

# METALLICA

## to rock Singapore, again



**Big return:** Metallica returns to Asian shores to promote their latest record *Hardwired...to Self-Destruct*.

Courtesy of Metallica

**Marcel Thee**  
CONTRIBUTOR/JAKARTA

Iconic heavy metal band Metallica is set to make its return to the Singaporean stage with a show this Sunday at the massive Singapore Indoor Stadium. Metallica has been to Singapore before, first in 1993 and then 20 years later on August 2013 at the Changi Exhibition Centre.

This concert will be part of the US band's current tour to promote its tenth and latest album, *Hardwired...to Self-Destruct*. The album has been hailed as one of its overall best by the media and fans. It seems one of the rare instances where the band was able to satisfy both fans of the old Metallica sound and its own need to progress musically, resulting in immediately notable singles such as "Hardwired", "Moth in Flame" and "Atlas, Rise!"

Still, drummer Lars Ulrich — who at 52 still plays live with a beastly prowess — balks at the idea that the record is a throwback to the band's thrash metal roots instead of simply another progression to the band's artistry. Indeed, as a band of Metallica's stature, the band's fan base is massive and insanely dedicated. However a good number of fans have, for the band's last few albums, been extremely critical — wanting the band to simply regurgitate the sound of its legendary "old days", which for a musical group formed close to 40 years ago is different for every age group. Simply put, the band has had a strong love-hate relationship with its "metal militia" fans.

Metallica — Ulrich, vocalist-guitarist James Hetfield, guitarist Kirk Hammett, bass player Robert Trujillo — has also done some of its most ardent promotion for the new record. The band produced and released music videos for all 12 songs on the album, as

well as a documentary to provide background for the process of sound recording to give a glimpse of the writing and recording process.

In an interview with Singapore's *The Straits Times* to promote this upcoming concert, Ulrich stated, "Now that YouTube is the world's biggest television station, we figured we may as well knock a video out for every song [on the new album]."

In the same interview, he also described how difficult it was to shoot 12 music videos while the band was flying all over the world to undergo the initial record promotions.

The band's last album before *Hardwired* was 2008's *Death Magnetic*, which was initially praised upon its release due to its sprawling and classic metal sounds, but which was generally considered an unsuccessful Metallica release by critics and the fanbase. So far, *Hardwired* has fared much better.

In its previous albums the band members have always found a way to keep themselves sane. At the height of their success (and debauchery), the band often found themselves leaving home for more than three years straight, which eventually culminated in a massive internal dysfunction, which was captured in the 2003 documentary *Some Kind of Monster*. The documentary also showed the difficult production of 2003's *St. Anger* album followed by the resignation of longtime bass player Jason Newstead after years of mental bullying. These days, the band tours only in two-week increments, meaning they go home to be with their families and friends every two weeks.

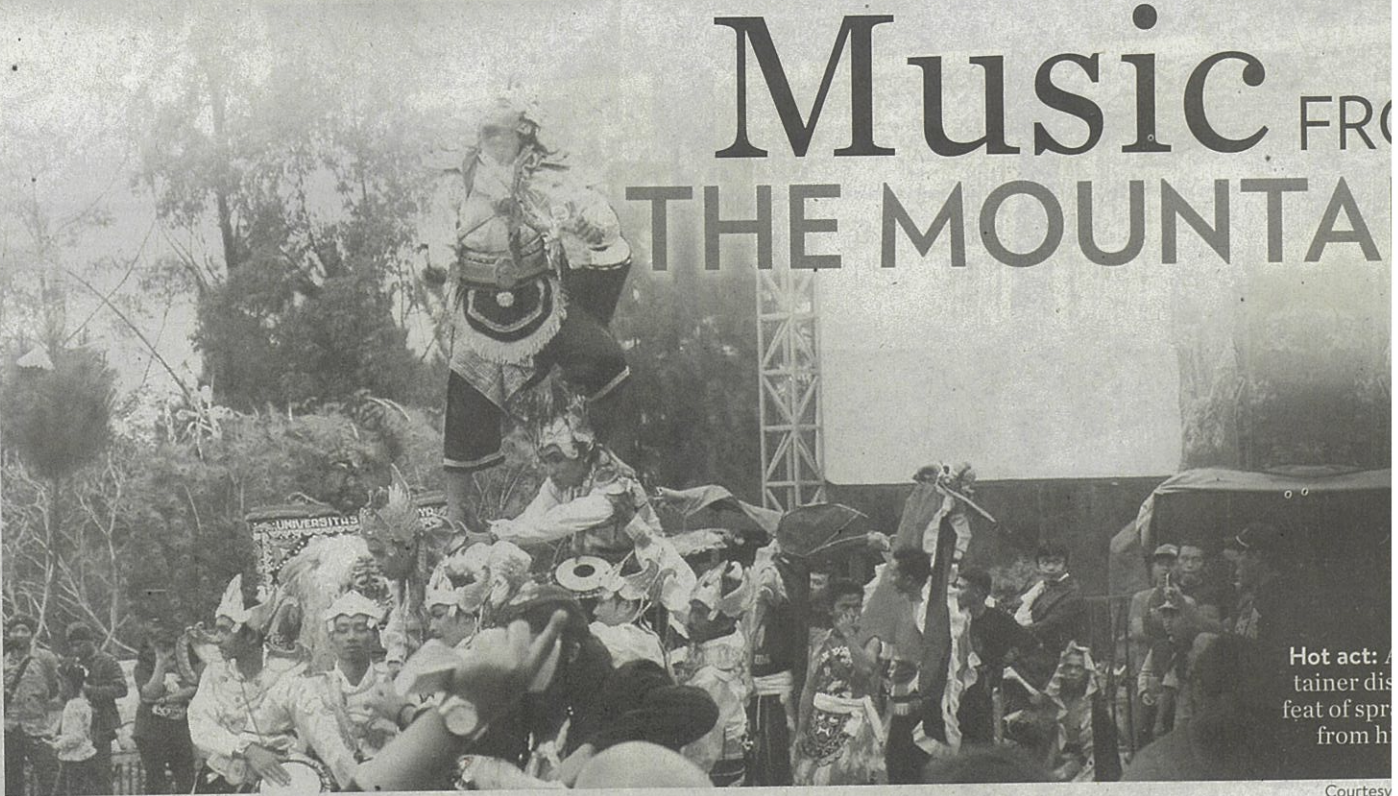
As for starting off the latest tour with shows in Asia, the band wants to do something different than going straight around America and Western Europe, "We just like to shake it up in Metallica," said Ulrich.

### METALLICA

Jan. 22, Singapore Indoor Stadium, 8 p.m.

**Tickets:** [www.sportshub.com.sg/sportshubtix](http://www.sportshub.com.sg/sportshubtix)

**Prices:** S\$358 (US\$252) and S\$288 for standing spots, and S\$248, S\$228, S\$158 for seats



**Hot act:** A tainer dis feat of spr from h

Courtesy

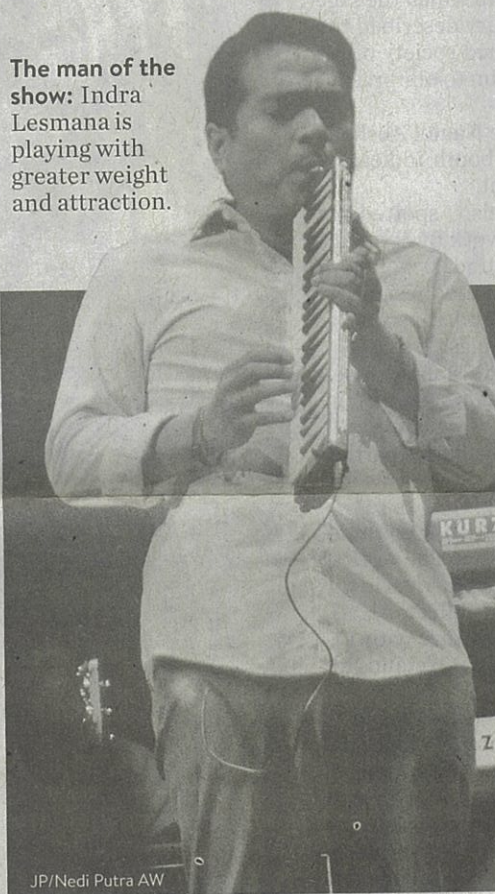
*From the mountain for the mountain; band Krakatau holds another reunion, for the first time on high land to sing for the environment.*

**Nedi Putra AW**  
CONTRIBUTOR/MALANG, EAST JAVA

**K**rakatau, whose name is inspired by the volcano on the Sunda Strait, delivered their latest performance from a high place in Malang, East Java.

Krakatau has been a famous Indonesian jazz band since the 1980s. Their past and current members are top Indonesian musicians including composer Dwiki Dharmawan, singer Trie Utami, jazz musician Indra Lesmana, and drummer Gilang Ramadhan.

**The man of the show:** Indra Lesmana is playing with greater weight and attraction.



JP/Nedi Putra AW



**Rocking the stage:** Trie Utami (middle) is accompanied by guitarist Donny Suhendra and drummer Gilang Ramadhan as she sings against the stage background of lush greenery on the slopes of Mount Arjuno, Malang, East Java.

Recently, the band reunited all of their old and current members and appeared under the name Krakatau Reunion. After a successful concert in Jakarta, the band held another reunion concert on Jan. 6 in a forest located on the slopes of Mount Arjuno, Karangploso district, Malang. The forest is managed by the city's Brawijaya University.

The band's members who appeared at the January concert were Trie (vocalist), Indra and Dwiki (keyboard players), Gilang (drummer), Donny Suhendra (guitar) and Prasadja Budiharma (bassist).

Indra said the performance was Krakatau's first mountain concert, which also served as a setting of nostalgia given the band had performed at Brawijaya's campus in 1989.

"However, today we had spectators who mostly weren't born yet at the time of our previous show," he said.

Trie explained that Krakatau's appearance in the forest had to do with salvaging the environment.

"Many of Krakatau's songs have environmental themes so that they conform to the vision of Krakatau as the communicator of matters connected with saving the environmental, education and culture," added the vocalist.

Among such songs is their new track "Hanya Dapat Melihat" (They Can Only See) in the band's new album, *Chapter One*. Trie points out the numerous forests that are currently no longer verdant green.

"Unless proper action is taken, our future generations will only be able to see forests in pictures," she explained.

Another song is an instrumental composition, "Moon Stone". The unique title with a tone of nature is the English translation of *Batu Bulan*, an area in Gianyar, Bali, where Trie has a home studio, which was one of the places they used to record their latest album.

Similar with Indra, Trie also considered the forest concert as a reunion but not in the conventional sense.

"Now we're reuniting with grass, trees and clean air," she said.

Consequently, her stance toward environmental conservation is how to stop logging permits.

"Replanting will be in vain if logging remains licensed without heeding nature's balance," she remarked.

The band's founder, Dwiki, felt honored to be closer to nature through this event, let alone the modest stage setting

amid lush greenery.

"We need to preserve nature, and ways, through song," said the musician, who frequently experimented with pentatonic fusion.

He said Indonesia and Brazil dubbed the lungs of the world because of vast forests. In his view, music was appreciating forests and the environmental wealth. Apart from nature, songs also bear the themes of love, and humanity with the group's typification.

Among its successful songs, themes include "Kau Datang" (You Came), "Kembali Satu" (Reunited), "Gemilang" (Shining), which were hits of the 1980s and from their latest album, "Aku dan Family" (Me, You, Us and Family).

The free concert was part of an Artjuno Fest organized by Brawijaya University. The event became an important for local a community group known as Pinggir Alas or the outer-edge village.

Artjuno Fest program director Prastyo said an appreciation of nature didn't necessarily have to be only in a traditional domain. He also encouraged the production of this concert model on a to inspire confidence in local people, rather than just be a mere subject of an

Redy, who is also the initiator of the Kampung Nusantara (archipelagic work), referred to village people's social assistance as their solid asset with their growing self-confidence, rid of the stigma and mindset of being class citizens.

Therefore, he hopes this event regularly by the university with disciplines each year.

Prior to the concert, Artjuno Fest held a cultural procession with a traditional parade as an expression of God for providing natural resources continuously meet the needs of humanity through proper conservation effort.

Sharing the view of Krakatau, the focus of environmental conservation solely on the planting of trees but caring society to save the environment.

"The local community and Krakatau union as part of Artjuno Fest the common objective of preserving and nature," concluded R