

Cercueil ²

Magazine

#2 The Fashion Issue

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ATROCITIES

article by Renee

Hailing from Salem, Massachusetts is the dark

romantic clothing company Atrocities. Featured in Mick Mercer's Hex Files: The Goth Bible, and run by the gracious and photogenic Curse and Kambriel, Atrocities features both men's and women's clothing and even a cute hooded velvet suit for baby goths of the literal sense! The fabrics are lovely velvets, laces, and sheer georgettes and range from trailing mourning veils to a long, flowing batwing dress, capes, waistcoats, and even a neat, velvet Renaissance-looking tunic. This stuff is lovely and reasonably priced. Also included in the beautifully photographed catalog are wall plaques, velvet bags, pillows, and Atrocities' trademark "Ghoul Pops"; mint chocolate candies that come in a "gothic dozen" (13 of course!) We've been corresponding with them as of late, as we are planning to relocate to the Salem area, and they are genuinely nice people, which to me would be another big reason to buy from them as opposed to other mail order catalogs. As if quality and reasonable prices aren't enough!

I interviewed Kambriel about Atrocities. Don't be surprised to start hearing more and more about them!

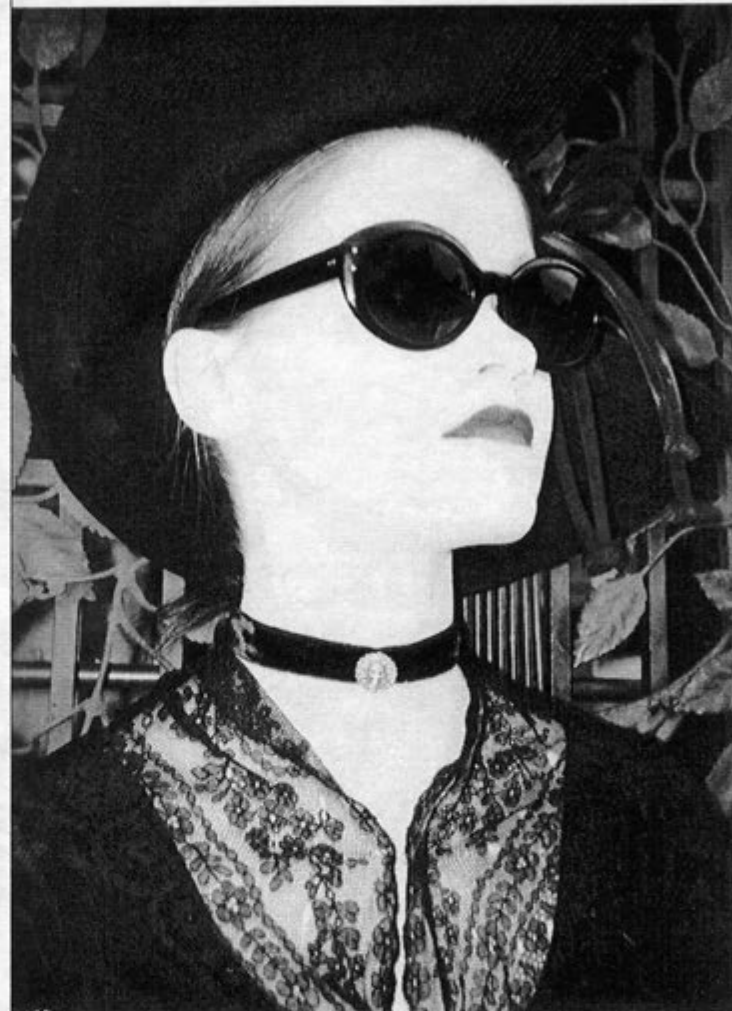


Photo of Kambriel
by Curse
(Courtesy of
Atrocities)



Cercueil™: Are you mail order only, or do you have retail space?

Atrocities: We do sell our items through a shop in Salem called "The Broom closet", as well as having been contact by several stores in Europe who would like to carry Atrocities offerings, but we are predominately mail order only which we enjoy because it puts us in direct contact with those who are more interested in what we do. We have met some wonderful people this way.

Cercueil™: I assume that everything is made by you - What inspires your designs?

Atrocities: Correct assumption! We take pride in making everything ourselves and hope that some of the energy and love for the gothic that we put in our items comes across in the finished product. This love for the pure and true sense of gothic decadence is what inspires our designs.... women who are beautiful enough to be apparitions, but whom you suspect are half mad! Men with an elegant, aristocratic air, but always an underlying sense of the scoundrel. We want everything we do to come across as eerily beautiful.

Cercueil™: How did Atrocities get started? How long ago?

Atrocities: Well, its a bit of a strange story... While living in Colorado, we had a "gothic garage sale" to rid ourselves of some no longer wanted personal effects (including clothes). The clothes sold, but it didn't end there. Afterwards, our friends would come by and start looking through the clothes in our closet and would ask if they could buy certain pieces. Caught off guard, initially we conceded to part with some of the items, but it got to the point where we wanted to keep what we still had! We decided it might be fun to start making the items for them so we didn't have to sell our own things. The catalogue was born soon after in the winter of 1994.

Cercueil™: How long have you been making your own clothing? Why?

Atrocities: Growing up I (Kambriel) always enjoyed "personalizing" my clothes. Being a devout Cure fan, I would embroider portraits of Robert Smith onto my jackets. Sometimes I'd go to my mother's fabric (without permission) and viola, a new skirt. I'd see certain clothing articles as blank canvases and act accordingly. It's only been the past few years through where we've really thrown ourselves into making clothing. We do it because we derive so much pleasure from the finished product. We can fall in love with a fabric and really see the magic in it and we try to bring that out. There is a certain quality to the things we've created that we just don't find elsewhere.



Photo of Stacey by Kevin

(Courtesy of
Atrocities)

Cercueil™: Are there upcoming new projects or designs that you'd like people to know about?

Atrocities: We just added new pages to the catalog which we are pretty happy with. We are considering creating a line of outfits inspired by the costumes of vintage horror films. We believe there are those certain people who grew up with these films (i.e. 1931 "Dracula", 1919 "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari") longingly dreaming to raid the movies & wardrobe closets! We are also writing dark, classical gothic music under the name "Walpurgisnacht". We will be appearing on some compilations as well as releasing a demo. After that, we shall have to wait and see. ...

Cercueil™: What are your thoughts on the current state of fashion?

Atrocities: We have only a passing curiosity for current fashion. What's the point? The industry is just out to oppose the last season. It's horrible predictable. If clothes were black, next it will all be color. A conservative look will become a fad ~ all next. It's pushed by greed. After all, if people settled into looks they were comfortable with, they wouldn't have to buy a new wardrobe each season. Scene-wise, we are not fans of the fetish look, preferring an air of mystery and inner radiance to in-your-face harshness. With Atrocities, we simply do what we love and we hope the effect will be somewhat timeless. There will of course be a natural growth as time goes on, but it will be a smooth one which will remain true to our inner natures.



Photo of Curse
by Kambriel

For a catalog send \$5
(checks payable to C. Williams)
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(Courtesy of
Atrocities)