



## Biography

Multi-instrumentalist Dark Smoke Signal is synthwave producer Alex Pope from the new music hotbed of Bristol, UK. An 80's child, he was raised on a diet of synthpop, Jean Michel-Jarre and prog-rock. As a teenager, Alex began obsessing over 80's thrash and 90's heavy metal and played guitar in a succession of ropey bands through the years. After graduating from university with a degree in audio engineering, he started producing local artists which eventually gave him the taste to produce his own material. Discovering the world of synthesizers proved a turning point and Alex went solo, switching up to the world of retrowave but staying true to his roots of hooky melodies and anthemic choruses. Tinkering with filters and envelopes has allowed the repressed inner nerd to flourish again after lost years in the sonic wilderness.

Debut single, The Big Stage was released in August 2018 with all proceeds going to youthmusic.org, a charity for underprivileged kids. Among the follow up singles, Thunder Road and December Rose received 10/10 reviews on Forever Synth and remain the only tracks to do so. His epic, award-winning synthwave story, 'December Rose' was featured on the genre leading New Retro Wave channel and also won 'Best Single' in the inaugural Forever Synth awards 2019.

Enthused by the initial success of these, DSS signed to Retro Reverb Records for the release of his long-anticipated debut album, 'The Antipope Resurrection' that will be landing on March 18th this year.

Flickering in the shadows between the genres of Synthwave and Darksynth, songs are a mix of vocal and instrumental styles retaining a melodic edge the hook the listener in.

DSS has had a fair bit of airplay over the last couple of years across some of the electro-scene's most well-respected radio shows incl. Artefaktor, Synth City with Rob Harvey, Forever Synth, Space Jams, Beyond Synth, Radio Wigwam and The Russ Evans Electro Show to name a few.

DSS incorporates live synth, sampling, guitar and vocals into his energetic shows that have got followers in the scene talking. This last year has seen him perform at the Retro Reverb Rhythms launch party and also earn support slots opening for the likes of Lebrock, Absolute Valentine and Lazerpunk. The first booking of 2021 is already in the calendar and the line-up, yet to be announced promises to be truly special.

## † The Antipope Resurrection †

'The Antipope Resurrection' is a dystopian Darksynth concept album – doffing a cap to bombastic works from the 1980s by the likes of Iron Maiden, Metallica and Depeche Mode aiming to give a little escapism from the pressures of the modern world. The album art is also a throwback to the detailed cassette covers that DSS used to pore over from the period.

The album is the soundtrack to a horror film that has not been made; the Sci-fi tale of the apocalyptic return of the time-travelling Antipope in cyberpunk form, hell bent on revenge against the Catholic Church. Inspired by the real life figure from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century; Pirate Baldassarre Cossa who was Antipope John XXIII during the Western Schism. Aiming for a similar tone to the film Kung Fury, tracks have some outlandish themes including Nazi tank battles, nuclear warfare and cyborg bounty hunters!

Incorporating elements of Metal, Dubstep, 90's Trance, Nu-Metal, Gothpop and even Classical Music all flambéed with a splash of 80's cock-rock guitar into a melting pot of ingredients so uncool it's delicious. DSS paints a dark cinematic world with splashes of colour to ease the tension.

Tongue in cheek or earnest message? The listener decides.

Vatican City - 2050

It began with the cavernous chant. A neon blue fissure opens up over the square, a dark figure emerges. Angels fall from the sky as flames erupt around the imposing Basilica. Where once white smoke rose, an obelisk now falls. Tanks emblazoned with an ancient symbol, now an emblem of evil, provide covering fire into the distance as the Priest Runner Units lock onto their targets.

The final schism has begun.

† Stream the Album (private link) [here](#)

† Album Artwork can be downloaded [here](#)

† Bandcamp link [here](#)

† Spotify hyperfollow [here](#)



### Music Links;

Bandcamp: <https://darksmokesignal.bandcamp.com>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/58bqh5AlqD5jEKBjlt9hs5?si=NRjbgVyxQauR-KVt2Dylyw>

Apple: <https://music.apple.com/gb/artist/dark-smoke-signal/1414019948>

Deezer: <https://www.deezer.com/en/artist/4898534>

YouTube: <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCvZ4aeJivruo-PVetDMivRw>

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-191160599>

### Music Videos;

Thunder Road (Release date: 28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvY19p7Zsd8>

December Rose (Release date: 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2019); [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWo\\_XAKvqQk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWo_XAKvqQk)

### Social Links;

Website: <https://www.darksmokesignal.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/darksmokesignal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/darksmokesignal>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/darksmokesignal>

Songkick: <https://www.songkick.com/artists/9562164-dark-smoke-signal>

### Press Coverage;

Interview: <https://spinditty.com/genres/Synthfam-Interview-Dark-Smoke-Signal>

Single Review: <https://spinditty.com/genres/Synth-Album-Review-Dark-Smoke-Signal-Tearing-The-Wings-Off-An-Angel>

Forever Synth: <https://www.foreversynth.com/best-tracks-of-2019>

Forever Synth: <https://www.foreversynth.com/post/it-s-soo-bloody-good-to-see-dark-smoke-signal-doing-so-well>

Brash Magazine: <https://brashblog.wordpress.com/tag/the-big-stage-by-dark-smoke-signal/>

Klefnotes: [https://klefnotes.com/music\\_reviews/offset/110](https://klefnotes.com/music_reviews/offset/110)

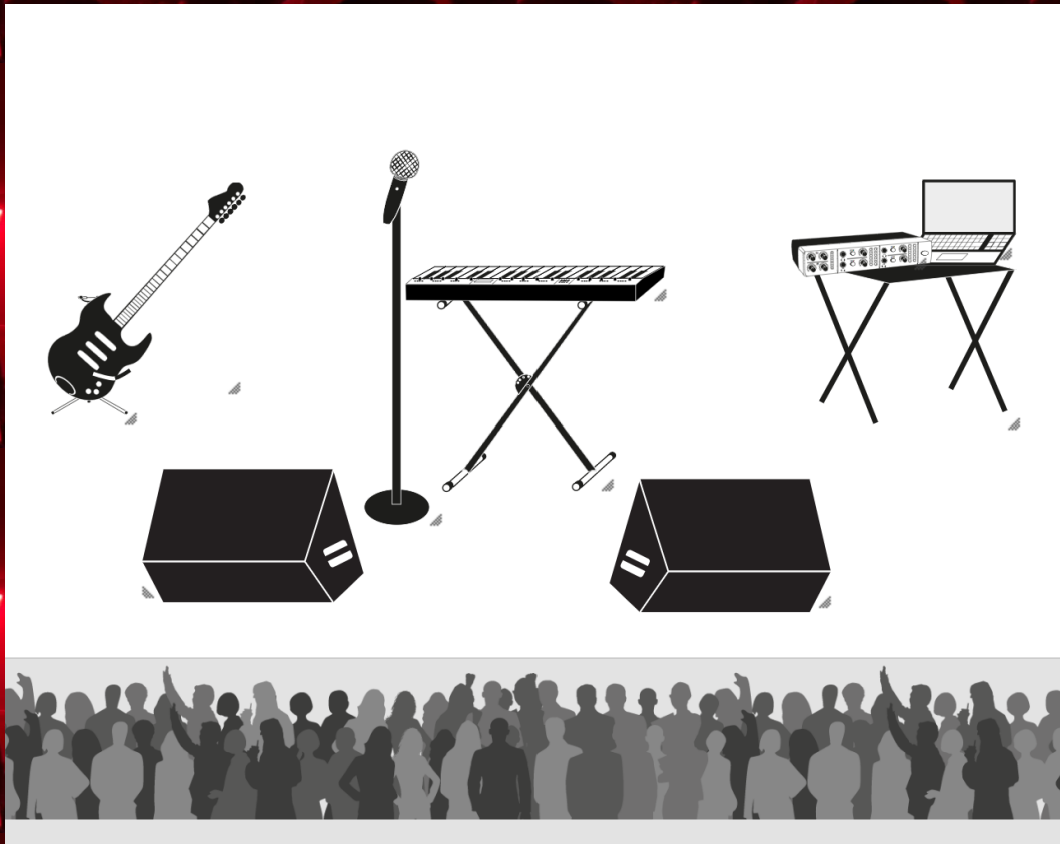
### Live Performance Videos;

Kelstonbury Festival: Kelston; Aug 2019; [https://youtu.be/vGamb\\_EUEP8](https://youtu.be/vGamb_EUEP8)

Space Jams: Tales from the Crypt; Basement 45, Bristol; Nov 2019; <https://youtu.be/5a9jzEfygow>

Lebrock: The Crofter's Rights, Bristol; Jan 2020; <https://youtu.be/s78h5DGasvq>

## Stage Plot



### Inputs required:

1. L stereo line out
2. R stereo line out
3. Back-up Mic XLR

## Rider Request

- ✓ Tea (PG Tips)
- ✓ Monster Munch (Beef flavour)
- ✓ Latest copy of Viz

## Contact Information

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