

“We combined that with the talents and equipment of Tom Van Riper and Brandon Eggleston, who have worked with quite a few high profile artists,” he added.

Lead vocalist, Aron Moxley, the Vietnamese member of the group, was a child refugee raised in Astoria, Oregon, which is the focus of ‘Asoria’ on the CD, also a song where the guitar really takes off – a contrast to songs past where Moxley’s voice seems to echo above it all.

“Aron grew up in Astoria, OR and wanted a song that reflected the times he had while growing up and working fishing boats there,” said Young.

While the first CD seemed to focus on the experience of living two cultures, Pageantry has its fair share of relationship or love songs, ‘Every Chance I Get’, ‘You Make Me Alive’, ‘I Wanna Break You Down’, with other songs based on life in general, ‘Luck Strike’, ‘Who Shot The Radio?’, ‘The Pageantry’, ‘Running With The Dead’, ‘Fight For Future’, and ‘How The Wicked Live’.

“Like Slanted Eyes, Slanted Hearts, most of these songs are about love and lost, with some metaphorical references to life experiences,” said Young.

The Slants are more famous for its live performances as a club and large venue band than for its polished studio sound – which deserves a good listen as its only possible to find live performances online.

Young said the band has a common experience in that they are children of immigrants or adoptees and were all raised in the skateboarding punk rock culture of the 80s and 90s.

Simon Young (Siu-Lung – Taiwanese-Chinese) began as a jazz and blues bassist. He and Gaijin have been playing since the 1980s, and have at times performed live with “Information Society,” the late Joey Ramone of The Ramones, Nine Inch Nails, and members of Social Distortion, NOFX, and Bad Religion.

The band was founded in 2005 when vocalist Simon Young departed “The Stivs”, for a synth-rock direction to blend his Asian American background with 80s and 90s alternative rock influences.

Then came Aron Moxley (Vietnamese) formerly of Evening at the Black House, and drummer, AC (Filipino), formerly of The Gentry.

Tyler Chen (Chinese) is the new drummer and Johnny Fontanilla (Filipino-Mexican) is the man behind the hard guitar.

The band gained fame for winning battle of the band competitions in the Pacific Northwest and California. They also made news for getting a show shutdown for using pyrotechnics.

The Slants also reportedly turned down a big contract after winning a national Battle of the Bands competition produced by a music label. Just before the finals, he said the record said they had to agree to a record contract before proceeding to the finals.

“The deal was so shady and stripped away our creative control, so we decided it would be best to turn it down and leave the competition altogether,” said Young.

These days The Slants continue touring a few weeks every year and performing almost every weekend