saint-Laurent in the Ville Saint-Laurent region of Montreal. Some of their early bands together include Alter-Ego (previously known as Unmarked), a new wave project active from the summer of 1987 until September of 1988; and Strike Anywhere (previously known as Leading Edge), another new wave outfit, which formed in late 1988 and dissolved in March of 1989. In May of 1989, the pair formed Boize and continued with various line-up changes all the way through the spring of 1993. By the beginning of June of 1993, Boize's members included Fania on bass, Kourie on guitar, Joe Morrone on drums and Rejean Xavier Briand (aka Rjeen) on vocals.

Drummer Morrone grew up with Fania in the Saint-Leonard district of Montreal and his bands, Ruff Edge (an AC/DC cover band) and Sublime Fine (a hard rock act), had played shows with Boize. Morrone had also filled in for Boize one night in October of 1992, while their original drummer Scott MacDonald was sick. Morrone eventually, though unofficially, by his reluctance to commit himself to any band, joined Boize in May of 1993 after MacDonald departed.

Vocalist Briand had earlier finished a successful run as the vocalist for Sarok Saroya, a local hard rock band active since

the late 1980's, which had played the same club circuit as Boize. Since leaving Sarok Saroya in December of 1991, Briand had released a solo demo tape under his pseudonym "*Rjeen*" entitled "*A Piano & A Voice*". The tape was distributed through his own imprint, Lyre Records and published through his own music publishing company, RJB Publishing.

Briand's moniker, Rjeen (pronounced R-Jean) was self-penned and a play on his first name being difficult to pronounce in English. Partly due to this, Briand later legally changed his name to Xavier Briand. It is unknown if Briand was recommended by someone or if he saw an ad that Boize had placed in the Montreal Gazette newspaper looking for a new vocalist. Briand joined Boize in June of 1993 as their fourth vocalist.

Initial discussions held at the band's rehearsal space with the new line-up, in the basement of 5676 Jarry Street East in Saint-Leonard, had no intention of changing the band's name from Boize to anything else. The band only planned to rework their new songs which had been composed earlier that year, while Scott MacDonald was still on drums and Ian [whose last name is still missing, if you know him please get in touch!] was still on vocals and acoustic 12-string guitar. Some of these songs included "*A Friend*" and "*Miss You*" (the songs may have had different titles in early 1993). But when Fania and Kourie noticed how drastically different the material was becoming with Briand, they decided that it was time for a change. Boize's songwriting had progressed and evolved throughout its span; from 1980's The Clash-influenced, keyboard-driven, new wave/hard rock (1989-1990), to Ozzy Osbourne-influenced glam/heavy metal (1990-1991), to darker metal influenced by Iron Maiden, Judas Priest and Slayer (1992-1993).

By the time that Briand joined, Black Sabbath had taken over as their primary influence with detuned guitars and a bluesy songwriting style. As is usually the case with new members, creativity flourished. But Briand was already raising a family

and lived in Morin-Heights, a good hours' drive from the rehearsal space on Montreal island, and could only commit to practicing twice a week. Still, in just over a month, the new band had completed four songs: "*A Friend*" and "*Miss You*" were re-worked with Briand's lyrics; and two originals were composed; "*Reach In*" and "*Wasting Away*".

CONCERT POPULAIRE

LE CENTRE D'AIDE ET D'ASSISTANCE-



L U P A



EN COLLABORATION AVEC LA
BANQUE NATIONALE DU CANADA
VOUS PRESENTE UN CONCERT

QUI AURA LIEU

LES 2 ET 3 JUILLET PROCHAIN
DE 17 HRS JUSQUA 2 HRS. DU MATIN
SAMEDI LE 3 JUILLET UN DEFILE

AURA LIEU DE

14:00 HRS. A 17:00 HRS. SUIVI
PAR LA CONTINUATION DU CONCERT
JUSQU' A 2:00 HRS. DU MATIN.

TOUT LE MONDE EST

BIENVENUE

AU PARC LADAUVERSIERE

SITUEE AU COIN JEAN

TALON ET LACORDAIRE.

Flyer for Emissary's first and only show at the Concert
Populaire festival. July 3rd 1993.

THE Association Lupa is searching for bands to perform for concerts on the 2nd and 3rd of July. For more information call 641-0241

Ad from The Gazette newspaper for Concert Populaire festival
On the weekend of Friday, July 2nd and Saturday, July 3rd, Jim Stabile hosted the annual two-day Concert Populaire festival at Ladauversiere Park in Saint-Leonard. The event was sponsored by the National Bank of Canada as a benefit for LUPA, a local non-profit organization for abused women. One of the bands scheduled to play the festival had to pull out and Stabile reached out to Fania on the afternoon of Thursday, July 1st, to ask if his new band would play the available slot on Friday night. Needing a name for the band's first show, Fania suggested "*Emissary*".

Emissary was given the headlining spot on the first night of the festival, likely due to the fact that Boize had made a name for themselves in the Montreal heavy metal scene. By the time that they got on stage and set up their instruments with the festival's gear, it was already past midnight. After opening their show with "*Reach In*" and following up with "*A Friend*", they planned to play their newest song, "*Wasting Away*", for which Briand had finished writing the lyrics to earlier that day. But before they launched into their third song, Stabile walked onto the stage and told Fania that the show was over. Apparently, the neighbours had complained that Emissary was too heavy and too loud to be playing this late at night at an outdoors event, even though the concert had been scheduled to last until 2 A.M. With a brief and unexpected "*Alright, we gotta go!*" from Fania, the band was off the stage. Luckily, this short performance was filmed by their

friend and roadie Paolo Gattola.

-Chapter 2: Emissary moves to H.Q. Studio & records "Reach In" (July 1993 – September 1993)

Not only was their first show cut short but Emissary was in for another surprise that night. When they got back to their jam space, located only fifteen minutes away from the festival, they were shocked to find the whole street blocked off by firemen and their trucks. A dry cleaning store located across the street from their jam space building had exploded and burned down due to a gas leak. The landlord of the burnt building, Vicario Pascal, was one of Fania's family friends and he also owned the building where Emissary practiced. Vicario had made a deal with Fania that the band could cheaply rent the basement of 5676 Jarry Street East, as long as they were willing to leave once he found a new tenant. The dry cleaning company wanted to reopen their store in Emissary's local and so the band was given a week to move out.

Midnight explosion destroys shopping plaza in St. Léonard

Bomb squad seeks cause of blast that ruined three family businesses

MICHELLE LAURIE

A mysterious explosion just before midnight Friday destroyed a multi-shop shopping plaza in St. Léonard.

Three family businesses — a dress store, a hair salon and a drycleaning service — were ruined in the Jarry St. E. blast.

When a nervous groom and his sisters came by to pick up their wedding suits at the dressmaker's store, there was little left of the suits or of the shop.

"What could I tell them?" said a clerk at Domenico Demarco, 51, owner of Les Pieds dans le Sable.

Demarco had left his business on Friday evening at about 7:30, looking forward to a busy Saturday. He got a call just after midnight from police.

"I came down here right away with my wife. She almost fainted," he said, shouting workers as they bulldozed out the skeleton of the building that had burned his business for six years.

Demarco stayed all night as members of the Montreal Urban Community police bomb squad tried to determine the cause of the blast. He spent yesterday morning explaining to clients that his insurance would compensate them for their destroyed clothing.

No one was hurt in the blast. The force of the explosion sent glass shards, twisted metal, bricks and mortar flying into the plaza parking lot and across a residential section of the street.

Several articles of stained and pressed clothing — still on hangers and shrouded in protective plastic — were hanging in the middle of the wreckage, unscathed by the blast that took the roofs down around them.

The parking lot was strewn with concrete blocks, light fixtures, broken furniture, plastic flowers, bits of clothing, and plastic shopping baskets. Chunks of pink insulation hung in the nose bushes on the other side of the parking lot.

Plaza owner Vicario Pascal, 55, said he was sleeping when his neighbor, who lives close to the plaza, called him about the blast.

"It's a total loss," said Pascal, of the 10-year-old plaza his contracting firm built. He could not estimate the cost of damage, but said he intends to rebuild.

"It's a shock, just terrible. Even though we are covered by insurance, it's very difficult to accept."

He had no idea what caused the blast, adding he had no enemies who would want to blow up his property.

Domenico Portantiero, who lives directly across the street from the plaza, was awakened by the explosion.

"I heard this huge noise and at first I thought it was a car accident," he said, shivering and several other windows on his house were broken by debris. Flying glass scratched his new car and rained down on his front garden.

He said he saw no one near the plaza immediately after the explosion.



Plaza owner Vicario Pascal stands in front of what remains of a drycleaning shop. Debris from the blast damaged homes across the street. (Gazette, Margot Tennison)

Montreal Gazette newspaper clipping of the fire at 5640 Jarry Street East, Saint-Leonard, Canada, July 4th 1993.

EXPLOSION À ST-LÉONARD

■ Une déflagration a complètement détruit au moins trois commerces situés au 5640, rue Jarry, dans Saint-Léonard, peu avant minuit vendredi soir. L'édifice abritait au rez-de-chaussée un réparateur, un salon de coiffure et un nettoyeur qui ont été soufflés par l'explosion. À l'étage, un bureau d'assurances a été gravement endommagé. On ignorait toujours hier l'origine du désastre. L'enquête a été confiée au Service des incendies criminels de la police de la CUM. Personne n'a été blessé. L'officier du poste 54 a signalé que ce n'était pas un endroit «à problèmes».

La Presse newspaper clipping of the fire at 5640 Jarry Street East, Saint-Leonard, Canada, July 3rd 1993.

When Fania told the story to Garfield "Gralf" Lamb, one of Boize's managers who was keeping tabs on Emissary, he offered them the opportunity to set up their practice space in his new recording studio. Within days Emissary moved to H.Q. Studio, located at 5122A Park Avenue in the Mile End district of Montreal; the actual entrance to H.Q. Studio was in the rear alley between Park Avenue and Hutchison Street. Lamb, who earned his living as one of Montreal's top studio technicians, had originally leased out the space in 1992 to store unused studio equipment that he had collected over the years. Eventually, he set up this equipment and the storage space turned into a fully functional recording studio. It is unknown if any band(s) used the H.Q. Studio facility prior to Emissary making it their residency.

A little over a month after setting up their gear at H.Q. Studio, Emissary started tracking their first demo. The band spent most of August recording three songs, "A Friend", "Reach In" and "Miss You", using H.Q. Studio's one-inch tape, eight-track soundboard. Although the music for "Wasting Away" was fully written, Briand decided to re-write the lyrics so the song was not recorded during these sessions. As the band had

the studio at their disposal, they felt no pressure to record their material in a hurry. The demo was engineered, mixed and produced by Fania and Kourie, with a little help from Briand. After the recording session, Fania headed to Les Disque S.N.B. Mastering one afternoon to assist in the mastering of the release by Jean-Francois Chicoine. Chicoine had also mastered Boize's self-titled EP in early 1992.

In late August, Fania and his at-the-time girlfriend, Kathy Knox, designed the demo tape's layout and a sticker. In retrospect, a few mistakes were made during the design process. To begin with, Morrone's name was misspelled "Moreno". Then, there was the legality of the publishing company and record label, which was actually self-released by the band. Back in April of 1991, the four then-members of Boize (Stephane Fania, Robert Kourie, Perry Blainey and Scott MacDonald) founded their own music publishing imprint, Klink Publishing. The same four members, with the addition of Boize's rhythm guitarist Steve Berger (who was later made an equal partner of Klink Publishing), also founded their own record label, U-Iliot Records, in early 1992. By the summer of 1993, Fania and Kourie had acquired complete ownership of Klink Publishing and U-Iliot Records due to line-up changes in Boize.

Initially, "*Reach In*" was to be copyrighted, published and released through Klink Publishing, acting as both music publishing company and record label. However, Briand insisted that the demo tape's copyright and music publishing registries be done solely through his own music publishing company, RJB Publishing, promising to handle all legalities, registrations and copyrighting himself. In reality, Briand's RJB Publishing (as well as his record label Lyre Records) turned out to be an unregistered company which he had never bothered to legally document. When used on previous releases for Sarok Saroya and Rjeen, Briand simply used the company's names on the artworks and hoped to never run into legal issues. Thankfully, "*Reach*

"In" was eventually registered, published and copyrighted through Klink Publishing, though Fania and Kourie's company remained un-credited on the demo tape covers. Fania and Kourie later went as far as to legally register Emissary as a general partnership and fully functional company/full-time band in September of 1994.



Emissary sticker designed in promotion for "Reach In", September 1993.



Emissary's "Reach In" demo tape, September 1993.



Emissary's "Reach In" demo tape, September 1993.



Emissary's "Reach In" demo tape, September 1993.

After having one hundred cassette tapes professionally pressed, Fania headed to CopieXpress on Lacordaire Boulevard in Saint-Leonard, where he had frequently photocopied Boize material. There, he had one hundred cassette tape covers and a few stickers printed on glossy paper. In September, the demo tape was assembled and ready to go. Kathy Knox then shot the band's first photo shoot, taking pictures in the alleyway behind H.Q. Studio and also outside Le 5116 Bar on Park Avenue, a pub right next door to the studio.

Before any shows could be booked to promote the release, Morrone announced his departure from the band. After debating the matter for a few months, he finally decided to leave the band due to girlfriend complications. He wanted to end a relationship with a girl who happened to be best friends with Kourie's girlfriend and felt that being in the band would cause issues for Kourie. Morrone was a friend of the band before joining and he remained one after leaving. He went on to play with Child, I.C. Red, The Big Sleep and The Staff.

At about the same time, Lamb told the band that he was not renewing the lease of his studio's space at the end of the

month and that he would be moving his recording equipment out to another location. Fania offered to take over H.Q Studio's lease and rented out the remaining gear from Lamb until he could afford his own equipment.

EMISSARY

Montreal's own EMISSARY, formed by: ex-founding members of BOIZE, ROBERT KOURIE, lead guitarist and STEPH FANIA, bass, ex-singer from SAROK SAROYA, RJEEN, and featuring JOEY MORENO on drums.

EMISSARY'S sound is original, mystic, melodic.

READY FOR ANYTHING, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE...

Don't need no wire
Don't need no string
Just need my soul
To go my thing.
RJEEN

Got no choice ...
Gotta follow the beat!
STEPH

"I'm going to SDisney Land!"
(Borrowed from the Famous Quotation
by Patrick Roy) ROBERT

Is it true that the drummer
Never gets the girls?
JOEY



Emissary promotional sheet used for the "Reach In" demo in September of 1993.

EMISSARY

Rjean: Lead vocals
Steph Fania: Bass
Robert Kourie: Guitar
Featuring Joey Moreno on drums

Steph and Robert have been playing and co-writing together for the past nine years, and Rjean has been singing for the past ten.

Although each member has a bachelor degree, their first and foremost desire is that of music.

These three creative individuals, through special chemistry and complimentary ideas, have formed a dynamic original sound. With their unique writing style and four octave vocal range, this serious and undoubtedly determined band have set out to conquer the world!

Contact: 514-374-1916

Emissary promotional sheet prepared but never used for the "Reach In" demo in September of 1993.



Emissary promotional photoshoot for the "Reach In" demo, September 1993. Photo by Kathy Knox



Emissary promotional photoshoot for the "Reach In" demo, September 1993. Photo by Kathy Knox



Emissary promotional photoshoot for the "Reach In" demo, September 1993. Photo by Kathy Knox

-Chapter 3: Plans for a second demo & blueprints for an album (September 1993 – December 1993)

To find a new drummer, Fania posted an ad in the Montreal Gazette newspaper and in two local music magazines, the Montreal Mirror and Voir. Through this the band welcomed Pat [either Patrick or Patrice, whose last name is still missing, if you know him please get in touch!]. Pat was a left-handed drummer, apparently a rare find in the drumming world, originally from the Lac Saint-Jean region of Quebec. He was a true metalhead who brought to the table a much more technical approach to their songwriting, using drum triggers, double drum bass pedals and china hats. With him, some of Emissary's most melodic material was written.

Between September and December Emissary was busy teaching the

old songs to Pat and also composed half a dozen new songs. These included "*Find*", "*Let's Pretend*", "*Mister*", "*Love and Fire*" (which was eventually reworked into "*Something to Say*") and they also finished up "*Wasting Away*". While these songs originally planned to be recorded and released on a second demo in the winter of 1993-1994, discussions soon brought on the idea writing a few more songs and doing a full-length album. Between the "*Reach In*" demo and the new ones written in the autumn, the band already had eight songs. And so the band agreed to focus strictly on songwriting and did not book any shows.

In late October, Briand announced that he had an upcoming business trip to Los Angeles, California and he wanted to bring the majority of the "*Reach In*" demo tapes to shop around. His plan was to go door-to-door to all the major record labels and management firm representatives in the city and land Emissary a record deal for their upcoming album. So he asked Fania (the band's treasurer) for additional cash from the band funds to stick around in the city a little longer. He left on Friday, October 29th and wound up spending the first week of November in L.A.. But Briand's contacts were nonexistent and the reception for the demo was met poorly. The tapes wound up collecting dust amongst millions of other demos from unsolicited artists.

Throughout the entire process of writing the planned album, Fania demoed the new material using H.Q. Studio's four-track recorder. During the mixing sessions of these pre-production demos, Briand began disliking Pat's death metal-oriented drumming style. Briand was pushing for the band to head towards a more blues-oriented style, even though all of the band members were structured and came from a metal background.

Without consulting Fania nor Kourie, Briand called Pat and fired him over the phone before the year was over. This was a big set back for Emissary, as they narrowed down to a trio once again, but they agreed to continue writing the full-length album by themselves prior to finding a new drummer.

-Chapter 4: Briand leaves Emissary for Mother of Pearl (January 1994)

In the new year, Fania was approached by Pierre "Peter" Soupras who showed interest in managing Emissary. The band was no longer under contract with Bill Hill Productions (which had signed Boize back in February of 1991) and Soupras was successfully managing Mother of Pearl, a talented Montreal thrash metal band on the rise. Soupras convinced Fania to allow Mother of Pearl to share H.Q. Studio as a rehearsal space. His reasoning was that he wanted the simplicity of a single location housing the two bands that he managed, both of which could demo material at will.

Fania was however unaware that Soupras had ulterior motives for bringing in a second band into Emissary's jam space. Mother of Pearl was on the verge of winning Jailhouse Rock Cafe's "*The Grand Rock Stars Contest*", having earlier succeeded through the preliminary and semi-final rounds in November. An insider had already promised them the grand prize: \$2,500 of studio time at Metalworks Studios in Toronto, Ontario and an album deal with either EMI Music Canada or Warner Music Canada. But Soupras wasn't getting along with Mother of Pearl's singer, Mario Randisi. He convinced Mother of Pearl to move their rehearsal space from Randisi's house in Laval, Quebec to H.Q. Studio in order to try out new vocalists without Randisi finding out.

Marco Carata was the first singer to try out, and as far as Fania knew, he was Mother of Pearl's vocalist (having never met Randisi). Soupras then secretly approached Briand and asked him to try out for Mother of Pearl. By this time, Briand

was already growing restless of Emissary's strict dedication to writing an album and was eager to play shows. But without a drummer (whom he himself had fired), Emissary was unable to play live. Even had they found one, Fania and Kourie had their minds set on having enough material to perform a full forty-five minute set, without the need to add cover songs. In addition to this, Briand was a few years older than Fania and Kourie and had other commitments (a wife, two kids and a full-time job), making him unwilling to contribute more than two days a week to the band. Because of all of this, the band was limited from progressing as fast as Briand demanded. With Soupras' promise of a generous prize package after winning the Jailhouse Rock Cafe contest, and fantasizing that he could then support his family with a successful new band and musical career, Briand jumped at the opportunity to join Mother of Pearl. Oddly enough, Mother of Pearl was a pure thrash metal band, much heavier than Emissary, which confused the issue of why Briand fired Pat in the first place.

As soon as Fania found out about this, he promptly dismissed Soupras as Emissary's short-lived manager, and Mother of Pearl, with Briand, was asked to move out of H.Q. Studio. Ironically, the judges of "*The Grand Rock Stars Contest*" were unimpressed with Mother of Pearl's new vocalist and their previously-promised vote went to competing band Cradle to Grave. Outraged by the result, Soupras dropped Mother of Pearl from his management firm and promptly signed winning band Cradle to Grave. Unfortunately, the turmoil caused Mother of Pearl to break up shortly after.

Briand and Mother of Pearl's bassist, Mike Smith, continued writing together but the pair eventually split up. Briand went on to release more demos as a solo act; "*Carry On*" was released on cassette tape in 1996 under his pseudonym "*Rjeen*", followed by "*Les Portes de L'avenir*" which was released on compact disc in 2001 under an altered pseudonym "*Redj*", both on his own record label, Lyre Records, and publishing imprint,

RJB Publishing, and both to no success. He currently performs acoustic material and is a freelance photographer under the nickname "x^v", short for Xavier Briand.

-Chapter 5: Fania takes over vocal duties (February 1994 – Fall 1994)

Tired of being set back every time a vocalist left the band, and having gone through six different singers in the last six years, Fania's mother suggested that he step up as the band's vocalist. He had previously handled backup vocals in Alter-Ego (1987-1988) and during Perry Blainey's span in Boize (1989-1992), but this would be his first time fronting a band on his own, while also remaining on bass. To perfect his range he signed up for private vocal coaching lessons which spanned the course of two years.

Because Fania wanted his vocals to be fully developed before releasing anything publicly, he and Kourie took their time finishing the album. That spring, Kourie cut off his long hair and got a full-time job at the Montreal Casino, which had recently opened. While working there, he met his soon-to-be wife, which ultimately left him little time to dedicate to the band. On the other hand, Fania opted to venture further into the music business. One of Boize's favourite concert venues had changed name from the Backstreet to the Cathouse (located at 382 Mayor Street in downtown Montreal) in March of 1994. Most of the venue remained identical; they kept the same decor, they still booked metal bands and Louis Adams stayed on board as the venue's manager and in charge of bookings. Louis was good friends with Fania's and he asked him to design the Cathouse's brand new logo and hired him as a sound man. Fania was then given the opportunity to book any shows he wanted at the new venue.



Club Rage, 5116 Park Avenue, 2nd floor, Montreal, Canada. Logo designed by Stephane Fania

After half a year of working at the Cathouse, Fania wound up opening his own concert venue with a full liquor license, right next door to H.Q. Studio. Club Rage, named after Fania's favourite band at the time, Rage Against the Machine, opened in August of 1994 and was located at 5116 Park Avenue, on the second floor, right above Le 5116 Bar. Rage Against the Machine coincidentally ended up using the same font that Fania chose to design Club Rage's logo, on their album "*The Battle of Los Angeles*" five years later.

Club Rage immediately became popular for alternative rock, alternative metal, funk rock, funk metal, grunge, hard rock, ska and punk rock bands. Even the occasional hip hop shows were booked there. Eventually, it became the first venue in Montreal to host weekly goth nights with DJs. Because of Boize's initial dilemma in finding clubs that allowed them to play strictly original material, Fania was a strong believer in original content. He pushed for bands to only play their own compositions, as opposed to many other venues of the time that enforced bands to play covers in order to attract a general public.

A very incomplete list of bands and artists that have performed at Club Rage include:

- 2000 Sabords
- Adam's Apples
- After Live
- Alan's Hill
- Alistairs
- All Underdogs
- Angry White Mob
- Arsenic 33/Arseniq33
- Awkward Progress
- Babelfish
- Bachfire
- Bad Jelly
- Baraka
- Bazou
- Beautiful
- Bell Bottom
- Beverly
- Beyond the Pale
- Bitter Fly
- Bittersaints/Bitter Saints
- Blanc Bonnet
- Bleu Baroque
- Blindfish/Blind Fish
- Blinker The Star
- Blowhard
- Bodyjar
- Bond
- Braid
- Brainsize 61
- Casino Night
- Claude Lamothe
- Clay
- Coma Toast
- Corpusse

- Cradle To Grave
- Crossbreed
- Cryptic Lounge
- D.J. Denard
- D.J. Robbin Banks
- Defense D’Afficher
- Destitute Vogue
- Dinner Is Ruined
- Doctor Hadley
- Drop City
- Drunk Drivers
- Drye Blue
- Econoline Crush
- Elastic Zebra
- Ender’s Game
- F.B.I.
- Field Day
- Flounger
- Fractal Surfers
- Freak Nation
- French Can-Can
- Friends Of Mary
- Frog Machine
- Fuel
- Fueldogs
- Furtey’s Tenants
- Gaby Jr.
- Galaxy Of Terror
- Garden Bards
- Gil Crocker And The Revival
- Glueleg
- Goldfish
- Grime
- Grounded
- Hol’Fader
- Holyjane
- Howling Mind Glide

- Hurdy Gurdy Men
- Illegal Jazz Poets
- Insight
- Instant Trouble
- Ism Skism
- Jahzen Plutovitz
- Jaymie
- Karma
- Kill Creek
- Lambic
- Lapsus
- Le Complot Venitien
- Lemonzinger
- Les Tuniques
- Line Three
- Lint
- Little Buck
- Livid
- Ma
- Magma Dogma
- Man-0-Steel
- Marie Madeleine/Marie-Madelaine
- Mass Crare Rama
- Maury Povitch
- Mercatan
- Mindsurf
- Model Citizen
- Monkeyshine
- Mostly Casual
- My Orange Friend
- Never The Less
- Norman's Pop Star
- Ophelia
- Orbit
- Penitence
- Pez
- PH

- Piedpiper
- Pipedream
- Pollen X
- Poulette
- Power Company
- Prester John
- Profuse
- Public Anema
- Rank
- Rev 32
- Rosebuddy
- Rubber Duckies
- Rubberman
- Rusty
- Sad Morning
- Sanduleak
- Saphires in the Mud
- Scrubmuffin
- Seventh Soul
- Shades of Culture
- Shovelhead
- Sister Cherrie
- Slaphappy 5
- Smeak
- So What?
- Spiral Dance
- Spirit Pusher/Spirit Pushers
- Splurge
- St. Johnny
- Stone
- Strange Bedfellows
- Strangely Dandelion
- Sturgis 57
- Swiler
- T.B.A.
- Tête a Claque
- The American Devices

- The Figgs
- The Golden Mean
- The Mother Funkers
- The Mutton Birds
- The Quiet
- The Revival
- The Revolting Developments
- The Rydells
- The Sea Beggars
- The Shift
- The Snipes
- The Staff
- The Vendettas
- The Wacky Pack Of Lobstermen From Mars
- The Weedmonkeys
- The Whereabouts
- Those Bloody Nigels
- Three Eyes Fiddler
- Thrush Hermit
- Tinker
- Trailer Dickson
- Tricycle God
- Tulip
- Umbrella (or The Umbrellas)
- Vendetta D'Aspic
- Voltaire's Bastards
- Walter
- Web
- Why
- You Arrogance

*We are currently looking for more events that took place at Club Rage. If you have information about a band that performed there, please get in touch!

In addition to booking rock and metal bands, Club Rage started hosting gothic, electronic and drum and bass nights twice a

week with such DJs as Fractal Surfers, Lapsus and DJ Denard. Unfortunately, even though Fania had the Cathouse and Club Rage at his disposal, Emissary never performed at those venues.



Flyer for Hol'Fader's show at Club Rage on September 24th 1994.



Flyer for Hol'Fader's show at Club Rage on July 1st 1995.



Stephane Fania was thanked in Scrubmuffin's booklet from the album "Catatonic Stupor", released via Uplift Records in 1994.

-Chapter 6: Emissary pre-produces "Digging Up Old Bones", Part 1 (Fall 1994 – Spring 1995)

At around the same time that Fania opened Club Rage, Emissary had solidified a good ten songs. It was then, on September 14th of 1994, that Fania and Kourie officially registered "Emissary Group, GP" ("Groupe Emissaire, s.e.n.c." in French) as an official, general partnership company. This company remained in registration until October 8th of 1997, even though Emissary would change name to Breaking Violet in February of 1996.

Emissary was ready to audition drummers. Instead of paying for a listing in newspapers and magazines, Fania designed a full page ad which he planned to post in every music store and concert venue in Montreal. He headed to CopieXpress to make photocopies and while there, got caught up in a conversation with one of the employees, who coincidentally enough happened to be a drummer.

Fania originally struck up a friendship with Alain Lacaille back in 1991, while photocopying Boize concert tickets and

posters at CopieXpress. Through talking about music together, he found out that Lacaille had recorded at Cherry Production Studios in Saint-Leonard with one of his early bands, Landriault, where Boize had also tracked their unreleased 1990 album. In 1991, Fania invited him to a Boize concert at Sam's Rock Bar. Lacaille had also played in Automne, Mamzel Rock and with Claude Bedard and in 1993, he opened a jam space on the corner of Jean-Talon Street and Boyer Street in Villeray. By the time that Club Rage came about, Fania was at CopieXpress at least twice a week to print tickets and the two had become good friends.

Lacaille was invited to come try out for Emissary in September or October of 1994. Although he had not been a fan of Boize's music, he liked what Emissary was doing and was willing to commit himself fully to helping Emissary finish writing their album. Only a week after joining, Lacaille told Fania that he was looking for a new place to live. Fania offered him to take up a permanent residence at H.Q. Studio, which was already comfortably divided to accommodate such a situation with a closed recording room, a mixing room with a futon which served as a bedroom, a little kitchen with a stove, refrigerator and sink and two closets making up the bathroom; one with a toilet, another with a shower.



Emissary at H.Q. Studio in the winter of 1994/1995. Robert Kourie on the left, Alain Lacaille in the middle, Stephane Fania on the right. Photo by Kathy Knox

In November, the trio started recording their rehearsals using H.Q. Studio's four-track recorder. These pre-production demos included "*Find Me*" (a new rendition of "*A Friend*"), "*Mouette*" (a reworked version of "*Wasting Away*"), "*Mirror*", "*Freedom*" (titled after the Rage Against the Machine single of the same name, released in the summer of 1994), "*F Song*", "*Believe in Yourself*", "*You Can Try*" and "*Why*". During the winter, more songs were worked on which resulted with "*Violence*" (a reworked version of "*Mister*"), "*Out of Time*" and "*Who Gives a Damn*" (a reworked version of "*Mouette*"). "*Out of Time*" was a particularly important song in the band's catalog. It was written by Fania about his uncle Pasquale Fania, who died of cancer in December of 1992. Fania wrote the lyrics as if they were coming from a man's dying bed.

In early 1995, Fania was hired as a sound engineer at a small recording studio in downtown Montreal. Studio L'Essence, owned

and operated by Wayne Dwyer, Gary Adams and Asher Hanif, was located at 1180 Saint-Antoine West and became the go-to place for many of Montreal's ska and funk bands throughout the mid-1990's. Some of the bands that recorded there include Hol'Fader, Gangster Politics, The Capones and Marlowe. It has not been established if Fania worked on any of those sessions.

By the early spring of 1995, the songs "*Mirror*", "*F Song*" and "*Believe in Yourself*" had already been dropped from the planned album and Emissary had written three brand new tunes; "*Push*", "*(88)*" and one more that remained untitled. Their catalog featured enough solid songs for a full-length album for which Fania slowly wrote the lyrics. The plan was to have the album out by the end of the year.

But Lacaille soon wound up out of the picture. Although the exact reason hasn't been determined, Lacaille remembers meeting a girl and moving out of H.Q. Studio to live with her. Kourie however, remembers Lacaille having a habit of humming while playing. The humming was apparently picked up by the microphones during the pre-production recording sessions and became prominent and obvious during the mixing stage. Some tapes do have audible humming, but others clearly do not. And as Lacaille had already contributed to several professionally recorded studio albums in the past, it makes this reason a confusing debate

Whatever the reason, by May of 1995 Lacaille was out of the band. But he was nice enough to let Emissary use his drum set to audition new drummers, until he was able to move out of the rehearsal space. Additionally, proper credits need to be given for his help in writing half of the songs that ended up on the eventually released album, "*Digging Up Old Bones*". Lacaille went on to join Chicago blues musician Denny Ray Snyder's touring band, the Southside Denny Band, oddly enough through a connection made by Soupras. He toured with them throughout Canada during the summer of 1995 and stayed on with the band after Denny Ray Snyder moved to Montreal later in the year. He

also reunited with André Landriault to record an album in the early 2000's. He currently plays in the Led Zeppelin tribute band Kashmir and has also spent time with the bands Garage Retro Band and Blais Entier.

-Chapter 7: Emissary pre-produces "Digging Up Old Bones", Part 2 (Summer 1995 – February 1996)

During the year-and-a-half span between Briand's departure and Lacaille leaving, Fania and Kourie wrote, evolved and reworked a total of fifteen songs for Emissary's planned album. By the summer of 1995, they were happy with ten of them: "*Find Me*", "*Freedom*", "*You Can Try*", "*Why*", "*Violence*", "*Out of Time*", "*This Ain't No Game*" (re-titled from "*Who Gives a Damn*"), "*Push*", "*(88)*" and one more that remained untitled because it was later dropped before lyrics could be written. Fania then took a two-week summer/Labor Day vacation with his parents, spanning the last week of August and the first week of September, and headed south to Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA. While there, he wrote the majority of the lyrics for these ten songs.

**DRUMMER
WANTED
FOR
ESTABLISHED
HARD ROCK METAL
BAND
"SERIOUS ONLY"**

374-1916 - 930-4060
(LEAVE MESSAGE) (PAGER)



Emissary ad looking for a new drummer, designed by Stephane Fania in the fall of 1994. The ad was used in the summer of 1995 to find Robbie Tucker.

Upon returning to Montreal, Fania decided that it was time to look for a new drummer and record Emissary's long-overdue

album. He moved out of his parent's house in Saint-Leonard and into H.Q. Studio and was now seconds away from both Club Rage and the band's rehearsal space at all times. He brought out the ad that he had originally designed back in the fall of 1994 (before Lacaille was unexpectedly found) and this time went ahead and distributed it to all of the local music stores and concert venues. This ad was seen by Robbie "Maestro" Tucker. Tucker was a technical, jazz-influenced, funk drummer who completely turned Emissary's style around.

With him came a bloom of creativity and they decided to put the album's recording session on hold, preferring instead to write a few more funk-influenced hard rock songs. This in turn led to the band's entire catalog of songs getting reworked once again. Over the next six-to-eight months (there is an uncertainty as to when exactly Tucker joined the band), four of the ten songs planned for the album were dropped ("*Find Me*", "*Freedom*", "*This Ain't No Game*" and an untitled song) and the remaining six were reworked extensively; "*You Can Try*" was changed almost entirely and became "*I*", "*(88)*" changed a great deal to become "*Great Expectations*", "*Why*" was re-titled to "*Change*", "*Violence*" was re-titled to "*Harsh Reality*", "*Out of Time*" was re-titled to "*This Is the End*", while "*Push*" remained mostly unchanged.

EMISSARY

Second Emissary logo, drawn by Stephane Fania in the late summer of 1995.

On top of the six songs that were kept, ten brand new songs written with Tucker. These included "*Crossed the Line, Can't Find My Way*", "*Had a Dream*", "*Watching Me Fall*", "*Try to Get Away*", "*Finer Days*", "*Play the Game*", "*271*", "*Take it Away*" and two more that remained untitled, again because they were dropped before any lyrics could be written. On September 15th of 1995, Emissary's first website went live. Hosted at "<http://pages.prodigy.com/PQ/emissary>", the webpage simply featured the new band logo, designed by Fania, with the words "Coming soon". This new website symbolized that the album was truly on its way and Emissary was going full steam ahead.



Emissary sticker featuring the second logo and the new band website, in promotion for "*Digging Up Old Bones*",

autumn/winter 1995.

When 1996 rolled around, Emissary was ready to make the album happen and they spent most of January and early February narrowing down the songs that would be recorded for the album. Out of the sixteen songs part of their catalog at the at the time, only eleven were selected to be recorded at H.Q. Studio. This resulted with "I", "Great Expectations", "Change", "Harsh Reality", "I Don't Want to Die" (the new title for "This Is the End"), "Push", "Crossed the Line" (the new title for "Crossed the Line, Can't Find My Way"), "Had a Dream", "Trying to Run Away" (a new song combined from "Try to Get Away" and "271"), "Finer Days" and "Greed" (the new title for "Take it Away"). Both untitled songs were dropped along with "Watching Me Fall" and "Play the Game".

These eleven songs were registered through SOCAN and copyrighted through Klink Publishing in February. Tucker was made an equal and legal partner in both Emissary and Klink Publishing, which marked the first time that Fania and Kourie allowed someone new into their company since 1991. Fania then went to Italmelodie, a music store on Jean-Talon Street in Montreal, to rent a sixteen-track digital recorder in order to start tracking their new album, "Digging Up Old Bones", at H.Q. Studio.

Shortly into the tracking of drums at H.Q. Studio that February, Emissary ran into a couple of complications. Through the use of internet, Fania found out about various other bands also named "Emissary". After initiating conversations via email with some of them, Fania, Kourie and Tucker realized that they were not the oldest band using the name and amicably opted to change their band's name, even though the name was already registered as a general partnership company in Canada. But the current line-up did reflect a change in style and sound and none of the songs selected for the album originated from the classic Emissary days when Briand was on vocals (with

the exception of the breakdown at the very end of *"Harsh Reality"*, which originated from *"Mister"*).

While Fania brainstormed names on a piece of paper one day, he wrote the word *"Violet"*, in reference to a color that he was fond of and had used on numerous Emissary designs. After several ideas, he added the word *"Breaking"* above it and immediately liked the way it sounded. After the other two members agreed on it, Emissary re-baptized itself *"Breaking Violet"* in late February of 1996. Fania's hand-written band name was tweaked to make it resemble Emissary's logo, which he had also drawn a few months earlier, and of course, the purple color theme remained. Although the two words were put together at random, Fania later learned that *"breaking violet"* meant to *"break the sound barrier"*, which made the band's name even more fascinating.

The image shows a hand-drawn logo for the band Breaking Violet. The words "BREAKING" and "Violet" are written in a cursive, purple script. "BREAKING" is in all caps and has a yellow highlight under the first few letters. "Violet" is in title case. The logo is set against a white background.

Breaking Violet logo hand-drawn by Stephane Fania in February of 1996.

-Chapter 8: Breaking Violet records *"Digging Up Old Bones"* (February 1996 – October 1996)

The second problem that Emissary, now properly re-named *"Breaking Violet"*, ran into was internal. Tucker had a distinctive style of jazzing up songs with odd-time signatures and an off-beat drum bass. This is precisely what had originally motivated the band to compose ten new songs and hold off the album's recording session. But now that the drums were tracked, Fania found that Tucker's avant-garde style was clashing with his bass lines and it no longer fitted the sound that he was looking for. Tucker tried to tone down his style

but things just didn't work out and he left Breaking Violet before his drums were completed. Unfortunately, little of Emissary and Breaking Violet's history with Tucker in the band has been found, but he deserves credit for helping write some of their best material and his influence remains on half of the songs found on *"Digging Up Old Bones"*.

Italmelodie's rented sixteen-track board was returned to the store but Fania asked to keep it on hold as he was actively looking for a new drummer to continue the album. Meanwhile in March, the Cathouse, where Fania still occasionally worked, changed name to the Backstreet Underground, hoping to revive the club with a name that played off their more successful predecessor, the Backstreet. The new owners once again kept Louis Adams in charge of booking shows, which in turn kept Fania working there as a sound man on the odd nights when Club Rage was closed.

Through another ad to urgently find a session drummer, Fania set up a phone call with Stephane "Stan" Mayrand. At first the two spoke as strangers but after meeting up at H.Q. Studio in early April, they quickly realized that they had gone to College Mont-Saint-Louis high school together. Mayrand was a local drummer who had played in The Tribes in the late 1980's and was then playing in Mange L'ours Mange, a hard rock band to some popularity in the francophone community. That day at H.Q. Studio, Fania and Kourie played through their 4-track demos and provided Mayrand a tape to practice to.

As soon as Mayrand was ready, Fania returned to Italmelodie to pick up the sixteen-track board. Mayrand was paid \$400 to play drums on the eleven-song album. This was one of Mayrand's first job as a hired studio drummer and it helped in establishing his skills to later record on albums by such artists as Charly Buss, Didier Boutin, Marijo Bonheur, Christian Marquis, Jean-François Fortier, Annie Chartrand, Ma Blonde Est Une Chanteuse, CQFD, Alain Simard, Le Berth Blues Band, Les Zapartistes, Slam Corrida, John of Mark and The Box.

Tracking for *"Digging Up Old Bones"* began, for the second time, in mid-April of 1996 with Mayrand's drums. Immediately after this, Fania and Kourie registered *"Breaking Violet"* (*"Le Groupe Breaking Violet"* in French) as an official, general partnership company. The registration papers were filed on May 1st of 1996, but the government made a typo in the system and actually registered the company as *"Breakins Violet"* (in both French and English). The typo was never corrected. This company remained in registration until October 10th of 1998.



Breaking Violet's promotional photoshoot on May 14th 1996. Outside of H.Q. Studio. Photos courtesy of Paolo Gattola.



Breaking Violet's promotional photoshoot on May 14th 1996. Outside of H.Q. Studio. Photos courtesy of Paolo Gattola.



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On May 14th, while Mayrand was at H.Q. Studio, Kourie's old friend, Paolo "Mr. Big" Gattola, snapped some pictures of the band hanging out inside and outside of the studio. These would be used in the album booklet and for the promotional press packages. Additional pictures were taken on other days when Fania, Kourie and Mayrand were recording. By mid-May, the drums, guitars and bass were recorded. The entire album featured a single guitar track, with the occasional solo lead backed by rhythm. The band was trying to achieve that stripped down, 1990's alternative rock sound that was fighting back against the over-layered, tripled-guitar-tracks type of sound of the 1980's.

On May 17th Fania rented a keyboard from Italmelodie and added a few minor touch ups to the album. Nothing to throw it off balance; a few effects here and there such as the windy intro on "*Had a Dream*", the abstract intro on "*I*", some ripple effects throughout "*Change*", voice manipulation on "*Push*", creaking noises throughout "*Crossed the Line*", piano on "*I Don't Want to Die*", an organ outro on "*Finer Days*" (which also

features Kourie's haunting spoken word; "This is the voice of your guitar god", recorded through his guitar pickups) and the ambient segues throughout "*Harsh Reality*". An additional song was recorded using only keyboards and vocals, "*Supper's Ready!*". The song would appear as an unlisted bonus track on album.

All of June was spent recording vocals and mixing the album. Fania designed the album's artwork and layout throughout July, while Kourie and Paolo Gattola went on a photo shoot for the album's front cover; on July 22nd pictures were snapped of Kourie's dog, Shanny, digging up a bone in his parents' backyard.



Breaking Violet recording at H.Q. Studio from April to June of 1996. Photo courtesy of Paolo Gattola.



Breaking Violet recording at H.Q. Studio from April to June of 1996. Photo courtesy of Paolo Gattola.

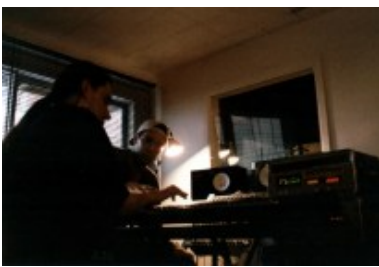


Breaking Violet recording at H.Q. Studio from April to June of 1996. Photo courtesy of Paolo

Gattola.



Breaking Violet recording at H.Q. Studio from April to June of 1996. Photo courtesy of Paolo Gattola.



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Breaking Violet
recording at H.Q.
Studio from April
to June of 1996.
Photo courtesy of
Paolo Gattola.



Breaking
Violet
recording
at H.Q.
Studio
from
April to
June of
1996.
Photo
courtesy
of Paolo
Gattola.



Paolo Gattola at
H.Q. Studio from
April to June of
1996. Photo
courtesy of Paolo

Gattola.

This time around, Klink Publishing would not only be used as their publishing company but also served as a record label. The album's catalog number, "KL 2778973", was in fact H.Q. Studio's phone number (514-277-8973). For the first time, Fania bought a Universal Product Code (620953002328), as it had become a regulation to sell albums through record stores. Fania also got a brand new website designed, hosted through AOL at "http://www.users.aol.com/breakingv".

One of the early track listing considered for the album hints to a much more driving and aggressive-sound record:

1. "Push"
2. "I Don't Want to Die"
3. "Crossed the Line"
4. "I"
5. "Greed"
6. "Had a Dream"
7. "Harsh Reality"
8. "Change"
9. "Great Expectations"
10. "Trying to Run Away"
11. "Finer Days"



Breaking Violet's "Digging Up Old Bones" album. CD outside booklet.



The full picture of Shanny, Bob's dog that ended up on the front cover of "Digging Up Old Bones". Photo courtesy of Paolo Gattola.

The final track listing turned out more mellow with a progressive build up:

1. *"Had a Dream"*
2. *"Great Expectations"*
3. *"I"*
4. *"Change"*
5. *"Push"*
6. *"Crossed the Line"*
7. *"I Don't Want to Die"*
8. *"Finer Days"*
9. *"Trying to Run Away"*
10. *"Harsh Reality"*

11. "Greed"

12. "Supper's Ready" [unlisted]

On August 6th Fania brought the session over to S.N.B for mastering with Jean-Francois Chicoine, their third time working together. The mastering cost a total of \$900, after which everything was sent over to Disque Americ in Drummondville for 1000 compact discs to be pressed. "*Digging Up Old Bones*" wound up costing nearly \$5000 to produce. Fania and Kourie had to divide the costs in half, as opposed to a three-way split had Alain Lacaille or Robbie Tucker remained in the band as an equal partner.



Breaking Violet sticker, designed by Stephane Fania in promotion for "*Digging Up Old Bones*" in late 1996.

On October 9th Fania drove down to Drummondville to pick up the boxes of compact discs and pay the balance off. "*Digging Up Old Bones*" was finally released, exactly three years after the album was proposed during an Emissary band meeting. Fania then headed to CopieXpress to print out a few limited edition stickers, baring a purple background taken from the album's artwork, topped by the new band logo and website link.

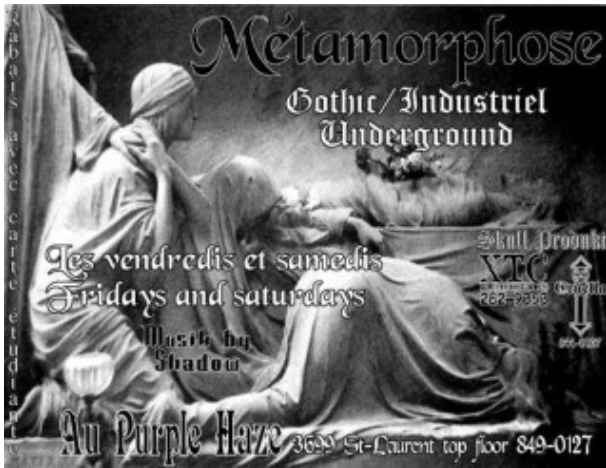
-Chapter 9: Filming "Greed" & promoting "Digging

Up Old Bones" (October 1996 – November 1997)

Through out the summer of 1996, Fania's concert venue, Club Rage on Park Avenue, transitioned from an alternative rock, hard rock, funk and ska venue with the occasional goth night, into a purely gothic, drum and bass and industrial club. Earlier that year he had met a like-minded fan, Luis "The Beast" DeMonte, a Portuguese immigrant living in Montreal. The two wanted to host bigger and better goth nights and so in October of 1996 Fania closed down Club Rage (and also stopped working at the Backstreet Underground) and together they reopened the Purple Haze nightclub at 3699B Saint-Laurent Boulevard. The Purple Haze had previously been one of the biggest and most successful hard rock, grunge and alternative rock venues in Montreal. But after grunge faded away, so too did the venue and it ultimately closed its doors in March of 1996. In May of 1996 a trip-hop and jazz lounge, the Velvet, opened in what was the first floor of the Purple Haze (the building had three floors; the top two were occupied by the Purple Haze), which then took on the address of 3699A Saint-Laurent Boulevard. But the upper (third) floor remained empty for seven months until Fania and Luis revamped the place and brought over the staff and DJs from Club Rage.



Flyer of Skull Produkt event at the Purple Haze.



Flyer of Skull Produkt event at the Purple Haze.



Flyer of Skull Produkt event at the Purple Haze.



Flyer of Skull Produkt event at the Purple Haze.



Flyer of Skull Produkt event at the Purple Haze.

Right from the start, the most successful night of the week remained identical; Thursday nights was techno and drum and bass, hosted by Fractal Surfers. For Fridays and Saturdays Fania hired Stefan Paradis (aka DJ Engelke), founder and owner of Skull Produkt, to host an underground, industrial, gothic and EBM night entitled "Metamorphose". Stefan Paradis was also given Tuesday nights for underground music. Other DJs to have hosted or spun at "Metamorphose" include DJ Shadow, DJ Shatten and DJ Kaotik. In July of 1997, Fania hired DJ Mr. Black to host a dark wave, new wave and industrial night, entitled "Darkwave Nights", on Saturdays, hoping to bring in an Anglophone crowd (as Stefan Paradis was strictly Francophone). Eventually Stefan Paradis left to DJ at Pharao's Tomb and he was replaced by DJ Uriel, who started the "Heresy" nights on Fridays. After Fractal Surfers left, DJ Mr. Black took over Thursday nights with an 80's theme, under the alias DJ Pez.

On October 15th of 1996, Fania started a survey for Breaking Violet at the Purple Haze. Whenever friends were in or a slow night was happening without a DJ, he put on "*Digging Up Old Bones*" and handed out sheets with the track listing. He asked

each person to give their opinion as to which song would best fit as Breaking Violet's first single. This survey lasted two months and in December "Greed" was selected for the first single. It had been by far the most voted song from the survey, but it made perfect sense for the band to select the song as it had been the last song written for the album and therefore their most recent one.



VHS sticker for "Greed"'s music video, sent out to the local music channels in the summer of 1997.

In January of 1997 Fania and Kourie started planning their new music video. By then it had been five years since Boize filmed their video for "Get a Life" in February of 1992 at the Backstreet. "Get a Life" was released through U-Iliot Records but for "Greed" they formed a new company, a division of Klink Publishing named "Klink Productions". Klink Productions' budget for the new music video was \$10,000.



Breaking
Violet
filming
"Greed" in
May of 1997.
Photo
courtesy of
Paolo
Gattola.



Breaking Violet filming
"Greed" in May of 1997.
Photo courtesy of Paolo
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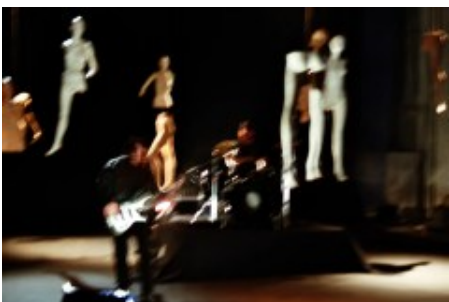
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filming "Greed" in May
of 1997. Photo
courtesy of Paolo
Gattola.



Breaking Violet filming "Greed" in May of
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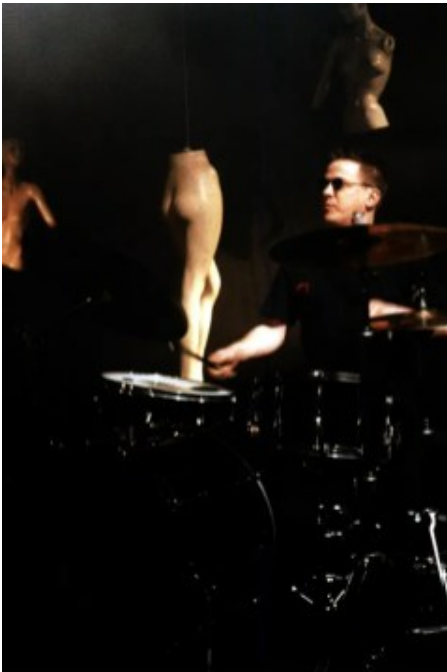
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"Greed" was filmed in a warehouse that the band rented in the east-end of Montreal in early May of 1997. The cast featured Fania on vocals and bass, Kourie on guitar, Jankowski on drums, Patrice Gauthier as Mr. Greed and Jean-Francois Page as The Hangman. It was directed by Franco Zoccali, with photography by John Ashmore, art direction by Jonathan Mash, edited by Marc-André Ferguson (at Astral Tech), assistant directed by Bill Stone, assistant art direction by Chantal Allard, camera assisted by Brent Marrale, the gaffer was Serge Marcotte, Luis DeMonte was the electrician, the grip was Nancy Baric, hair and makeup by Olivier Xavier, suspension and rigging by Louis Chamberland and Mathiew Gregoire and with production assistance by Julie Marion, Stephanie Bolduc, Pierre Gawarrere, Marco Fania, Paolo Gattola and Annie Desjardins.

By June the music video was finished and the band was ready to promote "Digging Up Old Bones" with a complete package; compact discs, stickers, a music video and a website. T-shirts were planned and designed but were never made. Promo sheets were sent with compact discs and VHS tapes and the band created a fictitious personality as their manager. "Larry Smith" was chosen as a name because it was about as common-sounding as it could get. It was an inside joke for the band due to so many magazines not accepting unsolicited material.

BREAKING VIOLET

<http://users.aol.com/breakingv>

Biography



BREAKING VIOLET formed in 1991. Creating an incredible underground rock stigma when their true to life song "GREED" became "what it's all about". Clubgoers began to follow this band religiously making them feel in demand when venues became repetitive. Since the release of the video "GREED" the opiated and controversial portrayal of Stef Fania's feelings showed a true band that is able to identify to it's fans.

Stef Fania: singer / bassist / lyricist / co-producer for the band tells it like it is. Stef once

said "I want my music to touch the heart, soul and mind of everyone who hears it." In 1995 the band restructured, a new approach to song writing began. With the given times, a darker side of life was experienced by the band, which instantly had an effect on the music they produced. Robert Kourie, guitarist / composer / co-producer, feed this new approach with tantalizing riffs and melodies. These two writing partners have been perfecting their craft for the past 13 years, going from one extreme to another to develop a knowledge in various styles of

music, blending and producing them in such a way as to create BREAKING VIOLET's distinctive signature.

For more information, please contact BREAKING VIOLET's management, Larry Smith at 514-845-3880 / 514-591-5641 Fax: 514-374-0579

Write to: BREAKING VIOLET
7415 Genes, St-Leonard,
Montreal, Canada. H1S-2T7

Thank you.

Breaking Violet's press release sheet for "Digging Up Old Bones", June 1997.



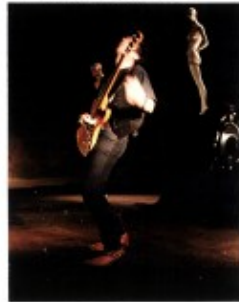
...Give me more.

...A very special and talented
filming crew.



Setting the stage for the video

...Let it Rip, Bob.



Breaking Violet's press release sheet for "Greed", June 1997.

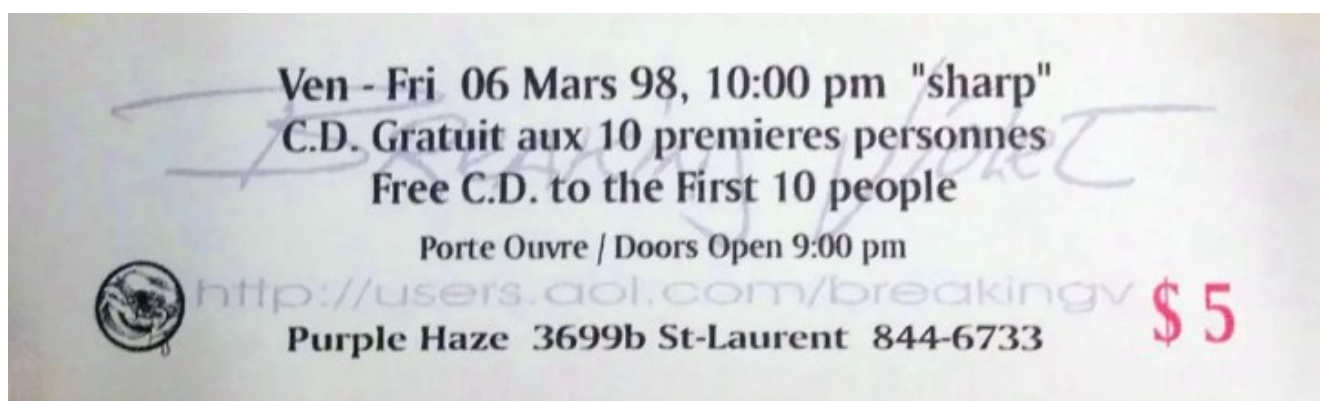
But little ended up happening from July to November. The music video was sent out to the two major music channels in Canada; Much Music (for the Anglophone crowd) and MusiquePlus (for the Francophone crowd). The video aired a couple of times on both stations but it was quickly filed away in their archives by the end of the year. The compact disc was distributed to the local shops, but Breaking Violet failed to secure a national distribution deal. Even with Larry Smith "managing" the band, promotion was limited and many local magazines bluntly refused to even review or give the album a chance. On top of this, Kourie's dedication was quickly fading as he spent more time raising his family.

-Chapter 10: Breaking Violet plays live & then disintegrates (December 1997 – Early 1999)

Things started looking up in November of 1997 when Breaking Violet booked its first show. The band was scheduled to perform an acoustic set at Saint-Patrick's Basilica in

downtown Montreal on December 1st of 1997. The event was part of World AIDS Day, raising awareness for the disease. Local television station CTV was there to report on the event and even filmed Breaking Violet performing their one-song acoustic set. A snippet of "I Don't Want to Die" aired on that night's television news program. The band chose to perform that song because it dealt with death and the loss of a loved one. Although written about cancer, it could easily relate to people who had to deal with AIDS. The song was performed as a two-piece with Kourie on acoustic guitar and Fania on vocals.

In early 1998, Fania and Kourie decided find a drummer and play more shows. No one remembers exactly how they found their next drummer, but in February they started practicing with Kevin [whose last name is still missing, if you know him please get in touch!]. This new line-up started working on a brand new song, known under the working title "Sun". This was the first new material written in over two years. They also added a cover to Black Sabbath's "War Pigs" to their set list, specifically for their upcoming concert, and considered doing a metal version of Bill Withers's "Ain't No Sunshine", but this idea fell through.



Ticket stub for Breaking Violet's concert at the Purple Haze on March 6th 1998.

For the first time in four years, Fania took advantage of the fact that he owned a concert venue and booked Breaking Violet to play at the Purple Haze on March 6th of 1998. The first ten people to arrive were given a free "Digging Up Old Bones"

compact disc. The concert was filmed by their usual cameraman, Paolo Gattola, but unfortunately the camera died halfway through their set, right in the middle of "Change", and their cover of "War Pigs" was never documented. The set list for the concert was built in a much different way than either album track listings had been:

1. Crossed the Line
2. Had a Dream
3. I
4. I Don't Want to Die
5. Trying to Run Away
6. Finer Days
7. Change
8. War Pigs (Black Sabbath cover)
9. Great Expectations
10. Push
11. Greed
12. Harsh Reality

In late March tensions between Fania and his business partner at the Purple Haze, DeMonte, were as bad as they could possibly get. Although Luis was a fan of the gothic scene, he was doing little to help promote it. He rarely showed up to work; the few times that he did he was usually under the influence of drugs. Luis' drug habit was also financially ruining the venue. In the last week of March of 1998, Fania had had just about enough and he shut down the venue without notice, cutting his ties with Luis. A week later he reopened the Purple Haze as sole owner but this revival was short lived. By May [this month is more of an estimate than an exact date] the venue had closed for good. In June, the owners of the Velvet lounge took up the upper floor and it eventually reopened as Club Saphir, which became another hot spot for gothic bands and DJs throughout the early 2000's.

Luis DeMonte ended up starting a new dance club, Club Ezra, at 5116 Park Avenue, the same location that once was Club Rage.

Club Ezra opened in July of 1998 and though it had its occasional successful goth nights, its alcohol selection was poor and drugs quickly became the main attraction. Club Ezra closed a little over two years after opening, in September/October of 2000. Luis then returned to Saint-Laurent Boulevard to open Club Redemption, co-financed by Fania's ex-girlfriend (and Luis' new love interest) Maria Fatima Medina. Club Redemption immediately became a junkie's hot spot and in turn closed down after less than a year, in June of 2001. The brief tenure was due to Luis and Maria borrowing and withholding money from the performing DJs (all of whom ended up quitting and going over to work for Club Saphir), and the two went on the lam hiding from drug dealers, to whom they also owed money.

Breaking Violet was having its own problems too. Fania was pushing to book a tour and properly promote "*Digging Up Old Bones*", which had by then set them back over \$15,000. The last review of "*Digging Up Old Bones*" had been published in April of 1998, in Mykko Lappalainen's sixth issue of *Elysium*, a fanzine from Finland. There was nothing else. Breaking Violet desperately needed to get out there and move some merchandise. And for the first time in two years, the band had a stable drummer who was willing and ready to go on the road. There was even talk of releasing a second single for the song "*Push*".

But Kourie's dedication was practically nonexistent. Fania was lucky to see him once a month at H.Q. Studio for rehearsal. Prior to recording the album, Kourie had promised Fania that he would commit himself fully to promoting the release, and that his new family would not hinder recording or touring schedules. But his pledge was suddenly falling short. Each time the subject of touring, or even playing local one-night shows was brought up, his wife would have a jealousy fit. Although Breaking Violet's fanbase was extremely limited (especially in comparison to the success that Boize had in the early 1990's), Kourie's wife was convinced that a tour would

mean that groupies and drugs would take over the life of her husband. Because of this, Kourie became reluctant to leave his wife and kid, even to practice at H.Q. Studio.

By June, Kourie had left Breaking Violet and Klink Publishing became solely owned and operated by Fania. The lease for H.Q. Studio's building was not renewed that summer and Fania sold off most of the studio equipment. Kourie continued playing guitar in his pastime but it would be over a decade before he played in another band. His current band is named "Ecscale" and plays cover songs at weddings and local festivals.

Fania continued practicing with Kevin under the name "*Breaking Violet*". But the music had totally changed. Fania was still playing bass and handling vocals, but he had purchased a keyboard and it quickly became his primary instrument. Kevin gradually shifted from a drummer to helping out with drum programming. A few work-in-progress demos were toyed with but nothing materialized. On October 10th of 1998, the general partnership company known as "*Breaking Violet*" was dissolved.

By early 1999, the half-finished songs were abandoned. Fania took a break from the music industry for twelve years and owned an art gallery named Art11. In 2011, he reactivated Klink Publishing and U-Iliot Records to digitally re-release and distribute all of the material recorded and released from 1989 to 1996. He began demoing material for his new project SLT9 in 2012, but the project is still in development.

You can find Emissary on Facebook and Breaking Violet on Facebook.

-Complete Show Listing

1. 1993-07-02 Concert Populaire Festival, Ladauversiere Park (Saint-Leonard, QC)
2. 1997-12-01 Saint-Patrick's Basilica (Montreal, QC)
3. 1998-03-06 Purple Haze (Montreal, QC)