

# KING COMPANY



Interview by James Gaden

**Despite consisting of some of Finland's top musicians who have made their living playing Power Metal and heavy music, King Company are a new Melodic Rock five piece. Signed by Frontiers Records, the band have already started receiving great feedback for their song 'In Wheels Of No Return', which was aired on YouTube attracting over 58,000 views to date and a variety of positive comments. With a debut album chock full of 80s influenced anthems, Fireworks put some questions to founder member and drummer Mirka Rantanen.**

**Can you tell me how the band was put together?**

I started the band over two years ago because I have always wanted to play this kind of music. Melodic Hard Rock is really closer to my heart than Power Metal or even much heavier stuff and I wanted to create a band where I had some great musicians and friends with me to make it happen. We wanted the playing to be fun, any kind of ego boosting and dictatorial band leading would be totally out of the question. I had in mind this exact line-up, I knew the other guys in the band would also like this style of music. Thankfully they shared my passion and agreed!

**Are the band members in close proximity, or do you have to write remotely using file sharing and the internet?**

Most of the songs were done in a rehearsal place by jamming together like in the good old days, which has been, in my opinion, such a fruitful way to do it. Usually Antti (Wirman) will have some guitar riff in mind, then we just start from that. Sometimes it takes an hour to get a song ready, sometimes days, it depends. Some of the songs were written over twenty years ago... for example 'Holding On' and 'Farewell' Pasi (Rantanen) wrote a long time ago, but we refreshed them and we created new arrangements. Everyone in this band is a songwriter involved in the making of the

songs and music, all their ideas are listened to and tried out in the rehearsal room. We just wanted to write Melodic Heavy Rock songs, songs which come straight from our heart... Of course it all has something to do with what we listened to back in the day, Whitesnake, Rainbow, Dio, Deep Purple, etc. You can hear all these elements there and we really want people to hear these things again. We wanna keep this kind of music alive because we know it has a lot of fans out there.

**When did the band start writing the material for what would become the debut album?**

We started writing songs as soon as we started the band. We didn't have any plans or ideas of when we would get a record deal, or whether we would get a deal at all. We just went to a rehearsal place and jammed together. We just did it for ourselves, there was no hurry at all to find a record deal.

**Did you have any songs left over from the writing sessions?**

Actually there's only one song that is kind of left over from the studio sessions and I think it's gonna be released someday in the future. Of course we had a lot of guitar stuff left from the writing sessions, and we will maybe use those ideas later, or not. It depends how much material we come up with for the second album.

**The band's style is a great fit for Frontiers Records, did you approach them, or did they come to you?**

We sent out some demos to Frontiers Records. Actually it was the first label which came to our minds and we really hoped they would sign us because they are focused on this kind of music. The rest is history. They signed us after the first listen – and we are really happy to work with them!

**Is there any significance to the name King Company?**

Our name was No Man's Land at first, but because there's another band with the same name somewhere, together with Frontiers we decided that it would be better if we changed the name before our first album came out. There's no significance to the name King Company; it just sounds fucking great!

**King Company already have two official videos to accompany 'In Wheels Of No Return' and 'Shining'. What was it like making music videos?**

When we were shooting the 'In Wheels Of No Return' video, that was a really long day, as it always used to be when making a video, but we had lots of fun together. One thing that makes this video so important to me is that my son both directed and edited it. I'm very proud of him, he is just seventeen years old and he's a very talented guy when it comes to working with videos. The whole film crew, actors and actresses, did a great job and I want to say a big thanks to all of them.

**As you are a band who rehearse together regularly, does this mean King Company will have opportunities to play live?**

Definitely. We have already booked few shows in Finland and more will follow. We will check possibilities for touring in Europe and the rest of the world later, because we still haven't got a booking agency there, but I think this is just a matter of time.

**We constantly receive hundreds of new releases here at Fireworks, yet it's also common knowledge that it's tough to get a new band up and running in this day and age. What has the experience been like so far in the launching of King Company – have you encountered any huge obstacles or have things gone well?**

Things have gone very well so far. To be honest, I think that's because we hadn't any expectations, we just wanted to play together and keep everything fun. Of course we knew that if everything went smoothly, we were gonna do a demo first and then we could start to send it out to the record labels... and we did, and the rest is history. This all happened within two years, and like I said before, we really didn't set a timescale or were in a hurry to do any of that. It's all worked out and now we feel a 'schoolboy' enthusiasm towards King Company – and we believe that good feeling is passed on to the songs and listeners!