

# Internet Magazine

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## Omar Alexander & Soulare - Sizzles

by: Joel Gaines  
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It's really hard for me to describe what the music of Omar Alexander & Soulare does to you. There is a certain something that I can only describe as "sizzle" that is evoked by the hot-as-summer hooks and passionate vocals these guys evoke.

I imagine myself in a wildly jamming dance hall or concert arena - surrounded by people who are emotionally invested in dancing to Omar Alexander's music. You can't listen to Omar Alexander and think you are going to sit still.

IRM: Omar, would you mind telling us a little about yourself?

OA: I am half Colombian and half Indian; but was raised in the U.S. My father, who is from New Delhi, always had the desire to be an international traveler and left India at a young age to study in Germany. My mother, a dentist, left Colombia with those same dreams of integrating herself into a

more diverse culture. The reason I mention this is because their influence has helped artistically shape me into who I am today. I touch upon my parents background and my own American upbringing to create my music.

IRM: You grew up where? And how does that influence your music?

OA: I grew up in the United States. I was born in Kingston, NY - but moved to South Florida when I was 5 years old. However, due to my mixed racial background, I was exposed to many different styles of music. The music of my parents has always felt natural to me. Growing up, I listened to a lot of old school funk, classic soul and hard rock. My parents exposed me to a lot of Latin and Indian music. All three of these different influences have shaped the sound I have today. I think I have a slight mesh of styles that seems to come across to my audience.

IRM: What are examples of your songs which have the most meaning to you personally, and would you care to share why?

OA: I would say the opening track to my self titled album, Bandolero, has a special meaning for me. It represents the difficulties I had growing up as an American kid - because of the struggles I had with my ethnic background. The rhythm of this song is Latin based; yet the lyrics define me as a thief of culture - as an immigrant searching for an identity. There is a proud theme running electrically through the track; but with a twist of uncertainty for the future.

IRM: I don't like to make comparisons very often, but you really do sound like the Latin Seal. And I think it is more than a sound - there is a passion for song that you exude. Where do you think that comes from?

OA: I like to think of my music as a platform where my audience can express their emotions. Love, being the greatest vibration in the universe, is an ongoing theme in a lot of my songs. It doesn't really get any more passionate than that. Anytime an artist talks about love, there is a degree of intensity higher than that of any other topic an artist can sing about. A lot of this comes from my love for soul music. I think this is where I obtained my depth in my songwriting.

IRM: We've heard a lot of your tracks and I want to ask you about two in particular: Morena is really soulful and impassioned - what is it about?

OA: Morena was actually written by me when I was visiting my family in Colombia. All my cousins wanted to hear what I was working on - so I started playing my acoustic guitar in front of them. I kind of finished the song with them as they all pitched in - helping me complete the lyric. The song is about a beautiful dark skinned Colombian woman.. Because flamenco also has some of its origins from India, my family believes my style to be one that comes more from Spain than Colombia. I found that to be interesting as I explained to them my Indian influence in approaching certain melodies.

IRM: Then, there is Breathe In - a super-charged, aggressive tune that just gets you on your feet - an altogether different passion - what's the difference to you?

OA: I try not to make all my songs sound the same. We all have different emotions: love, hate - some

political and some just about having a good time. The responsibility of a songwriter is to capture these emotions differently - as they are intended to be felt. "Breathe In" is a political statement. What can be more supercharged as immigrants trying to cross the border into the United States - only to find themselves suffocating in a box car. That is why this song is so dramatic in its sound.

IRM: I'm convinced that Omar Alexander and Soulare could each be very successful on their own - but the combination is amazing. Why does that work so well?

OA: Actually Omar Alexander & Soulare are a single entity. I am the main songwriter of the group and it is my vision that comes across. I wanted my audience to think of my music organically. I want people to think of me as a "live band performer" rather than a package wrapped "bubble gum" solo artist. I picked guys who shared my vision and had the same musical background. NYC is filled with these types of players who can play funk and as well, follow through on delivering challenging types of Latin rhythms. No matter who I play with or where I go in life, I will always want to play with this style of musician.

IRM: What are you currently working on and are there any tour plans?

OA: Believe it or not, I am actually writing a play. I was the musical director for the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare festival last summer. The art director got a hold of my album in New York and fell in love with it. She wrote a play around my music and I was hired to be a part of the performance. I trained the cast to properly deliver the vocal. It was an exciting time for me. So I got inspired to write my own musical due to this experience. Be on the look out!! I am almost finished with it!! Besides that, I really am just marketing my music right now. The internet is a powerful tool!! I also will be playing Cuban standards in Miami at a place called Texas De Brazil on South Beach every Tuesday or Wednesday night. It's a side project that I have put together - only because I met some amazing Cuban musicians in the area. I see it as a challenge that is going to allow me to grow as an artist.

IRM: What else would you like your fans to know?

OA: That I am very approachable and that I will personally answer all their emails whether they hit me up on my website or on myspace. I want people to know that I consider myself a student of music and that I am always willing to learn something new - regardless of who it is teaching me. I love exchanging ideas.

You can get more information about Omar Alexander and Soulare at:

[www.omaralexander.com](http://www.omaralexander.com)

[www.myspace.com/omaralexandersoulare](http://www.myspace.com/omaralexandersoulare)

[iTunes.com](http://iTunes.com)