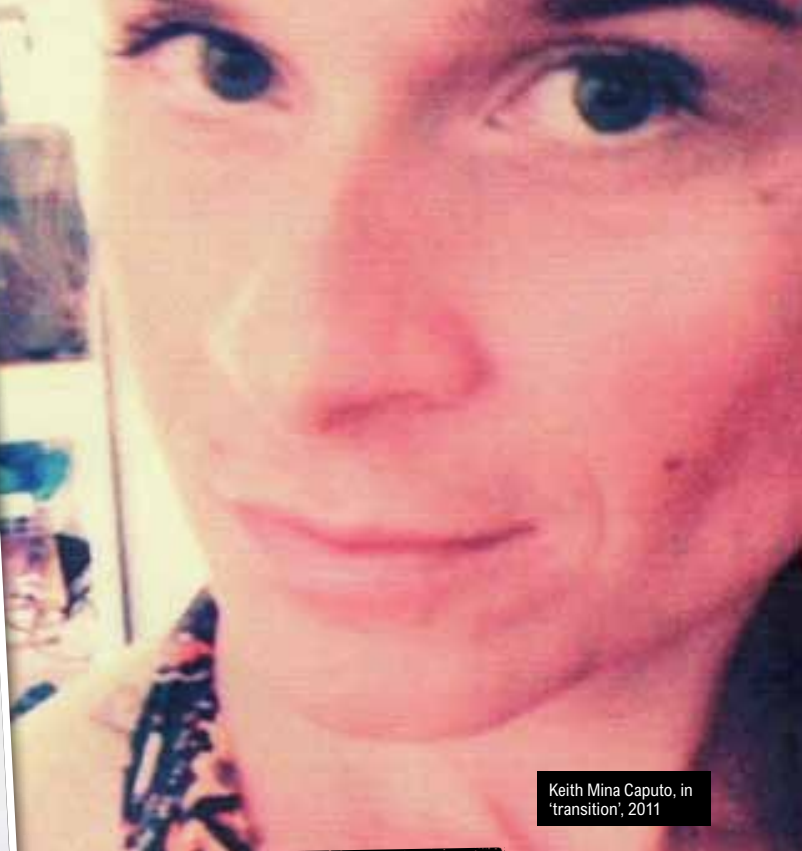


Keith Caputo in his Life Of Agony days, 1993



Keith Mina Caputo, in 'transition', 2011

**“I’M A WOMAN,
I’M A MAN,
I’M NEITHER”**

KEITH CAPUTO WAS ONCE AN ANGRY YOUNG MAN IN THE NEW YORK HARDCORE SCENE. NOW HE’S A WOMAN

KEITH MINA CAPUTO, the frontperson with New York rockers Life Of Agony, has spoken to Kerrang! about his life as a transsexual. Keith Mina (who previously performed simply as ‘Keith Caputo’) began what she describes as her “transition” three years ago, a fact about which she recently went public. In this exclusive and revealing interview with George Garner, the singer/songwriter talks about her current state of mind...

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AWARE OF YOUR TRANSGENDERED STATE?
“I’ve known I was tran” since I was eight years old. But because of my upbringing and then Life Of Agony coming into my life... it was just a very male-dominated source of energy. I always felt a bit uncomfortable because I was surrounded by these macho alpha-male types.”

DID THINGS GET WORSE FOR YOU BEFORE THEY GOT BETTER?
“Yeah. In 2008 I had a very difficult

summer. I was debilitated. I couldn’t leave my house. I couldn’t look in the mirror. I was a wreck. Writing [music] was the only thing that saved my life.”

WHAT DID THE MECHANICS OF YOUR TRANSITION INVOLVE?
“I started seeing a psychologist and went through all the necessary steps that I needed to require an endocrinologist. There’s certain laws and regulations that a transgendered person needs to go through before one can acquire hormones. You can’t just walk into an office and say, ‘Hey I’m transgendered, give me hormones. I want to grow tits!’”

ARE THERE MANY MISCONCEPTIONS CONCERNING THE TRANSGENDER ISSUE?
“Definitely. People think that because you’re transgendered you’re homosexual – which I’m not – and sucking dick now. There’s such a misunderstanding of what it means. The truth of the matter is that gender is in the brain and sexuality is in the genitals.”

DO YOU FEEL THAT SOCIETY AS A WHOLE IS FAIR TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE UNDERGONE SUCH A PROCEDURE?
“No, I don’t. The whole system we live in is discriminative and fucked up. Everything’s fucked up. There are no toilets for transgendered people, for example, which is why there are so many brutalities and beatings. If the authorities and the people who make laws would be sensitive towards the idea that human beings come in all different shapes, in different forms and desires, there would be a lot more love in the world.”

IT’S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE’VE HEARD ANYTHING FROM YOU MUSICALLY. IS THERE ANYTHING ON THE HORIZON?
“I have about three albums worth of material solo-wise. I’m currently talking to producers and trying to work out time windows and things like that. I have a side-project called The Neptune Dolls as well, and I just finished that album. The idea is to stay as eccentric as possible.”

“I WISH HER THE BEST OF LUCK!”

KERRANG.COM READERS HAVE THEIR SAY...

- “I love that she’s being who she wants to be. Most people are fake nowadays and this person is a breath of well-needed fresh air!” – FTW
- “I wish her the best of luck. It’s a very big and hard decision to make. I have made it myself
- and I hope for the best for her.” – Rachel Ricci
- “I respect whatever Keith does.” – Sally
- “Being whomever you want to be and however makes you happy is something we don’t see enough of. Good on you!” – Emily
- “In the words of Hannah Montana – it’s the best of both worlds!” – Adam

PHOTO: ALEX SOLCA