

EXTREMUM

Extreme Underground 'zine

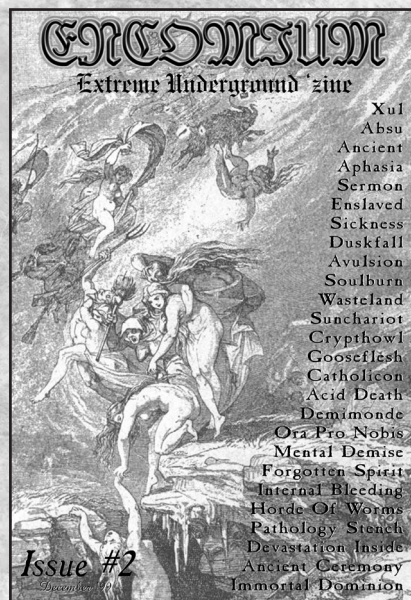
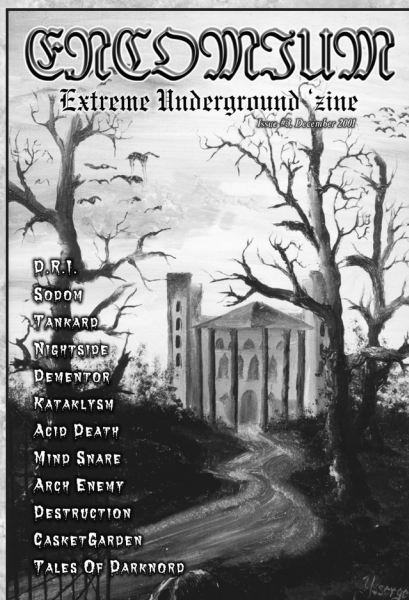
Issue 2002-2016



CANCER, CANNIBAL CORPSE, CRYPTOPSY, DEGENERHATE, DEMONICAL, DISMEMBER, DISSECTION,
ESTUARY, FLESHGOD APOCALYPSE, GRAND SUPREME BLOOD COURT, HATESPHERE, HOLY MOSES,
KILL WITH HATE, KILLCHAIN, MERLIN, MUCOPUS, NECROPHOBIC, NEEDFUL THINGS, NILE,
OBLITERATE, POSSESSED, SIDE EFFECT, SPAWN OF POSSESSION, SUPREME PAIN, VITAL REMAINS

INTRODUCTION

Hail to all loyal readers of Encomium!!! This special issue is intended primarily as a kind of “blast from the past” edition, and as a supplement to the 10th printed issue. In a way, this is also my big thank you to all our loyal readers for their support over the years. Furthermore, as you may have noticed, the interviews in this issue – with the exception of one interview – were previously only available online. Some of you may know that after the 3rd printed issue, from 2002 onwards, I turned Encomium into an online webzine, and this remained the case until 2016. But after all these years, the idea of publishing these online interviews in print has always been in the back of my mind, so that’s probably the main reason for this special issue. In total, there are 24 interviews with bands such as Cancer, Cannibal Corpse, Cryptopsy, Degenerhate, Demonical, Dismember, Dissection, Estuary, Fleshgod Apocalypse, Grand Supreme Blood Court, HateSphere, Holy Moses, Kill With Hate, Killchain, Merlin, Mucopus, Necrophobic, Needful Things, Nile, Obliterate, Side Effect/Possessed, Spawn of Possession, Supreme Pain and Vital Remains. Needless to say, I’m very proud of these interviews, but especially of the ones I did face to face, using a mini tape recorder dictaphone (these are with George “Corpsegrinder” Fisher, Fred Estby, Jon Nödtveidt (R.I.P.), Henrik Jacobsen and Dennis Røndum), a video camera (these are with Karl Sanders and Tony Lazaro) or on the phone, like with Sabina Classen from Holy Moses. They are still special to me after all these years. And now, finally, these interviews are on paper, all for the first time, except for the Dissection interview, which was also part of Issue #4 in 2017. Sadly, some of the bands are no longer active, but I think these interviews speak for themselves, they are still great reads and in a way a tribute to the bands’ past. You’ll also find some pages with reviews of the usual underground products such as CDs, demos and fanzines. That’s 52 pages of content, and I hope you will enjoy these interviews/reviews from the past as much as I did, and still do, even though it’s been many years since they were committed. Finally, I would like to thank the above-mentioned bands and their members for having conducted these interviews in the past. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to all the underground record labels, distributors and fanzine editors who sent in their material for review at the time. Thank you very much for being part of this special issue and for your support!!! Now go and have a good read, take a trip down memory lane and support metal! Don’t forget the ancient feeling... it still rules!!!



Thanks & hello to: Victor Hitter, Kate “Outsider” Siyartova (R.I.P.), Olly Zubor, Volodymyr Osypov, Alexander Erhardt & Bloodbucket Productions, Carl Stokes/Rob Engvikson & Cancer, George “Corpsegrinder” Fisher & Cannibal Corpse, Flo Mounier & Cryptopsy, Gianluca Lucarini & Degenerhate, Martin Schulman & Demonical, Fred Estby & Dismember, Jon Nödtveidt (R.I.P.) & Dissection, Ash Thomas/Zdenka Prado & Estuary, Paolo Rossi/Cristiano Trionfera & Fleshgod Apocalypse, Eric Daniels & Grand Supreme Blood Court, Henrik Jacobsen & HateSphere, Sabina Classen & Holy Moses, Michal “Kubo” Kubik & Killchain, Ákos Olt & Kill With Hate, Mary Abaza & Merlin, Justin Knipper & Mucopus, Joakim Sterner & Necrophobic, Otto Beran & Needful Things, Karl Sanders & Nile, Ivan Babilonský & Obliterate, Jeff Becerra & Possessed/Side Effect, Dennis Røndum & Spawn of Possession, Erwin Harreman & Supreme Pain, Tony Lazaro & Vital Remains, Pavel Glumin & Fatal Forum, Erik Zöldi & Shrunken & Mummified and everyone else who has helped and supported Encomium in any way! You rule!!!

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Great news! After a 7 years split Cancer is back and a new EP is in progress! So I thought it is time to ask Carl Stokes (drums) and Rob Engvikson (lead guitar) about the new stuff and future plans of the band. Let's see the details.



Hi Rob! First of all, tell us how do you feel yourself as the new lead guitarist of Cancer? And also let us know the way you entered the band. How it's all happened?

Rob: I have been friends with Carl & John for many years, and they asked me to join when they reformed the band. I would have been pretty stupid to say no. ☺ It is a damn awesome experience playing live with Cancer.



After a 7 years split you decided to reunite the forces of Cancer. What things motivated you to do this so? And why didn't you reform the band earlier?

Carl: Me and John had some new songs, coupled with a desire to play live. We just thought it was about time. We did try and get it back together a couple of years ago, but it just didn't happen.

Your new EP is now in the final stages of mastering. What can you tell us about it (music-wise, lyrics-wise)? Will it follow the path of "Black Faith"? Or you plan to go back to the early yet classic Cancer albums? Any particular reasons to call it as "Corporation\$"?

Carl: The EP consists of 1 new song, 1 remix, an old Cancer classic of the 1st album re-recorded in 2003, a remix by old bass player Ian Buchanan, and a classic Celtic Frost cover. New track "Oil" is one fast slippery customer, which pounds straight to the heart of George Bush. ☺



The cover for "Corporation\$" EP became very industrial (having oil-exploiting machines on it)? Does the cover-meaning have something common with the music Cancer plays now? And what symbolizes it for you?

Carl: Well obviously we are from the heart of the Midlands, England, the birthplace of the industrial revolution. So, of course, its gonna have some effect on the music. Symbolically its in our back garden, so to speak.

Whose idea was to cover Celtic Frost's famous "Dethroned Emperor" song for the EP? Any emphatic reasons for selecting exactly this song instead of other C.F. classics? Could you comment us details on that?

Carl: Well the band had been playing this song live since 1989, so it seemed quite apt to record it.

You've also re-recorded "Witchhunt" from the first album "To the Gory End". What was the reason for it?

Carl: We thought it fitted well with the theme of the EP.



Ian wasn't interested in rejoining Cancer therefore you recruited Adam Richardson from Assert. What should we know about Adam and his musical antecedents?

Carl: I knew Adam from playing in Assert, so he seemed a natural choice to join the band.

What can you tell us about Ian and his own music project Hairy Scary Man? What type of music he plays there? Was his project the main reason not to enter the band again?

Carl: Best to ask him really, you can find his contact details on his website (there is a link from the Cancer site to his site).



Do you still contribute to the music of Ásatrú? Is Viking Metal recognized in England? How many albums do you managed to record and when do you plan to release some new stuff with it?

Rob: Yes I still do the Ásatrú stuff, I have more interest from Scandinavia than England, but that's fine with me. I have no albums out yet, but I'm currently working on one.

Your website says that Carl, Barney of Napalm Death and you also had a band called Nothing But Contempt? Tell us more about this magic alliance? Do you still continue to write music for it?

Rob: This alliance disbanded very quickly when Barney went back to Napalm Death.

I've noticed on your website that you booked a lot of shows for December 2003 and you plan

to tour the U.S. and Europe in 2004? Please tell us how was to play live with Cancer again as well as the fans' reaction regarding your recent gigs? Any funny stories to tell.

Carl: It was great to play live again, and to see that there is still interest in the band after 7 years away from the scene. Hopefully 2004 will see us spreading the disease further.



Did you get any label interests yet? If so, please share with us all the necessary information.

Carl: Yes, we have some interest, we are just waiting to complete the EP.

Do you keep the contact with James Murphy and Baz Savage?

Carl: No.

If there's something I might forget to ask but you think it's important, please feel free to add it. Please finish the interview the way you prefer and tell some words to the Ukrainian Cancer fans. Last cancerous words are yours.

Carl: Stay out of the sun. ☺



CANNIBAL CORPSE

This interview was planned to be done on the 12th of October, 2004 in Kyiv, but as all you might know the Kyiv show was cancelled due to the Belarus customs, while the Minsk show due to the Belarus government. We couldn't leave it unanswered and decided to go to Szeged (Hungary). It was a hard trip for us, but at the same time very worth, so to say. We caught Cannibal Corpse in Szeged on the 15th of October. And after their ultra-killer death metal set we managed to talk with George "Corpsegrinder" Fisher about the band's latest record "The Wretched Spawn", the sad Belarus incident as well as about some personal things. Enough said, the corpse has spoken!

First of all, I would like to ask what you think about the actual tour?

- Oh, it's been good, except the problems with the border. We couldn't play the show in Belarus and Ukraine. Belarus was just banned by the government. I guess you know. And because of the problems we had at the border we missed the show in Ukraine. That really sucks! We were there, in Belarus, and we were ready to play and they shut it down. We already played there, so we were like: "Wait a minute, we played here a few years ago. Why can't we play now?". And because of all that and having problems with different shows, the borders and stuff we missed Ukraine. We almost missed Serbia yesterday, but we made it. We got there too late, but our crew did a great job, they've got the stuff up and we played all tired. It's been crazy for 3-4 days, you know. I feel better for other fans, because the other ones can caught us in the middle, you know. Not even in the middle, because we don't have any problem with anybody we wanna play wherever, but it's just the government of Belarus. What can we do? I mean, it's out of the hand, you know. It's like in Germany, we can't play any songs from the first 3 albums, but at the same time they've been talked in the Belarus: "Hey, we don't care. You can still play!". We can't though play in Germany. Yes, right! The fans say: "You can play, you used to play "Hammer Smashed Face" in Germany, they won't know". Look, if we do, we can probably get banned there and never be ever to play there again. At least we can still play some songs. Well, in Belarus now I guess we can never go back there, we got banned I suppose, they began reveal us as spy.



"The Wretched Spawn" became more sophisticated, more technical in the guitar riffing style. Was it spontaneous or it's just kind of a natural progression?

- That's about a question for like Alex and Pat, 'cause they write the stuff. I don't think they intentionally changed things. Everybody has started to write and don't keep in mind to vary the songs

and rehashing old songs or take a partial song for the most part. I don't think we all sit down and say: "OK, let's do a record like this". Everyone just writes, you know, they go home, they forge tracks and they pick up what they think sounds good, what sounds brutal and they use that. Sometimes it will be more technical and sometimes is not, you know. It just depends how the songs come when they writing them. I think the next record might be even a little bit more technical, because Jack won't write songs. I like Jack's songs, but his songs more straightforward. They were really technical or really crazy. They are brutal, but they were just straightforward. Pat, of course, is amazing, you know, his riffs... Alex is always like a mixture. So I think the next record will be a little more technical. But I can't say that for sure. But I think that now Pat and Alex will be doing all the writing, the next record I think might be little more technical. But who knows, I can't say that for sure.



After Jack left, how came in picture Jeremy Turner from Origin?

- We only had 3 weeks before we had to go to fuckin' Mexico. Alex have been talking Erik Rutan (Hate Eternal) and Erik said I can't, call this guy help you. Well, Erik was saying he wanna done it if no one could have. If we couldn't get anybody Erik would been here playing with us. Possibly he was busy with Hate Eternal, but he suggested Jeremy and we knew who Origin. And we've known who Origin was before we've seen them playing in Tampa, Florida. So we called him up, we had to calm down, of course, and learn the songs and he picked everything up pretty quick, the whole set. It just came about, because Alex was talking Erik and it was just kind of thing who gonna get known completely our songs, because older songs aren't so technical, but some of the new ones are pretty challenging, you know. He's been doing a good job. I think you can tell the difference between him and Jack when you watch both of them on stage. Jeremy is death metal. He's into it. And Jack do whatever and did, you know, like that festival (*it's about the Nephilim Festival 2000 in Győr, Hungary - Ed.*). On that festival he was completely drunk. I don't say rag on Jack. I just think he wasn't really into it. And Jeremy is into it. I think you can tell the difference see them both. You see Jack, you see Jeremy. Jeremy is much more interested in death metal than Jack was.

So by now Jeremy is a full-time member of Cannibal Corpse or...

- Pretty much right now, but that could change. We don't have any plans right now. Just because we just wanna get the tour start. We've been so busy this year that we haven't had time to think about like OK, what we'll gonna be do. We coming out from this tour and then we have 9 days off. And then we'll do the US tour with Napalm Death. So it's like we don't have any time to sit back and assess the situation. I mean, everything is been good, there's no problem at all. He's cool guy, he can play the stuff, he looks brutal on stage. And everything that we can want. But right now, we just could not this way to say. After the tour is over, my wife is gonna have a baby in December. So I'll be busy with the baby and Alex's wife, you know, and Paul's girlfriend is want spend time with us, 'cause we just spent. The most time we had off this year home. Since we did the first tour in February. The most time we had off was 3 weeks, maybe a month, close to. And that's it, the whole year. So we had maybe a month off. We had combined a couple of months. OK, we did February like in US then we had 3 weeks off and then we did Europe and we had 2-3 weeks off, because Jack quit. Then we went to Mexico, had 2 days off, went to Brazil. You know, we went to Mexico for 5 shows and 7 days, went to Brazil for 8 shows and like 12 days. We only had 2 days off between those and after Brazil we only had like... fuck man, a couple of days off and we did the Canadian tour, then Wacken I think. It was kind of crazy. We've been quite busy. And after this we had no time to think about anything, you know. Tour, tour, tour, we just happy to be at home with our ladies.



Take a shower, your own shower and shitting around your toilet. A tour is kind of crazy man, you know, everybody shares the toilet and stuff. I just much when I am home, I can just sit there, read magazine. No one's nag: "Hey, come on man I gotta go, you'll gotta go. Come on hurry up in the shower, you going to use the half of the water". Fuck off, you know. When I first get home and I take the first shower in my back home and I sit in fucking shower four hours, like "Aaaaaa". Nobody is rushing me. Yes!

What do you think about Spawn of Possession's achievement on your tour as a support band?

- Oh, really killer! We brutally glad to have them with us, you know. They brutally killer players and their music's killer and brutal. So we are really happy that they were ready to do this tour. At some point it was looking like they might not be able to do it. So we had to do something make sure they can be on the tour. So it's great! They are cool guys, party and have fun.

Are you going to take young, but promising bands as support on your tours furtherly?

- Of course! I mean, we took up Severed Savior and we took up Vile. Not many people know who these bands are. And we had a big following. We know the people was see them and we know they're good bands. We wanted else to see them. That's why we take bands to take up. We always wanna take up bands that aren't this well-known, because we know that helps them out. And we think: "Hey, these guys are good, they gonna get bigger!". Hopefully they can do this tour and do a few more tours. People remember them from when they sought them with us. Actually we wanna help bands to get bigger. We had a voice and we can speak, you know.



Metal Blade is your record label for a very long time. What kind of contract you did with them? I mean for how many albums, first of all.

- I think we have one more or two more due for them, I'm not sure exactly how many. And then we'll see what happens, you know.

Are you going to work with them afterwards?

- Oh, yeah! I mean, we would like to. Everything is been going great. We'll just see what happens when the contract's out, you know.

What is the difference in your opinion between the European and US Metal scenes? Where the fans treat you better?

- I think all the fans treat us very well in both places, you know. There are differences, but not very much. I mean, metalheads are metalheads. Especially like in Germany, you see more like people in the old days with jacket over a leather, patches, rings, pins, spikes and shit. You see less of them in America. Especially now, because with all the stuff with terrorism and shit. You see all the people come to the shows without bullet-belts and stuff anymore, because they search everybody coming in. You see people like that, but not as much as over here. Over here in Europe you see a lot more people looking still like in the 80s, which is cool. We love it! But everyone still cool here, everyone's cool there. I wouldn't say one's better than the other. I mean there's pluses and minuses, we know. Of course, America - we from there, it's easier for us, we know the country, we know over there everything, we point a few places, like pubs and stuff at the same time over and over again. And that makes easier, consider more familiar. But I wouldn't say what's better, they both have advantages and disadvantages.

What kind of bands do you prefer to listen to lately? More death or more thrash metal bands.

- Oh, I listen to everything if you look at my CD collection in the bus. With me right now I have Vile, Terrorizer, Infernal Majesty, Razor, old Slayer, Deicide. So I have like a mix, I love everything. I even got some country music with me now, not a lot just old country music stuff. It's mostly metal what I listen to. Whatever kind it is, you know. It depends, old death metal, new death metal like Spawn of Possession, Vile or Severed Savior. All they killer! So it's definitely a mix.



Do you have jobs besides Cannibal Corpse?

- The band is pretty much our job, yeah. We couldn't do all the tour if we had jobs. We just so much fucking tour. We aren't reach by any means, but we make enough to live on. I have a house for my wife. She works too. We're not super reach by any means, but we don't have to have day jobs. I mean, there's no way we can have jobs and live for this long and expect to come home from a job.

Well, how old are you?

- 34.

And the others?

- Fuck it's hard. Paul's like 35, Alex is 34, Jeremy just turned 30 and Pat 39.

What are you like to do in your free time besides the music?

- I play video games.

What kind of video games?

- Let's put it this way. I have two PlayStation 2's. I have a Nintendo game cube. I have a Nintendo 64 and I have an old thing Genesis. I have all PlayStation. I have a Game Boy 1 with me. I have Game Boy 1's SP. I got my fucking Game Boy 1's here with me right now (showing the video game in his bag - Ed.). I like to go fishing too. I go fishing, watch the American football in TV, drink beer. I am so in the video games. I have subscription to like 4 different magazines. Yeah, I got one here, let me see: Electronic Game. I am a total geek when comes to the video games. That's a big part of my heart. That's wanna my big hobbies. I go shop with my wife. She goes to like cloth-stores, you know, looks a cloth. I gonna like electronic stores and looking video games, record stores and CDs. I got a few different hobbies. Probably, like I said, my biggest hobby is video games. Most of my time is spent playing video games, when I am home.

What is your wife's opinion about death metal and Cannibal Corpse's music in general? She's a metal fan?

- She's more like watch TV. She likes to watch like comedy shows, crime investigations, detectives. She doesn't listen to music too much. She listens to pretty lame stuff, like Poison and Mötley Crüe. She likes all that shit. That's garbage! I mean, she knows our songs and she knows what I do and everything. She knows some other bands. I mean I can play some death metal bands and show another Deicide. She hears some, she

knows the music, but she might doesn't sit around at home and listen to music, like I will. She'll be watch the TV. I make dinner, observe my dinner have ready, I go my room, play video games like some football or baseball or something.

What kind of films you watching? Your favorites? (Asks my friend Victor - Ed.)

- Horror movies! I like comic books too. I like all the comic movies like Spiderman, Hulk, The Punisher, Daredevil and stuff like that. My DVDs I got some with me, I got Axeman, I got The Hulk, I got a bunch of different kinds of CDs and DVDs. Horror movies are great! When I go home I wanna buy the Star Wars on DVD.

Finish the interview with your last cannibalistic words to the Ukrainian fans.

- Sorry that we missed the show. It wasn't our fault. I hope everyone understands that it wasn't our fault. We wanted to play, we were ready to play, we were at the border, we were waiting to get in and it didn't work out. We are sorry that we couldn't play, we know that there were waiting for us. We really pretty sorry to people that we missed the show.



Hey, we still continue asking... In your next European tour, you should include Ukraine again and definitely ignore the Belarus customs! What you think?

- It's sucks. We don't wanna ignore Belarus. We wanna play there, but it's the government. We were in Belarus, we were there. We were ready to play and the government won't let us play. With Ukraine we just missed, because the border problems. We had problems with the border. That was it. We wanted to play there too. We'll see what happens in the future. But definitely I would just say that we are sorry we couldn't make it. We wanted to be there, we wanted to play. And hopefully everyone understands it wasn't our fault, because it wasn't.

By the way, was it exciting to play in circus in Belarus?

- It was wild man! It was different. I mean the crowd was so far away from us. Wow, we are playing. It was crazy. It was definitely different.

Do you know any death metal bands from Russia, from Ukraine?

- We probably would have met some. We probably hung out with some guys and got some CDs. But we couldn't get to the shows, you know. Not really. We got fucked over. The government fucked us in Belarus and the border is fucked us when we tried to go to Ukraine. We will see what happens. I mean Belarus is out of the hand. With Ukraine we can try to sort something out the next time and try to play. Maybe we should come over flying air plane. At the beginning of this tour we flew to Russia, played 2 shows. We flew to Moscow took a train to St. Petersburg. Flew back to Moscow by plane from St. Petersburg, played the Moscow. Maybe we can do something like that. Because it will probably be easier than driving all way there. We'll see.

OK, thank you very much for the interview. See you next time.

- Thank you man! Thanks a lot!

This interview was committed in Szeged (Hungary) on the 15th of October, 2004. I've asked Dennis Røndum (drummer) about the actual news, their debut album "Cabinet" and last but not least about their killer tour with deathmachine called Cannibal Corpse. Enjoy this demonic conversation and stay as brutal as possible!!!

Recently out your debut album "Cabinet" on Unique Leader Records. Are you satisfied with the overall production?

- I think we are quite satisfied. We wanted kind of a clean sound, because the guitars do so much, much guitar work, you know. So we thought that we got to put a clean sound before a very brutal sound. But I think it came out very clean and brutal also.

I see you're pretty into the US kind of death metal. Though most of the Swedish death metal bands prefer to play melodic stuff. Why did you choose brutal death metal instead?

- I don't know. Long ago before Spawn of Possession we played the Swedish kind of death metal. But we got bored. It's boring. Because for us it was just too simple. We wanted to be more brutal, more extreme, faster.

What kind of contract do you have with Unique Leader Records?

- One CD!



Do you plan to work with them furthermore?

- Yes, I think so! I think we gonna stay with them. We got some other offers, but right now I think we gonna stay with Unique Leader!

In what kind of direction you'll go on your next album?

- More technical, more brutal! More variation from slow to very fast, more faster than "Cabinet", you know. So there's gonna be more variations and better songwriting.



Who did your cover illustration? It's became simply excellent!

- It was a guy from Greece. Its name is George Prasinis. He only did very little work and I found him through a friend on internet from Greece. And we told him what we were about, what we did and what we wanted to do and he said yeah, he liked all stuff and all lyrics. He said: "Fuck yeah!" and so he did it.

Whose idea was such a cover?

- It was me and the guitar player Bryssling. We've talked about what we want and we said like

a long, endless hall that is infinite, very dark and have all these souls trapped. We wanted something eternal, you know.

Tell us about your lyrics in general. What kind of topics do you prefer?

- Demonic possession. All the songs have demonic possession, everything that is demonic. About haunted houses, demons, dirty priests and possession.

"Cabinet" was recorded in four piece and besides drums you've recorded the vocals too. But on the stage you played in five with a new vocalist. Please introduce him.

- Jonas Renvaktar. He is from a Swedish band, from Disruption. A thrash kind of thing, thrash metal band. We've known him since we did our first demo. He comes from another city. And when we started to do shows we didn't have a singer and we just know he was a cool guy and friend so.

He's a temporary (session) or a full member now?

- We'll have to see. I think he will be full member. I think we haven't really talked so much about it. We will see what happens for the next CD. But he will probably sing on it. I think he will.



Where did you record the "Cabinet" album?

- In Sweden, in Pama Studios. We recorded demos there and the producer wanted us to come back and record the whole album. So we said: "Oh yeah, we do it". He's very good, he's very professional. We had a very good time there. We worked very much, you know. And he is very much into getting everything perfect.



What's your opinion about this tour with Cannibal Corpse?

- It's been probably the best tour. These guys are fucking killer to hang out. We drink beer every night and listen to metal. And, you know, where Cannibal goes a lot of people comes. So we've been playing

for a lot of people between maybe 500 and 2000 sometimes. So all the shows have been very very good. It's been really cool. The bus is killer with only 2 bands, you know. There supposed to be Amon Amarth, but they couldn't do it. So it's only us and Cannibal. A killer tour!



Earlier you had a tour with Unique Leader bands, like Disavowed, Vile, etc. Where do you played then and how was it?

- With Disavowed, Vile, Mangled and Inhume we toured like south in Europe, like Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Switzerland. It was like 10 countries. That was a killer tour. Every band had a van. So it was slow, tougher, you know, because we had to drive. That tour was like a very very good experience. You know, all those bands are our friends and fucking cool like Disavowed, we are like brothers, very cool guys. So that tour was very cool!



Some words regarding the Belarus incident.

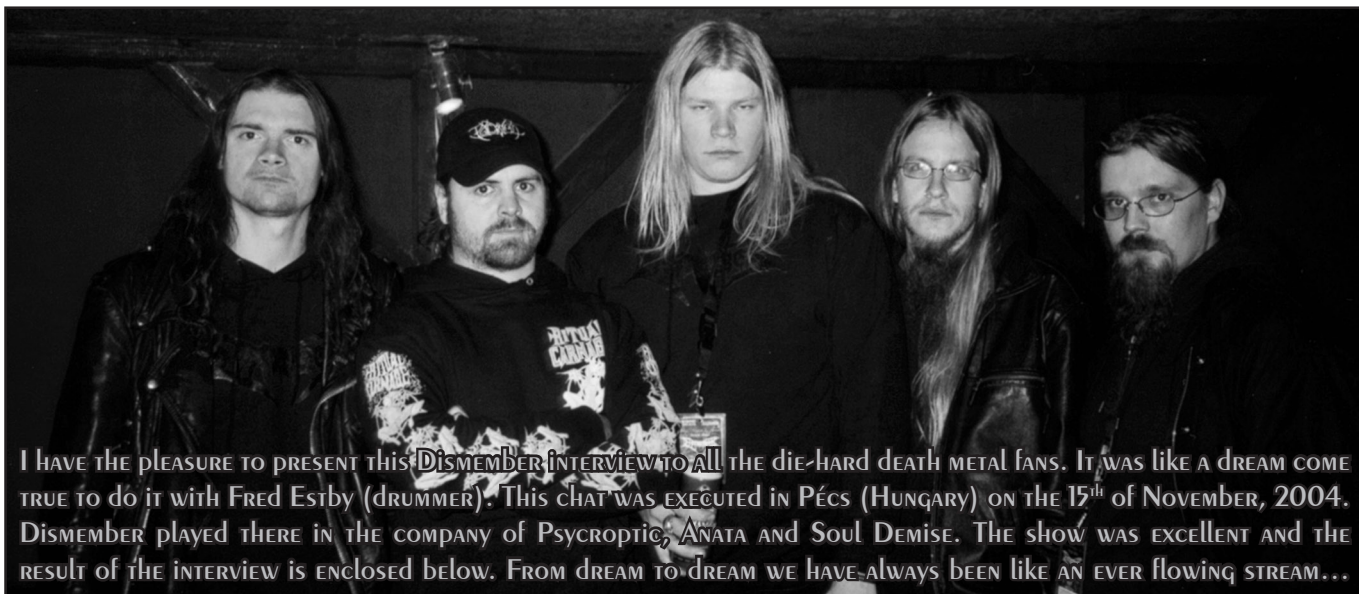
- It's too bad. All I can say, I really truly hoped that the fans knew it was not our fault. We did everything we could. Our tour manager did everything he could to make us do the shows. But it was the Belarus border and government that fucked us. That is the truth.

Any future plans?

- Go home, write a new album!

What are your wishes for the Ukrainian Spawn of Possession fans?

- I am sorry that we couldn't play on this tour in Ukraine. I really hope that we could come back and it will happen. Because we really wanna play there. And stay brutal! That's all I can say. Fuck yeah!



I HAVE THE PLEASURE TO PRESENT THIS DISMEMBER INTERVIEW TO ALL THE DIE-HARD DEATH METAL FANS. IT WAS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE TO DO IT WITH FRED ESTBY (DRUMMER). THIS CHAT WAS EXECUTED IN PÉCS (HUNGARY) ON THE 15th OF NOVEMBER, 2004. DISMEMBER PLAYED THERE IN THE COMPANY OF PSYCROPTIC, ANATA AND SOUL DEMISE. THE SHOW WAS EXCELLENT AND THE RESULT OF THE INTERVIEW IS ENCLOSED BELOW. FROM DREAM TO DREAM WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE AN EVER FLOWING STREAM...

Hi Fred! Recently you have released your new album "Where Ironcrosses Grow". Are you satisfied with the overall sound production?

- Yes, absolutely!

Where do you worked on it?

- At Sami Studios in Stockholm. It's a nice studio.

As I know you also producing bands and "Where Ironcrosses Grow" was produced by yourself as well, but earlier you worked in Das Boot Studios. Are you still working there?

- I don't work permanently in any studio right now. We just recorded there, because of the connections.

You have two new members in your line-up: Martin Persson and Johan Bergeback. How they came in picture?

- Martin was coming one and half years ago, when we were going to do the Holland tour and Magnus was not really interested in playing anymore. So we get fill in the band directly and very quickly made him a member.

OK, and how came Johan?

- When Richard was moving to the States we needed a replacement for any sense. He was going to be away for a while, you know. And then we realized that we did a lot of touring without Richard and he wasn't able to come back to Sweden, 'cause he staying in the States now. So we took him in permanently.

Between your new album and "Hate Campaign" you had like four years of silence. Why was it so long to take out the new stuff?

- We had member changes, we had a lot of other work to do, changing rehearsal room, changing record label, you know. It took some time to write new contracts.

Was it also due, because Hammerheart Records renamed to Karmageddon Media? And maybe it's like delayed the release date a bit.

- Yeah. They delayed the release, because they were changing.

Why did you leave Nuclear Blast?

- Because our contract was out and we were going to renew it, but they weren't really giving us very good deal compared to what's Karmageddon was giving us.

Not long ago you have released your first DVD "Live Blasphemies" – a double DVD. It includes a very complete material, like old and new stuff. It was released by Escapi. How this deal came about?

- They just offered us to record a live DVD. So we were like: "Yes, sure!". Because it costs a lot of money to make a full production, so they booked the show, did all the work, recorded it and so on. And then we got involved and we were thinking perhaps we should put some old material on it, because we've been collecting the old VHS tapes since the early days until now, you know. Because we let people film our shows and send us a copy of the concert. So we started look through all of them and we realized that have a lot of funny old clips, you know. So we put them on the second disc and did an interview too.

Beginning with the "Massive Killing Capacity" album you started to use some Iron Maiden influenced riffs here and there, like for example "Tragedy of the Faithful" on your new release. Are you so much influenced or it's just David who likes to involve those melodic parts?

- It's mainly David who does those parts. But we all like Iron Maiden.

And what other bands do you like to listen to lately?

- I like a band from Brazil called Nephasth. I like bands like Grand Magus, Judas Priest, Maiden, Slayer, early Metallica, Angelcorpse and stuff like that.

Are you satisfied with your actual tour and with the fans how they treat you?

- They're really good. We get really good responses. That's cool!

Yesterday you played in Austria. How was it?

- Really good. Excellent!

You also had a South American tour a month ago. Your comments on it.

- Impressive. It's cool to go to all those countries and play for a lot of people that haven't seen us or heard that much or actually haven't heard us live, you know. It's really cool!

Is Karmageddon Media do things better than Nuclear Blast worldwide?

- Not worldwide. Distribution-wise Nuclear Blast is much bigger and better, but it's more personal working with the Karmageddon, because there not that many people working at the office.

What are your plans for the new album? Do you have some new riffs for it?

- We starting a little bit now.

In what direction they will go?

- I don't know really. I think it can be aggressive anyway.

Did Ukrainian organizers contact you with offers? Because it was told us a while that Dismember is going for a tour in Russia and Ukraine, but nothing has happened. Was it in plans? What's up with that?

- Was in plans. The thing was we couldn't really agree and the time was very short. It didn't work out for the time being. So we gonna try to do it later.

Are you try to appear in ex-USSR countries later on?

- Absolutely.

Last time you were here in Hungary was in company of Obituary and Napalm Death in 1992. What is your opinion about Hungary in general?

- I remember it was a really cool show. Haven't seen too much of the country. I went with my parents when I was younger. I think it's beautiful in Budapest, but I haven't seen much more of the country.

There was a strange thing with Richard Cabeza when he left Dismember and went to Satyricon for a short time. But as a sudden he disappeared from the horizon and even guys from Satyricon didn't

have a clue what's up with him. Can you comment us the details?

- He quit Dismember and went to Norway, we didn't know. He wanted to play with Satyricon, but that didn't work out. So he went back to Sweden.

As I see your new line-up is pretty constant by now. So there's no chance to see Richard in the band again?

- No. I mean, he lives on the other side of the world, you know. It's hard to rehearse.

Will he continue playing music further on?

- I don't know. I think so, but I am not sure.

"Where Ironcrosses Grow" has a killer artwork of Dan Seagrave as your first "Like an Everflowing Stream" release too. Are you going to use his artworks on the upcoming Dismember albums?

- Yeah, hopefully. We'll talk to him when we do the next album. See what he can come up with.

Would you also enlighten us a bit the DVD content for those who haven't familiar with it yet?

- At first, we have two discs. The first one is live gig from Stockholm from last year. And contains like 11 tracks. Then we have the second disc with the history from the early days until now with interviews and tour parts.

Earlier like at the "Like an Everflowing Stream" and "Pieces" eras you were banned, because of the hard image using, like blood and stuff. Do you plan to use something like that in the future?

- I don't think so.

Do you had problems in the history of Dismember with different kinds of religious organizations?

- They tried in England in 1992, but we were there at the trial and we won the case. They tried to ban our music, but if they would have succeeded then I think all bands like Cannibal Corpse and all those bands have been banned, you know. But we won the case and that was good. But I think in Australia they've done a lot of that shit. They just banned the albums and telling the distributors if they sell that kind of music in the country they gonna shut their business out.

Do you know something about Ukraine?

- Not much actually.

In the actual tour you play a lot of old songs or you better concentrate on "Where Ironcrosses Grow" songs?

- We do like 3 songs from the new album and lot of old shit, you know.

Any future plans?

- Just continue, try to do the touring ready and start writing for the new album.

That's all I had in my mind. Thanks for the interview. Your last wishes for the Ukrainian Dismember fans.

- Thanks for supporting us through years. Hopefully we can come to play very soon in your country. We can get to see your country and learn about it.

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The following is an interview with Mr. Jeff Becerra of Side Effect/Possessed. I think every death metal maniac as well as die-hard underground freak knows him and the heritage of Possessed! Recently were out some rare and interesting releases by both Possessed and the new band of Jeff called Side Effect. We've talked about the past, present and future of his musical projects! There's plenty of information regarding both bands! So enjoy this informative communication and stay possessed!

Hell-o Jeff! How are you doing these days? What news can you tell us about Side Effect/Possessed? Any new material in progress?

- Well, we are supposed to put out some more Side Effect material soon. Of course we recently had our first song come out on Agonia, but our newest stuff is way heavier with much better structure. Hopeful the fans will like it as much as I do. Agonia recently put out some live in Ohio USA material (over 50 minutes) which is great too.

Please enlighten us some info about your collaboration with Agonia Records (when it started, plans, terms, etc.)? Do you satisfied with Agonia Records?

- Agonia is a very good label. They are totally committed to the underground and distribution of some very cool stuff. Agonia is a great label (unless you are a rock star poser!).

Possessed's "Agony in Paradise" concert CD was the first fruit of this collaboration? Please share with us all the necessary information regarding this release. I mean when, where and in what line-up was it recorded and what do you think about this live appearance almost 10 years after.

- Again, I think this is a very cool release. Although it is not "studio" quality, it is a very cool addition to every Possessed collection. It is fun to hear what happens between the songs and during a live set. This is with the regular line-up (Me, Larry, Mike and Mike). It is a very raw sounding board mix so don't expect studio quality. We are planning on putting out several more live shows, because of the tremendous response we are having after this one. I would like to call the next one "Sermons from the Seventh Church". Although these are coming out 10 years after we broke up there are still thousands of hardcore fans out there that seem to have a genuine interest in our history.

It followed the release of Possessed/Side Effect "Resurrection" 10" MLP. What should we know about this special split release?

- This was a great opportunity to get out some material from both my new project (Side Effect) and some old school Possessed. We called it "Resurrection", because so many people were under the impression that I was dead. So I figured this would be my resurrection... LOL!

When are you formed Side Effect and why didn't you reform Possessed instead? Any particular reason to form the new band instead?

- Well, Larry is in Primus and neither one of the Mike's seemed to have an interest in reformation, so that solves that! It is so much easier to play with this new band. Kenny SE's guitarist and Ed the bassist are old friends and it only seemed natural to jam with them.

Do you keep in contact with Mike Torrao, Larry Lalonde and Mike Sus? What are they doing these days? Have you any news about them?

- Actually to tell the truth none of us keep in touch anymore. They are all great guys, but I guess that we have all grown apart and went our separate ways in life.

Side Effect combines the forces of Ken Bertocini, Ed Varni and Rick Durocher along with you. What are your interests beside the music? How old are you and are you married?

- I actually have a BA Degree in Labor Studies and I am working as a labor representative in a well-known US Hospital chain. I have been married for the last 4 years and have two children (Jeffrey Jr. who is almost 4 and Sonia who is almost 6 months old). Me and my wife Sheila are very happy and living a very good life. I am 35 years old (36 in June). My hobbies are Satan, violence, guns and booze... LOL!

Are you keep your eyes on upcoming new bands? Any favorites? What kind of music do you listen to these days?

- To tell you the truth I really only listen to old school bands. I like a lot of what I hear from the people who send me CDs in the mail. But I don't know much about newer bands.

Your classic "Seven Churches" and "Beyond the Gates" albums influenced a lot of nowadays playing death & thrash metal bands. And that way a lot of

bands show their respect towards you by covering your excellent songs. I mean for example bands such as Vader, Pentacle and Angelcorpse to name a few. Those covers are damn cool! Are you heard them? And what do you think of the before mentioned bands as well as the today's death metal scene in general?

- Firstly thank you for the compliment. I am honored that people are still listening to our music and it is a double honor that bands are playing our stuff. Vader, Pentacle and Angelcorpse are all excellent bands and I thank them for their support. I have heard these covers and for sure they are "damn cool!"

Could you give us an insight into the lyrical concept of Side Effect? What things motivate you nowadays to write lyrics?

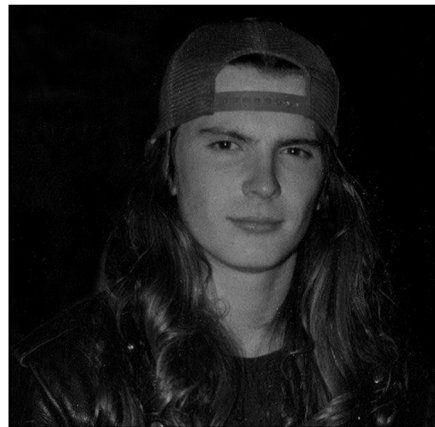
- I just like to play/yell a lot. Music will always has and always will be a part of my life. It is always cool to put out an album/CD; it gives me a sense of immortality.

How would you categorize the music you play with Side Effect?

- We are still in the primordial stages of our concepts. But definitely it is metal with growling vocals as always. Our newer stuff seems to be coming out heavier by the song.

Are you going to be playing classic Possessed songs with Side Effect live? If so, what are those songs and which songs of Possessed are your favorite ones and why?

- We have yet to get it together enough to play a live set, but if we do I'm sure we might do some of my favorite Possessed songs. But this is still up in the air. If we did play live some of my favorite songs would be ones like "Fallen Angel", "Pentagram", "Tribulation", "The Eyes of Horror", "Seven Churches", etc.



Will the forthcoming release "Sermons from the Seventh Church" contain a single live show of Possessed or it will deal with some old, rare and unreleased studio materials too?

- We have yet to decide on the final combination.

Name us please your 5 beloved albums of all time.

- Motörhead/Motörhead, Mercyful Fate/Melissa, Black Sabbath/All the albums with Ozzy!, Exodus/Bonded by Blood, and of course Possessed/Seven Churches... LOL!

What do you think about the reunion rush regarding a lot of 80s and 90s bands nowadays? For example: Destruction, Assasin, Dark Angel, Death Angel and Obituary to name a few. It seems like thrash and death metal bands have their second awakening?

- I think that just as with the first wave of death/black/thrash metal people are sick of the MTV/Commercial radio music. Back in the day it was glam hair bands that people were sick of, now it is alternative type music that people are sick of. People who listen to real metal are not sell-outs but rebels. Rebelling against what is a commercial/capitalistic regime. We are not a complacent bunch.

What's your view about the forced computer development? And what do you like to do with it?

- I am not sure what you mean by "forced computer development" could you elaborate some more and get back to me?

Regarding the "forced computer development" I

meant its all-sided use in different kinds of branches, be it science, technology or whatever like and ABC shop, etc. I mean nowadays people are tightly bounded by computers and even if I also an addicted computer user I think from one hand, it helps to solve a lot of things, but on the other hand, it takes a big part of our lives and even a big part of our individuality. What do you think about it?

- I believe that we must be careful before embracing any technology. We should make sure that we don't lose jobs to technological displacement of labor. Also it seems like people can be too dependant on computers to do their thinking and because of that they might lose a part of their creativity. I may be a Luddite, but I believe that the best computer is the brain.

Under the second part of the question I meant that what basically you like to do with computers (work, music, playing games) and how would you see your life without computers, for example?

- I like to search the net for metal bands. Also I like to correspond with my friends via the net. I don't play any games except on my cell phone.

Earlier it was told that you had a serious accident and your injuries were very complicated. What happened back then? Are you totally recovered from that accident?

- Well, I was coming home from work and stopped to buy a pack of smokes. On the way out two guys with hoods on came running up to me and demanded all of my money. I didn't give it to them and each of them shot me once. The first guy shot me in the chest with a 9mm from about a foot away and the bullet broke through my ribs, smashed up my lung and stuck in my spine (it's still there). The second guy shot his 22 at my head and I blocked it with my hand and my finger came off backwards (later they sewed it back on). I had to stay in the hospital for 6 months. I am still in a wheelchair, but I am fine now. I have two children and a great wife of 4 years.

How did you become a labor representative in a well-known US Hospital chain? What actually BA Degree is all about?

- Well, because my degree is in Labor Studies it was a pretty organic thing. I just approached the Chief Steward at the hospital after I was hired and asked him to become a Steward. He thought that I would be a valuable asset to the Steward Council (The Union) and so he gave me the forms to run for election. Then I was elected from my peers at the hospital. It was a stressful, but great experience. Getting a BA degree in Labor Studies was a very cool experience. Although it took 4 years of hard work, time and dedication I think that it made me a better person. I developed skills that I never thought that I had (like Mathematics, English, and Science, etc.). Plus, I got to cut up a dead body in Cadaver Lab... LOL!

Do you satisfied the way your life has evolved so far? Anything you would like to change or erase from the past?

- To tell you the honest truth these are the happiest days of my life. I have two great kids a great wife and a cool job. My wife and I travel a lot (we're going to Canada soon). We just bought a new house. The only thing that I would change about my life is the amount of drugs that I did when I was younger. I'm ok now, but it brought me a lot of grief over the years.

OK, it's time to ask you about the future plans of your musical projects? And at the end say something for the Ukrainian Side Effect/Possessed fans! Last possessed words are yours.

- Well, Side Effect should come out with a new release in the very near future, so be sure to look out for this. And for all of the Ukrainian fans... Thanks for your support and stay metal forever!! I would like to also thank all of the Possessed fans that have continually showed their support for my music over the years. Lastly I want to send my love out for my beautiful wife Sheila, my son Jeff Jr., and my new daughter Sonny.

Reign in Hell,
Jeff Benjamin Becerra Sr.

Let's begin with an informational question. When your band has been founded and who is now in the line-up?

- OK. The band started out in 1994 under the name of Cauterized. Then they record a demo and tune the name to Necrosis and recorded 3 demos. Had some line-up changes. The only original member is actually Peter, the guitar player. And then in 2001 they recorded their debut album with another drummer and another guitar player. And in 2002 they record the 2nd album "Bloodred Hatred" with a new drummer again. Then I got into the band. So I've been in the band since late 2002. We're touring a lot, getting out the new album. We recorded the mini called "Something Old, Something New, Something..." bla-bla-bla. Very long title. And got a new drummer again. Now we have Anders, who is a great drummer and now we have a steady line-up. So we recorded the "Ballet of the Brute" and the new "The Killing" EP with that line-up. And that is the line-up we wanna keep. Everyone is dedicated to the band now!

Recently you released the EP. Please describe us a little bit in what way it differs from your previous materials (music-wise).

- Music-wise it isn't that different from the others, but the production is a little bit more clear. It has more clear guitar sound, clear drum sound, you can hear everything. I really think everything on that record is like played so tight. Not a lot of distortion on the guitars, but it really tight. That's what we wanted. The music a little faster again, because the "Ballet of the Brute" was a little bit more slow and we tried to play more brutal music. Now it's a little bit more faster. "The Killing" EP is a little bit more faster. More solos, more aggressive. We tried to include a little bit more melody, because the earlier songs had more melody in them and were more aggressive. But then "Ballet of the Brute" turned out to be very brutal and very groovy. So we tried to get a little back to the roots again. More melody, more aggression, more faster songs, more complex songwriting. That's what we try to do now. The new album will be fast and aggressive, more solos I think, more virtuoso stuff and still lot of brutal stuff.

As I've understood you have some songs written for the new album.

- Yeah, we have 4 songs written now. And we still have 6-7 to go. We have to write them. Tomorrow we have a day off in Vienna. We go to rehearsal room in Vienna and try to write some songs there.

So you write songs during the tour?

- Yeah, we try to!

It's an experience?

- Yeah, it's weird to write songs on the tour, because it's hard to record them. You can't get these small like devices to record songs, to record a riff song. But we can't really make a song. When we do soundcheck we only have half an hour soundcheck and that's just enough to do the soundcheck. So we can't play around and try to make new stuff. We tried it a few times, but it's really hard to write songs on the road. So we mainly write songs at home, at rehearsal room.

Your music is very energetic and dynamic at the same time. In a word, I would say it is thrash-core. What bands do you like to listen to and what bands have influenced you?

- Everyone in the band is listen to a lot of different kinds of music. Like I come from a death metal background. I love Hate Eternal, Cynic, a lot of death metal. Peter, he is very melodic, In Flames, Arch Enemy, Anathema, like moody stuff. Jacob, he is hardcore. The singer is come from a hardcore scene. So he loves Terror, Napalm all that crap. And Anders is just rock'n'roll. He listens to old Dio.



This chat was executed 3rd April, 2005 at the Wigwam club in Budapest, Hungary. HateSphere played there as support for mighty Morbid Angel's "Masters of Chaos Tour 2005". Henrik Jacobsen (guitar) was the one who answered my questions. So let's dive into the hellish spheres of hate!

Name us your 5 favorite albums.

- "Focus" with Cynic, "Luminiferous" with Scarve, "Irradiant" with Scarve, "...And Justice for All" with Metallica and "Dead Heart in a Dead World" with Nevermore.

How would you describe your latest tour with Kreator, Dark Tranquillity and Ektomorf? How went this tour? What are your comments on it?

- It was perfect. Really, really great. Great package, like 4 good bands and a lot of great people. So we played to big crowds every night. Sold pretty well the merchandise. So we're really happy. The crew was so good and the bands were all really nice. We stuck together with Dark Tranquillity. We had really good time, drinking too much alcohol all the time. It was perfect.

And how went the tour with Exodus?

- That was really fun. The crew was not that professional, but the band was really cool. We hang out with the band and party with them. They are about 40 years old, everyone in Exodus, but they are still partying all night, everyone. So it was perfect. Had a good time with them, became really good friends with them.

Are you doing some jobs behind the music or just concentrate on music and tours?

- I'm studying university actually, Nordic culture and language. Peter is studying to be a teacher. Jacob, he has his record studio, producing records. Mikael is doing nothing, he just playing music. And Anders, he doesn't do anything either, he's just playing music. I haven't been studying much for the last year, because we had so much to do with music. So I'm quitting studying now to play music. So we play music all the time actually. We have so many tours so we can't have a job.

What hobbies do you have beside the music?

- I don't play computers, I don't watch TV. I don't know. My girlfriend, I like to ride my bicycle, read a lot of books. Actually, write now music is pretty much all I do and think about. I don't have any spare time, because it takes a lot of work to do this. Either we rehearsing, almost everyday and I play in another band too, have to rehearse with that and record albums.

What band?

- Koldborn, it's a Danish death metal band.

Never heard.

- No, it's not that bigger band. It's more like a fun project now, because all my time goes into HateSphere. But we still have Koldborn and we recording a new album now to release that. It's pretty much music all the time.

What way do you complete a song?

- We usually come to rehearsal room with riffs. Peter do most of the riffs, I do some riffs, checkup the singer, he's doing some riffs too. And then we take it to the rehearsal room, play with it, everyone says something, it's very hybrid, like everyone has their opinion and say: "Try that and try that". Takes a long time for us to write a song, we really slow with it. But sometimes when one of us comes up

with a song, most of time we come each with a little piece of the puzzle and we work it out.

It's like an evolution.

- Like a hybrid process.

What do you think about the actual tour with Morbid Angel?

- It's cool! Our guys love to see Morbid Angel every night. On the Kreator tour I didn't really like any of the bands. I like Ektomorf, but the other bands didn't really catch into me.

Did you ever thought that David Vincent will come back?

- Yes. I've read a lot of stuff about him in the past, he had some weird opinions on racism and stuff, so we were a little anxious to go on tour with them, because we've heard a lot of

people say they are weird. No one can be with them. But we have a great time with them. They are weird! They are really weird people! They're not normal, they don't socialize. Tony Norman the new guitar player, he's very cool. He's going out to the crowd afterwards, having some beer and talk to him. But the other guys, they are old, about 40 years old and they don't have anything to talk to the crowd, like almost everyone is in the 20s. It's too different lives. I don't blame them it, I don't think it's because they're weird, it's just normal. I don't know if I'll be weird when I am 40, I don't wanna talk to some 20 years old metalhead who just wanna talk about your music. It's great to meet the fans. Talk to the guys, because most of the guys are great. They have been doing it for twenty years and they get a little tired.

Do you have any exciting stories from tours?

- On this tour, every time Morbid Angel is doing soundcheck, that's a circus. They've doing the fuckin' soundcheck for 20 years and they don't know what to do every day. What do you want to be in monitor? I don't know what I want. I think Pete is getting deaf or something. He's having a hard time with his monitors and he gets really angry sometimes. It's funny, because he is a Latin American, he doesn't speak English that well. We have probably some funny stories, but I don't remember anyway. This because every time the funny stories happen we are so drunk, so we don't remember.

OK, any future plans?

- A lot of future plans. Right now, we are finishing this tour and then we have a few jobs after the tour in Belgium and Germany. Then we go home and write material for the new record, then I am recording the new album with my other band Koldborn. And straight up that we have 2 weeks I think, then we go in studio with HateSphere and record that album, which is to be released on SPV/Steamhammer in September/October and then the circus starts all over again. Like touring, touring, touring, hopefully US and Japan. So it's like a cycle: recording album, touring. We don't have any tour plan right now, but we have some bands that we're talking about tours.

Let's finish the interview with your last words to the Ukrainian HateSphere fans.

- Well, looking forward to coming back to drink some Danish beer, ha-ha-ha. You have great beer here, I must admit that. Cool to play here. We loved the fans here, they are very devoted. That's very great to play in eastern countries, because there are so many devoted fans, like love the music. Up north, playing in Sweden, Germany, Denmark, for instance, there are a music police, everyone is standing down the bar. If we come down, like in Spain and Italy everyone goes nuts, we have a crowd here, that's perfect. We would like to play here.

OK, thanks a lot for the interview.

- Thank you!

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Ladies & gentlemen I have the pleasure to introduce you the most brutal death metal weapon from Russia, called Merlin. Their ravaging albums amazed thousands of metalheads through the years and will definitely earn even more in the next decade. I've asked front-lady Mary Abaza (bass/vocals) about everything that came to my mind. The result is simply killer! Now it's your turn to support the legend - Merlin!

Hi Mary! What's going on in the Merlin camp lately?

- Well, we've just returned from a mini-tour, we were in 3 cities of Povolzhie-Engels, Toliatti and Samara. There was cold as in hell, but we have had a great time, ya know!

There was a hard time for the band after the car accident of Nick Byckoff (R.I.P.). I am sure it was a very serious loss for the band. How did you manage to go through that sad period of time?

- Yes, it was very hard for us to go through that, you know. We suffered an irreplaceable deprivation... Nick was a brilliant drummer, his enormous technique amazed not only the audience, but the musicians too, many idolized him and were quite right, ya see, he was out of any competition...

We played with Nick from the very beginning of Merlin and he became a kind of brother for us. We still can't believe that Nick died; it seems to us that he simply got tired and left for a while!



Was it hard to find and to work with a new drummer after such a long co-operation with Nick Byckoff? What should we know about your new drummer Alchothrone?

- That was pretty hard to find a new musician instead of Nick, it seemed almost impossible. After trying a few challengers, we dwelled on Anatoly (Alchothrone) Boychenko, and now we see that haven't been mistaken with the choice. Anatoly is very interesting drummer, with modern and independent way of thinking, he quite arranges us. For a floor of year, we have restored practically all our old program and now we're working on new songs. I hope in the summer we shall already start recording a new album.

"Brutal Constructor" is your latest release to date. As I know it was recorded yet with Nick on drums. Please compare it with your previous releases? What are the main differences?

- Yes, on "Brutal Constructor" it is still possible to hear Nick's magnificent work and his influence is very appreciable on this release. It was Nick who imposed on the band those incredible speeds and extremely powerful sound. This guy was fast, tight and intense as hell!

I think "Deathkoteque" and "They Must Die" were pieces of really good work, but "Brutal Constructor" album is the most brutal and heavy we've ever done.

We recorded "Brutal Constructor" hardly, have begun in May, have finished in January. It was very painful to do something after Nick's death. My voice

vanished because of nerves, a few times we lost the guitar tracks, besides the engineer got serious problems with health... a kind of some mysticism, ya see!

From the downloaded "Spirits of the Dead" song I've understood that you got a more brutal interpretation of death metal on your new release. How do you see it?

- Well, we wanted the album to be as brutal as possible. At the same time, we managed to play it in our own Merlin style, extremely fast and intensive, maybe even in expense of music, not sure, ya know. I think this work appeared a deserving tribute to Nick's memory!

Musically what bands have influence you these days? What are your favorite ones, by the way?

- Really dunno! I grew up listening to Black Sabbath, especially with Ozzy, and they still are my favorite band, I think they are the parents of death metal at all. Besides I love modern classical music and I had got some jazz education. I think these are the main influences...

Do you follow the appearance of new promising bands or you better stick to the old-school bands instead? If you have some new favorites, please tell us them.

- There appeared a lot of interesting bands worldwide, wherever in Japan, Indonesia or in Europe, which pleases me very much. In my opinion very good band is Hate from Poland, yet Gore Torture from Finland impresses... And Canadian Cryptopsy of course. I like that intense sound and complex structures distinguishing so called new school, but I love more the classics of the style, Death or Vader for example.



Arteom Nazarov joined the band in 1998 and first appeared on "They Must Die" album. Since then you became to work with two guitarists live. It seems really work fine. But as far as your music is very complex and fast I should ask how did you synchronize all the instruments live? Was it hard at the beginning to play live or it just came natural?

- Quite the contrary, it became easier for us to work with Arteom! He is very competent guitarist with brilliant sense of rhythm and infallible memory. Besides as a good composer he brought some fresh ideas in the band.

Unfortunately, he quit the band which was very pity, we'd managed to understand each other from a half word for 6 years we played together...

And good news: we've already have got a new sickest guitar-player instead of Bolt, his name is Sergey (Psycho) Chebanov and we've already played

several shows with him.

Please enlighten us the age, occupation and hobbies of all the band members in details.

- Alex and me are restorers of ancient Russian icons. It's a very interesting job and proud to tell ya that one of our works was presented to President Eltsin! Great, isn't it?!

We two started Merlin 13 years ago, so we are middle aged, ya see. Anatoly and Sergey are younger, they're 24.

As for hobbies, our hobby is earning money (it's pretty difficult to live from music in Russia).

There's really a small amount of female musicians in the death metal scene. What was the motivation for you to growl besides bass guitar?

- First of all, I love death metal, its high speeds, its harmonies and rhythmical structures, all these are very close to me. Besides my voice completely suites to this extreme style. And finally it's a great sense to feel all strength of your throat, isn't it?

As for the bass I started playing it necessarily, we couldn't find a suitable musician for Merlin and I had to try it myself, even more so I'd had some experience of rhythm-guitar playing.



What's your opinion about other female musicians' level, e.g. Rachel (Infinited Hate), Sabina Classen (Holy Moses), Jo Bench (Bolt Thrower), Angela Gossow (Arch Enemy)? Do you like the bands they involved in?

- I hold in high respect these musicians; they are real professionals. Yet, I wanna say that I would like to see still more female-musicians on the extreme scene, especially front-ladies, they still are very rare phenomenon and most of them unfortunately look pretty miserable, ya know... It's pity, but I can understand those guys who say that women can't perform extreme music at all, they simply haven't heard good, qualitative musicians yet...

As I know Angela of Arch Enemy started to write a book about "Females in Metal". Any comments on that subject?

- It's true, Angela Gossow is writing the book and I gave her a huge interview a year ago. I think it must be a great work, nobody has written on such an interesting theme before, the book will be successful, sure!

Do you keep in contact with the above female musicians? Who is your closest friend and why? How was it to play with Sinister and to meet Rachel, by the way?

- I always take a pleasure in contacting with good musicians, especially ladies; they're interesting for me professionally and I like to talk to a good company, but we don't keep in touch very often, only necessarily...

As for Rachel, that show was great! There are a lot of fans of old Sinister in Russia and they wondered if Rachel was as good as their previous vocalist. And they were not disappointed... Rachel got a low growl sounding like males, at the same time she looked like woman... and a lovely woman, ya know! Maybe she should have been a bit more aggressive to my mind, but anyway she got balls!

We talked a lot, took some pics together (you can see 'em on our site). Don't know why, but she didn't want to sing jam with me (as Martin from Pungent Stench for example). To not purpose, seemed it would have been cool. Anyway I found her very nice girl...

Your lyrics mainly deal with serial killers, maniacs and other kinds of abnormal freaks. Do you find exciting to analyze their motivations, psychological level and deeds in general? Tell us more about your lyrics, please.

- You're right, this is my favorite theme. People like thrillers, so do I, so do our fans... And I love sick humor, besides.

All I need for writing lyrics is watching TV or reading a paper, especially criminal news. Look what's going on around! Kids shoot down their classmates. Terrorism blossoms out day by day. Maniacs flood the entire world... Tons of fresh ideas... Total meat, ya know!

I think the lyrics are an important part of a song, but the music is still the main part. You can write really cool lyrics and a boring music and nobody will listen to it. So I always write lyrics when the song is ready. I want the text to correspond to the music, sometimes it takes a few months to find the suitable theme.

What kind of contract do you have with GWN Records and their sublabel Grind It Records? Are you satisfied with their work (promotion, distribution, tours, etc.)?

- It has turned out, that they found us themselves, suggested to release 2 albums, then reissued our first album "Deathkoteque". For that moment it was pretty good contract. We got to be known around the whole world, now we are written even from Bolivia or Syria. They made a really good promotion for us! But nothing more unfortunately, they could only promise, we even still haven't got our batch of "Brutal Constructor" CDs from them! A kinda pretty rip off!

So now we're going to change the label, we've just grown up for these years, we want another level of cooperation, ya know...

In 2001 GWN Records released your second album "They Must Die" (2000), while their sub-label Grind It Records managed to release the same year the remastered version of your first record "Deathkoteque" (1997) as well. I think it was a great step ahead for both the band and the label. How many copies of each release were pressed, by the way? Are these releases still available for the mass?

- Yes, they're still available and finally they're released in Russia, which makes me very happy!

Later on, "They Must Die" was repressed by GWN with a totally new cover and booklet. Was there any change content-wise, I mean for example additional bonus tracks or remastered sound?

- No, they only changed the cover since the previous one was not brutal enough to their mind.

Your latest album "Brutal Constructor" was released by two labels. In Canada by GWN Records, while for Russia and C.I.S. countries by CD-Maximum. How this double co-operation came about? What can you tell us about the selling points of the new album as well as the fans' reaction?

- It sounds like absurd, but our Russian fans couldn't buy our production before, they had to order it from Canada. Now owing to CD-Maximum they got this possibility and it's great! As I know the first pressing of "Brutal Constructor" has been sold within a few days and they had to repress the album.

By now CD-Maximum released your first two albums too. Are there any changes from the Canadian versions? Maybe some bonus tracks have been added or a multimedia part?

- No, they simply improved the booklets.



You've done two video clips for "Brutal Constructor" album. One of them, i.e. "Why Did I Kill Them", I've downloaded from your site and it's simply killer. Tell us a bit about the process of making. How was it to work with the team of Music Infection? Maybe you have some strange stories behind its creation?

- We've cooperated with Music Infection for a few years; they made some interviews and live clips for us. They are very nice guys and it's a real pleasure to work with them.

We shot this clip at our rehearsal place, each member had to play their part for a few times from different positions and then we played the song together twice. Then they concoct a little and it appeared what appeared; the clip is really cool!

The other clip you've done was for the song called "Memorial to the Dead". It features the famous Russian porno-diva Darya Uzdechkina in the main story of the song. Was it hard to arrange it and to work with her? And whose idea was to invite her, by the way? Was it fun to shot this video clip?

- It was not hard to arrange this, she's a friend of our drummer who played a role of a maniac. Daria is a trained actress who applies the Stanislavsky system in her work and as a real professional she played a victim from the first take.

We shot that clip in a forest where tons of people were resting and walking at the time, and it was ridiculous to see their reaction when Anatoly was seeking after the girl with a huge knife! Luckily nobody called to the Militia!

"Brutal Constructor" CD also features a cover version of Death's famous "Zombie Ritual" song. I am sure about its dedication as we lost one of the biggest musicians of all time. What do you felt back in 2001 when that tragic thing happened? I remember that we were in studio (with Castrum) when that painful yet unpronounceable thing happened. Never forget that sad period in my life...

- Like all death metallers we dreamed about playing a show with Death, especially wanted to meet Chuck... Unfortunately, it became impossible... At first we wanted to dedicate the album to Chuck's

memory, but after that tragic car accident when Nick died we had to dedicate our work to Nick, I think the album got to be a good tribute to both these brilliant musicians.

Will there be any kind of DVD releases by Merlin soon? Would be really cool to achieve your live brutality and to have your video clips with maximum quality. Is there any plan to release a DVD by the near future? If so, what kind of material will be included there?

- Yes, we're just working on this last time. We're planning to shoot a few clips besides these two, by the way a pair of them are almost ready. And we got tons of live material, interviews and some cool shit on the road... We'll release that DVD via CD-Maximum at first and later we wanna translate it in English and release somewhere in Europe.

How's the situation with gigs, festivals, etc.? Did you make a lot of gigs in support of "Brutal Constructor"? Tell us your most memorable one and usually what is the crowd's reaction during your shows?

- I can't say we play very often. It sounds absurdly, but most of clubs fear of metallers... There are only few clubs in Moscow where extreme music is welcome and in other cities we often have to play in foyers of cinemas, circuses and even schools for the same reason.

Have you played any gigs outside Russia? If so, where those concerts located, with what bands you played there and how the fans treated you there?

- We played only in Belarus, we love this country, there are very nice people there!

As for Europe or America or some other country we were only promised by the guys from GWN Records.

I've heard that you sung "Carnal" song for Vader when they played in Moscow. How was it to play that song with them? Was there a kind of excitement when you performed it? Your opinion about Vader's music in general.

- I love Vader's music, it's really high-grade death metal! They were three times in Moscow and we played with them in St-Petersburg yet, it's a very professional band! And Peter is a sickest guy, he prefers to consort with the audience in their own language, in spite of that most of the fans understand English.

I sung "Carnal" with Vader twice and it seems it was cool both for me and them, I think they hadn't had such experience before! The first time it was as early as Doc played on the drums, seems in 2000, and I remember that he performed the song very slowly, I even was nervous if I had enough of breath, he-he...

I know there's a big death metal scene in Russia. Could you mention us some promising bands or who are those ones in your opinion who deserve to be better known worldwide?

- There are tons of good bands in Russia, almost in every town. For example, we heard a very promising band Karver in Toliatti when played there a few days ago. All they need is a good promotion!

Is there a possibility to see you playing live in Ukraine in the near future? Are you played with Ukrainian bands so far?

- We'd love to play in Ukraine, we haven't been there yet. It would be cool to see our Ukrainian fans; we know there are a lot of them! And to play with Ukrainian bands, of course! We know there is a good death metal scene in Ukraine!

OK, that's the end of our conversation. Do you have any special message for the Ukrainian Merlin maniacs? Thanks for the interview! Last brutal growls are yours.

- Hey guys, enjoy death metal, listen to Merlin and keep it fucking brutal!!! Be sure, we'll come to Ukraine and make there a real carnage, ya know!!! See ya soon!!!

In a circle of close metal friends, I visited 10th of June, 2005 Budapest (Hungary), to be precise the boat called A38, to experience the unrestrained live energy of a band that had a constant influence on me beginning with their majestic "The Somberlain" debut album. Then the follow-up "Storm of the Light's Bane" became something very special not only for me, but for thousands of metal brothers, and I think most of you agree that it is a milestone for the metal genre in general. 2004 was the year when Dissection fans worldwide celebrated the rebirth of their beloved band with a strong heart-beating! The same year an appetizer for the forthcoming 3rd full-length album has been unleashed, the aptly titled "Maha Kali" EP. Needless to say, it is as flawless as their predecessors. Back to the gig on the boat, it simply electrified me to the maximum. My dream came true and I finally witnessed all the old classics (like "Frozen", "Unhallowed", "The Somberlain", "Night's Blood", etc.) in their entire nature. So it finally happened and I am very thankful for Dissection. And to top it all I managed to commit an interview right before their amazing gig. I asked Jon Nödtveidt about their latest EP, actual line-up, lyrical content and last but not least about their future plans.

Behold the masters of chaos and anti-cosmic death metal.

As we know you have gathered 11 songs for the new album. Where do you plan to record it and when it will be released? Whom are you working with?

- Yeah! We are recording it right now in Black Syndicate Studio in Stockholm, Sweden. We are working with my brother Emil and with Skinny Kangur, another guy from studio. This studio is totally new. It's opened up by the end of last year. So this is the first production, but is doing together with his own band Deathstars. So we have basically done guitars, bass and drums and started to work with lead guitars and now the next step is to do the vocals. So it's all starting to finish, the whole thing, you know.



Do you plan to release it through Escapi Music as you did with "Maha Kali" EP?

- No, we haven't sign anything for this album. And we are waiting until we have record everything. We are working independently and we want to stay free from any record labels until everything is finished and then we will decide which label to work with. Which is the best for us.

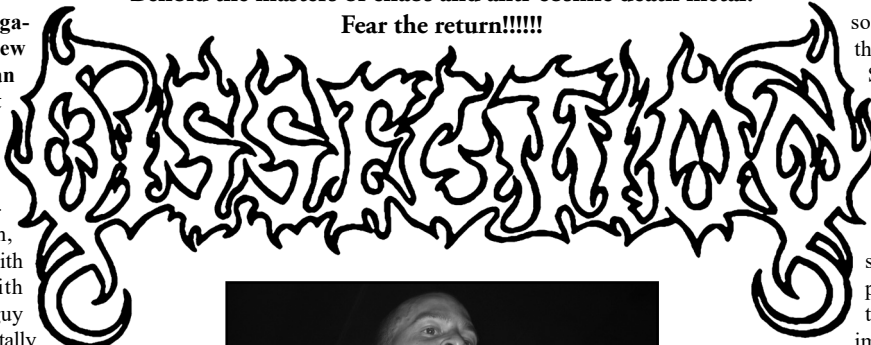
Any chance to return to Nuclear Blast?

- All I can say is that we are gonna go with the label that believes a 110% in Dissection and that can do the best work for us. And that we feel is the best choice for us. So it's too early to say anything about labels at this point, since we decided to wait with it. But we have sure received lots of offers and we are all gonna look into everything and make a decision before the end of the summer.

Your latest EP included a new song, the title track itself (i.e. "Maha Kali"), which is dealing with the mythology of India. Will you continue with this kind of lyrical approach on your new record or...?

- It is all inspired by the dark sides of mythologies from all around the world. We are exploring the dark path of basically old, main satanic traditions. And I don't mean only satanic, because of a tradition using the name Satan, but also, of course, any tradition that is dealing with the powers of chaos. Because it doesn't matter what you call it. It has the same essence. So it can be about Set from Egyptian my-

Fear the return!!!!!!



thology, it can be about Kali from Indian mythology, it can be about Satan from Hebrew mythology and so forth. So we are exploring the dark path and the traditions that we feel that we can reconnect with the prime evil chaos and reach to the source, reach to the essence beyond all these forms and words.

So you combine all the dark forces of these mythologies in your lyrics, right?

- Yes! For us it's a way of reaching to the same source through different angles and different mythologies.

So in your lyrics do you want to have an approach of the MLO kind of theory and ideology?

- Yeah, since I'm a member of the MLO and we are a satanic band, all the members are satanists and our music is a way for us to express ourselves in the way of getting an expression for our own chaos, which is a link back to the prime evil chaos. And being a member of MLO, being a satanist in a satanic band, I am representing and we are representing the dark traditions. So definitely yes!

The anti-cosmic death metal slogan on the "Maha Kali" EP is the description, which symbolizes both your musical and lyrical ways or it just explains the nowadays style of Dissection?

- It is the description - of what we are doing as a band, as an entity, as a ritualistic tool - for us to express and to celebrate the forces of darkness. We emphasize the anti-cosmic aspects, since our view on satanism is purely anti-cosmic. It's about the forces of chaos, it's against the forces of this creation, of this universe, of this world. So it's about Satan as opponent to this creation and we take on the role as being opponent to all of this, to society, to the creation from own points of view and let this energy flow for us in the music. So we want to emphasize the anti-cosmic elements, because there are many people that call themselves satanists, for example

some people are atheists, but they feel to use the word Satan.

So for them the word has a different meaning and there are also people that believe in the christian devil, which we don't. We don't believe in the propaganda from our enemies, the christians. We see Satan as the adversary, the principle that is counteracting this creation, the dissolving impulse that is an active, the consequence of this creation and that will work as the enemy of creation until everything is dissolved back into chaos. This is what Satan means to us!

the consequence of this creation and that will work as the enemy of creation until everything is dissolved back into chaos. This is what Satan means to us!



I've read somewhere that you want to reach the formless chaos in this theory.

- Yeah! I mean, it's all about using yourselves and music as a tool to come closer to this source. And on this path, we want to step by step, closer and closer reach the essence, which of course you can never reach completely in the human life. But we are all on that path and this is the highest goal become one with the essence and all the formless states of eternal chaos.

Let's return to the band. Please describe us each member a little.

- The bass player left a couple of days ago. We think it's ridiculous. He said he didn't had motivation anymore and that he doesn't believe in the band anymore. For us it comes like a shock, because we had so much things we were totally into it. We don't understand it. It's totally ridiculous for us. We never gonna let anything like this stop us. We gonna play tonight anyway.

Any replacement?

- It's all left us in a very shitty situation, you know. We have lots of gigs planned. And then something like this happens we are all trying to take this to the maximum. Try to always take a step further, beyond where we are. And we are all putting our souls and spirit into this. Dedicate our lives to what we are doing. And there's nothing that can stop us, until the day we fucking die. So it comes like a shock to us that somebody in the band wasn't there for the same reason. But anyway Set and Tomas... All I can say about them is that they are, for what I feel, the ultimate members of Dissection. I think it's an honor for me to be able to play with them and to have them

in Dissection.

Will you play songs tonight, which are planned for the new album?

- Not tonight, because we were put in a very shitty situation, because the bass player, he just left. We had to prepare for as many songs as possible, but unfortunately I don't think that it would be a good thing to play a new track tonight totally unprepared without bass. It wouldn't be representative of what we are doing. So instead we will concentrate on the old songs and also, of course, play "Maha Kali". So we just give it fucking 110% energy and don't let anything stop us. That's all.



Weren't you had a plan to replace Brice with Emil? Emil played bass on the "Live Legacy" album.

- But that was a Dissection member. And we have realized that what we want in Dissection is a full-time, 100% dedicated member. And that is what we are looking for.

What is your opinion about Emil's Deathstars band?

- I think it's great!

He played earlier in Swordmaster, which was totally different music-wise from Deathstars. It's like a drastic change for me as a fan of death metal. Don't you think?

- Yeah, but I like it. It sounds a bit like Rammstein sometimes and it's very heavy. And I like it. I think they are very good at what they're doing. For me it doesn't matter if it's called this or that, only if it's good or not, you know. If I like it, that is the only thing I care about. I don't care if it's called industrial metal or if it's called black metal or death metal or anything, you know. The most important thing is that if it's good or not.



You had released back then an album with De Infernali. It was also kind of that type of music, right?

- Yeah, it's not metal at all. It's only industrial. It was an experiment, a total experiment. It was like going totally out into an area or field which

I don't have almost an experience from myself. I didn't have experience from expressing myself in this type of situation. That's why made me feel really excited about it, because it was totally new for me and it was very interesting to do it. That's an experiment. So it was like getting totally new experiences in writing music.

It's like exploring new fields of musical abilities?

- Yeah! Satanic industrial music! But of course, Dissection is what I identify with, which is a part of me when it comes to everything, you know. It's like part of me in my everyday life and my spirit. Dissection is my only priority. If I would do something else, it wouldn't have any priority. It would be something I did, because I would have enjoyed and I would think it gave me something and I would probably like the experience, but it would never have any priority, because my only priority is Dissection.

In an interview I have also read that you are totally disappointed by the ex-members' band Soulreaper. As for me, their music is totally Dissection-like as they used the well-known Dissection formula and spiced it up with some US influences. What do you think regarding their music?

- It sounds stupid to try to live on something or try to benefit from something. For me it doesn't make any sense, because it should be only about what you're doing now. If it has the power, if it has the energy to stand up against anything else. You shouldn't rely to whatever you did before. It's what you do now that matters. For us in Dissection, we are reconnecting with the past, but take it to where we are today as a band. And we don't rely on what we did 10 years ago, but we are in the position that we have a completely new line-up and we have been put back into a situation where we finally can play live again. So in this way it's our duty, for ourselves and for the fans, to reconnect with the past, but take it to where we are today. And take one step further. But I don't feel that certain other bands did that. I think they try to live on something and that's too bad. But it doesn't really bother me, because I don't care about it.

Dissection always had in its music the 80s kind of heavy metal attitude. Also evident is the great combination between thrash and death metal in your repertory. Anyway, mostly in the soloing work I hear the heritage of such old bands as Iron Maiden and Judas Priest. What bands are you listening to nowadays? And what bands had inspired you when you started Dissection?

- Everything from what you're said. I mean, the reason why I picked up guitar in the first place was bands like Motörhead and Iron Maiden. So these bands entrance me as a guitar player and songwriter. But when we started out Dissection we had gone into more extreme music, we were into the current death and black metal underground. We still had the old influences in the music, influences by everything that we like. But most important of all is not which bands we were into or at the moment or which bands we have been influenced in the past, because when it comes to it, what drives us forward and what makes everything that we're doing to Dissection, is the driving force and that's the satanic essence that is the spirit of the music. And I think this is the essence of Dissection, everything else is just a part of it, you know.

What is the five-year plan for Dissection?

- I don't think like five year plans, because it would be like too predictable. Of course, you can never make plans like that anyway and it would never come out exactly how you put it. But I take it more like the next couple of 6 months. Of course, I can look further also, but for me I always stay

focused on what I'm doing at the moment and I am planning for the near future. So this summer we are doing lots of festivals in Europe, we recently went to Mexico for the first time and we gonna do two-week South-American tour in September and then we are planning for more shows and places to get to in the tour so far. And the next album will come out in November and then after that we'll come back to Europe and destroy everything all again.



How was in Mexico?

- Insane! Totally crazy! There are maniacs totally out of their minds. So fuckin' wild. You can't believe it. People break their arms when they stage dive and blood on the floor. After the concert they are hungry for metal. I want to see this everywhere we go. This is what we are doing this for when come live. The contact with audience, the experience, the music and to share the energy with the people. And that's what is all about for us. Everywhere we go it doesn't matter if it's a couple of thousand people or if it's a couple of hundred people, it doesn't matter if it's 10 people as long as they into it. That what is all about when we play live!

What kind of books and literature you read these days?

- Right now I am reading a book about Kundalini, about tantrism, about Aghori. It's of course, the Indian tradition and Aghori is a very extreme form of the "Left Hand Path" tantrism. Where they explore everything forbidden, everything that is limiting you and they do everything to break these psychic limits, to break these psychic barriers to finally be able to transcend all illusion. It is very interesting. They worship Tara, the mother goddess in her terrible form, another aspect of Kali.

Should check this book.

- Eric Svoboda. It's called "Aghora II" and the main title is Kundalini.



Thanks a lot for the interview. Your last wishes for the Ukrainian Dissection fans, please.

- We will come there with our sonic black hole, dissolve your fuckin' minds. Be there!



I've interviewed Karl Sanders (guitar/vocals) on 25.04.2006 right before their killer gig in Budapest (Hungary). This was the second time I've seen Nile live and for sure it was worth to check their superb and insane death metal set in its full content. The band concentrated mostly on the songs of their latest "Annihilation of the Wicked" album, but a lot of old good classics got place there too. Support bands were Yyrkoon and Psyeroptic. Enough said! Let the annihilation of the pharaohs begin!!!!

With "Annihilation of the Wicked" album you've placed the music of Nile onto another level. Will there be any drastic changes song-writing or music-wise on the forthcoming release?

- Not drastic changes. It would just sound like Nile album. But who knows, I don't know yet. I know this time we will only get heavier and faster. This is what we'll do for sure.

So at the moment you don't have any sketches or songs written yet?

- I have. Just a few riff ideas, things I'd like to do, but nothing really I can barely up. We probably start writing this summer, after we finish this tour and rest a while and then we get busy.

Lyrics-wise what kind of topics you are gonna touch this time?

- I was thinking... Actually I don't even tell, probably still be more Nile stuff. We're Nile, so I think that will be OK.

Do you and the other guys have already been in Egypt?

- No, not yet. What death metal band was before in Egypt?

But as far as you inspired and investigate your lyrics from Egyptian mythology, don't you mind to go there?

- We want to go! We are gonna be on a new record label Nuclear Blast and maybe they will treat us a little better.

Why you left Relapse?

- Our contract is done with Relapse.

Why did you skip from Relapse to Nuclear Blast?

- It was time for a change. We wanted someone who "really", really believed in the band and do what he talks to make this band everything he could be.

You've done a great video clip to "Sacrifice unto Sebek" song. Whose idea was to do it that way?

- That was the director's idea, the guy who made the video.

It seems like it was arranged in a pyramid, but where did you film it exactly?

- Atlanta.

How George Kollias came to the band? Is it true that Derek Roddy advised him?

- Yes, it is true. When we were looking for a drummer, the first thing I did was call Derek Roddy. And the first thing Derek Roddy said was George Kollias, George Kollias, George Kollias... So I called George Kollias.

Is the line-up stable at the moment?

- Very stable.

You have a new bass player Joe.

- Joe is now been with us for just over a year. Year and three months.

So by now he is a full-member and new record will be done with him?

- He will might appear on the new record if he behaves.

Do you have a 5-year plan or something?

- To play metal. That is enough of the plan.

It's a very straight answer.

- I like straight answers, you can see the truth in them.

How do you like this actual tour?

- I like this one. It's very calm, it's relaxed. Well, some headaches, the first band give us some headaches. For the most part this is been a very calm tour. Yeah, no problems.

What's your opinion about the rest of the bands of this tour? Do you like any of them (I mean music-wise)? Or you prefer other kind of music?

- I think they're fine. We have a fun. They sound good. It's all good.

What kind of music do you listen to lately?

- Nothing. I listen to nothing. Silence. I get enough

death metal on tour everyday 4-5 bands. You know, after a while you just want some peaceful time.

What are your favorite things or kind of life-style after the tour? I mean when not practicing and not playing music. What do you do behind the music?

- I like to play online multiplayer first pursuit shooting like "Call of Duty" or "Battlefield 1942" or "Quake".

Trey Azagthoth is really into Quake too.

- I like these things. You can kill people left and right and just get out your aggression and really, you know, it feels so much better after killing a bunch of people online. I can be a happy person.

You became calm after killing them, right?

- Yes, exactly. It's better than beating up real people. It's when you beat up a real person then you have the police come, then you have to pay the doctor bills and maybe you go to jail. You know, it's a big headache. It's much easier just to do it on the computer.

Why Tony Laureano left the band along with Jon Vesano?

- Well, they left for different reasons. Jon left because his job paid him a lot of money and that's what he wanted in life. Tony left, because Tony was unhappy. He wanted to do other things. Then I said that's OK.

Did Joe play in any other bands before Nile?

- A bunch of little bands. He's also got a project called Domination Through Purity, which is a tech kind of super brutal death. Yes, not normal brutal, super brutal.

Do you ever plan to come to Ukraine? Were any organizers from Ukraine contacted you yet?

- Not to my knowledge. That doesn't mean anything, because they might have contacted our management and if they don't have a good enough offer then our management will not even bother to tell me. This is happens all the time.

I've read that Derek Roddy played some of the

“Black Seeds of Vengeance” songs right after some hours of listening.

- No, he played them right then. For “Black Seeds of Vengeance” we called him on the telephone, he drove from Florida about 12 hours, got there the next day, set up his drums, smoke some, then put on the headphones and said “OK, roll the demo” and listened to it once. Then we did it part by part. Here is the chorus – “OK”, here is the verse – “OK”. Yep, that’s how the album was done. The guy is amazing! He is a god! A god, he could do that. Not many people could do that. Not many and play that good.



I see a parallel between the playing of George Kollias and Derek Roddy.

- He’s very similar. I tell you a funny story. We played at the Masquerade in Tampa and after the show I was in the bar and Pete Sandoval came in. Pete was very drunk, but he comes up to me and he goes: “Karl man, I thought it was Derek Roddy back there playing drums”. It was George not Derek Roddy, it’s funny.

I’ve downloaded drum videos from George’s website with backside view. And if you don’t see his face, you say it’s Derek Roddy!

- Yeah! Their playing style is very similar, the body motion, the way they carry themselves. It’s all very similar.

What do you think about his band Sickening Horror?

- They are amazing. They played a show with us in Athens, Greece. It’s the first time I heard George. It’s amazing! Their bass player is amazing.

I’ve noticed that George has a lot of drum clinics.

- He loves the drums.

How can he find time for all of this (Nile, Sickening Horror, drum clinics, etc.)?

- Because he does nothing except drums. He eats drums, he sleeps drums, he showers with the drums.



Are you plan to do another video clip for the “Annihilation...” album?

- When Relapse finds out that we are not under record label anymore, they are not gonna wanna make another video. I am pretty sure.

As I see Dallas became a frontman vocalist actually. Will he be doing most of the vocal parts

in the future?

- I lot of them, yes. And we were stay, Dallas were never move. Once we move Dallas to the middle, he was stay in the middle.



You have a really interesting guitar on the video clip.

- It’s a KXX.

It’s a custom made only for you.

- Yes.

Who done it?

- That’s KXX Guitars from San Diego, California. The guy’s name is Rob Kaufman, he runs the company. Their website is: kxkguitars.com.

Are you using this guitar today and on tour or you use Dean?

- I’ve got my Dean on this tour. The airline charges you for just about everything. I’ve really spent enough money on the charges, so I just brought one guitar on this tour.

What kind of distortion you use?

- I don’t use any.

You use the amplifier’s distortion?

- The more show. There’s also a GP8 that’s kind of bit an EQ, a little bit of gain, but it’s not really a distortion pedal.

So how you combine your sound? It is really massive and brutal.

- It’s in the hands. Yes, feel those hands. (*I see; these are brutal hands – Ed.*) Brutal hands make brutal music.

Will there be a continuation of your solo project?

- Yes! I’ve got 3 pieces done for it already. It will be called “Saurian Exorcisms”.



Who will be your bandmates? Guest artists?

- I don’t know yet.

George?

- George wants to do it. I think that will be fun.

Will it be released on Relapse or Nuclear Blast?

- The contract that we got with Nuclear Blast does not cover my side-project.

What kind of contract you have with Nuclear Blast? For how many albums, how many years.

- Three.

You’ve been yesterday in Slovenia. So how was

that gig?

- Yes. I think that was a really good show. Lot of nice people there. We had a really good time.

After this tour you plan another?

- This is the last tour for this album.

So you will begin to work on new stuff, right?

- After we rest for a while, we will start writing new songs this summer.

Do you like any sports?

- Well, ha-ha... If you wanna call that a sport... I call it a sport. It’s athletic, it’s physical.



When you have a rehearsal, how many hours do you rehearse there?

- For just practicing for the tour, we play the set and we joke around and then we go home. If we’re writing songs, then it might be like 5 or 6 hours. Writing songs is much harder work. So when you just practicing for the tour, you know the songs, so you just play them like you gonna play ‘em.

Before going onstage, how many minutes you need to warm up your muscles?

- Different days is different amounts. In winter it takes longer, in summer it’s easy, because your muscles are already warmed. It can be a different amount.

How long is your set today? How many songs will you play?

- It’s about an hour and ten.

From all eras?

- Yes. A lot of new stuff. We got something from every album.

Do you plan to release a DVD?

- No. It’s too many people make only a bootlegs of us with video cameras. Just like that one, yeah...

(*He points his finger at my friend who’s already doing the video interview with the camera – Ed.*)

The other night we were in Halle (Germany) and someone had been videotaping and we had Fozzy take their camera and take out the memory stick and make him erase it right there.



Anything you would like to add.

- Only that is been a lot of fun.

Last wishes for the Ukrainian Nile fans.

- To keep on the metal!

Thank you very much!

- Thank you my friend.

Hey sickos, believe me that was awesome to meet a band from New York in Uzhhorod, Ukraine! Mucopus was the first US brutal death metal band that entered our country and kicked-out a killer tour with Donetsk brutallers from Datura! Hope they will return soon to make some more shows for our crazy fans. Until then have a good reading and stay tuned to Mucopus. Interview answered by guitarist Justin Knipper.

First of all, please tell us how was the Ukrainian part of your almost 2-month long Euro tour. What place(s) you liked the most (crowd-, treat-wise)? Where you met the most insane fans?

- I thought the entire Ukrainian part of the tour was pretty insane – it was quite an honor to be the first brutal death band from the US to do a full tour there. Kharkiv and Donetsk were particularly crazy in terms of people saying crazy things... But our collective favorite was our first show in Illichiv'sk. Very surreal.

How did you feel yourselves in the tour-bus alongside with Datura? What is your opinion about their kind of musical activity?

- Riding with the Datura guys was great, really cool guys with a really brutal style of music. They play a very solid US-style of death metal in the vein of old Deeds of Flesh... I liked it very much. They rule!

Any funny stories you've got involved altogether?

- Maybe Kyle accidentally ripping the tiling off of Anton's (guitarist of Datura) apartment while taking a piss. That was pretty good.

Also point out the most memorable gigs in the countries of Western Europe? Is there any big difference between the fans, e.g. if you compare Ukrainian fans to European and/or US fans?

- I think the ethics and show etiquette is much different in Ukraine compared to Germany or the Czech Republic. For example, playing a show in Germany you kind of know what to expect as an American, as opposed to Ukraine where you have no idea what will happen just because the people are so hungry for death metal and shows don't seem to be as constant there as other Western European countries.

You've played a lot of big festivals this year as a headliner band, like Deathfest (Germany), Slovak Deathfest III, Ludwigshafen Deathfest, etc. Which was the best-organized one in your opinion?

- I think that all of the festivals we played this year were excellent, the organization was great at each one... But in particular my favorite was the Ludwigshafen Deathfest – there were tons of people we knew there and a big crowd of people that was itching to see us and hadn't yet. It was a really good time.

Your debut album "Mulch!?!?" was released by Japanese Amputated Vein Records. How this deal came about? Are you satisfied with the label's job? Don't you mind to co-operate with the label further?

- We met Amputated Vein through playing the first ever Tokyo Deathfest in 2005, and after our performance we were immediately signed. We are quite satisfied with the hard work and professional ethics from AVR and we couldn't ask for much more for our debut release. We hope to work with them in the future somehow.

What is the meaning of the word "Mulch!?!?" and how it sticks to the cover artwork?

- The cover art and the album title don't really go hand-in-hand. The album cover we used was drawn by original guitarist Ernie Rau that was intended to be used for a split with fellow NY band Clitorture. Clitorture broke up as the split was about to be released so we just decided to take their name from the picture and use it as our own. The one thing we plan on for the new album though is to have the artwork and lyrics to go together well, not just be randomly placed as they were a bit with our debut album.

Your music is quite groovy and technical at the same time. On "Mulch!?!?" I would describe it as an awesome mix between Dying Fetus- and Cryptopsy-like brutality, of course, spiced up with a big amount of originality. What do you think about it?

- Thank you so much for the compliments – we all were weened on Fetus and Cryptopsy, so it is an absolute honor to be compared to them. It is hard to say what we sound like coming from my personal view, just because I feel as though I hear something much different than anyone else hears, because I am the one writing the stuff... I think any musician would

know what I am talking about. I feel our new material is traveling to a different area in terms of sounds, but we will definitely keep our definitive "Mucopus" stomping sound, just adding new textures and feelings to the mix.

What inspires you to write such killer songs? Name us your influences (be it music, books, movies, whatever you think might inspire you).

- Everything inspires us, definitely books and movies as well as other bands (peers or not). We feed from lots of different sources as we all have different personalities.

Most of you still or were involved in other bands as well. You play in Wasteform, Kyle played a tour with Internal Bleeding, Corey doing Organ Harvest, Adam is a member of Goratory. Tell us more about these co-operations (future plans and info that could be interesting for the readers).

- Not too sure what is going on with our other bands – in a few weeks we will continue writing the new Mucopus CD slated for a summer release next year. Adam is also working hard with his other band Sexcrement and hopefully some new Goratory will resurface next year as well.

How did you find Vesgore? What should we know about his musical background (previous bands, projects, interests, etc.)?

- Vesgore was a very close friend of the band for many years and he also had a digital grind band called Drown Retarded Children that we played many shows with. He was pretty much the only person that could fill Ernie Rau's shoes and he has been nothing but an excellent addition to the band. If Vesgore didn't join forces with Mucopus, we most likely would have stayed a 4-piece.

What do you do in your free time besides playing in different kind of bands? Jobs, hobbies...

- We are all going through different jobs at the moment, odd jobs until we go back out on the road. Corey is a plumber, Kyle is a waiter, Vesgore designs boxes and I am a security guard at a fashion store.



You've recently recorded new material for your upcoming full-length, which will appear in 2007 on a split with Czech grinders Mincing Fury and Gutturall Clamour of Queer Decay on the UK-based label Grindethic Records. Tell us more info about this alliance. Will you sign a multiple album deal with Grindethic Records afterwards?

- I am not too sure what exactly will happen as far as doing more than just a split with Grindethic – we talked about releasing the split at Obscene Extreme 2006 and thought it would be a cool idea. Grindethic have a lot to put out before us though, like the new Defeated Sanity and new Goratory. Hopefully the split

will surface sometime next year... Mincing Fury will record some songs soon and we will compile some extra material for it as well.

What were the reasons to depart for your former members (Rich Manziello, Ernie Rau) and later on Jason Keyser (Skinless vocalist)?

- Well, Jason is still the main Mucopus vocalist... He could not participate in the European tour this year as he was on tour with Skinless internationally... Adam was a very good friend of ours and we asked him to do it months before the tour, so his spot was only temporary and special for the European tour. Our original vocalist Rich Manziello had some issues with drugs and the like and had to be removed from the band in early 2005 directly after the recording of "Mulch!?!?" and Ernie Rau quit in late 2005 for personal reasons (career in tattoo industry, etc.).

What is the death metal scene like in NY? Any newcomers you might recommend for us?

- It is quite strong in terms of number of bands – from the area we live in there are tons of great bands as well as down in NYC. Newcomers: Organ Harvest, Sexcrement (Massachusetts), Animal Rampage (Massachusetts).

Why did it take so long for you to record your debut CD? I mean you played the album's repertory for about 4 years. Was it due mainly to line-up problems or...

- Generally it was due to line-up problems... We had many changes within the first 4 years. We started to become a stable band as soon as Kyle and Corey joined in early 2004. By then it took us about 1 year to record the CD.

Is the current line-up stable? Will Adam be a part of Mucopus in the future?

- I am sure we will work somehow with Adam in the future, but as far as today goes, the line-up is Vesgore, Kyle, Corey, Jason and I. We will see how everything works out next year.

Who is the main songwriter in the band or you do it together jamming in the rehearsal room?

- We don't really have a main songwriter in Mucopus. We all have lots of ideas and equal contribution. Corey and I always have lots of riffs, and Kyle has tons of drum ideas so lately everything has been very collective. Jason has written most of the lyrics to the new songs and I have helped contribute to writing some as well.

Name us 5 of your all-time favorite albums, movies and books.

- I don't really have 5 of each... But I can definitely name one of each – Movie: Izo, Book: Hyperion, Album: Gorguts "Obscura".

Nowadays more and more people, bands, record labels, magazines, etc. using the growing services of MySpace! In my opinion it's an awesome opportunity to get known better and meet interesting people on the net, who might not be found otherwise. It makes people really close, sometimes you even get a "big family" feeling. How do you feel about MySpace and its possibilities?

- It is the future of band-networking and has done a lot of great things for many bands. It is definitely vital for bands in the present.

What is your opinion about the Ukrainian metal scene and its bands in general? Any impressions from the bands you shared the stage during your Ukrainian part of the tour.

- I think it's slowly growing, and hopefully more and more great bands will spring up soon. The country is huge and still developing, so I can only see good things ahead for Ukraine and the metal scene.

Well, thanks a lot for the interview. Please finish it with your last mucopus-pus-addicted wishes to the Ukrainian Mucopus fans.

- Thank you for everything and making our Ukrainian part of our tour something we will never forget. Hopefully we will be back sooner or later. And thanks so much to Cornelius and Encomium!!!!!!

ANTICHRIST

Issue #7, 2008

This is the 2nd issue of Antichrist written in English and that's great, 'cause this way a lot of Ukrainian hordes can be presented to the fans abroad (sure in case, if the world-wide distribution works fine for them). The 36 A4 pages packed pretty well and the design is quite good even if it strains the eyes some-time, mainly because of the small font size used for the reviews. The cover comes in full-color, while the rest of the pages are done with the usual black & white solution. Pages are all glossy and a really quality print supports them! Now about the content itself. Featured interviews are with such bands as Pathogen, Goretrust, Lividity, Metal Church, Sauron, Abrasive, Utlagr, Scratching Soil, Aasgard, Dead to this World, Adastra and Scared to Death. All of them are very well introduced ones and it is really great to notice that questions are mostly interesting ones, although I would advise even more variety to them,



'cause sometimes they are the same for a few interviews. It would be also cool if there would be an introductory for each interview, 'cause most of the interviews begin with the same lines, i.e. questions! The other half of the issue contains reviews; lots of reviews I would say. They are all informative ones (short reviews are quite seldom there), but the poor English of the editor sometimes make confusion between the written facts and thus the overall conclusion comes in a rather blurry way. Nevertheless, the spark and dedication towards metal is definitely there, so I wish just some linguistic improvements for the future. About 1/4 of the content packed with different musical ads, which is good as well, but I would better concentrate on packing those places with other interviews & reviews! All in all, we have a decent issue published by Antichrist, which is an up and coming magazine from Ukraine!

FATAL FORUM

Issue #2, October 2003

In almost 2 years this edition progressed from a simple newsletter to a very informative and what's more quite interesting magazine. The content is as rich as possible and the interviewed bands have been cleverly selected. Some of the interviews became very descriptive and thoughtfully worked-out, for example the ones with Mental Demise (the best one for this issue), Psilocybe Larvae, Odor Mortis, Brodequin and Deepred to name a few. Rather in-depth chats so to say. The same goes to the demo/CD/'zine reviews, which are about 250 (!) and were written in a rather scrupulous way, though the editor's manner here and there is too egoistic to me. Nevertheless, it's a normal thing as far as we have a deal with the editor's own point of view and taste towards one or the other release. And that is what makes all the 'zines different, right? But I am not sure that this so-called egocentric way is the right one for an underground publication. Maybe for big trendy sweet-toothed magazines it's OK, but not for a metal edition. The other thing I disliked concerns the editor's bad habit to change and rewrite original answers of the interviewed band and thus giving them other

meaning (here I talk only about one interview, which was answered by me personally and that's why I know what I'm talking about) that makes me really angry, because that way the reader will get untrue information about one or the other band. Well, enough of negative criticism better let's see what bands were interviewed besides the above mentioned ones. So they are the following: Alastis, Weeds in Vogue, Mantak, Barracuda, Sleeping Gods, Ordalium, Exmortem, God Dethroned, Wolfsangel, Deranged, Kaamos, Burial Place, Emerald Night, Lunatic Gods, The Forsaken, Diathra, Spawn of Possession, Sacriversum, Abaddon Incarnate, Corpus Mortale, Castrum, Fleshgore, Obligatorisk Tortyr, Posthumous Blasphemer, Lead Weight, Howitser, Solekahn, Ensiferum, Ibez Throne, Leukorrhoea, Necroterio, Dis Pater, Jasad, Vile, Corpus Christi, Mar de Grises, Black Forest, My Shameful, Autumn, Beheaded, Tvangeste, Dying Rose, Incexist, Pyrexia, Vampiria, Datura, Fall of Emphyrean, Vokodlok and Suhrim. As you noticed there is plenty of stuff to read on. All this comes on 120 A4 format pages with a splendid layout, color cover and Krisiun poster on the back. Killer achievement, isn't it? I don't really know any other Russian metallic publications, which managed to reach such a big amount of information included in one issue. So this way I pass my congratulations to the editor and wish him never to re-arrange other people's way of thinking in the future. You will also find there talks with some record labels (More Hate, Deathbell, Terrorraiser)



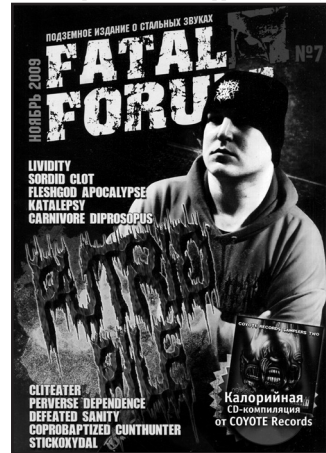
as well as a big dose of ads and other cool stuff, of course. Very worth one instead of the bad things I've experienced towards the reviews and the interview I gave for this magazine! If your knowledge of Russian language is enough developed, then go ahead and buy this massive issue right now!

FATAL FORUM

Issue #7, November 2009

Quite a few issues passed since I last reviewed Fatal Forum. Here we have its seventh number, which design-wise progressed just simply amazingly. It looks maximally killer and now I can compare it to the level of the Polish Thrash 'Em All, of course, only design-wise. Let's see the content. 102 A4 pages waiting you to be explored there. You can select as per your taste between the following interviews: Putrid Pile (That one truly became a good one, was quite interesting to read it!), Coprobaptized Cunthunter, Kataplexia, Cliteater (Another good one with a slight sense of black humor, ha-ha...), Fleshgod Apocalypse (Despite the standard questions, it was quite interesting to read the answers!), Epicrise (It's a laconic, but pretty enjoyable one, executed in a straight grindcore way!), Carnal Decay, Archons, Lividity (Support the underground!!!), Seborrhea, Hail of Bullets (Short, but killer interview!), Kraanium, The Day Everything Became Nothing, Synergism of Humanity, Defeated Sanity, Infected Brain, Katalapsy, Cenotaph, Destructive Explosion of Anal Garland, Disfigured, Human Mastication, Sordid Clot, Corpsefucking Art, Dormant Carnivore, Carnivore Diprosopus, Perverse

Dependence, Stickoxydal and Vaginal Icecream. Plus, there's also a special label-interview with Dima of D.A.C. Productions, a few live reports and about 26 pages filled with sick reviews on different underground productions. Here and there I've noticed the editorial team repeats itself, both in reviews & interviews, but with such a big content it's a normal phenomenon I suppose. Anyway,



wish in the future better to have less material done, but with more passion & dedication executed! I have also to admit that the black humor became quite of a trademark for this edition, so don't be surprised about this, ha-ha... This professional, Russian-written magazine comes with a meaty CD sampler offered by Coyote Records! Don't know how much is the price for this issue, but it definitely worth the attention!

SHRUNKEN & MUMMIFIED

Issue #10, Autumn 2008

This 10th jubilee issue embraces a well-worked-out content & a totally underground dedicated approach, which is a trademark of this edition from the very beginning. I really like the "try to be always interesting,



informative & up-to-date" way Erik does the interviews and writes the reviews, 'cause they are supportive and honest in all aspects. After 2 pages of abundant summary regarding past issues and the activity of Shrunken & Mummified you can proceed to the following interviews: Perverted Son/Evil Offering/Demons Jail Fanzine, Persecutor (This Polish guys made me really happy, 'cause their dedication towards the old-school metal heritage is simply awesome! Check them out!), Death Invoker, Terror from Hell, Graveyard Dirt, Lantern, Zero Budget Productions (Like it very much, 'cause this interview will make you return to the atmosphere of the good old 80s, when total support, honesty & dedication ruled the underground!), Vulvathrone (Can't stop laughing, funny guys for sure!), Zapisnik Fanzine, Black Sister/Problem? Records (This one is a hc-oriented interview, but fits very well into the content and I had a great fun reading it!) and Paediatrician. There's also about 24 pages filled with reviews on demo, fanzine, CD, vinyl products plus a few gig reports along with killer scene re-

ports from Slovenia and Cuba. This issue is definitely a massive one plus as usual you can expect a professional b/w design with high quality print on 44 A4 pages. In conclusion I warmly recommend this fanzine to all the extreme metal freaks lurking in the underground and below!

THRASH METAL REVIVAL

Issue #1, 2009

The debut issue of this Odessa-based underground fanzine comes on 24 A5 format low-quality printed b/w pages. Design-wise, first of all, I would recommend for future issues to separate the interviews in a better way, 'cause they eventually messed up at some pages. Secondly, to add a foreword to each interview and to place them at the top of it, 'cause sometimes it's really hard to figure out where is the beginning or even the end of one or other interview. Thirdly, I would advise to add more band/live photos to the interviews as well as album/demo covers to the review sections, respectively. OK, enough said about the outlook, let's see the content instead. There are 8 interviews in total with such more or less known thrash & death metal acts as Fatal Energy, Tiran, Bestial Reviler, Castrum, Громада, Deathincarnation, Crusher and Violent Omen. Most of the interviews are done in a meaty & informative way, but unfortunately there are a few short ones, which weren't as interesting to read over. There's also a two-paged gig report about legendary German thrashers Necronomicon and their intervention in Russia. Plus, you can dive for a short into album/demo reviews, which unfortunately were limited just to 3 pages. Great to notice that the main purpose of the editorial team is to support the small and local acts instead of the bigger ones plus to focus the attention on thrash & death metal styles in general! I've really enjoyed reading this first issue of Thrash Metal Revival, despite some minor objections that every debut issue suffers from, and looking forward to its continuation and improvements both content and design-wise! Ah, forgot to mention, it's written in Russian and has an 18-track compilation CD-R as a bonus!

UNDERGROUND

Issue #1, January 2009

This newborn Russian-written fanzine from Magadan is nothing else than the continuation of an older edition called Cruel Existence, but with a little bit other design, approach and page size to be shriveled to A5 format. It has 72 laser-printed pages in total packed with an amazing quantity of reviews. Just imagine 48 pages of reviews typed with a quite small, but still readable, font-size!!! Mostly materials from the past few years were reviewed there, but found some really old stuff from 1987, 1989, 1994, etc. years reviewed as well. I suppose those old materials were reviewed with a kind of "tribute to the past" attitude. I should also point out the versatility of the musical styles reviewed inside, 'cause you can find there everything beginning from blues, rock up to metal. But what's more important at this point that all those reviews were written quite skillfully and with a total dedication to each band per review! In such a cool manner were the interviews executed too. You can select between the following ones: Mortifer, Parricide, Barbarity, Kaamos, Gothic Sky, Celtic Legacy and Therm.Eye. Flame. There's also a Crystal Sword bio, an MHM-2008 festival report and some pages of poesy and literature in addition. I see a great future for this edition; though as usual have some advices hereby. First of all, I would add there as much as possible album covers for the section of reviews and secondly band photos to the interviews, 'cause without those images the whole fanzine looks a bit bare & design-wise monotonous to me. So these 2 things must be definitely improved for the second issue! What else to write. It's a good start and I am looking forward to the second number of Underground!!!



This is definitely an in-depth interview with Tony Lazaro of Vital Remains. I've managed to commit it 23.04.2007 in Budapest (Hungary) and thanks to Tony it became the longest I ever done. Horns up and let the killing begin...

You've recently released "Icons of Evil" on Century Media Records. How do you feel about the recording process at Mana Recording Studio with Erik Rutan as producer?

- Well, I think it's great man! It was great working with Erik. We've known Erik for a long time and, you know, he's experienced not only as a musician, great musician, but as a producer. Just really and also a friend! So we really think all together really helped in the process of recording and making this record and it coming out the way he did. So we owe a lot to Erik Rutan, because he's a really hard guy and really works shit to death, and he worked us to death, we drove him crazy too, but the end of the day he's gonna get you the best results and Mana Recording Studio in my opinion is the new Morrisound, but the difference is with a guy like Erik, who cares about the albums, he puts everything he's got into his records and projects. So no one's gotta go there to be disappointed, I really think he's gonna work wherever goes into this place to the maximum, which is the best for the fans and for the album, for the band. So I have nothing, but good things to say. I don't think we could have done this record anywhere else. It had to be there under those conditions: extreme, hard work. We're grateful to him for the hard work he did, capture the sound, having it sound so much better from the "Dechristianize" drums, guitars, everything.

That's what I wanted to say. If you compare "Dechristianize" and "Icons of Evil" only sound-wise, you can hear the big difference between the drum sound, it's more massive.

- It's more natural sounding, more opened and what we did is it was because Erik. I mean, Erik really wanted to mike everything up, not just trigger like "Dechristianize". So we miked it and we took time to make sure we got the tones, the drums sounding nice in the balance and everything, and the guitars, and we took a couple days just along drums, a couple days on guitar. And that's what happened. I mean, we just took our time with a guy like Erik who knew what this album needed. He didn't like "Dechristianize" drums either, he told us "Hey, this should be better". We agree, you know. It could be better, everything can

be better, you know. So we listened to him, he listened to us, we tried to work hard. And I agree, I think it's like night and day almost, you know. I think a lot of the fans will gonna realize it when they hear "Icons": "Wow, what a difference in the drums and the overall production of it, it's a lot better!". And that's what we wanted. Obviously we wanted to write the best music as well and we tried to do our best. (*You did it! - Ed.*) Thank you! Believe me, we didn't think we could, because me and Dave sat many days talking to each other saying, shaking the heads' cone, it's not possible to do, make a better record than "Dechristianize". But we started telling ourselves maybe we can match it, maybe we can come close. And we started writing and sudden pushing each other to write better and next, you know, we were like: "Wow, I think we have something, we're onto something good". Another ride, another song that's just brutal or whatever. And we suddenly and a couple of friends hear it and next thing, you know, they were like: "Oh man, I think you guys have a chance to beat it!". We are like: "No, never gonna happen!". We just try to match it, do our best, you know, that's all you can do. You write and you try your best and then you have to let it go and you just hope the fans appreciate and understand what level, they're on the same pages as you, when they listen to it. But yeah, we did it, in order took a year to write the music for me. I wrote all the music again and together with Dave orchestrated everything, and Dave wrote the leads. To me it's like part 2, but with a better production and I think again with even more into the music that has a lot more for me old-school hooks in there and elements of some different stuff, you know. But it's definitely, it's great, the feedback we're getting from the fans. You can't ask for anything better than that. That to me is the reward, you know. When we work hard and you have people that appreciate what we're trying to do. And we get it back they go: "Hey, we love it!" and I say great man, that's all we ever wanted anyway! But, you know, we write always for us first, remember, and hope the fans like what we're trying to do.

Can we expect a continuation of your co-operation with Erik Rutan for the future recordings of

Vital Remains?

- That's a good question. Right now it's all about this record. I never like to go so far into the future, but I certainly wouldn't roll it out. It's possible that we will record the next album, 'cause we really like working with Erik. So there is a possibility definitely, but it is too soon to tell right now. I mean, the new album it's just coming out, you know, we're touring. I don't even think about a new album right now. My mind's only about performing, touring and things like this. So maybe a year from now, two years from now when it comes time to start writing maybe some ideas, when I start thinking about this, but it's a possibility for sure to work with him. We'll see what happens.

The artwork for "Icons of Evil" became even more antichristian than it was for "Dechristianize".

- Yeah, it definitely caused of real shitstorm controversy. Basically what happened is we had some artwork and it's the artwork that's inside the booklet. This was supposed to be the cover. And what happened is I come up with another idea, I told the artist, you know, Kris. I said: "Hey Krissy, I got this idea, if you can make it into something more". And he said: "OK, send me your ideas". I sent my ideas and he started working and he sent me the "Icons of Evil" cover and I said: "Wow, that's gonna be the cover", you know. And he said "I agree", he agreed with me, he thought this was evil and this was the cover and what ended up appear inside the booklet with us on horses that was supposed to be like the artwork for that was supposed to be based on like the Golgotha scene, it was supposed to be after the crucifixion of Christ, like part 2 "Dechristianize" and where we: me and Dave and Glen like part of the Romans (*And who is the fourth one? - Ed.*), yeah, and the fourth one was supposed to be like just death, just death, you know, riding with us and that's what the whole concept of Golgotha scene with the soldiers and we were supposed to go: "OK, we will take Christ off the cross and we will just split him in half, you know, quarter. So this was the concept and we're gonna use this for the album cover. And the artwork's great, like I said we just got this other piece of work and we were like:

"Aaaa, this has to be the artwork!". And from there it became this big controversial thing, because a lot of the distributors didn't wanna put it in the shops or carry it and this is when the whole fight came with the artwork and it was banned. They told us we had to put a slipcase. And I was like: "Well, you know, I'm not too happy, but I told Century Media that I definitely wanted the artwork inside even if they had to put it in a bag, a brown bag, I don't care. But I said without the artwork I don't wanna release the record! I had to fight and they were cool, they were like: "Hey, we're supportive of you, this is what you want, we'll put a slipcase, but the artwork will be inside and make everyone happy and blah-blah-blah". This is the way it worked out. So, you know, I couldn't believe it, because when I think of the "Dechristianize" cover, I think it's evil, it's pretty sick as well and in Europe – no problems. It was distributed fine, the shops carried it, only in America I thought this kind of censorship happens so much, but now I'm realizing it's all the way around the world, it's everywhere, you know. Any time you have anything anti-religious or some sort of, you know, it stirs people, it makes people, you know: "What is this?". Well, I always thought: "Oh, if you don't like it, don't buy it!". That's always been my philosophy, you know. I don't like censorship, because I think if we allow censorship, we start to limit our rights of self-expression, our rights of freedom of speech, you know. And then what? And then we have no say. So I think everyone should have freedom of speech, freedom of artistic expression, because the more you let the government and people suppress us, less we have and at some point we appear totally controlled, we'll be like robots, you know. So I think it's important to always fight for what you believe in!



At the beginning the album was supposed to be called "Hammer Down the Nails" instead of "Icons of Evil", am I right?

- No! "Hammer Down the Nails" was actually just supposed to be a single. They called us and said it was gonna be a single. I said: "A single? Vital Remains on a single?". And it just became that one song that we said OK, this song represents the album in some ways, let's use this to let everyone have a chance to hear a little bit. So we put a little bit of a sample on Century Media's page and on the Vital Remains' page and people were crazy, you know. They wanted to hear it! So this is why I ended up putting a video of Dave playing the track in the studio, because this is him playing it, one take, and I am going to put the whole, I've put a clip of it, but I am gonna put the whole thing, so people can see Dave playing the whole take that's on the album, one take, that's the drum tracks. It proves to a lot of people, because some people don't think Dave plays drums, they think: "Aaaa, Dave... Aaaa, he plays guitar, he doesn't play drums, we never see him". But he plays drums really well! And you know, that's why I wanted to prove to some of the people that think: "Aaaa, maybe they use a drum machine". Aaaa, OK! Well, here's the video, this is him playing, it doesn't lie. And that's why we wanted to put the video for the fans and for some of the critics that

might think: "Wow, can this guy playing?". Here we go, here's the video! "Hammer Down the Nails" just a song that we thought was brutal and it wasn't gonna be album cover. Title was always gonna be "Icons of Evil" from the very beginning. I like the "Hammer Down the Nails", it was a cool title, but I like the "Icons of Evil". That's a title I came up with a night, I wanted to use it.

How was to work again with Glen Benton of Decide?

- It was great! I mean, Glen's an old sprout, you know. He's an icon of death metal. He's been around for a long time and he's a total professional. When he comes into the studio, he's very professionally wants every line to be perfect and we do too. But he also brings sometimes a sense of humor, he makes us laugh, you know, and the stress kinda, it's not like "Oh, shit" like, when he's not there it's very stressful. You know, we had some days where we were very stressed out, some days we were laughing, but it's tough, you know, some tough, it was a tough album. It's hard work, so when Glen comes in, he's like "Heeey yaaaayoooh...", he's always joking around and having a good time and he came in and he made us laugh and he had a good time with the vocals. Yeah, working with Glen is easy, very professional! He comes in, he knows exactly, you know, he's gonna have to work hard and he knows the Vital Remains. It's gonna be technical with the vocals and the patterns, but he does this. This is the kind of thing he does and this is what he does for many years. He knows this business, he knows he's a professional and he came in and it was just 4-5 days, I think it was, to do vocals. And the funniest, I'll tell you a story was when we did the cover of Yngwie, you know. He was like: "No! Why have we doing Yngwie Malmsteen, dude?". And I like: "Oh well, we thought it's kinda song, you know, cover song, like Dave can do some great shredding and we just thought Yngwie would be a cool, an old Yngwie song, fun for Dave". Dave ended up doing all the tracks and all the instruments. And he is like: "No, I don't wanna singing Yngwie Malmsteen!". It was so funny, but then we were like: "Come on, just try it man". And he came in and everyone laughing so hard man, because he had to sing this. You know, he was having a good time. We laughed so hard, I have my camera on myself, filming him, laughing and us laughing, but it come out great. You know, the song come out really good, really heavy and it kind of fits with the music.

It's a little bit strange, but great choice.

- Yeah, it's a little bit different, but then it works. **I think nobody expected an Yngwie Malmsteen cover from you.**

- Right! Especially Glen singing it. No way, he ain't gonna sing that. And that's I think sometimes it's good to try something very very different, like out from the field you would not expected. Because it gives something like unexpected and something very special, you like: "Wow!", you know, "I wouldn't expect that". But you listen to it a couple of times and you enjoying like: "Wow, that's cool!", you know, refreshing. Instead of trying something that's already been done a million times, Black Sabbath... You know, we thought about this, 'cause Glen loves Black Sabbath too. You know, we thought it's been done too many times. The Yngwie track not been done so many times and not by one person. And have Glen singing it was just great and his vocals are nice and roar, it sounds heavy. I think it sounds way better than the original. I think if Yngwie hears it, he'll be shocked, because only one guy did all the music, you know, Dave. And it's a funny story, because Dave met Yngwie Malmsteen when he was ten, ten years old. And Yngwie signed autograph form and like: "Hey, go kid, get out of here", you know. And the funny thing is Dave could play Yngwie "Rising Force" when he was ten. So Yngwie didn't know that this guy was gonna be what he is, a great

musician, you know. He was just a little boy going one day – "I will play your shit better than you" –, you know, whatever. (*Hammer down Yngwie – Ed.*) You know, what I mean. So it's cool and that's kind of another reason why, 'cause when Dave told me that story, I've said: "Hey, I think that's even cool that we cover this song". And it is worked out. You know, I mean, it was a lot of fun and a lot of laughs. It is funny, because we were drinking on this song and having fun and Dave was drinking, busting out the solos, we ended up taking a break and went to the bar across the street from the studio. Erik, everybody, we're all drinking. "Eh, let me wanna do" and Dave just killed. It was a party. It really was on that song. Everything else on other stuff no party, serious, hard, stressful, but on Yngwie we were like: "That's the last song, it's a cover, have fun, you know, drink or have fun, make the best".



Why Glen couldn't come to any of your European tours?

- Glen right now is involved in a divorce. So you know, with this situation it's very difficult, you know, you have to go to court. So this very technical things going on with that. He couldn't come with Decide, he couldn't come to do this tour with Vital, because he still has to go to court. You know, I mean, because of the divorce hearings and all the stuff. It's a really personal thing for him. He told me even not to tell them people. You know, he wishes, he could have come, you know, but I mean, he has a son with this wife and they have a lot to work out with the details of done divorce proceedings. So, you know, I am sure once he gets everything worked out we may try to talk to him to see if he can come and do a list of European tour. Like I told we've never done a European tour with him in Vital Remains, only in US, some gigs and festivals. So, you know, and I want the European people to see Glen with us, because we have a great time, we really do, we come out, you know. It's just great to hear what you hear on the record with him, you know. We wish him the best of mind to work that out first. So we're hoping that maybe in October or something, he will have everything done and we can come back to Europe with him, that would be great, but that's really the reason, you know. Some people say different things, but that's the truth. That is the truth! I know Glen for many years and I would never bullshit anybody when people ask me. I tell them straight how things are, you know, because you never believe the rumors. Always ask the people directly and they tell ya, you know. So I think he'll have everything worked out by then, hopefully he'll be back to Europe and maybe we will be together hopefully doing tour with him. I'd love to do a Decide/Vital Remains, how we did in the US. In Europe would be great, you know. Two sets, he did this in US, it was really great, we had some

sold out shows, people really liked it. So we'll see! We just wish him the best.

I would say that with "Dechristianize" Vital Remains opened a new chapter in the history of the band.

- We took it to another level, I think. We definitely took it to another level and it was like, you know, musically, you know, everything, it's just technical stuff. We really just worked hard and got it, because I mean some people say: "Oh, maybe it's because of Glen". And I always say: "Yeah, Glen brought the attention to Vital Remains!". A lot more attention. But if it wasn't for the music, the critics would have cut our throats, they would have said: "Ah, this is shit!". But the reason I think the critics like it, because at the end of the day they listen to the music and the vocals and everything and they say: "Wow, this is really good!". And that's what brought us to the level, not just one person. He brought the attention, but if it would have been a shitty record, it would have been a shitty record. So yeah, I definitely believe that "Dechristianize" really brought us to another level. And now with "Icons", people wanted another, a part 2 of "Dechristianize", you know. And like I told Glen and Glen realizes I think that a lot of fans like the way when he sings with us, because we don't sound like Deicide, we have our own style and he has to sing Dave's lyrics and phrase it differently too. So now you're getting Glen in some ways I think amazing. Amazing phrasings, amazing singing, a lot of vocals and it's its own instrument. So now I believe that he sees it like: "Wow! People like me singing with Vital too". And that's what he tells me: "Wow, I have new fans" and Deicide fans like us and it's all good for both of us. When he helped us, we helped him in a way too, but together we work really well. And I think that's very important in the formula between me and Dave and now Glen, together in the studio we work very well and produced great, I think, really good records, like two were. People enjoy it and they wanna hear more of this, you know. Like I told him even if he never did another record after "Dechristianize", I told him you will always be part of Vital Remains, because you did this one great album and for me we're honored to have you do this record. So now to have two, we are just even more like and people liking it again and it's another rush, we are just, me and Dave are like high on this thing and "Wow, this is great!". Another great feeling, another great album, people liking it. So it's another ride. Another great crazy roller coaster, ride of emotions. Like "Wow, people like it! Great!". Meet the fans and starting again, you know, like "Dechristianize". It's very cool, it's overwhelming. We are so grateful man, because we work so hard and to have this kind of responses just so overwhelming, it's great, very very grateful to the fans for all their support. It's great!

Are you plan to record the new stuff with the line-up of the two previous albums or you would involve other musicians too? Because it's a little bit hectic to have always a live line-up different than on the actual album.

- The thing is with that I mean sometimes you work with people and they can do, they can work with you for a little while and then things change in their lives and that's what it's been with Vital Remains. It sounds like me and Dave are two hard guys to work with, we only expect for people is the best, to give a 100% and commit to the band, and work hard. Like last time we were here our singer, Anthony, he was doing a great job and we were happy with him and Marco, you know, he was doing good, but then things happened on the road with Marco, his attitude changed and we had to let him go. We had to give him the death metal awakening, which is basically reality. That this is about the music and not about money and I think he had a different perception, he thought that this business he can make lots of money and we will like: "No! We play death metal, because we love the music! If you wanna make money you go get another job, because it's very hard to make a

living playing death metal". And so we had to tell him this and he lived in California, so I think his way of thinking was different and with Anthony, he just quit, you know. Last October we did the US tour with Grave and Dismember and he said: "OK guys, I'll do this tour, but after this I don't wanna do this". And we were like: "Come on, you doing a good job, you don't wanna tour no more?". And he said: "No, I don't wanna live like this, another life, I just wanna work in a bar as a bouncer guy and make a little money". And his girlfriend, I think they may be getting married, I don't know, but I think he was taken a move into California with his girlfriend. So he just quit, I mean again, you know, somebody quits on you, what can you do. I know I'm not giving up, I love the music, it's my band, it's my life, I love this. Dave loves the music, he's worked hard with me for 11 years, since '96. He is not gonna quit, he loves the music and the fans. So we are in this position we were like OK, we've been through this before, we like the fans now, we're not gonna give up on the fans. So, if we have to have new people every tour whatever the main thing is the fans know that me and Dave will give the best for the album and live and we will find the best people who gonna give a 100%. This is the most important thing! So whether or not it's new faces to I wish that I would have the same guys, of course, I wish we had original members that, you know, were like 100%, always dedicated, but unfortunately 10 years ago original singer quit, original guitar player quit and left me and Dave: "Now you guys are on your own". Now I could to say: "Hey, you know what, this is tough I can put the band down, no more Vital Remains", but I said: "Wait a minute! I worked many years, making the music since the beginning, writing all the music and working hard, I am not a quitter, I am not gonna give up to get married and have children. I love the music, so I didn't give up". Me and Dave we try to find people and here we are 10 years later. You know, new success, continue. *(It's like the strongest will survive - Ed.)* Exactly! And that's the most important thing that we didn't give up, we just continue to work hard and not let anyone down, not let ourselves down, not give up on ourselves and the hard work over the years, but the music and the band we kept it alive and I think for that, the fans respect us for that. And that's something... you earn respect in the underground, you can't buy respect. You earn it the hard way! Working hard, playing as much as you can, playing hard and writing the best music you can and that's what we've done and the fans know this. And they know, hey, you know, these guys are the core of Vital Remains, these guys will not let us down, they always give a 150%! And we do! In a way, like I said I wish we could and found the right guys, but I like this line-up now. You know, Brian's really dedicated guy, you know, I mean from Catastrophic and now he's working with us. This line-up seems good, these guys wanna work. Damien wants to work hard. I am enjoying working with these guys. They young and hungry. It's fresh blood and it's good sometimes. Believe it or not, it's actually good sometimes to have fresh blood, new ideas, very helping in the hard work. "Hey man, I got some ideas". Oh cool! It's good you have ideas, you know. And playing together, and enjoying, and after the show we are like brothers, like: "Hey, great show!". Very supportive of each other and this is good. It's a brotherhood too, it's not just business and music. You have to have friendship and the brotherhood kind of way of thinking to each other, connection, you know. So I think this is important and we have that now! So, I like working with these guys and with Antonio, the drummer, just great guy, always wants to practice, always wants to work hard. Man, he's like a machine! Always practicing, I am like, wow, this guy never says: "Hey, I don't wanna practice". Always practice 5-6-7-8 hours and then after 8 hours: "Hey Tony, I am a little tired". OK. It's OK. After you do "Icons of Evil" twice, "Dechristianize" twice, it's OK to be tired, I understand. Good guys! I mean,

we practice very hard together and Antonio stayed in my house, we practiced for months together, he knew the whole album before we recorded it. So we'll see. Right now, I have to say out of all the line-ups it's far just a comradery between us, the friendship, getting along with each other, no selfish guys: "Hey me, me me...". It's really everyone together. *(You mean Tim Yeung? - Ed.)* Yeah, I am not saying any names. What's up Timmy? I like Timmy, I like Timmy a lot! Tim is a great drummer; he's just looking for his big dream. In the meantime, he could have been playing with Vital Remains, but instead, he chose to go work in California with Dino and I wish him the best. There's always a soft spot in me, Timmy reminds me like a little brother, and I just wanna getting him in the headlock and punch him in the head, you know. He's a funny guy, great drummer, you know. It's just like, you know, with Timmy, he has other projects and he can't commit 100% to Vital, that's the only reason why we don't work with him. Because I can't, you know, with Timmy, I'd always call: "Hey Timmy, we got a tour!". "OK, when?". OK, well, in 3 months. "Oh, I don't know Tony, I must talk to Dino". Why do you always have to talk to Dino, is he your daddy? You know, I joke around. "Oh, I don't know, because we might be doing this". Well, I can't wait, I need an answer. So that's why I started working with Antonio, because Antonio, I can trust him. OK, Antonio we have a tour, he's committed to us, to work with us, whenever we want. He will be there he says, whenever you need me to tour, I am there. And he has like 5 bands in Italy, that he plays for! You know, he's a great drummer, but he is like: "Vital Remains is first!". And I like that dedication, because it's not fair that if I have a call: "Hey, we wanna do this tour". "Oh, wait a minute, I must talk to Timmy, Timmy must talk to big daddy, big daddy must talk to...". *(He's straight! - Ed.)* Yeah, I need to know. Hey, I don't have to talk to I can just say: "Yes, we will do the tour. Hey fellas, guys, I have this tour. Everybody knows, this is the dates, I see you then!". That's it! The way it should be! So, this is why I like it the way it is now. I like working with Antonio and these guys. They all know, they are learning like... Damien's first time working with us and Brian, but they started to see how it works and realize it's just commitment and work hard, and it's all good, you know.

And what's up with Ron? He was very long time with the band.

- Yeah, Ron was with us for a long time as you know. Always tour with us and then he shocked us man. We practiced with him a couple of times and he shocked us and we thought OK. You know he's going to come to the European tour, he was all committed and then at the last minute he just decided to quit. It was real shocking, you know. So yes, we were really surprised by Ron doing that to us, we felt like we treated him really good and we just couldn't believe that he left us like, saying: "OK, I am going to go to Europe with you guys". He started learning the new songs, coming to practice and then maybe two weeks before we were coming he goes "I don't wanna do it" and I thought that's pretty fucked up that he did this to us. We always helped him out, always brought him on tour. But you know, this is what I mean about humans and people. Sometimes people are selfish, they only think about themselves, they don't think about: "Oh, well this person helped me, my career, helped me for many years". So what do you do. We found Brian, a better guy, a more committed bass player, who loves to play bass and more of a cool guy. You can ask this guy: "Hey Brian, can you help me out?". With Ron, never help you out. Never pick up any gear, never. Hey, you need a hand with this, never, never. Brian? Hey Brian, can you help with this: "OK", he's right there. And this is the difference between I think a professional or and a guy that's just a little bit selfish, ego maybe or something, I don't know. Not a team player. Ron wasn't really a team player. Never liked to practice. I don't wanna talk bad about people, but

you know, I think it's for the better. Because, I think he went 10 steps backwards, and we just with Brian went 10 steps forward, ahead. So, I rather work with people like this that are grateful and they everyday thank you for the opportunity. Always speaking: "Hey, thanks! Great! It's great to be here!". You know, this is what I always wanted people, to wanna be here, wanna work with the band and are grateful for the opportunity and play for the fans and the underground people. You know, all the underground metal heads and that's the most important thing, you know. If you don't wanna do it, then don't do it! Simple as that, you know. But if you love it then that's the kind of attitude I want for people.



Century Media Records released not long ago "Horrors of Hell" with your old and rare demos and 7 inches.

- This was an idea I had, because over the years I got a lot of emails and letters from fans always asking: "Hey, do you have the 7 inch?". Sorry, I sold mine many years ago. "Do you have the demos?" I have only one, because I sold everything else many years ago. And they never had a chance to have these recordings in the original form. So I said to myself it would be nice to put all this on one CD, but very limited, only for like the younger generation of fans to say: "Hey, this is a special thing I put in my collection". Boom! They have a chance to have it and that's it. So I come up with this thing with Century Media, I said OK, limited 5000 copies. I don't want to exploit all the old stuff and sell thousands of millions. I just wanna have enough that everyone should have a chance if they wanted this, the younger fans, to buy it. And put in their collection, say "OK. Wow, this is where Vital Remains came from!". All the way from here, from the foundation, all the way to here, and to show how far we progressed, which I think we've come from the ground to the sky. You know, I mean really, we've come a long distance I think my friend. Very, very far we've traveled. And the natural progression of the band, progressing and trying to get better. And I think if you listen to each thing we've done, each record, it just got better and better. You know, some bands give you the best in the beginning and then they give you less and less and less. I think we are the opposite. I think with time we get better and I think we keep giving better and better records, because we keep trying to put so much music, so much into the music and everything, and that's important. It's like wine, you know. A good bottle of wine, you put it away and with time and age, it's better. This is Vital Remains, we are like an old bottle of Italian wine that's been sitting in the wine cellar for many years, we're like 67. You know, I mean like a nice bottle of right look, a nice bottle of 67 (*Yeah, 68! - says the sound-engineer*), sitting in the wine cellar, we pop that up it tastes great! So this is the reason why I did "Horrors of Hell" for the fans and they loved it, you know. And we kept it in the original, not the re-mastered, redone just original format, raw, raw as could be. And I did some liner notes and all original with some old pictures of the band and that's the way we made it something unique for the fans. It's another proud thing, another cool thing for the fans,

some of the younger fans. Because it's funny some of these younger fans, I've said it before, they're young, they don't know, some of them think: "Oh, well, this is Glen Benton's side band". It's like: "No, we are not Glen Benton's side band". We're also a band that's been around for 18 years and then they discover all these albums: "Wow, it's like a treasure!". And they email me: "Wow, all these different records". OK, now you must go try to find them. "Oh, I've just got "Forever Underground"! Oh man, I waited one year to find this!". You know, it was funny, like OK, you got it, great! It's like treasure, you know. They're trying to look for these things, they're in the sand, it's in the mountains, whatever, they have to travel. "OK, I found it on eBay!". It's funny, you know. But this is the way it is, the generation, but I'm glad we did that. It was good to do.

Did you sign a multi-album deal with Century Media?

- Right now actually our contract is up for renegotiation and Century Media is very happy with us and we're actually very happy with them. So we're in negotiations or we're gonna be after this tour to renegotiate for another, I don't know, deal. I don't know what includes, you know, we'll have to talk and a lot of negotiation, discussions, but Century's been really cool to us I have to say, very supportive. They let us do what we do, we let them do their job and we have a good relationship together. It's cool, I mean, the one reason why I wanted to sign with a company like Century Media is because I wanted, we were always on European labels, Osmose and Peaceville, and it was always hard for our fans in America to find, because of the bad distribution. So I wanted to find a label that had distribution everywhere that was easier for the fans. So they didn't have to pay in America 38 dollars or 28 dollars for import, you know, it's from Europe. I think that was just crazy. And then the people in Europe would know our records more than our own country, in America, the United States. So I wanted a company like Century Media and some people were like: "Oh well, you know Century Media, I don't know if it's the right label, like they thought maybe they would influence us to change, but not once!". I think they know what kind of a band we are and we are not the type of guys that you can say: "Hey, I think you should soften up the music". It would never happen, I would go back to selling demos out of the back of the van, I don't care, you know, to the fans. I don't think they would ever try that with us, we're not that kind of band anyway, but they always been really cool. Never ever influencing us, in our way of thinking, writing, we do what we do and then we presented here and they've always been like: "Cool!". And that's cool man. You know, let the bands do what the bands do. Let them do their music and the companies should do their job to get the album to the fans and advertisement and promotion. But, you know, we have a good relationship right now and I'm looking forward to resigning with them and for how many, I don't know. I don't know how many more I have in me, but we joke about it, you know, like some bands will sign for 6 albums and I think: "Wow, 6 albums for me is an eternity!". You know, it's the rest of my life, I don't know if I have the 6 albums, but that would be 20 years or something for us. The thing like I say is I will continue to do this as long as I have it in me and continue to give my best and whatever we do with, we negotiate, we resign with Century, you know, whatever the deal may be, we'll try to make it the best deal and everything as well, but we'll see, you know. Like I said they wanna resign us. I think the fans show that they wanna hear more Vital Remains obviously and we will see how things go with it, you know.

So Century Media treat you even more better than the previous labels (like Osmose, Peaceville, Olympic).

- Oh, no question my friend! No question! Not

to slag the other labels, but I have to say Century Media have been the most fairest company that I've ever worked for in my life. And with the other companies a lot of unfairness I'll say that, a lot of bad things, definitely handled very wrong and let's say I never seen my fair share of anything, until I signed with Century Media. So you can think about all the years of work and albums where the fans were buying and then me not receiving anything. To this day I've received nothing. And I think that's pretty unfair on some of these labels that I work with that when I try to question: "Hey, how come I don't receive nothing, when you are selling these records to the fans". Who think they are supporting us, when we're receiving nothing, and I get no answers. So I really regret making records for these companies, you know. I don't regret the albums, I love them, the music that we made, but I really wish it wasn't given to these companies, who never did nothing for us, besides take all the money for themselves. It's unfair, because as an artist, you write music, and you try to give your best and the fans buy it thinking you're gonna receive something and a lot of times to their surprise and many they don't receive anything. So I'm happy that with Century Media very fair, they pay us, we do see royalties. And they're very fair with just everything in general. That, you know, you have a question, you can call them and say: "Hey, I have a question about this". "OK, we talk to you about it". With Osmose, Hervé: "Aaa, not in the office. Click!". Back in the day with Peaceville, Hammy. "Hey, Hammy we wanna go to Europe". "Oh fellas that would cost a lot of money, blah, blah, blah, blah... Click!". A lot of things like this, you know, that I'm not happy about, but you know, you live and learn in this business. You learn from the mistakes, you say: "OK, maybe this wasn't good, but I would try to make this better and it took years to learn all this, I'm still learning. There's all kinds of shady, crooked things in this business, but as a band you have to learn, you have to learn from the mistakes. So I'm definitely not happy with the old labels, besides maybe putting a record out and some fans getting it. I'm proud of the music and everything like this, but I really wish I could have found work the deal with Century a long time ago. I would have been a lot happier now, but like I said you live and learn. It's taking years, but now we have better, better label, totally professional and very fair and honest, and not to fuck with us, so this is the way I wish it would have always been, but it wasn't so. So I'm happy now, I wasn't happy in about the past, but you know, we live and learn.

Wouldn't ask what are your future plans, because the future is like going now with the releasing of your new album.

- It's touring. That's the future. There's a lot of touring in support of the record, try to play as many tours to as many people as we can and promote the new album and that's the main thing, you know. Try to get them to really like, hopefully they love the new album, the response has been great. But that's the Vital Remains' future, is just, you know, play as many shows and tour as much as possible. And then hopefully in a couple years start writing and do the whole thing and hopefully have a good record again to give to the fans. So that's the future definitely.

What are your vital wishes to the Ukrainian Vital Remains fans?

- Well, I wanna say thank you to the Ukraine fans, to the Vital legions of Ukraine for all the support and thanks to you for the interview. You know, I can't thank you enough. I hope you love the new album "Icons of Evil" and I hope to maybe come to Ukraine and play. That would be a great honor for us, you know, to come play and hope you like it and hope to see you soon on tour. Thanks for support! Cheers!

Thank you very much!

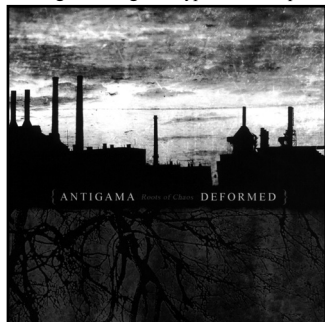
- Thanks brother.

ANTIGAMA/DEFORMED

"Roots Of Chaos" CD 2006

(Deformathing Production)

The split starts with the weird 12 minutes long track called "Psicobambola" by Antigama. It's a pretty crazy tune having all those strange noises and throbbing electronics mixed by even stranger death/grind fills. I have to say this Polish quartet extremely well operates with special effects and those components altogether look like an apocalyptic vision for a sonic motion picture. Experimental music at its best! Next 5 songs of this split have been reserved for Deformed. They guide us to an ultra-fast and brutal death metal journey in their 13 minutes long repertory. The trio definitely knows how to compose mind-blowing riffs along with hyper fast drum parts.



Unfortunately, the drum-machine sounds quite annoying to my ears, but the inhuman speed reached there is simply amazing and can be compared in some way or other to Mortician. As another highlight of their stuff I can point out the sick manner of the vocalist. I am really shocked by the awesome combination of all those deep growls and hysterical screams there! Now it's your turn to discover the roots of chaos!!!

BLOODBUCKET PRODUCTIONS

"Buckets Of Blood Vol. 2" CD 2004

(Bloodbucket Productions)

This is the second installment of "Buckets of Blood" and contains 74 minutes of total underground music. There are 20 obscure bands presented from the worldwide underground scene! The compilation begins with the unmerciful song of Horde of Worms "Crystallized in Sanity". They play Canadian blast metal in a unique form that features lots of grim melodies and insane double-bass attacks with a vocal type changing from deep growls to high-pitched shrieks! It follows a song by my death metal band Castrum. Our selected song is "Sinister Omens", which is a good example of our aggressive yet melodic kind of death metal. The third track is reserved for the ultra-complex Canadian death/grind act, namely Time of Death... The "Horrors of the Twisted Hallway" song doesn't feature regular vocals or something like that, though it has a short sample from a horror movie at the beginning. I should add that this tune has an incredible dose of insane guitar riffs. Track number four presents Cuntworm from the USA. What a strange music "This Mortal Coil" combines? Industrialized noisy apocalyptic sounding stuff with a black metal influence supported by deathlike vocals and depressive cuts from movies. Really strange so to say. Primal Dawn from Ireland continues with their groovy death/thrash track called "Cold Hills". It displays a strong song-writing musician-ship. During their track happens quite a lot of things as it lasts almost 9 minutes. You can hear there fast grinding insanity, slow acoustic-based guitar inclusions and catchy soling parts as well as interesting deep-to-high vocalizing! Then we have Hungarian Dark Clouds with their "Marketing Strategy Free Zone" song, which is about the underground and about the ones who dwell in the underground. Good idea to use such a theme for a groovy hardcore influenced death metal anthem! The seventh track "Time Keeps Passing by" is coming from the Japanese Colourfast. Here we have a deal with an old-school hardcore motivated progressive band, which surely opens some new doors

for both styles. Thurisaz from Belgium is the next and they play keyboard-filled black metal in the Dimmu Borgir way. That means a bunch of melodies and pompous atmosphere spiced up by ferocious vocals. Hell, it follows Canadian Noisecore Freak with its totally sick and brutal grinding noise! Awesome! Another Canadian act continues to kill our nerves. Their name is Bound in Human Flesh. Musically "Becoming the Serpent" shows a technical yet fast death/black assault that was executed in a professional way! "Bloodlust" follows the massacre from Canadian Fleshcraft. Their evil black metal will tear your soul apart in nearly three and a half minutes! Canada's goregrind monster Scablord delivers us an intense song full of dynamic guitar riffs and drums played by Alexander from Horde of Worms. "Strangled by the Umbilical Cord" will make you craving for more splatter gore stuff from Scablord, it's for sure! The next song from F.O.B. (Czech Republic) surprised me a lot. This band earlier used to play thrash-motivated death metal, but with their new track called "Neverending Projection" they skipped to ultra-guttural grindcore madness. Russian Psilocybe Larvae takes us to a journey into the fields of melodic death/black metal with their precisely constructed "Out of Sanity" tune. Everything is perfect there! Track number 15 played by Polish Morbid Execution. Their "Sodomy with the Devil" song is a pure dedication to such old-school thrash & black metal warriors like Sodom, Hellhammer, and Venom to name a few. Crazy Canadians from Fuck the Facts take us to the level of insanity with their "Leper Accountant" song. Do you like sophisticated and sick to the core metal? If so, that is totally what you need! Throneum from Poland continues with "Madness Destroys". This band features Tomasz Hanuszkiewicz who is responsible for Morbid Execution too. And music-wise they are pretty close to each other, though Throneum is about to use more old-school death metal riffs (e.g. Morbid Angel) instead of the thrash-motivated ones. It's fast and totally uncompromised. The next is Eradykate with a mind-breaking mix of the death/grind monster "La Philocoprie Dans Le Bavoire".



It's technical and brutal at the same time with a big dose of progressive insanity. The further is American Blood Haven and their "Dwelling in..." song. It's about mid-paced death/black and regurgitating screams from hell! Raw & obscure stuff! And last but not least we have Canadian Bitchsplitter with their "Beset by Parasites" song. This band plays a rough mixture of death metal with a storming dynamism and dedication to what we all love and respect: Underground rules!!!!!! As for me this compilation became simply excellent and I advise it to all the die-hard underground maniacs worldwide!

BLOODBUCKET PRODUCTIONS

"Buckets Of Blood Vol. 3" CD 2007

(Bloodbucket Productions)

In the fall of 2007 the Canadian label which "supports extreme music worldwide" released an extreme compilation "Buckets of Blood Vol. III". The track selection was made by A. Erhardt, J. Lawson and K. Kontros. To my mind the track selection proved to be really successful. On the CD one can find stuff by different bands from all over the world and this way it's possible to discover lots of new music. This time "Buckets of Blood" contains 22 tracks in almost 76 minutes. Horde of Worms starts it with "Ghostly Mourning"

from the "Unearthly Desolation" MCD. The track makes you excited from the very beginning and you have no way out but to listen to the whole CD up to the end. It follows Castrum's "Don't Make Me God" taken from "Phenomenonsense". The death metal band from Ukraine won't let you stay indifferent with the track taken from their latest album. Third one is Time of Death's "Inside the Abattoir" from "The Last Breath of the Dying" album. No one expects to find an instrumental track on such a CD, but nevertheless it's a great choice. Let's proceed to mechanized black metal industrialists named as Cuntworm. Their track "Your Wretched Human Flesh Sickens Me" an exclusive and really worth to be listened to.



This one will attract your attention for sure. Throb of Ofal continues the ear massacre with their pretty down-tuned gore tale "Old Swamp" out from the awesome "Moss Funeral" CD. The sixth track is reserved for Scablord's "Autopsy Orgasm". It gathers some quite raw & relentless underground atmosphere in circa one and half minutes! By the way, it was taken from the demo sessions for "Kiss the Gristle" album. An exciting stuff with a nice beginning so to say. Maniac's "Death Fuck" displays rather well the uncompromised way of the 80s metal bands. A real death fuck, that doesn't need too much comment. Sentient storms next and delivers us "Winters Unrest" from their "Sinesthesia" material. The band truly deserved to be performed on the compilation as they show some quite grim & frostbitten musical approach with razor-sharp guitars and vocals definitely thirst for blood. The 9th song is a Mors et Bello opus. They perform "From the Darkest Sites Of the Earth" from "Sounds of Horror". One of the darkest on the CD. Don't miss it! Lincoln Love Log is the name of the following band, while their track lists as "Intestines Pt. 2". Think whatever you want, but definitely something brutal is going on over there. The pace is almost funeral-like at the beginning but later on turns to some hysteric madness and total chaos. Afterwards Machinerie Perfect tries to capture our attention with their military-like yet industrialized black metal tune "Post Military Demarche" out from their "Exotic Dark Matter" CD. You will perceive there some really strange and chaotic effects, so be prepared. If you thought, you have enough endurance for electronics then Hybrid Xenomorph Predator's song - "Obfuscated Rational Perspective" - will make you even more stronger in case if you'll survive. Definitely a good "perspective". It follows Carrion Crawler. A song that has a title as "Sick of All the Bitches in My Hood" plus taken from the album "Rot, Crumble, Collapsed" won't let you too much choices, right? Disgusting brutality spiced up with disgusting gore grind attitude, that's it! The 14th band is D.A.B.K. with their very original song title, namely "Song 3". An extreme portion of noise awaits you there. Something to survive again. Alignak blows out next with "I Am Going to Hell When I Die". Everything is clear from the title and the song won't disappoint you. Raw black metal at its best with some isolated atmosphere to be frank. Well, the atmospheric feeling continues further on with Ordo Tyrannis' "Victims Rites". This very dark & catchy tune would simply perfectly fit a horror movie. Next to perform is Internal Evisceration. "Anal

Sperm Treatment for Mental Retardation" is their ungodly submission. The shortest one on the compilation won't require much time to be understood. "Vomiting out the Chunks" by Unearthed Corpse will easily surprise you with their inhuman vocalizing manner and freaking out lyrics. A sonic blast! The 19th band on the list is Iron Bitchface with their aptly titled "Ice Queen" tune. You won't expect such a sound from the track with such a title. Electronic holocaust with shrieks from beyond! Russian Festergruts continues with their partly Decide-like song called "Cannibalistic Perversion". Great musicians with cool sound, but lack of originality and songwriting technique. Do you ever thought that there are metal bands in Dubai? Well, can assure you there are! Nervecell is the fine example for it. Their song "Signs of the End" from the "Human Chaos" stuff will definitely impress you. Tough death metal played with an honest sound production and good skills. For the end we have another mind-breaking song from Sentient. The nicely titled "Misanthropy" which comes again from their "Sinesthesia" CD. The otherworldly one. I think it's worth to thank Bloodbucket for their work and the guys for such a great selection of tracks. More compilations like this one should be released in order to give metal fans the opportunity to discover some new things. Thanks to the "Buckets of Blood" many of us are able to enjoy the most extreme music in the world. Long live death metal!!! (Review written by Outsider)

BLOODY SIGN

"Explosion Of Elements" CD 2007

(Ibex Moon Records)

This French death/black metal band was established in 1996 and "Explosion of Elements" is their second full-length. The trio represents a collection of totally raw songs, which are maximally uncompromising in my opinion. Bloody Sign is a 100% underground band with an appropriate attitude, lyrical conception and sounding qualities. I really enjoyed listening to the 9 segments of their naturalistic & blackened to the core death metal stuff. I don't know why, but somehow their music was associated in me with early Immolation & Morbid Angel albums, maybe due to the specific guitar riffs of Kalevi Uibo or the all-way captivating & technical drum parts of Ilmar Marti Uibo. The vocal parts of Hagend are also worth mentioning here,



'cause they aren't of those typical ones as they come in a bloodthirsty and powerful way. Die-hard fans of old-school death & black metal should put their hands on this obscure release! The CD features a live video clip as a bonus due for "Serpent's Sky Secrets" song. Buy or die!!!

CARPATIA

"Infant Brutality" CD 2005

(Elysion)

Yet we have another band, which mixes a couple of styles altogether. You can hear a strong heavy metal influence on "Infant Brutality", but on the other side the black metal attitude is rather than evident and all this you should mix up with some classic yet power metal-like elements. Interesting? For me it's too bizarre, but let's go into details. There are 4 men responsible for this strange creation, i.e. Martin Kajzar (vocals, screams, guitar), Tomáš Jochec (guitar), Martin Bělovský (bass) and Svatopluk Kolisek (drums). In my opinion the

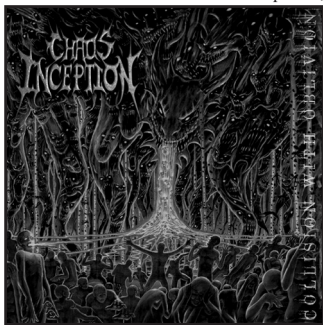
album's structure is quite formless due to the drastic rhythm and vocal changes. For example, when a cool heavy metal riff begins to wheel with clear high vocals on it and from a sudden it turns to a double-bass motivated howling guitar-cloud with rasping black metal screeches I simply go crazy, ha-ha... But



we can find this kind of transformation in the way of deathly growls turn to hymn-like clear vocals. Is there any point behind this? If so, this album is definitely for you, because here you can really expect some unexpected riff- and vocal-changes. Not mentioning the weird classical or acoustic inclusions in the middle of a song for instance. I think this kind of strange combination would fit any fan of progressive music pretty well. Anyway, I can recommend "Infant Brutality" to fans of heavy, black, power and classic music as well. Try and make a test with Carpatia!

CHAOS INCEPTION
"Collision With Oblivion" CD 2009
 (Brutalized Records)

Got this CD from Matt (who also plays in Monstrosity) at the Brutal Assault Festival in 2010. This is the band's debut release, which consists of 10 obscure death metal tracks. The album totally insists on the uncompromising side of death metal; the way it has to be! I was really surprised how dedicated they play and construct their compositions. Dark riffing, evil vocals, insane bass lines, blasting drums, furious solos are just a small part of the weaponry Chaos Inception uses over their 32 minutes long repertory. To me their music is a true dedication to the real old-school yet devastating death metal and also a manifestation against all that is modern, mainstream, etc. The musical essence of Chaos Inception can be obtained by a clever combination between the heritages of such godfathers of death metal as Morbid Angel, Immolation and Incantation. The quartet,



namely Chris White on vocals, Matt Barnes on guitar, Cam Pinkerton on bass and Gary White on drums, has a big potential in creating extraordinary and destructive death metal the old-school way, so keep your eyes on these guys! Die-hard death metal freaks should immediately order this CD along with the band's second album "The Abrogation" that was out in 2012 on Lavadome Productions! Contact the band through their Facebook page at: facebook.com/ChaosInception

DEFLORACE
"Massacre" CD 2004
 (Fornsick Music)

This Czech-based quintet doing something similar to Macabre, I mean in terms of lyrics and wishes as the band not just simply writes lyrics about serial killers but even dedicates their songs to all the serial killers

worldwide. So this album is definitely not for weak minds. "Massacre" has been recorded by the following mass-murders: Petr – vocals, Onecque – guitar, Pavel – guitar, Martin – bass and Smetak – drums. They offer us 11 murders in their detailed, raw and brutal form. Musically we have a mix between death and grindcore with an inevitable dose of fun and black humor. Due to Deflorace we can learn about such great people as Leszek Pekalski or Lada Hojer. Are you prepared to be murdered? Not yet? Then get this 26 minutes long album immediately as it will definitely help you to understand even deeper what's going on in the sick minds of serial killers and psychopaths. Get it before it's too late!



The chainsaw has spoken! Preferred tracks: "Lada Hojer's Going" and "Christmas Song" (extremely well executed one!).

DEGENERHATE
"The End Has Just Begun" MCD 2006
 (Endless Brutality Of Men)

This MCD contains 6 short lessons on how to play old-school grindcore nowadays. The Italian quartet – Max Varani (vocals), Gianluca Lucarini (guitars & screaming), Fabio Frascini (bass) and Cristiano Rotatori (drums) – doesn't open new doors for this style at all, on the contrary it's like a journey back in time, to be precise you have to travel back to late 80s yet early 90s when such great bands as Napalm Death, Terrorizer, Fear of God, Repulsion, Doom or Disrupt to name just a few reigned. The sound of the MCD is fair and the mood as one can expect is old-school to the core. Here and there you can bump into some obscure death metal influences too, but everything should be taken as old-school in the case of Degenerate.



The guys feel pretty right the atmosphere of the past thus the musical disappointment is out of the question. You will experience 11 minutes of pure nostalgic grindcore filled by the appropriate sociopolitical lyrics. I can only recommend this blasting piece of grinding brutality to all the death/grind freaks worldwide as well as to the fans of the above mentioned bands. You'll definitely like this MCD and as a conclusion I eagerly waiting its continuation in a form of a full-length release!

DENIAL FIEND
"They Rise" CD 2007
 (Ibex Moon Records)

Just look at the cover art and you will know exactly what to expect lyrics-wise from this all-star formation. Right, the band dedicates their lyrical part to different horror stories. "They Rise" was recorded in the following line-up: Kam Lee (vocals; known mostly from Mantas, Death and Massacre), Sam Williams (guitar; who was

earlier involved in Massacre too), Terry Butler (bass; famous from Death, Massacre and Six Feet Under) and Curtis Beeson (drums; pretty well-known from his awesome drumming in Nasty Savage & Lowbrow). Needless to say,



they are professional in what they offer within the 11 horror cuts of "They Rise". The band defines their style as horror metal, but for a better understanding I would say it's kind of partying death'n'roll there. Musically don't expect to experience some new ideas from Denial Fiend, because it's old-school music and that's it! I can recommend it for 100% to all the die-hard thrash & death metal freaks worldwide! For one song you can also enjoy the guest appearance of Mike Browning (whose name should be familiar for all of you at least from such killer hordes as Morbid Angel, Nocturnus or Acheron). Oh yeah, and fans of Mantas & Death can experience a re-worked version of the now cultic "Legions of Doom" track! Buy this nearly 44 minutes long stuff or let your body rot eternally in hell!

DR. SLAGGLEBERRY
"The Slagg Factory" MCD 2009
 (Crash Records)

This 5-track EP includes a very strange musical alloy by three very strange musicians: Pethers (riffs), Turnbull (lead) & Bate-man (skins). The trio consciously eschews the use of a bass guitar for their songs, but have to say they sound enough interesting without it, so their plan worked out good.



The music they perform is some kind of ultra progressive instrumentalism with lots of time measure changes, cyclic and trance-like motives. It's experimental, it's avant-garde, it's complex and it's reasonably versatile. It has a meditative character as well, thus their kind of music, in my opinion, would definitely fit as a soundtrack in some detective movies. The importance of math elements and influence of Meshuggah are quite evident too, but you have to imagine a less heavy sound-production there. Song titles are as follows: "Feed Me a Stray Cat", "13 Grades of Filth", "8 4 5", "Basterd Brew" and "Gone Devil". You can get this eccentric mini album from Crash Records at: www.crashrecords.co.uk

DRACO HYPNALIS
"Weavers Of Unrest" CD 2005
 (Élyson)

"Weavers of Unrest" is the first full-length album of this excellent Zlin-based techno death metal formation. At once I should point out that here we have a deal with a very skilled musicianship, namely Lukáš – vocals, Mira – guitars/keyboards/programming and Ivoš – bass/programming. The trio delivers us 9 opuses of highly quality professional music. Their songs combine so

many riffs, harmony changes, insane breaks and emotional arrangements as well as classical influences that during the almost 36 minutes long masterpiece I felt I have a deal with an orchestra instead of a 3-piece band. Can't glorify them enough, but indeed in their interpretation every single note sounds so fascinating and outstanding. They aren't simply people who just rightly know how to handle their instruments; they are more, by far the best or I should say real composers,



because the riffs and melody-chains they compose are about to cry and express deep feelings over and over again! The vocal parts are as suggestive as the instrumental side of the band; they tend from blackish screams, deep growls up to crystal clear vocals. I guess the boundless variety makes their music so unique and gives the key for their future researches. OK it's time to name you some bands whose heritage was influential on Draco Hypnalis' style, they are Pestilence, early Dark Tranquillity, Cynic, Atheist and last but not least a bunch of classical composers. All is left to say, buy or die! Preferred tracks: "Disharmonic Points... In Opening", "Fortified Source of Invisible Light" and the extraordinary instrumental tune called "Coda".

DRACO HYPNALIS
"Imagination" CD 2007
 (Zero Budget Productions)

The second CD by this technical Czech death/black trio continues the musical path of their debut album and even develops it further. The classical elements get more attention here and thus their music becomes more complex and hard to digest with 1 or 2 listens. This kind of music definitely needs multiple listens with a big care to all the details incorporated per each song there.

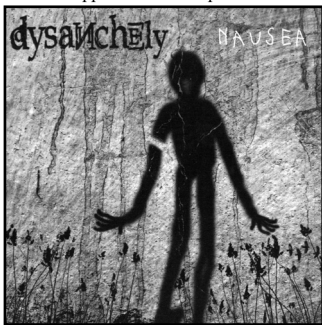


"Imagination" embraces 10 super melodic and energetic compositions. All of them were executed with a high accuracy and professionalism. With the addition of new vocalist Petr, who plays on guitar too, the band gathers a bit more black metal feeling to their repertory, though it happens mostly just vocals-wise. Mira, the brain behind the band, is responsible for almost everything that has to do with Draco Hypnalis' music. His orchestration skills and arrangements are simply remarkable plus you have to imagine a perfect balance between all the composed guitar riffs, solos & keyboard parts too. The drums were programmed flawlessly, but still the effect of the non-human drummer leaves its mark on the overall sound. Anyway, if one neglects this small detail the album turns to be a perfect one, in my opinion. The bass lines were transported by Ivoš and they are great as usual. The album lasts nearly 67 minutes and features 2 hidden bonus tracks at the end.

These tracks are close to the original ones, but they come without vocals and have extra arrangements there. Mira also prepared a special material that has been titled as "Orchestral Imagination", which includes 9 tracks in such an instrumental interpretation. Fans that adore classical music should ask for this special version too!!! I suppose you can get both from the band for the price of one CD! Almost forget to mention that "Imagination" has one more gem, namely a fantastic cover of Mozart's "Allegro"! Hurry up and order your copy now before it's too late!

DYSANCHELY
"Nausea" CD 2007

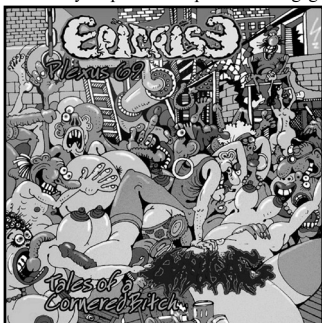
(Hrom Records)
 "Nausea" is the third & best album of Dysanchely to date. The band had lots of line-up changes since 1995, now they are: Braño (vocals), Mimo (guitar), Dodo (guitar), Roman (bass) & Joseph (drums). The five-piece continues to widen the musical path of their previous "Secrets of the Sun" album. On "Nausea" we have 10 precisely worked-out ultra-melodic death metal songs. Somehow at first sight I would compare the way their songs sound & structure-wise they are built to the Gothenburg-school, especially the name of At the Gates appears in me as a parallel to them.



But after a few listens it was clear the band has its own face as well and following slogan would fit them perfectly: "Be as melodious & catchy as possible". They make a big emphasis on melodies like tons of heavy metal bands used to be, but they also make sure to serve them in an extreme shape. The sound which was provided by Exponent studio is massive & well-balanced. Like the way it comes out from the loud-speakers. At the end of the CD you can also get an insight to 6 bonus songs from the past, namely 5 songs from the band's "Songs of Sorrow" tape release and a song called "A Tale of Mankind" from some Colombian compilation release. In total there's almost 70 minutes of Dysanchely music on the CD. Preferred tracks are "The Existence" and "Day of Selfreproach".

EPICRISE/BALLGAG
"Kublo 69/Tales of a Cornered Bitch" CD 2007
 (Ukragh Productions)

At last I can hold in my hands the few times delayed split CD of Epicrise & Ballgag!

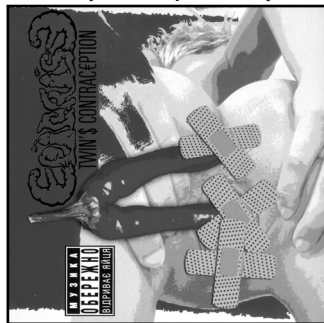


Well, our natives and number one porngrind band in Ukraine - Epicrise - opens the split with 7 tracks into the funniest porngrind ever. The sickos of this highly-acclaimed pornosquad are as follows: Max (vocalzzz), Slawko (guitarzzzz/vokillzzz), Mychaylo (bazzzz) and Eugen (drumzzz). Regarding "Kublo 69" I can say only one thing, namely that it is a quite professional stuff done by

exclusively die-hard maniacs! It structured perfectly with a flawless dose of groovy grindcore riffs, pulverizing blast beats, roaring bass cuts and crazy yet guttural vocal parts, which embrace the most various growls/inhales/shouts/screams/etc. ever heard per a song. The result is simply overwhelming that easily proves the fact that bands from Ukraine have also something to say yet to add to this particular style! You can experience this fact in almost 14 minutes of grind-madness spiced up with lots of funny porno themes as intros and/or as other ingredients during their songs. In a word, it's a must for every porn-addicted grindcore freak worldwide!!! Preferred tracks are: "Diving into Curd", "Milk & Dumbbells" and "Plexus 69". Next on split are the sick US black-humorists from Ballgag. Their repertory features 12 quite insanely-structured groovy death/grind tracks. Needless to say, the porn-elements are as indispensable there as their well-disposed-humor. So let's see the names behind this bitch-hunting massacre titled as "Tales of a Cornered Bitch". Here we go: Mr. Friday uses and abuses guitar/bass/vox, while Pissy limits himself only onto vocals and Lee Gorebanks responsible for the extravagant instrument called drums. The trio as often as not dives into the ultimate spheres of brutal death metal, although they like to mix it up with fine grindcore riffs in the very old-school style as Repulsion and Terrorizer for example. In total we get near 18 minutes of death/grind-induced Ballgag music(k)! Preferred tracks are: "Beef, Beer & a Bitch", "Douches Wild", "Meet and Greet". Get this split immediately or you'll be split-wide-opened!

EPICRISE
"Twin'S Contractpion" CD 2008
 (Ukragh Productions)

After an awesomely successful split CD with Ballgag, Epicrise strikes back with their debut album, with a massive sonic blast! Still executed in the musical vein & atmosphere of their split, i.e. in the triple x way of grinding! This full-length is a natural continuation and yet progression of the band's furious carrier. The album consists of 19 chapters, from which 17 demonstrating a totally innovative groove-fueled grind attack + 2 covers on Rot and Gut respectively, of corpse, executed in the Epicrise way. I can definitely say that this stuff won't cause a disappointment to any grind or even death metal fan worldwide. The band's rage and energy seems to be unrestrained over their 24 minutes long repertory! So it keeps the attention of the listener always standby. There's also a big portion of black humor & fun-oriented intros there as we got used from this quartet lately on their split too.



The band's line-up is the same as on their split, that is Max (low grunts & growls), Slawko (guitars & screams), Myshko (bass) & Eugen (drums). This CD will definitely smash the listener's mind with its crushing down-tuned bulldozer sound provided by Beasts Studio. Everything sounds just perfect there plus you will have a totally high-quality booklet for your consumption with nice pit-art on the disc itself. All is left to say, get your hands on this monster of a disc from the best Ukrainian grind-team ever! Grind or be grinded!!! Preferred tracks are "Mexican Gulf" (I simply love those crazy hysterical screeches by Slawko), the old-school-oriented "Catastrophes of Body" and the ending ballad-like "Bloody Daddy" (this exotic approach needs to be further pursued!!!).

FINSTERFORST
"Weltenkraft" CD 2007
 (World Chaos Production/Heavy Horses Records)

Though Finsterforst is seemingly a young band formed back in 2004 I have to fix at once this band has a professional musicianship, which after the self-released EP in 2006 reaches its completeness in the following form: Marco Schomas (vocals), Simon Schillinger (guitar), David Schuldis (guitar), Tobias Weinreich (bass), Cornelius "Wombo" Heck (drums), Johannes Joseph (accordion) & Sebastian "Alley Jazz" Scherrer (keyboards). In this line-up the band records "Weltenkraft" in February/March 2007. The album gathers 10 highly-performed hymns of folk-influenced black metal. I would admit that the parallel with their colleagues from Finland is quite evident, even if Finntroll plays more partying music, but anyway. The production on "Weltenkraft" is just massive, love their sound, every instrument can be clearly heard and picked off the rest. There's a huge atmosphere in their songs too, which mainly due to different folk instruments & sounds involved there. To my surprise the accordion player has got a lot to do during their 77 minutes long album, I would also not fear to say, he's got a leading role there! Fans into folk & epic metal are warmly encouraged to check this band and their releases!



Preferred tracks are: "Des Waldes Macht" and "Rauschende Nächte".

FORREST JUMP
"Killusion" CD 2005
 (Élysion)

I would suppose it is stoner rock what we are about to experience in Forrest Jump's eleven-song repertory, even though there's a massive so-called nu-metal influence spiced up with a pretty strange rattle-it-off shouting vocal parts here and there (it is used to be for (c)rap "music" in general). If we look through these annoying vocal themes and the irritating amount of electronics used in a few songs, we got a decent band, which manipulates mostly with the elements of such bands as Black Sabbath, Trouble or Spiritual Beggars for example, but adds the sound of the 21st century plus the atmosphere of nowadays nu-metal movement. The music in general composed very accurately with a definite feeling so I can't complain to the musicians'



technique and overall sound production at all. If you like the beforehand mentioned bands you will enjoy this circa 40 minutes long stuff. The songs have been interpreted both in English and Czech languages, the latter adds some unusual or I would say special mood to what Forrest Jump heading for. In total "Killusion" is a very soft, full of happy melodies rock album. There's no

speed, aggression, extremity, brutality or whatever in their music. It's recommended for people who are about to see only the bright side of life. The band consists of Pepa Michálek (vocals), Ivko Vrána (guitar), Mirek Kosa (guitar), Vlasta Kos (bass) and Sára Müllerová (drums).

GODYVA
"In Good And Evil" CD 2006
 (SorceryStudios Media Group/Razar Ice Records)

This Italian quintet calls their music as intimate gothic metal. In fact, there's a lot of different musical styles forge in their 12-song debut album. We can easily talk about the influences of classical music, heavy metal, soft alternative rock, industrial or dark ambient here. Whatever the influences are just never mind, 'cause the resulting music counts more and it is masterful. Their musicianship combines the following talents:



Lady Godyva (vocals), Frahn (guitars), Nick (bass), Botys (keys) and Enyo (drums). Apart from the standard hard rock & heavy metal patterns they care a lot about the memorable moments too. As for me, I found them in those awesome keyboard-filled monumental passages accompanied by enchanting operalike vocals. There's music for plenty of an hour there, so you can dive into the spheres of intimate and relax along with Godyva. They will definitely keep your attention focused. If you fond of such bands as Theatre of Tragedy, Lacuna Coil or Leaves' Eyes, then you have to check Godyva as well. They also have two newer records behind their backs, so listen to those releases likewise.

IN TORMENTATA QUIETE
"In Tormentata Quiete" CD 2005
 (Dawn Of Sadness)

ITQ was formed in 1998 and after a pro-mo in 2000 they have finally out their debut album. The info sheet says they are playing neo-folk gothic black metal. Indeed, all these elements can be clearly found during their nearly 47 minutes long CD. Moreover, the eight members (!!) of ITQ have managed to catch the right proportions between the aforementioned genres almost in all their songs. There are 9 compositions in total, which musically reminded me the style of Cradle of Filth. I suppose it's also due to their high-pitched vocalist's close manners to Dani. Fortunately, the band operates quite a lot with acoustic & folk-oriented inclusions, thus keeping the overall CD pretty varied. It was great to notice the Italian lyrics there,



which definitely add a special atmosphere to the whole material. I also found the presence of 3 vocalists too much, but if it couldn't be reduced, be it so. The album sounds very good and I am sure this line-up made it with big ease!

Hopefully the team of ITQ will reach more originality with their next release! Until then fans into epic & folk black metal can try out ITQ's debut!

INHUMATE
"Life" CD 2004
 (Grind Your Soul)

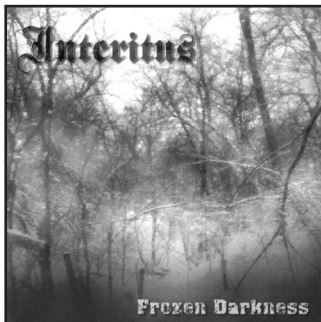
If you search for some fresh yet chaotic grindcore stuff supported by some really weird and awesomely executed vocal parts, then this is it! Stop searching, because these French freaks, namely Christophe Knecht (vocals), David Loessl (guitar & backing vocals), Frédéric Anton (bass) and Yannick Giess (drums), have placed their musical abnormality to a new level. Continuing as well as expanding further the terrific formula unleashed on "Growth" (2000) the band incorporates the craziness and high-speed riffing manner on a top level here. Their 4th album has been aptly titled "Life" and it is the middle album of the concept, which on the one hand illustrates the maturity of a life and on the other hand the accelerating progression of Inhumate. It gathers 16 pieces of totally sick and abnormal grindcore insanity. The well-guessed mixture of speed and dynamism is the key for their creativity.



There's really no time to think about anything during their almost 42 minutes long repertory. "Life" makes your head banging all the way until it becomes definitely paralyzed. To all this you can add a massive sound production, which is pretty clear and brutal at the same time. Oh, and if you need some more Inhumate madness then you have to check the multimedia part of the CD that features tons of great shots, discography, artworks as well as 3 live videos taken at the Obscene Extreme Festival in 2003. I think such a large amount of audio/video brutality should please every grindcore freak. By the way, front cover artwork by Jon Zig!!! Preferred tracks: "A Trip", "Sickness is the Law", "Life?" (it contains a bunch of live tracks).

INTERITUS
"Frozen Darkness" CD 2005
 (Élysion)

Interitus combines from the following musicians: Ioannes (guitar/vocals), Bára (vocals/flute), Honza (bass), Ota (guitar), Nicko (drums), Andrea (keyboards) and Vitek (viola). As you might have noticed there's a few classic-oriented instruments in the band.



Right, the 7-piece plays slow-paced, rolling doom metal with enchanting female vocals and beautiful yet classic accompaniments of flute and viola parts. The music they play over their 47 minutes long material was pretty well-composed, arranged and executed. It's just OK, but nothing new was done along their 11-song repertory. We have

a deal with a decent album that was mainly influenced by Baroque music. I can more or less remember the harmonies of some songs for a short time (e.g. "Deep in the Pain" and "Frozen Darkness"), though it's hard to figure out them later on as most of the parts/structures were done earlier by hundreds of doom acts as well. It's a pity, but nowadays original doom bands are really scarce. Can't complain to the sound production neither as every instrument can be audible perfectly. So all is left to say, fans who want to fill in the emptiness in their collection with a decent doom metal band from Czech Republic should take their hands on this release.

IRATUS DOMINUS
"Dispatch The Incarnation Of God" CD 2005
 (The Flaming Arts)

Included are 7 songs of antichristian black/death metal in the most intense form of it. The Belarus trio - Wrathodd (6-string desolation, chaotic mouth), Werwolfe (4-string disaster) and Forneus (drumfire) - mixes rather well the technicality of death metal along with the rawness of black metal.

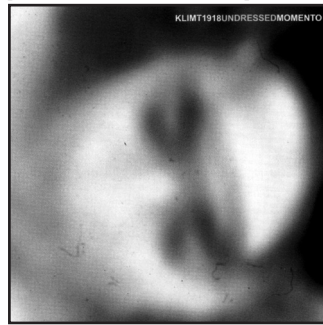


Rough uncompromised music is what we are going to experience throughout the nearly 36 minutes long material. The band displays a quite sinister attitude both music and lyrics-wise. Here you get some song names to decide for your own their lyrical approach: "In the Name of the Reversed Cross", "The Chris.t.slave", "Coronation of the Self-God" and "Desecrated River of Life" to name a few. Well, the production on "Dispatch the Incarnation of God" is very good even if I suppose it was a totally home-made recording. All the instruments sound very clear and the overall sound is simply killer. Congratulation guys! The album storms like a tornado and has a definite "kill the christian filth" motto. This CD will surely please all fans of Behemoth, Hate and Marduk, but it's warmly recommended for fans of extreme death metal too. For example, the song "Plague Spreads Decease" has some Morbid Angel- and Nile-type riffing, which I really enjoyed. Keep it fierce and blasphemous guys! All is left to say, beware Iratus Dominus the destroyer!

KLIMT 1918
"Undressed Memento" CD 2003
 (My Kingdom Music)

Hell, it will be a big challenge to criticize this album for me. Why? Simply, because it is the very first time I write review on such a material. Do you know what post-modern art is about? No! Me too, he-he... But for a better understanding I will provide you some additional information hereby. To get the right description of such a style you have first to imagine a mix between avant-garde sounds, alternative gothic metal and extraordinary new wave moments. Secondly, we can come closer to their post modern way of thinking by naming a few common acts, e.g. Anathema, My Dying Bride, Katatonia and Opeth should be mentioned from the metal spheres, while The Beatles, The Cure, Fields of Nephilim from the pop & rock genres. The sound production of "Undressed Memento" is pretty focused on softness and crystal clear interpretation of each instrument. It was provided by their mates (Giuseppe Orlando & Massimiliano Pagliuso) from Novembre. They helped them out not just with their professional assistance,

but with additional orchestrations too. The album lasts 47 minutes and consists of 9 post modern tunes filled with deep emotions,



melancholia, desolate atmospheres, vibrant guitar passages and way too intimate vocal parts. The latter one pushes the album mostly to the fields of rock and even softer music, because for example their last song "Stalingrad Theme" is quite heavy with all those fast double bass attacks used there and with deep growls it would definitely sound heavier and just killer to me. The same goes to the beginning of "That Girl", which reminded me quite a lot My Dying Bride music-wise. But these are just my personal remarks; don't take them seriously, because I am more than sure fans of postmodern rock music will definitely price this album! At the end, find enclosed some facts about KLIMT 1918 itself. This Italian band was formed in 1999 by Marco Soellner (guitars/vocals) and Paolo Soellner (drums). Later on Davide Pesola (bass) and Alessandro Pace (guitars) joined forces. Their debut album "Undressed Memento" was recorded at Outer Sounds Studios in July/September 2002. And now if you think it's the music you are searching for, go and get it by ordering it from My Kingdom Music!

LACERATER
"Nessus Urlo Nell'Ombra" MCD 2007
 (Self-released)

I have the pleasure to introduce you this young but quite promising Italian death metal quintet! Lacerater was born in 2002 and before this MCD they've managed to record 2 demos. On this MCD their line-up is: Antonio Susca (vocals), Marco Lambertini (guitar), Stefano Sabattini (guitar), Marco Zironelli (bass) & Riccardo Grechi (drums). Lacerater plays in a kind of very groovy death metal style and as nowadays bands aren't fear to incorporate as much as possible brutality and melodic passages to their repertory. I don't know why, but when I listened first to their music it reminded me very much Kataklysm's "Sorcery" album. Maybe due to the special arrangements and vocal parts, which are all in Italian, by the way! The atmosphere is pretty same too and the riffing solutions are also above average.



These 4 songs have been quite precisely built up and yet executed plus have to add that an awesomely good sounding production unites them. Eagerly waiting their full-length album as I really enjoyed listening to this 14 minutes long material. Keep it this way dudes!

LIKE FOOL
"Pustte Nás Dál" CD 2005
 (Élysion)

Now imagine a mix between Sepultura's groundbreaking "Roots" album along

with a massive Soulfly influence (of course) and for example the latest Agnostic Front release. Well, maybe it's not too precise, but Like Fool plays "modern" hardcore with the aforementioned mix plus lyrics in Czech language. The 5-man performs us groovy guitar riffs along with roaring bass lines, dynamic drum patterns and the usual sharp shouting vocals. There's really nothing special about them. Typical stuff with native lyrics, that's all. If you didn't experience a



Czech hardcore band so far then it will be a good choice for you and for them as well. You'll get 12 songs in nearly 43 minutes.

M.A.D & GOYA
"Put Olindralli Avljanera" CD 2008
 (Witches Brew)

Not a fresh material so to say, but I've got it from Blaza a few weeks ago on my recent visit to Novi Sad. The CD features 2 albums by these Serbian punk/trash/crossover maniacs. Musically, the trio follows the path of the good old days of the 80s. It's maximally old-school, be it regarding their songs, lyrics, sound or visuals. As a comparison I would mention the kings of beerthrash Tankard, as they made a definite impact on the band's song structures and lyrical content. The first part of the CD contains 10 songs out of the "Put Olindralli Avljanera (Road of Shabby Mongrels)" that was recorded back in 2007.



If you like 100% die-hard & old-school metal music then this lyrically beer, alcohol & black humor filled stuff will be definitely for your taste. To spice up the mood in the right way they also included some excellent covers of Bombarder, S.O.D. and Venom there. The second part features the band's "The Number of the Beers" material recorded in 2001. It has a bit rawer sounding, but still kicks ass. So you have 13 more reasons, oh pardon tracks, to have fun and bang your head until your neck breaks, he-he... And as usual, some more covers like "Death Comes Ripping" from Misfits, "I Hate You" from Verbal Abuse have been added successfully there. In total there's 67 minutes of music + a multimedia part (video clip for their song called "Duha Je Ostavila Devojka?!"). All is left to say, enjoy the musical madness provided by these Serbian crossover-mongers!!!

MERLIN
"Brutal Constructor" CD 2004
 (GWN Records)

Fast, faster, even more faster. That is the recipe of Merlin's new masterpiece. Unbelievable, but this band storms like a hurricane over their 32 minutes long death metal opus. There are 11 songs in total, but I can't even take a normal breath during their repertory as it combines from such a killer bunch of riffs and grind tempos that it just simply

blows me away. Exciting and at the same time incredible the masterfulness of the band members. Unfortunately, it was the last album with the best Russian death metal drummer ever – Nickolay Byckoff. He died in a sudden car accident last year. We will definitely miss his talent in the future, rest in peace Nickolay.



Maria Abaza (vocals/bass) still incorporates well her death shrieks along with some ultra guttural voices. Her bass work is also remarkable. And last but not least, we have the Loffe-Nazarov pair, whose guitar technique is some sort of supernatural phenomenon. Especially wild is the soloing work! It's a pity, but it seems that I wouldn't pick any song above the other as "Brutal Constructor" features just flawless songs in my opinion! It's a blasting over-structured and over-brutalized sonic death metal annihilation! That's it! And to all this you can add two cover versions. One on Death's "Zombie Ritual" song that was, of course, merlinized and executed in a way that Chuck (R.I.P.) would also estimate outstanding. The second one is "Slaughter on Ice", which is nothing else than a classic Prokofiev cover! Again flawlessly executed and merlinized to the core! In a word, if you wish to be torn apart in circa 32 minutes then you should buy this incredibly ferocious record right now! Merlin is for sure a band that widening the borders of death metal even further!

MOONFOG
"Cadaveric Changes" CD 2007
 (Ukragh Productions)

Hell yeah! Finally, out the long-awaited new CD by these Slovakian deathgrinders! The core of the band is still: Peter Hija (vocals), Peter Hutyra (guitars, bass) and Marek Mikudik (drums). "Cadaveric Changes" combines 9 tracks of rather sick death/grind devastation in approximately 32 minutes. The trio does everything on a pretty high level due to the insane live activity they manage to produce lately! The new stuff is quite different from the 2 years ago released "Slaughter of the Fatstock" album, be it musically or sound-wise, it simply displays a band with another view and another attitude. So to say, the band progressed amazingly a lot during this 2-year period! Their new songs are totally crazy, full of energetic yet complex rhythmic solutions, furious guitar parts and extra guttural vocals.



The guitars have been tuned as low as possible thus making the entire material sounding ultra sick. I would also like to point out Marek's unstoppable variations, especially hand-wise, because there's a hell of a lot of breaks, blasts and fills there. To all this you should imagine a very tough, brutal yet clear sound production! Their half an hour long repertory storms like a tsunami and there's really no escape from its massive sonic attack! The CD comes with a quality 12-paged booklet full of killer live & band photos + lyrics (there's even a bonus

insert with lyrics in Slovakian language too) and if somebody needs more there's a video clip for "Coldness (Algor Mortis)" song + lots of interesting stuff in the multimedia part as well. Mental & physical satisfactions are 100% guaranteed!!! Go and get your copy now! Preferred songs are: "Blood Coagulation" (like the opening riff a lot!), "Gas Diffusion" (nice, melodic solo there) and "Autolysis vs. Putrefaction" (awesome that alternated riff along with those variegated drum patterns at the end).

MOONFOG
"Ordinary Misanthropic & Repulsive Anthems" CD 2009
 (Rebirth The Metal Productions/
 Darzamadicus Records)

The latest Moonfog album continues the well-guessed path established on "Cadaveric Changes", which in my opinion was more brutal, sick and insane. Still the new album kicks ass, but in a different way. With "Ordinary Misanthropic & Repulsive Anthems" the band reaches a maximally clear sound-production thus, of course,



achieving less brutality, but, for example, all those fast riffs, which earlier sounded to me a bit chaotic now come in a rather crystallized way. I would say the band expanded pretty much its sounding and developed it to the next level. After the sinister intro called "Traumatic Prelude" we have a deal with 10 bone crushing, ultra technical, fast as hell and extremely repulsive anthems, which are all about to destroy and damage your nerve system. This sonic therapy lasts circa 34 minutes and guarantees all pleasures of the flesh & blood. Fans into gore lyrics will also enjoy the stories there, which are pretty meaty this time. They were laid down with the precision of a serial killer and executed in a sick as possible manner. The cover artwork supports the sick tendency of the lyrics and appropriately displays 3 zombified butchers very busy with their dirty job. Conception-wise it's pretty similar to Cannibal Corpse's "Butchered at Birth" cover. This massive album was recorded by the same trio as its predecessor was, i.e. Peter Hija (vocals), Peter Hutyra (guitars, bass) and Marek Mikudik (drums). At the end, let me mention some of my favorite throat-cuts out of the 11 songs, they are "Human Colony Collapse" (with its super-fast tempo during the entire track), "Leprosarium" (love those catchy riffs & double-bass attacks) and "Use Me for Torment" (simply awesome blasts and energetic riffs there). All is left to say, the doctor wholeheartedly recommends this brutal death/grind recipe for all the crazy underground freaks out there.

MYSTERIA
"Temple Of The Scorn" CD 2008
 (Pagan Records)

Starting with a Behemoth-like song "Mulla Xul" the band is about to offer a high quality death/black metal release during its 50 minutes entirety. But I wouldn't call their music standard at all, because the five members of Mysteria make sure to have lots of stylish experiments and strange instrumental approaches used there. They kindly operate with 80's thrash metal vocal-manners and even clear voices in most of their tracks. To all this I can add that the musicianship is pretty experienced and builds up from legionnaires of such known Polish hordes as Epitome,

Patologicum, Halucynogen, Eskaton and Thy Worshiper just to name a few. Whilst listening to the twelve compositions of the "Temple of the Scorn" I've arrived to a conclusion that the band is still on the path of finding the right proportions between their influences to create their own kind of musical approach. It's a pity they are on hold actually, 'cause the Nile-like or let's correctly say Arabic motives were rather prosperous in my opinion. It was also weird to find a song like "Cold Generation" there, which was totally influenced by Sepultura's "Roots" masterpiece. The CD contains a few acoustic passages as well, which I felt reminiscent of medieval folk and classical music. In a word,



this is a variegated album. So if you are in search for some unusual metal release give a chance Mysteria!

NAPALM DEATH
"Smear Campaign" CD 2006
 (Century Media)

One of my friends gave me the Napalm Death's "Smear Campaign" promo to check it out and to write a review. The CD was already covered with dust when I finally found a spare minute to listen to it. Actually I'm not a fan of the band and this is because I have never listened to them nor read about them up till now. Of course I've heard about Napalm Death's accomplishments, but somehow couldn't get myself to listen to them. And now I join the army of the band's fans. The story of Napalm Death's life is even longer than mine. They've released 13 albums, were the first band to play the style that later came to be known as grindcore,



were included in the Guinness Book of World Records as writers of the shortest song ("You Suffer" from their first album "Scum"), and also lost one of their band mates Jesse Pintado. And now to the point. What is smear campaign? It is a deliberate plan to tell untrue stories about an important person in order to make people lose respect for them. "Smear Campaign" is also considered to be one of the best Napalm Death's albums. The main lyrical focus is criticism of the United States Government and other governments, who are strongly religious, take, for instance, the title of the song "Puritainical Punishment Beating". What is characteristic of most grindcore bands is that the vocals tend to be monotonous, but this is not true of "Smear Campaign". They are switching from low growls to high shrieks during the 45 minutes' play time. As for drumming, I would call it typical death which includes lots of fast blasting. The whole album is an insistent blend of noise, riffs and catchy melodies. The opus starts with "the pain of the world", i.e. "Weltschmerz". A fantastic instrumental track with some piano added and a voice with intonation like that of

Hitler's in the background. One of the most vigorous tracks on the album is "Sink Fast, Let Go". It is skillfully performed with a wide range of vocals. The next track, namely "Fatalist" reminded me of Slayer. The drumming is notable for being filled with energy. Another one worth being mentioned is "In Deference". It is extremely rhythmic and features a guest appearance by Anneke van Giersbergen – vocalist for the Dutch band The Gathering. As for "Short-Lived" I can't help repeating "In and out of boxes and herded into packs...". It has some punk features that make it highly dynamic. "Shattered Existence" is, to my mind, a logical and musical continuation of the previous one called "Identity Crisis". "Eyes Right Out" is melodic and the lyrics is like a list of instructions to carry out. Another one, "Rabid Wolves (For Christ)" will definitely become the favourite of every extreme music fan. Seeing is believing, but the guys from Napalm Death say, "Believing is deceiving". You're expecting something special from "Persona Non Grata" at the beginning. And it definitely surprises you by the way it is performed, by some clear vocals towards the end of the song and of course by some really cool riffs in the end which later on turn to be the beginning of the next track. The album ends with "Smear Campaign", which differs greatly from the rest of the album, first of all due to the vocals. The lines are moshing inside of your head all day long. To sum it all up, I'd say that the album's suitable for every fan of heavy music as it is melodic, brutal, entertaining and totally unexpected at the same time. I would strongly recommend everyone who hasn't got this album yet to buy it and to get ready for a real grindcore attack that will definitely slay everything within a 100 kilometers radius. (Review written by Outsider)

NEGATIVE FACE
"Stin" CD 2005
 (Élysiion)

This band used to call their style earlier as experimental positive music (why then the bandname is negative?). Well, it was and still really strange categorization, isn't it? OK, to make clearer the musical direction of Negative Face I will tell you they play progressive doom metal with elements from almost all the musical genres, beginning with classic, jazz, fusion, rock, whatever up to death metal.



Vocals are as varied and limitless as the music itself. There are so many instruments and influences involved that I fear even to count them, ha-ha... The band or I should say the team (11 people in total????!!) has a big potential undoubtedly. But to be honest this kind of abstract yet meditative music isn't for me at all. It's looking more like a cocktail of every style known. There are 10 songs in about 38 minutes supported by an excellent sound production. The CD-packaging is also remarkable. I can advise this band for people who simply like good music without borders and without exact style-categorizations.

NERVOCHAOS
"Quarrel In Hell" CD 2007
 (Ibex Moon Records)

It's the third album by this antichristian Brazilian death metal horde. I would say the quintet plays typical death metal, 'cause there's really nothing captivating in their 48 minutes long disc. Even the appearance of

such special guests as Alex Camargo (Krisium), John McEntee (Incantation), Emperor Magus Caligula (Dark Funeral), Sanguine & Wrath (Averse Sefira), Mark "Barney" Greenway (Napalm Death) doesn't helped them to get an extra interest to their material. The plain guitar riffs, monotonous vocal parts and the drummer's total lack of fantasy during the entire album makes me sleepy. I really wish this band to have better albums out in the future, 'cause the actual 10 compositions are bored me to death. At the very end of the CD, you can taste a cover on Motörhead's

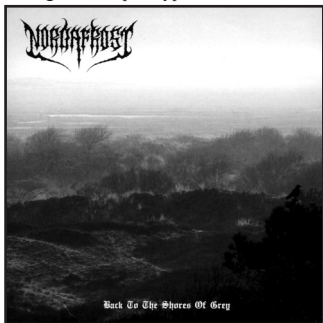


mighty "Iron Fist" song. Unfortunately, their version became as it was expected really boring. Sodom has done a flawless cover of that particular song back in 1987!

NORDAFROST

"Back To The Shores Of Grey" CD 2008
(Heavy Horses Records)

The story of this German black/death metal horde starts in 1996. Since that time the band's arsenal has been enriched by a demo from 2003, a full-length called "North Arise" from 2004, a split 7" from 2006 and now with their second album to date. "Back to the Shores of Grey" stands for raw & uncompromising black/death metal exclusively. It captures 9 songs of an apocalyptic vision to come.



The grimness, the aggression and all those dark atmospheres the band operates with are not simply common, but a must for these underground styles. This album won't open the gates to something new or undone before as it features all the traditional marks & melodies these styles produced over the years. Anyway, it's a great album, which has just awesome tunes and destroying sound qualities to perceive. The vocal abilities and the overall execution of them reminded me Abbath of Immortal very much, while musically I have to draw Nordafrost a shortcut to the Scandinavian scene, especially to bands such as Necrophobic, Dissection and the aforesaid Immortal. If you are upset about the freezing sounds of the north, then this album is what you are searching for. Get obsessed or curse instead!!! Preferred tracks: "Cursed Despot", "Carnal Worship" and "Aversion".

OBLITERATE

"Something Wrong" CD 2009
(Noisehead Records)

This Slovakian band has a definitely long story to tell. Formed back in 1992 and having a couple of releases on their account the band's previous materials were executed mainly under the strong influence of grind-core pioneers, i.e. Napalm Death. The new era for the band started in 2006 with the addition of masterful guitar player – Ivan "Ivin" Babilonský (known from such bands

as Nostrum, V13ault and Zombiemoles). With his presence the band's musical approach changed quite a lot. I would say, it became more technical, varied and simply original! The first material in this new musical direction arrived in 2007 in a form of a 4-song promo called "We Haven't Given Up Yet". It was the precursor for the actual new album, titled "Something Wrong", which is a pretty well-guessed album title, by the way. After reading their lyrics, which are mostly talking about the errors of mankind and criticize it in all possible ways, it became rather clear why was chosen this title for. The album gathers 13 grind-oriented pieces with a totally innovative musical approach. During the 31 minutes playing time so much is happening in their songs that one listen is definitely not enough to get perfectly acquainted with their repertoire.



You can discover lots of great things besides the basic instruments there, for example the appearance of banjo gives an exotic mood to a few songs, while the use of different industrial-like effects throughout the whole material makes their music really varied and at the same time ordinary to my ears. To all this you have to add the awesome drum fills & breaks provided by Marcel "Barbuch" Malega (the only member left from the very beginning), a really talented drummer, who cares pretty much about all the details around his drumming. For the bass attacks none else responsible as Martin "Matkes" Martoncik (previously known for his bass-terror in bands like Nomenmortis, Caress and Mentally Parasites). He defines the bulldozer-like down-tuned sound for the album. And last but not least, as the final piece in this grind puzzle goes out to young vocalist Gabriel "Gabby" Kunay (Killchain, ex-Thorwald) who maximally spices up the album with his guttural vocals and hysterical screams. As a conclusion, I have to say "Something Wrong" is a genuine masterpiece, a milestone that defines a new chapter not only for Obliterate itself, but for all their supporters & followers too! If you search for a band that doesn't fear to manipulate with elements coming from different musical styles and try to be as open-minded as possible then Obliterate is surely for you!!! At the end, I also want to point out the remarkable sound production and booklet design done by Ivin himself. Preferred tracks: "Economic Megamesiah", "Unhope", "Human Parasite" and "Moving Targets".

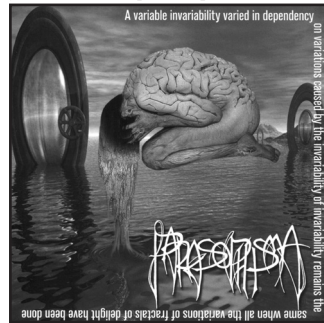
PARASOPHISMA

"A Variable Invariability Varied In Dependency On Variations Caused By The Invariability Of Invariability Remains The Same When All The Variations Of Fractals Of Delight Have Been Done" CD 2007

(Zero Budget Productions)

Parasophisma is one of those really few talented and not typical bands in the underground, whose music always have something new to display and whose lyrics always have something new to say! They belong to the most experimental camp within the metal genre. Their music gathers so many influences, beginning with elements from progressive rock through all the extreme metal styles known up to jazz & fusion. The chemistry of musical styles is simply unbelievable there; still the metal feeling dominates most of the time. This album was recorded back

in 2000 and yet with the second generation line-up, which consisted of Dalibor Figura (vocals, drums), Monika Hrubá (vocals, flute), Radim Darda (guitars) and Martin Krul (bass). In 2007 the material has been re-mastered and finally released in CD format. This 47 minutes long journey includes 9 carefully selected chapters, which will guide you to the landscapes of experimental music.



Their visions of a sonic sophistry are so huge that even 10 years later this material sounds pretty futuristic to me. Each song has its own atmosphere and thus vital presence on the album. Moreover, all those different types of male and female vocals used throughout their album are as impressive as the mixture between all the incorporated instruments there. Unfortunately, due to the musical overpopulation and actual trends, such talents remain hidden for the masses and in most of the cases underrated by incompetent people. Believe me Parasophisma deserves not just the attention of the experimental music fans, but the support from the black/death/doom metal fans as well. Their music is awesome and should be recognized by as many as possible fans worldwide. Lately Dalibor has collected a new unit of progressively thinking musicians and established the third generation of Parasophisma. Needless to say, can't wait to experience their new visions.

PARRICIDE/INCARNATED/ REEXAMINE

"The 3 Ways Of A Brutality" CD 2008
(Mad Lion Records)

The ways of brutality are inscrutable indeed. Polish Parricide opens the split with 12 massive death/grind cuts. Their music changed a little bit since their pretty experimental sounding "Pathogen" (2005) and their most brutal album "Kingdom of Downfall" (2003). Nevertheless, those changes are just natural and positive in all sense. Their new songs are more fun-oriented and less complex so to say. Still the speed dominates most of the time. The blasts are awesome there, while the guitar parts contain lots of crazy tempo variations and grooves to bang your head in a nonstop regime. Lately the band went through some changes and thus the recording line-up was the following: Michał Wójcik (vocals),



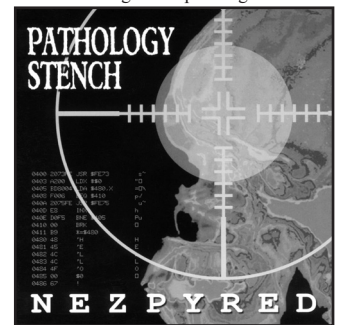
Piotr Sabarański (guitar), Albert Kraczkowski (guitar), Łukasz Popielnicki (bass, vocals) and Krzysztof Saran (drums). The frequent use of the cow-bell and all those sick vocal parts make their material sounding quite unique plus you should add 2 extremely-well executed covers as well, the first is on Brujeria's well-known "Matando Güeros" song, while the second is a cover on their grindmates' tune, namely Dead Infection's "Gory Inspiration". This nearly 22-minute long sonic madness got a title "...And My Name is 10". Place number 2 on the split

is reserved for Incarnated. They are also from Poland and play the Swedish way of death metal. Their main influences are definitely Entombed and Dismember. So it wasn't a big surprise to notice the cover of Entombed's "Abnormally Deceased" there. The trio – Pierscien (guitar, vocals & bass), Thomas (guitar) and Bartosh (drums) – offers us 6 songs into total old-school death metal without any compromises. Their part is entitled "Neverending Gory" and lasts about 20 minutes. Die-hard fans of old-school death metal will surely value this material! The third band of the split is Japanese Reexamine. This young death metal quintet, namely Brutal Baby (vocals), Robin (guitar), Deathkaya (guitar, vocals), Fukada (bass) & Sekeguchi (drums), mixes some weird sounds in their "From the Cradle to the Grave" material, which consists of 6 tunes and lasts 19 minutes in total. It's death metal, but apart from the melodies they like to operate with I found there lots of modern solutions too. Moreover, their bass player is the one who makes their music & sound a little bit unordinary, 'cause he really likes to spice up the songs with strange ideas. Their last track is a cover of Bolt Thrower's "...For Victory" anthem. Like their version, good job. This way ends the brutality and there's only one thing left to say, buy or die!!!

PATHOLOGY STENCH

"Nezpyred" CD 2003
(Shindy Productions)

Slovakian death metal perverts strike back with their third long play. "Nezpyred" binds 10 well-structured death metal songs filled up with lyrics on social and political themes. Their new material is the logical continuation of their previous "Accion Mutante" disc. The character of the songs remained, but the number of grooves per songs increased.



This goes generally to the tempo too, which is a bit higher here. The album sounds proportional and totally devastating, but unfortunately compared again to "Accion Mutante" there's really nothing new occurs within its 36 minutes of playing time. Second-hand riffs of early Death materials (check the title track for) and the general usage of 90s Napalm Death riffing can be observed during their songs. On this record the band shriveled to a 3-piece, namely Báro (vocals), Lumir (guitars/bass) & Vlado (drums). I would also strongly advise Báro to pay more attention to the pronunciation of the English lyrics, 'cause it sounds ridiculous sometimes. Anyway, it's a good death metal release, just lack of originality! Let's see what the future brings them!

PATHOLOGY STENCH

"Meatall" CD 2008
(Shindy Productions)

After 5 years of silence Pathology Stench returns with their best album to date. The sound production went through potential changes and now it's massive as it should be for such a release, especially I liked the sounding of the drums. Moreover, it's full of energy and has a cool dynamic flow. The band started to operate with modern riff-structures and synthesizers as it can be heard for example in their damn-cool "Suburbs" or in the mechanic "Guillotine" tune. The razor-sharp guitar parts of Lumir and pulsating bass lines of Julo have been rightfully executed and laid down onto the precise, like a robot, drum parts of Vlado. Unfortunately, Báro still pronounces in a bad

way, but he's deep growls compensate that defect here and there. The band not feared to experiment on "Meatall" a little bit and thus a small portion of originality appeared. I wish them to follow this path and to try going even further in creating unique atmospheres and riffs that can be associated only with their band. Songs like "For Meatall" and "Frankenstein" seem to be a good option to develop further their style. There's also a Death-inspired song called "Desperate" there, especially it goes to the very first minute of it.



In total, it was a pleasant surprise to experience the great modifications took place in Pathology Stench's music. The CD lasts over 37 minutes and comes with a laconic but decent booklet design!

PERVERSITY

"Words Like Poison" CD 2004
(Forensick Music)

This 5-piece Slovakian formation offers us 9 tracks of dark death metal insanity. Their circa 33 minutes stuff mostly builds upon mid-paced groovy riffing technology and precise playing. Won't say they discovered something new or mind-breaking, but their songs are very good to listen to. They simply flow with a dynamic pace and let you enjoy their old-school kind of riffing. Well, in a few songs we can experience some progressive kind of riffs, keyboards and acoustic inclusions as in the rightly guessed "Experience of Death" tune or in the song called "Seeds of Damnation".



I would call their music obscure death metal, mainly because of the vocalist's die-hard growling attitude and 90s sound-production. If I would compare their music to anybody I think the right ones will be Immolation and Incantation. Underground music prevails! The band's line-up on this record was: Martin Marinčák (vocals), Jozef Košč (guitar), Daniel Kočanik (guitar), Martin Kukul' (bass) and Marek Stašák (drums).

RAIN PAINT

"Nihil Nisi Mors" CD 2003
(My Kingdom Music)

Aleksi Ahokas (guitars/bass/vocals), whose work is well-known with Finnish gothic metal band Prophet in the period from 1997 to 2001, originates this new unit. Members of Fragile Hollow and Denigrate supports him in his future visions, namely Sami Koikkalainen (guitars) and Tim Toivanen (drums). So Rain Paint takes its start in 2002 with the unfortunate end of Prophet. Their debut album provides 50 minutes of intense & emotional metal as they call, which is surely to be please the fans of gothic metal too. In fact, it isn't intense at all, but be it so. Moreover, I found their music pretty close to what doom metal bands are doing lately, mainly because of all those mesmerizing guitar riffs, funeral-like

marching grooves & slow drum patterns. Their music is kept mainly in the range of slow & middle tempos. Sometimes keyboards appear as a background element to make their songs more atmospheric and hypnotizing. The album has a decent sound production, which here and there reminded me of the bands of the 70s, again due to the specific keyboard sound.



I can advise this music for both metal & rock fans, because it's just so soft, melodious and not heavy at all. By the way, the band already has a new album out called "Disillusion of Purity" (2006). So if you are fond of such music get both albums from their label!

SANATORIUM

"Celebration Of Exhumation" CD 2004
(Forensick Music)

Slovakian extreme guttural maniacs have triumphantly returned! Their latest album features 9 tracks of the finest grinding death metal brutality. Needless to say, the sound is as massive and pounding as the noise of a bulldozer's engine at maximum rpm. These tunes of decay have been precisely structured with the aim of crushing and smashing every weak brain around the globe. In their repertory we can find both extremities, i.e. the slow groovy writhing parts as well as the hyper fast blast beats. Vocals are rather sick; especially it goes to the inhales. So being covered by the piles of brutal yet complex riffs we are about to experience an ominous attack on our ears. Sure, one can find there some melodic parts too, for example in song "A Pile of Skulls" or the nice female vocals in the opener track called "Desecrated - Decapitated (A Hymn to Monika D.)". There are also 2 tracks previously featured on "Fetus Rape" MCD (2003), namely "Fetus Rape" and "Oral Fistfuck".



I would also like to add that the artwork became simply awesome and deserves to be seen/know amongst every sick heads' worldwide, plus in addition a bonus track "Rectum Hook" was also included. In total we have 31 minutes of great brutal music there. Attention sickos! Warmly recommended stuff! On "Celebration of Exhumation" the band's line-up was Martin (inhales/exhales), Magick (guitar/bass), Radodarebak (guitar) and Dzordz (drums).

SICKBAG

"Bushido Codex" CD 2006
(Deformathing Production)

Sickbag's debut album howls and ravages like an unstoppable typhoon. Their massive death metallic grooves storm over the entire album, which was limited to 10 songs and 28 minutes of enjoyment. I have to note that 4 songs out of 10 are already known from the band's first 2 EPs, but sure they've got a new interpretation and totally mind-blowing sound quality here. Newer songs are faster, more focused on the flow of energy and rather insane

in tempo changing. Moreover, they don't fear to slow down for a few seconds between the blasts to crush our brains with some heavy & dynamic grooves. Just listen to "Dirty Ego" or "Without Lucky Star Hero" for example,



the level of energy and intensity is simply overwhelming there. I can assure you that this stuff will make your head banging and banging from its very first note until the last one! The powerful sound production will also help to maximize the destroying character of "Bushido Codex". Can't wait to check out their second album, hopefully it will come out soon! Until then try to get your hands on this piece of groovy death metal art!

SICKBAG

"Destructure & Disgrace" CD 2008
(DAC Productions)

This CD contains the French sickos 2 previously just self-released EPs, namely "A Perfect World (Of Shit)" from 2004 & "Who's The Next?" from 2005. It was definitely a great option to combine them on one CD, 'cause I suppose not so many underground freaks could get their copies back then. There are 9 songs in total with almost 27 minutes of playing time. Both EPs were executed with a straight death/grind attitude and supported by a tolerable sound production. The team behind these EPs was: Julien Henri (vocals), Diego Janson (guitar), Julien Divert (guitar), Joakim Picot (bass) and Francois Roux-Vecchiali (drums).



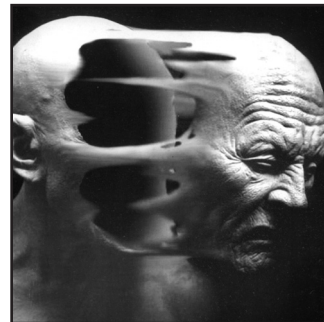
They crossover the classical grindcore style with modern death metal patterns, thus the result is quite good and I would say it is even unusual for a few moments. Especially great to notice Julien's variegated use of vocals and his emotional flows in some songs. Anyway, the riffs on the second EP are less interesting and make my ears tired after a few songs, but all those groove-influenced ones used during their first EP are just amazing and full of positive energy. The CD comes with a fantastic 12-page booklet design and a remarkable pit art on the working side of the disc! Sickbag fans hurry up to get this special CD from DAC Productions!

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

"Triotus, Tricephalus And Tribadism" CD 2005
(Élysion)

At first sight the musical approach of Six Degrees of Separation reminded me very much Desultory. And indeed both riffing- and vocal-wise the band is rather close to the Swedes' "Bitterness" album. Of course, beside my comparison they have their own ideas and face (especially the use of viola, trumpet, trombone and female vocals indicates it), which remarkably appear in the endless chains of guitar harmonies and melodies. The band definitely plays death metal, though its most melodious kind (mainly because

of the ultra-melodic vocalizing), which the 4-piece (Doctor - vocals/bass; Canni - guitar; Wlassoid - vocals/guitar; Pickard - drums) became to combine with enchanting melodies and meditative tuneful passages. As much we dive in their songs as better we going to love their music. It's emotional death metal at its best! The band dedicates their album



to mighty Chuck Schuldiner and this thing makes me to discover some slight influences of Death over their repertory, but there's unfortunately just a few riffs reminiscent of Death. I should say I had a pleasant time listening to this album even if the band was totally unknown to me until now. Professional musicianship, well-structured music, great sound production and dedication to metal characterize this material. Fans of melodic yet emotional death metal must get this nearly 1-hour long album immediately! Preferred tracks: "Shade of Triotus", "Separated" and "From Twilight to Dusk" (it simply can be a heavy metal hymn as well!).

SMASHED FACE

"Virulent Procreation" CD 2006
(Nice To Eat You Records)

On the second CD this Czech death metal band puts a little bit backward the brutality and pays more attention to the grooves. At once I should point out that the overall mix is quite unbalanced. First of all, the guitars are too loud and the level of the kick drum isn't proportional with the level of the snare and toms, thus in some songs the latter ones just seem to be repressed. The same goes to a few vocal parts, which simply drown in the massive wall of the guitar sound. The band on this CD is: Fred (vocals), P.A.T. (guitar), Eda (bass) and Pavel (drums).



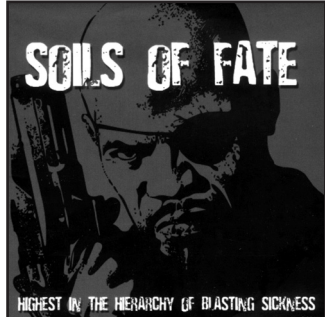
The 10 songs of "Virulent Procreation" are definitely less brutal as those ones featured on the debut album "Human: Earth Parasite" released in 2004. And what's more those new cuts are really lack of cool ideas and are structured pretty plain. I really do hope their third album will be better in every respect. The over 31 minutes long CD comes with a masterfully designed booklet and with lyrics dedicated to different social themes.

SOILS OF FATE

"Highest In The Hierarchy Of Blasting Sickness" CD 2004
(Forensick Music)

Damn these guys are ruling supreme! This monster of a disc contains the band's early demos, namely "Blood Serology" (3 songs) and "Pain Has a Face" (4 songs) + 1 new track "Tapping the Veins" featuring Kevin Talley on drums, 1 live track called "Epoch of Barbarity" (cover of Internal Bleeding song) and a video clip for song "Insider". I suppose this compilation kind of material is quite good in getting an insight to the band's

carrier from different angles/eras, be it past, present, live or studio. The demos sound fair, but in my opinion the music lacks of originality and variety there. Those songs were written mainly in the typical brutal death metal approach and were supported with ultra deep growls. In case of the opener/new track "Tapping the Veins" we have an evident rise of songwriting potential. Don't know why but this song reminded me very much Kevin's former band Dying Fetus here and there. Pulsating, dynamic, riff-oriented tune for sure with lots of changes, groovy guitar parts and awesomely executed guttural massacre. This is definitely a highlight of the CD.



The cover/inlay and video clip for "Insider" were arranged by Pierre Dembri. Good work bro! Fans of brutal death/grind music will definitely have a good survey over the 35 minutes long material. All is left to add, Soils of Fate consists of Henke Crantz (vocals/bass), Mange Lindvall (guitars) and Kevin Talley (drums). Brutality is the law!

SORDID

"Armed To Their Grinning Teeth"
CD 2004

(Forensick Music)

Hey, this warlike death metal quartet comes from Sweden, but music-wise they mainly follow the US brutal death metal way. The musicianship combines of Samuel (vocals/guitars), Johan (guitars/drinking vocals), Karl (bass) and David (drums). They mostly concentrate on the Cannibal Corpse type of riffing, but spice it up rather interestingly with the well-known Swedish chain of melodies and modern groovy elements. In the function of time length their mid-paced songs are between 2 and 4 minutes, but still featuring enough good riffs, changes, breaks and blasts. I would like to point out the well-guessed ultra tough and blade-like guitar sound. It makes the overall album sound like a massive kick in the backside. Vocals are



rolling brutally along with the weighty riffs-structures, while the rhythm section makes a concrete runway both for them and for the music in general. I think the band made a perfect mix of dynamics and brutality in their 10-song repertory! Keep it developing further guys! All is left to say, the formula is working and lasts about 28 minutes! Preferred tracks: "Obliterate" and "Hate Crime".

SPAWN OF POSSESSION

"Cabinet" CD 2002

(Unique Leader Records)

Spawn of Possession was formed back in 1997 and since then they managed to release two successful demos "The Forbidden" (2000) and "Church of Deviance" (2001). The latter one yields the band a deal with famous Unique Leader Records and thus in 2002 "Cabinet" takes its final form in Pama Studios

(Sweden). The recordings were committed by four demonic souls, namely Jonas Bryssling (guitar), Jonas Karlsson (guitar), Niklas Dewerud (bass) and Dennis Rödum (drums/vocals). "Cabinet" contains 11 ultra-technical tunes executed mainly in the US brutal death metal style. Sure their repertory features melodies too, but they mainly appear in the soloing work and here and there in the riffs as well but just for a short time as they gallop over and over again with a speed of light. At once I should point out the mega clean sound of the guitars that makes easy to remember the riffs and their songs in general. I would say due to such comprehensive sound production they managed to get an incredibly catchy material. Almost all of their songs constructs from at least 30-40 riffs (and what riffs?),



which is really cool as you can't be bored by their songs at all. You can listen to it over and over again and you would always find something "new" and interesting for your ears. While the guitarists like to play hyper fast yet complex riffs the drummer takes the overall level even higher with his non-stop grinding assaults, clever breaks, jazzy stand-outs and precise cymbal-work. To all this you should add a strong as concrete and deep as supersonic boom bass sound. The growling vocals have been executed in a usual way, though I found pretty exciting the sometimes very fast manner, which results with more brutality as the slow-pronounced, for example. I can't explain how good the mix is. It should be heard by every brutal death metal fans for sure! Songs like "Swarm of the Formless", "A Presence Inexplicable", "Dirty Priest", "Inner Conflict" or "Church of Deviance" are about to smash your brains in seconds, while "Spawn of Possession" or "Cabinet" display how sophisticated the band can be. Furthermore, we have dynamically constructed songs as "Hidden in Flesh" and "The Forbidden", which are full of ferocious energy and killer thrash-like riffs! And at the end we have a composition like "Uncle Darnfee" that perhaps contains the most emotional parts of this album and a great atmospheric inclusion in the middle of it. Oh, and the album ends by those demonic whispers which are familiar for us from the opening intro called "Lamashtu". In a word, it's an extremely well-done death metal album! Hats off! Eagerly waiting the next chapter guys!

SUPREME PAIN

"Nemesis Enforcer" CD 2009

(Metal Age Productions)

"Nemesis Enforcer" is the second full-length album from this Dutch turbo death metal squad. Their opening track "Darkening Age Rise" reminded me quite a lot Dissection's "At the Fathomless Depths" song out of the "Storm of the Light's Bane" album, mainly due to its grim guitar harmonies & dark atmosphere. After this short intro the quintet - Aad Kloosterwaard (vocals), Erwin Harreman (guitar), Bas Brussaard (guitar), Tadej Cholewa (bass) & Toep Duin (drums) - serves us 8 incredibly massive tunes kept in the good old-school death metal way! You will witness the crushing brutality of the Dutch death metal school there mixed up with some USDM influences coming from such great bands as Suffocation, Morbid Angel or Incantation just to name a few. The speed is mind-blowing throughout their sonic cuts plus Toep tops them up with an awesome drum work. He's a master & flawless weapon to execute all those hyper speed

blasts and devastating double bass attacks! Both stringed shredders inject a big portion of twisted riffs there and their solos are just captivating (They come mostly in the classical DM way, which I prefer so much!).



The guitars' sound tuned to as sick as possible level, while the bass sounds enough tough and has that specific rattle in it. To all this you should add the vocals of Aad, which are maximally brutal and leave no mercy for the listener. It's undoubtedly a 100% death metal release! No compromises, only supreme brutality and total dedication to the style itself!! A must for all the old-school DM breathing freaks worldwide!! Preferred tracks: "Vengeful Wrath", "The Unholy Throne" and "To Serve in Slavery".

SVARROGH

"Lady Vitosha" CD 2004

(Medusa Productions)

Svarrogh is a Bulgarian black metal band, though its only member (Dimo Dimov) dwells now in Germany. "Lady Vitosha" features 8 songs written & composed in the best traditions of the pagan black metal style. To my surprise Dimo handles all the instruments maximally good (except the drums that are synthetic, but were programmed pretty good too) and the variations of different string-based folk inclusions are also remarkable. This guy really knows how to mix the raw guitar sound with sad yet heart-rending harmonies. The folk acoustic parts appear mainly in every song, except the war-like "Kum vihur v slamenata gorica" song, which storms like a tornado. The music is very varied so to say.



You can find there everything from slow to fast, from sad to melodic, from meditative to depressive, etc. The lyrics (which are in Bulgarian) and the music itself were totally inspired by the ancient Bulgarian culture. Sometimes the atmosphere becomes very ancestor-like. I would call it as the voice of the ancients interpreted by Dimo himself. There's no doubt that the colorfulness of the vocals adds a big potential to the circa 48 minutes album. They are not just about the usual grim shrieks and rasping screams. For example, the slow monumental parts were mainly accompanied by clear hymn-like vocals. The feeling is what counts and it is there for sure. Fans of folk-influenced black metal should put their hands on this ordinary stuff. Preferred tracks: "Grohnal pod edin dub (Broken Under and Oak)" and "Ovchari na bezbogg (Shepherds on Godless Mountain)".

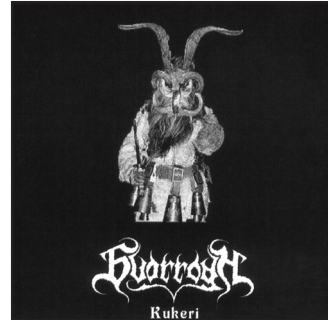
SVARROGH

"Kukeri" CD 2006

(Heavy Horses Records)

"Kukeri" is the third effort by Svarrogh. As you might already know, there's only one member behind it, namely the talented Dimo

Dimov, who pleases us with his wide range of knowledge of playing on different folk instruments again. The album embraces 12 hymns of pagan folk black metal with lyrics based on the Bulgarian folklore. Moreover, they've been singing on this special language, which adds an exotic mood for the whole album. It's amazing how beautiful is the combination of those folk instruments there. Just listen to the magical sounds of "The Solitude of Stara Planina", which is the



longest tune on "Kukeri" with its 11 minutes length. The CD lasts a bit more than 69 minutes, so there are really plenty of things to experience there. I am sure all those fans of orthodox black metal will also find their favorites there as Dimo easily forges the best proportions between the harsh black metal riffs and storming drum parts too. If you want to be guided through the wide landscapes of Bulgaria and to get acquainted with the native rites without visiting that land in reality you have to pick this or any other releases by Svarrogh.

THORNAFIRE

"Exacerbated Gnostic Manifestation"
CD 2007

(Ibex Moon Records)

After a pair of demos and one EP released in 2001 this Chilean death metal brigade finally breeds their debut album out. Taking into account that the band was formed back in 1998 it took them 9 years to accomplish their monster of a disc. But it was worth waiting for,



because their 10-song CD sounds massive and proportional in every respect, while the musical aspects of Thornafire are focused on the patterns of traditional death metal. The entire album radiates a murky mood thus I would compare them musically to early materials of Morbid Angel, Incantation and Immolation. Of course, Thornafire has a big potential too, which mainly appears in the addition of melodious, classical-oriented guitar harmonies. The trio - Alexis Muñoz (bass/vocals), Victor MacNamara (guitar/keyboards) & Juan Pablo Donoso (drums) - maximally dedicated to what they do & perform on "Exacerbated Gnostic Manifestation", but still I wish them to add more originality to their repertory in the future. The CD features a bonus video clip on "Deflagration" song, which is a cool visual clasp so to say. If you crave to listen to a professional death metal band from Chile the chance is yours now to order their debut album from Ibex Moon Records!

TRANSLUNARIA

"Beyond The Astral Misanthropy"
CD 2007

(ÉlySION)

Are you fond of Gothenburg-style melodic death metal stirred up with a dose of

complexity? I really hope so, because the main musical aspects of Translunaria are bounded by the Swedish death metal movement. Mostly, I can compare their music to early Dark Tranquillity and In Flames materials, but there's a technical aspect too,



which reminded me massively the beloved by all riff-structures of Death. Riff-wise we can also hear some recent Kataklysm & Septic Flesh influences as well. The vocal parts are really varied, as you can find there everything from deep growls up to clean voices. But mostly it's focused to those raspy ones, which are predominantly used by the Scandinavian death/black metal scene. I personally loved those few Pestilence-like vocal shouts the most. The musicianship looks like as follows: Fred (vocals), Peca (guitar), Roman (guitar), Lad'a (bass) & Lukáš (drums, voice). The five-piece does nothing new or

extraordinary on their circa 33-minute long debut album, although it's done honestly & comes with a professional sound quality. If you want to experience the Czech way of melodic death metal, then these 7 songs will be a great opportunity for you. Get in touch with the band at one of the below mentioned links.

Bandzone: bandzone.cz/translunaria
Facebook: facebook.com/Translunaria

:TREMOR
"Chotko" CD 2009
 (DAC Productions)

Oh shit, Belgorod gangstas are back! Their newest effort became pretty variegated so to say. It still follows the well-guessed



path of their previous releases, though with "Chotko" the quintet goes even further in developing their multilateral musical taste. To have a better understanding about what they

do, you have to imagine an unbalanced mix between grindcore, brutal death, goregrind, folk, disco, industrial, etc. styles plus to add the unavoidable component, i.e. chanson, on top of it. This specific mixture will be finally spiced up with lots of weird sound effects and black humor motivated lyrics. I could listen to this album once, but somehow it doesn't attract me to listen to it twice. Nevertheless, it was cool to discover the unique versions on Cerebral Turbulency's "The Strach Na Vruble" and Ulcerous Phlegm's "Consequence" covers amongst the 19 tracks of "Chotko". This circa 41-minute long album comes with an outstanding sound production and a flawless DAC workmanship (high-quality slipcase, 8-paged booklet & killer pit art on CD). Let the fans of chanson grind argue further on!

ZOEBEAST
"Vengeance Z-Squad" CD 2009
 (DAC Productions)

This is the debut album by this funny Russian grind combo. Their songs are pretty plain & nothing special I would say. They try to mix some 2nd generation Napalm Death riffs along with the nowadays rather trendy groove-oriented links, but in my opinion today it isn't enough just to copy well all those new and old bands, right? You have to show some originality during a 44-minute long album or at least a small part of it. Instead of this, you will get 21 songs of quite boring death metal influenced grind stuff with lots

of annoying sound effects. The only thing that is great about this release is its powerful and crystal clear sound production. And for this final result Ukrainian Beasts Studio is the responsible one. I really don't know why DAC signs/releases such an unworthy band at all, because in my opinion there are better & better bands and I don't mean just Europe or USA herby, I can assure you Ukraine has them too! In fact, there's a second thing, which is great about this release and it goes to the overall design of it. Dima of DAC was always known for his superior CD designs.



This release isn't the case for an exception as it comes with a superb slipcase, a totally awesome 12-paged booklet design and a pit-art on the CD itself. I can recommend Zobeast only for freaks that don't have anything to listen to at the moment and they crave to get an album with a Russian pseudo-grind band!



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Degenerhate is a fine old-school-oriented grindcore band from Italy. I've questioned Gianluca Lucarini (guitar/backing vocals) about the band's progression from their "The End Has Just Begun" debut MCD to their actual not-yet-finished "Chronicles of the Apocalypse" album. So penetrate the spheres of grind provided by these socio-political maniacs!!!

Hi Gianluca, how are you lately? At the moment you are recording new material for your forthcoming full-length album titled as "Chronicles of the Apocalypse". Please tell us in what way will it differ from your debut MCD called "The End Has Just Begun" (2006) (both musically and lyrically)? Also tell us where do you recording it and how many tracks will it include?

- Hi Cornelius, I'm fine! Thanx bro! Well, we are recording "Chronicles of the Apocalypse" at Emerald Studio Recordings (emeraldrecordings.com), our own studio here in Rome. The album contains 18 trax, and it will be really different from "The End Has Just Begun": first of all, we have more time for recording, and this is good for us 'cause we like very much to find the best sounds possible for Degenerhate's attitude and this album will have a great sound and production! We have recorded "The End Has Just Begun" in only one week, we are recording "Chronicles of the Apocalypse" since last December and we will finish in May... I hope!!!

"Chronicles of the Apocalypse" is musically different from "The End Has Just Begun", you will find our typically fast and furious songs, but you can also find an acoustic song with female vocals and you can also find songs with rock and roll guitar riffs, and you can also find extreme technical touches as we like to do. I think this album is more variegated and "complete" than "The End Has Just Begun", it will be a ripe album I think.

About lyrics, you will find always our socio-political themes, but you will also find private and inmost lyrics... one of this is the acoustical song, which is titled "The Brighter Side of Life".

The band was formed back in 2002 and all of its members played in different bands since 1989. Why it took 4 years for you to release "The End Has Just Begun" MCD? How's the reaction of fans and media been so far?

- Four years, because the band, after we have recorded a promo CD, has been in trouble for one year. You know, it's very difficult to have a fulltime band today! Each one of us is busy with his job, family, activities, and it's not simple to stay together in the same room and practice twice a week!

But after this year of trouble, finally "The End Has Just Begun" is born and the reaction of the fans and media is fantastic!!! Just take a look to the reviews on our MySpace profile at: myspace.com/degenerhate

The mini CD has been sold out in only one month!!! And the second press in only ten days!!!! We are very happy and surprised at the same time for this unexpected success!!!

"The End Has Just Begun" was released on Endless Brutality of Men. Tell us more about this co-

operation and will the new album also be released on this label or...?

- Josè of Endless Brutality of Men Records is a cool and honest guy! And he has been the first to believe in us! He always supports us at the best level and we are very happy for the work he makes for us.

"Chronicles of the Apocalypse" will not be released by Endless Brutality of Men Records and we still don't know the name of the label who will press it... we have a lot of offers and we are thinking...

Your kind of grindcore music is definitely influenced by all those great old-school grind squads as Napalm Death, Terrorizer, Fear of God, Repulsion, Doom or Disrupt to name a few. Why did you choose this kind of approach (or better to say musical attitude) for Degenerhate's music?

- 'Cause we started to play in 1989!!!!!! Our influences (the bands you have mentioned) are old like us! ☺ We grew up together!!! This is the music we like to play bro! We are old school and proud!!!

Tell us more about each member in the band (job, hobbies, interests, etc.). I mean what do you like to do besides playing grindcore and listening to appropriate music of yours?

- Well, I'm an interior designer and I'm starting a clothes line too. I love snowboarding and I adore splatter/gore movies!!! Max (vocalist) actually works in a clothes shop, and he likes splatter/gore movies too. He has a side project band called Kingdom with Fabio (bassist). Fabio is a well-known session-man in Italy, his job is the music. He is the owner of Emerald Studio Recordings together with Luigi Colasanti Antonelli, the real fifth member of Degenerhate, and one of the best sound technicians all around! By the way... he is a great photographer too!!!! Francesco (drummer) is a yacht and boats designer and he likes to... play drums fast as hell!!!! ☺

What is the grindcore scene in Rome like? Could you recommend us some worth to check out bands from your area or from Italy in general?

- We have a cool scene here in Rome man, lot of bands, lot of nice people and good attitude. I can recommend these bands from Rome: Tsubo, Dirty Power Game, Ultimo Mondo Cannibale, Corpse Fucking Art, Hour of Penance and of course Cripple Bastards... but they are not from Rome...

Name us what bands are you listening at the moment and list us 5 albums that played an important role in your life.

- Actually I'm listening to a lot of classic music and chill out, lounge tunes... I love music from Mozart to Extreme Noise Terror!!!! ☺

Five albums that played an important role in my

life? Here you are: The Smiths – all albums, Carcass – all albums, Terrorizer – "World Downfall", Metallica – "Kill 'em All", Skid Row – "Slave to the Grind".

What do you think about the reunion of Carcass? Will you check one of their few performances planned for this year?

- I'm extremely happy of their reunion!!!! Carcass is my favourite band ever!!! And forever!!! I will check their concert at Gods of Metal Festival in June here in Italy.

What is the situation with live gigs? Do you play often? Tell us what countries you visited so far and what was your best gig to date and where was it + why was it so special to you.

- We don't play very often 'cause we don't have a lot of free time with our own jobs and families. We are not kids anymore bro... ☺ We prefer to play at big festivals than little gigs and we prefer to play outside our country. We have played a lot in Italy in the past years (in shitty places too) and we want to bring our crushing gigs outside the Italian frontiers.

About the best gig I think the best is yet to come... So, stay tuned and come to our next gig near to your home!

How do you write a song? Mostly it comes from one member or it's kind of teamwork.

- I write all the music and all the lyrics in the band, only by myself. First I write the music, and then I write the lyrics for that song.

Your lyrics have a socio-political orientation. Who writes them plus what inspires you to write about such themes?

- As I told you above, I write the lyrics and I'm always inspired by the decadence of the human race. All the anger and the pain I have inside, are (de)generated by the shitty world where we live! So, this is the main reason about our socio-political themes.

At the end, please tell us your plans for the future and say hello to all the Ukrainian grindcore fans in the way you prefer. Thanks a lot for the interview! The space is yours and looking forward to the "Chronicles of the Apocalypse"!!!!

- Well, we must finish the recording sessions for "Chronicles of the Apocalypse", then we will start the promotion for the album and we are planning a European tour too.

I really thank you Cornelius for the interview, and I really thanx to all Ukrainian grindcore maniacs! We have a lot of fans and friends there, and we hope to play there soon as possible and drink a beer with each one we will meet!!! Thanx again and stay tuned for the "Chronicles of the Apocalypse"!!!!

Meet us at: facebook.com/degenerhate
For contact: degenerhate@hotmail.it



Demonical is a fresh name in the worldwide death metal underground, even though its former members were involved in other bands for decades now, just to mention Centinex above all. I've asked Martin (bass) about the formation of the band, live attacks and future plans to name just a few from the list of questions. So take a deep breath and read on this awesome interview! The servants of the unlight have been finally unleashed!!!

Hey Martin, I have to admit that Demonical is a rather new band (it was 2 years old in March 2008), but already managed to release a couple of records. Please enlighten us first of all what went wrong with Centinex and whose idea was to form a new band under such a killer name.

- Centinex split up in April 2006 due to musical and personal reasons. It was me who took the decision and as the only original member left, I saw my right to split-up the band.

The decision to bury the band came already some months before it actually happened and during those months I planned and draw the guidelines for Demonical so everything was basically ready the day Centinex turned to dust.

Your first record was a 4-song promo called "Bloodspell Divine" back in 2006 and almost half year later you've recorded your first full-length album under the name of "Servants of the Unlight". It was out in 2007 by two labels, namely German Cyclone Empire and South-American Dark Productions. Please tell us more about your co-operations with both labels + how was the reaction to your CD worldwide.

- Yeah a few months after we had started Demonical we entered Necromorbus Studios in Stockholm and recorded the promo. The tracks were already written when Demonical was formed so we just needed a few months to rehearse them and then record them. We sent the promo to labels, received various offers and as Cyclone Empire had the best one we signed with them. Easy as that he-he!! The deal with Dark Productions is just a licensing deal for the South-American territory and this deal came up after we had signed with Cyclone Empire. However, Dark Productions seems to have vanished, they still

haven't released the album (delayed for over 10 months now!!) and they do not answer our mails. So let's see if the album will ever be out there...

The reactions on the album have been really great, a lot of top reviews in the media so we are utterly satisfied.

A bit later a split 7" EP with mighty Absu saw the light of the day. It was released by Temple of Darkness. What should we know about this interesting alliance?

- I have known the guy behind the label for quite some time so somehow the idea just appeared, that we should release a Demonical split EP. It was Temple of Darkness who found Absu, I think he checked with several bands, and that was of course a good choice. Our side of the split - which is limited to 566 regular copies and 100 picture versions - features the track "Unholy Desecration" taken from the promo.

"Servants of the Unlight" builds up from 9 songs from which 4 were included on the promo 2006. Is there any special reason you included the promo songs as well? What is the difference between those 2 versions?

- The promo was recorded just over a weekend, so we wanted to give the tracks more justice and record them more properly as they are killer tracks. But the biggest difference is that Johan, the Demonical guitarist, did the vocals on the promo as at that moment we didn't yet have a permanent vocalist.

Your style defined simply: death metal! Musically you aren't too far from the heritage of Centinex, but somehow Demonical seems to be more straight with less melodies (Grave's name appeared in my mind) yet with more extreme touches like in the song titled as "Feeding the Armageddon" (I would also mention a strong Marduk feeling there).

What do you think about it?

- Yeah, I think you are right, you have found the core and inner essence of Demonical... Demonical is more straight forward death metal than Centinex was on their last 2-3 albums, that's actually one of the "musical reasons" that led to the split up. The style Demonical represents is exactly the style I like the most, brutal and dark old school death with that typical Swedish sound, spiced up with some black metal influences.

You have an aptly named song on your full-length, i.e. "Death Metal". At first I thought it is gonna be a cover of the famous Possessed song, but to my surprise I failed. Your version is pretty cool and represents kind of death&roll party song. Any comment?

- Actually "Death Metal" is a cover but not from Possessed, it's a cover of the old Onslaught track, originally released on their "Power From Hell" album back in 1985. We wanted to include a cover track on our album and that tune suited us perfectly, it describes what Demonical is all about. Besides that, it's a great track to play live, the chorus is sing-along friendly ha-ha!!

Tell us a little bit about your recently finished tours with Nunslaughter, Nominon and Denial of God. How was to play with those bands? Any road-stories you might reveal us? You've visited a bunch of European countries as well. What was the crowd's reaction there and compare it please with the fans' reactions over there in Scandinavia?

- Both those tours we did - the first with Nunslaughter and Nominon and the second with Denial of God - were arranged by me through my booking agency, Dreamtide Music. The Nunslaughter crusade was the bands 20th-anniversary tour and their second



ever trip through Europe so it was really cool, the reactions were really great. Of course, there happened a lot of crazy things, but I won't reveal them here as we have this expression "what happens on the road stays on the road" ha-ha!! The tour with Denial of God was also a huge success, really good. I don't know really how to compare the Central-European crowds to Scandinavian ones, there are good crowds in every country, but it can differ from day to day depending on which city you are in, if it's a weekend or weekday, etc.

In the middle of January, you had to support Dismember and Dethera for a small Finland tour. It was some serious death metal campaign over there I guess! Please tell us your point of view about that tour?

- Well yeah, that tour is also already done as it was utterly great, so far the best we have done!! It was a real death metal package who invaded Finland and everything ran really smoothly, we had a blast!!

How's the actual line-up of Demonical look like? What are you doing beside the music (jobs, interests, hobbies, etc.)?

- The Demonical line-up consists of me on bass, Johan on guitars, Ronnie on drums and our new vocalist, a guy called Sverker.

We kicked out our former vocalist in December, because of personal reasons, we weren't really on the same wavelength, so to speak, so we decided to part ways with him. We tested a few new vocalists and we said that we wanna test the new front man in a live situation before we make our decision, so Sverker came along on the Dismember tour and everything went really great, so a few weeks ago we made him a permanent member.

We all work, more or less, besides the band and have those usual hobbies like drinking, listening to metal, drinking even more and so forth... As I said earlier, I do also run this management, which takes a lot of my time.

Name us the most important metal releases in your life (at least 5) and tell us in short why they are so special to you.

- Huh, this is a hard one, but I'll try... Ok so now we are talking about important releases, that's maybe not the same thing as good releases ha-ha...

The first one is "Destroyer" by KISS as this was the first ever metal album I got. This was back in 1982, I got it from my mom as a present on my 10th birthday. Then we have the first W.A.S.P. album and "Black Metal" by Venom, I bought both these back in 1984 and they were really important for me, this was revolution-music to scare your parents with...

The next important album was "Left Hand Path" by Entombed. I heard Nihilist/Entombed demos when they came out back in the late 80s, but when the full-length album was out it blew my fucking mind!! This was it, it had the sound, the tracks, the cover everything... That album made me to form Centinex and the rest is history, as they say... If we have to pick a 5th album I would actually say it's "Servants of the Unlight" by Demonical. Hard to explain, but this album was and is really important for me personally, to be honest, much more important than any Centinex album ever was.

Now it's time for some death metal propaganda. Please share us the plans of Demonical for 2008.

- We try to spread chaos and plague as much as ever possible!! We have done a few shows already and more coming up for the summer, some festi-

vals and stuff... then we will most likely record a new album around October/November for an early 2009 release.

Do you know anything about Ukraine and its underground metal scene? If so, tell us what bands do you know/like from Ukraine as well as what is the first thing you would say if somebody mentions you the word "Ukraine".

- I do know a bit about Ukraine, about the history of the country and such, but to be honest, I can't remember any band right now... Sorry. But I'm sure there are some killer acts, like in every country. The first thing I think about when someone says Ukraine is the hottie Ruslana who won the Eurovision song contest a few years ago. Ha-ha did I destroy my "metal-image" now!?



At the end, I would like to thank you Martin for taking the time to answer my questions. Please send your final demonic wishes to the Ukrainian death metal fans.

- The thank you goes to you and all our followers for the support!! Hopefully we are able to desecrate some stages in Ukraine as soon as possible, that would be massive!! Hail the death metal victory!!

E-mail: the-demonical-horde@hotmail.com
Website: www.demonical.net



Estuary is a brilliant death/thrash metal band hailing from Cincinnati, Ohio. I've had the opportunity to check their killer live performance during the Balkans Assassination Tour in Budapest, Hungary (14.10.2007)! Their music & 100% underground attitude impressed me quite a lot so I immediately decided to contact Ash (guitars/backing vocals) and Zdenka (vocals) to get all the news about the recently finished tour as well as to get answers on the band's future aspects. So here we are! Please read on and enjoy every inch of it!

You've recently finished Balkans Assassination tour along with such killer bands as Krisiun, Incantation and Inactive Messiah. Tell us in details how was to visit all those countries and their fans with your kind of energetic deathrash musick? Name us the most memorable shows of the tour and why were they so special to you.

Zdenka: The tour was a killer experience! We were received very well by the fans of these Balkan countries, and we all hope to return very soon. We were "new" to the ears of most of the people, but I think we won them over with our sound, which is really cool indeed! It's great to know that there are still many metalheads who support real death metal!

For us, I believe the most intense show was in Macedonia. The metalheads in this country were insane and the energy was electrifying. It seemed like they had already been introduced to Estuary & were waiting for us! The response was great & I really loved the show, it was insane! But honestly, every concert on the tour is really memorable in its own unique way... It was really cool to meet you in Budapest. Romania & Slovakia were really killer also, good energy from the fans.



For me this tour will always be remembered. I think very much on a personal level we were able to connect with the fans and supporters who were there raising hell with us. That's the best feeling... to connect and being a part of that energy in that moment. And of course, hahaha it was special, because we were actually able to be on a "real" tour bus.

Another question connected to the tour. How was to share the stage with mighty Incantation and Brazilian demons of Krisiun? Any funny or strange road and/or backstage stories you would like to share with the readers?

Zdenka: It was killer of course! We've known both bands as friends for some time now, so it's always a pleasure to play with them & to hang out. We had the honor of opening up the night for some great bands and got everyone ready for the massacre.

Funny stories, hmmm? We did almost leave somebody in Greece, hahaha! But it's a good

thing our tour manager did a head count before we hit the road.

There was a lot of good partying as usual, but things didn't get too out of control. Everyone was actually really responsible and we celebrated the moment and experience as any metal friends would do in a gathering haha! Being in Europe, you have to take advantage of all the good kinds of beer & vodka, and Hrushka... Already miss these great liquid meals.



Your latest release "The Craft of Contradiction" (2006) compared to its predecessor "To Exist and Endure" (2004) displays a more thrash-influenced attitude and even more melodies so to say. Was it a conscious decision to compose new stuff in that way? Will the forthcoming release combine even more thrash metal elements and harmonies in general?

Ash: To me, the last album was a completely natural progression from the 1st. It seems more thrash-tinged, but it wasn't a conscious decision. In Estuary, we really try to not label the "next" album in just one category. Our music will always be firstly dark death metal, with thrash elements and melodies of heavy metal. That's what we like to write.

The 1st album also had a heavy dose of thrash, but perhaps industry labeling and promoting descriptions have influenced people's pre-conceived notion of what "The Craft of Contradiction" will sound like. We don't want to keep re-writing the same kind of riffs or follow an arrangement rule, you know. Our music will have a similar sound, because the core of Estuary is us, but we will try to shape it differently in the original Estuary way.

I have noticed nowadays people are starting to label the new thrash movement a trend, but I must stress that we don't fall into this category at all.

We've all grown up on thrash & have naturally let its influence flow over into our work.

As far as the next album, it is coming along in a very dark way. I'm really excited about the new material, it's very aggressive & haunting at the same time. I think it will be a more savage sounding album.

Both your albums were released by John McEntee's label called Ibx Moon Records. Tell us more about your co-operation. How is to work with John and what kind of contract you signed with him?

Ash: Our relationship with John has always been good. We both try to help each other out as much as possible, which is good. He's very much in the same boat we are, with trying to establish himself (label), etc. It can be a difficult task amongst the industry, but one must fight on and keep true to one's self.

How was to play with Jack Owen on your recent tour? Was really strange to see him playing 4 strings instead of 6, ha-ha... How did you pick him up for this tour and who will fill in his position in the future?



Zdenka: It ruled playing with Jack! He did a fantastic job, & we cannot thank him enough for helping us do this tour. He is an unbelievably humble person, and a dear friend to me. Anyways, I called him up one day after seeing him on the last Deicide tour (in the US), and half-jokingly I asked if he was into doing the Balkans tour with us. He was free at the time and was interested in visiting new countries. So, just like that he was more than happy taking place with the 4-string attack. When I told the rest of my brothers in the band, we were all naturally surprised!

We had a lot of fun... He had to rough it a bit more than his past tours I think, but was a real trooper. It was great to have him on board and we send much respect to him for being the way he is... Imagine, after slaying so many years in the death metal scene!

Unfortunately, we have no permanent replacement at the moment... But we'll see.

Earlier the band's name was Estuary of Calamity, but later on it shrunk onto the first word. What symbolizes the name Estuary for you? Whose idea was to name such way the band?

Ash: They are actually two separate and very different bands. The only relation between E.O.C. & Estuary is myself and our drummer Jesse, because we've been playing together for the past 14 years...

When we decided to form this band, Zdenka actually suggested we keep it as just Estuary and it just felt right with everyone, so we all agreed. We thought the name fit really well with the material and our vision within us for the band.



All of you have been playing in different bands quite a while; in a word you are rather experienced musicians. How was to play in Garden of Shadows for example?

Zdenka: Yes, we've all been around for some time and the grey hairs are starting to show it, hahaha! For me playing in Garden of Shadows was a tremendous honor. Both guitar players have been great friends of mine, and before joining them on stage as their vocalist I was a huge fan of their music... still am actually. I use to drive with them to out of town concerts all the time, and they use to come out to watch my old band (Forty Days Longing), which they originally encouraged me to join.

To me they were an amazing band for sure. When I was able to be part of that element I could not believe it. It is a very fond & especial memory for me to have had the opportunity to share and experience the stage, with Garden of Shadows. Wonderful people and extremely talented individuals.



For Ash I think is also, it was a very good experience. He and I had many of the same mutual friends in the scene. He came into the picture when he agreed to be a session bassist for G.O.S. for a tour that unfortunately did not happen in the end. He was also and still is a big fan of their music.

I know pretty well that you're all big fans of old-school death, thrash & heavy metal bands.

Anyway, please name us all those bands who have influenced you in one or other way as well as what kind of bands do you listen to lately. Please list your ultimate bands of all time as well as Top 10 albums of all time.

Maiden, Priest, Slayer, Metallica, Coroner, Kreator, Autopsy, Death, Pestilence, King Diamond/Mercyful Fate, Sindrome, Desultory, Voivod, Entombed, Morbid Angel, Sodom... The list is endless.

You are from Cincinnati. How's the metal scene over there? Do you play often there? Please recommend us some worth to check out bands from your region.

Ash: The scene is lame as fuck here. We rarely play here because of that, but we do have to send big "thanks" to our friends and fans that do come out to see us when we do play in our home town. Normally at least when we do play here, we do have quite a few people attending showing their support.



Most of the best bands are from up north in Ohio... in Cleveland. Some cool bands and our friends are like the mighty Nunslaughter, Soulless, Crucified Mortals, Embalmer, Decrepit, Acheron (Columbus-Ohio).

Now speaking about your secret weapon namely Zdenka. There are really just a few female growlers around the underground globe. How did you hook up with her? Is there any story behind it? She's growling in a rather brutal & bloodthirsty way I would say.

Ash: Yeah, Zdenka is pretty amazing and brutal as hell at the same time. Completely organic in her abilities and I think people notice & respect that when they see us live in action or check out the albums.



The way we met Zdenka was... I actually had met her back during her Garden of Shadows days, we had mutual friends and knew some people in the underground. I had originally met her back in '98 in Pennsylvania when she drove out to a show with G.O.S. to see them and my band, because both bands were playing a gig together. We stayed

in close contact. Later around 1999-2000 I was a session bassist for Garden of Shadows, and that time Zdenka was their front vocalist.

What are you doing in your free-time besides playing in the band (jobs, hobbies, interests, etc.)?

Ash: Music has always been & will always be my main interest & hobby. I work a full-time job at a printing company.



Zdenka enjoys music more than anything and is interested in traveling, nature and meditation. She works as a project coordinator for a home improvement company.

Jesse besides enjoying music as well, likes traveling & exploring as other hobbies. He works for a sound production company.

...For each of us music and other music related activities is definitely what we enjoy the most and interests us. It sucks having to do these jobs instead of playing as we would all prefer to do with our time... but we have to do what we have to do to maintain our priority as musicians.

Please enlighten us your plans for 2008.

Our main goal is to play as much as possible & everywhere we possibly can... Finish writing the next album and return once again to the studio for some more extraneous work... and then get back out there and play/tour some more & more...

Finally, send your thrash-tinged hails and death-metal-laced wishes to all the Ukrainian Estuary fans and finish the interview in the way you feel it should be. Thank you very much for taking the time to answer my questions!



We thank you Cornelius for your patience with the interview and for giving us such killer support! It was great to meet you and very cool to share some beers together in Budapest! We enjoyed checking out your band Castrum! Hell yeah! Keep raising hell! Thanks again for the awesome mini DVD you made for us... We appreciate it very much!

To all the Ukrainian fans & maniacs, we send you some punishing death metal hails! All the best to everyone & we hope to play for you soon! Thanks always for the fucking support! We are all enduring 'til death!!

OK, this was definitely a hyperfast communication with bassist Otto from Czech grindcore squad Needful Things. We've completed this interview just as fast as grindcore music is!!! They will visit Ukraine in a few days so I thought it will be a cool idea to interview the band and to get all their latest infos. Well, below you can read the result! Hope it will be useful for most of us – underground inhabitants!!! Grind on!!!

Hi Otto, in a few days you will start a mini-tour over Ukraine. You've never been in Ukraine earlier so tell us what are your feelings at the moment?

- Hey cannot wait to be there. It will be the first time when we will be in Ukraine. I heard many good stories from different bands which toured your country. So I am curious. Hope it will be good.



NT has started back in 1995. Since that time you've released a few tape releases and lots of splits. Why did it take 10 years for you to release your first full-length CD?

- Yes, that's right. We had so many problems during our existence. Line-up changes, problems with practice rooms and we are too slow with writing new songs.

"Dead Point" was released in October 2005 by Czech Khaaranus Productions. Tell us more about your co-operation with Michal's label as well as the response to "Dead Point" so far.

- Michal was first and only who offered us to release our full-length CD. So we talked about it in the band and agreed to release it on his label. He organized a tour for us. It was near 2 years ago and we are satisfied with his promotional job and stuff about our records. We got so many good reviews from all over the world. Only good reviews. That's nice I think.

Does your band name have any connection with the same titled Stephen King film? If so, please tell us why did you choose it back then?

- Hey... Yes, it's the same name. Years ago we read this author's books a lot with our old singer so we decided to use this name as a bandname. I like that book and it's a good name for a band I think.

You are a 5-piece band actually. Why do you decided to use 2 bass guitars? It's pretty strange for a grindcore band, isn't it? Whose idea was to go on in such direction?

- It was in time when Tomas joined Needful Things. He played bass/vocals in Genital Gore and we wanted to play both bass and I think it was a good idea. So we played with 2 basses like 2 years till Michael left the band. From that time Tomas is only vocalist but still write songs.

Please tell us more about all the band-members (job, hobbies, projects, etc.). What do you like to do besides playing in NT?

- Roman and me have the same job. We are technicians of Electronic Fire Systems, CCTV and stuff like that. Hroch is worker, Tomas is auto-mechanic and David has small cigar store. And about our projects. Hroch plays/played in Waakuum (thrash/death), but now this band is defunct like 3 years, because singer

lives in Prague and guitarist is in UK and bassist was in UK too. And now he is back and they think about some project, but we will see what will happen. And I started a project with 3 guys from Say Why? and one from Lycanthrophy (one new fresh grindcore/fastcore project). We had 2 practices and we have 3 songs. Cannot wait to record it. We still haven't a band name. And we had with drummer from Say Why? and guitarist Robocop from Eardelete/NCC studio project Enemy Engine. It's more than 1 year back we recorded our 4 songs, but it's still without vocals. It's grindcore, for sure. But it looks like our last activity. We will see. We are busy with our bands enough. I think everybody in the band likes beer, joints and stuff like that, you know. We are usual people.

You've played in lots of countries so far. What country's scene/crowd did you like the best? What is the situation in the Czech grindcore scene nowadays? I mean, what promising or new bands can you recommend for us from your area?

- I think we have really good friends in Germany and France, but I think it's good to meet people from the whole world and it's good to play in every country in the world. Anywhere are good people you can talk with and that's why I like playing in the band. I think new good bands are Rubufaso Mukufo, Say Why?, Lahar, Ruce Po Obrne, but I think we haven't so many new pure grindcore bands. It's not a trend now and that's good I think.

"Dead Point" includes a cover song of Napalm Death, namely "Lowpoint" from their "Inside the Torn Apart" album (1997). It's a cool song, but why did you choose exactly that track instead of some really old one? Any special reason for it?

- Yes, our drummer loves this song and it's only one reason why we recorded right this song.

In 2006 "Dead Point" has been also out in vinyl format through the co-operation of 2 labels, namely Psychotherapy and Out of Control Records. And as I know there were some other labels involved in this release too. What should we know about this special release? Any difference between it and the CD version?

- Yes, it has different cover artwork only. Play list is the same as on CD and it was a co-operation of 4 labels. Psychocontrol Records, Nightmare Records (Czech), Power It Up Records and Tower Violence Headfakka Records both are from Germany. And I think it has better sound than is on CD. Maybe it's because I love vinyls.

Question connecting to vinyl releases. Most of the underground bands, especially grindcore ones have a big amount of 7" vinyl releases. What do you think about this type of format and could you answer the question, why is it so popular to release a split 7" lately?

- I don't know why is so popular. I am collector from time when I was 18 years old. It's nice to get good made vinyl. I love color vinyls. And not only grindcore bands release vinyls. I think crust, punk, hardcore bands release it too. *(Of corpse, I meant just the overwhelmed popularity of making splits amongst the beforehand mentioned kind of styles and their representatives - Ed.)*

What split releases are ahead for NT? Please name us all those forthcoming splits and details about the participating bands.

- OK. In December 2007 we recorded new songs for upcoming split 7" EPs with these bands. Sewn Shut from Sweden. They play grindcore for sure. We were on tour in 2004 together and we talked about some split. And it will be out in USA I hope. It's not sure yet. Another one is split with Pretty Little Flower from USA. They play grindcore too and it will be out during this summer at Rescued from Life Records I hope. About this split 7" EP we talked with Clay RFL Records like 1 or 2 years ago. After we released our LP: He likes our music so he offered us to release this split. And third one will be with Elysium, I hope, from France. I still wait for answer if we will release it this summer too or

later this year. We will participate on Play Fast or Don't comp LP of Czech extreme hardcore, grindcore bands as Gride, Lahar, Lycanthrophy, Say Why? and tons of others. And this year we wanna record and release split 5" with Lycanthrophy. It's Ondra's band and we have Psychocontrol Records together too.

Are you collecting vinyl releases? Please list us your beloved ones as well as what kind of music/bands do you listen to actually?

- Hey, yes I am a collector. Not eBay maniac, but I collect 7" EPs more than LPs. I have all GBN 7" EPs and RGTE most of them, Warsore. Nasum, Gut old ones, Senseless Apocalypse, Disrupt 7" EP, Hatred Surge. Cannot mention all what I have, it's long list I think, but actually I collect vinyls like 14 years or so. So you can find some nice pieces of good records in my collection. I usually listen to grindcore, crust, thrash. Magrudergrind, Sayyadina, Nasum, Napalm Death, Suppression and tons of others and sometime Suffocation. I really love this band.

Do you have in your collection any Ukrainian grindcore releases? If so, please name us them and tell us your opinion about our grindcore bands and scene in general.

- I think I haven't vinyls from Ukraine and I must tell you that I don't know your scene very well. Can you recommend me some good bands??? *(Sure, check out the following great grind acts: Epicrise, Vulvulator, Ebanath, Painful Defloration, Vaginal Icecream and Necrocannibalistic Vomitorium just to name a few - Ed.)*

In 2005 you've played on the best, biggest and sickest festival on the earth, called Obscene Extreme. What are your impressions from that festival and your appearance? Do you plan to play there again? Are you going to visit it this year personally? What do you think about this year's line-up?

- We played 3 times at OEF. Curby is my good friend. We live near each other and we know each other like 14 years. Maybe a little bit longer, I am not sure. He is really good organizer and he has a good team which helps him. And I hope we will play there in the future. If you want us, you must write to Curby, he is the director.



OK, that's all I had at the moment in my mind. Please finish the interview by sending your needful words to all the Ukrainian NT and grindcore fans and don't forget to enlighten us when should we expect the next full-length release from NT.

- Thanks for this fast interview. I hope we will meet at our mini Ukraine grindcore tour, which will be blast I hope. I hope you will enjoy our concerts. And I hope we will record and release second full-length this year – 2008. I think end of this year is possible. I hope... Later, Otto.

Killchain is a very promising death metal quintet hailing from Slovakia. The band has just finished its first European tour and currently preparing new material for their second album. So I thought it's really time to ask some questions about the past, present and future of the band. Kubo (drummer) was the one who reacted onto my questions. Have a nice reading and discover the chain of this Slovakian killmachine!!!

Hi Kubo! How are you lately? You've just returned from your 2-week European tour. How was it? Tell us in details which countries you visited as well as what places you liked the most?

- Hi Cornelius. Thanks. We're all just fine. Yes, you are right, we have just returned from our European tour with Dementor. The tour was awesome and probably because it was our first one ☺. What about the countries we have played in: the tour started in Wroclaw in Poland from where we went to Germany.



There we have had 3 shows – in Rhauderfehn, Berlin and Lautern. Then we have moved to the France with another 3 evenings in Lyon, Marseille and Toulouse, where we've really liked it. All the people over there were very nice and the shows were cool. The tour continued through Spanish cities Valladolid, Vigo, Barcelona and Portuguese Braga. These concerts were probably the best of all on the tour. The people over there literally live on metal music. We have been returning back to Slovakia through Zurich in Switzerland and Austrian Koblach, where we have finished our journey. So overall it was wonderful and I would like to thank to everyone engaged.

As we know Gabi was busy with his studies, so you had to find a replacement for the tour. Who was your vocalist on this tour?

- Exactly. Our vocalist Gabi was busy studying what was the cause of his absence on the tour. His role was taken by our friend Lukas, who have managed it perfectly even if he has had only less than 2 months to prepare. After a few shows of practice he was able to make a real hell on the stage in metal way if you know what I mean. ☺

You went on tour along with your mates from Dementor. How was to tour with them? Maybe you have some unordinary road stories happened during these 2 weeks, haven't you?

- Playing with Dementor was superb; they are cool guys and perfect musicians. It was noticeable that they have lots of experience. What about some tour stories, well there were a lot of experiences through, but for me personally it was march of Real Madrid football fans after a derby with Barcelona. That was pretty tough. We have also funny stories, but that is for a longer talk.



Do you play often abroad? What is the fans' reaction on your music over there?

- As I have already mentioned, this was our first official tour, but we have made some small concerts abroad in the past. People's response was definitely positive of what evidence is our merchandise sell.

It was sold out. People had good fun on and off the stage what made us feel good.

You are a band consisting of experienced musicians. I mean most of you played or still playing in other bands besides Killchain, e.g. Rasto played in Phantasma & Infer, Martin played in Infer too, Gabi plays in Obliterate & Thorwald, Frenky were involved earlier in Perversity, Infer & Dementor and you played in Defender and still playing in Ownbliss. So the question rises about how did you hook up and form Killchain at the end of 2005? Whose idea was to form it? Tell us the creation of the band in details.

- Our band was established by me and Frenky in 2005. We have known each other couple of years before and we have played together from time to time until we decided to make something serious. And so Killchain was born. Guitarist Martin have joined us right after and in this line-up we have made our first songs. After a short time Gabi came over and took position of vocalist and then Rasto on the end as a bass player. In this line-up we play till today. For all of us it was definitely a good experience to play in our previous bands. We can tell we have learned to control our instruments at least ☺. We understand each other from musician side as well as from human one, which is very good for our band's wellness.

Your debut album "One More Victim" was out in 2007 by German Maintain Records. As for me, the album sounds pretty tough and your songs are catchy. But tell the readers about your co-operation with Maintain Records as well as how, where and when did you record this album?

- The album "One More Victim" was recorded in November 2006 in Martin Barlu Studio in Poprad, Slovakia. There it was also mixed and mastered. We went into the studio ready, we knew exactly what we want. The co-operation with Mr. Martin Barlo was excellent, he knew exactly how to find the right roughness and toughness we need. By searching for a publisher we have got a few choices to choose, but Maintain Records came with the best offer so that's why we have signed for them straight away. We are satisfied with their co-operation so far, they have made an excellent job for us and we are very thankful for that.

Do you have some new songs ready? Will they be in the same way as the songs of "One More Victim" album? If no, please tell us the difference between them. Also name us who composes the music in the band or it's a teamwork in general. When and where do you wish to record your follow-up? Will it be again released by Maintain Records?

- The new album is almost finished. Some of the new songs were played on the tour, we wanted to see the response and it was ace! From my point of view the new record is more aggressive, tougher, rougher, songs are full of energy, which makes me flesh creep sometimes. We'll see how it will sound on the new album. We are planning to go back in the same studio at the beginning of September. Songs are composed by Frenky and all other arrangements we do together. Comparing with the first album our second guitarist Martin now started to get involved into composing, which makes our songs richly. After hearing the new song "Wall of Buried Soul", Maintain Records have agreed to further co-operation.

At the beginning of this year, you had 2 gigs in Ukraine as well. How did you like those gigs? Tell us your impressions about people in Ukraine and its metal fans in general.

- It was a pleasure to play in Ukraine. The concerts were managed perfectly in all respects and the attendance was also great. Generally, Ukraine is one of the few countries, where the attendance of the concerts so huge, even if it's not about some famous band. There are great people, they can have fun and it's really pleasure to play for them. I hope that we will visit

Ukraine once again on some mini-tour soon.

An ordinary question. What bands influenced you to become a drummer and what drummers are your beloved ones? How long do you play drums? Any tips & tricks you would like to share with beginner drummers?

- I am not playing on drums very long. Actually I have started to play too late. My first instrument was guitar. Later I have switched to bass guitar. Then when we were establishing our first band as young guys we've realized that we need a drummer more than a bass guitar to play metal music. So I have tried it, I've enjoyed it and here I am 6 or 7 years after. It is not a long time, but I have to confess I am practicing honestly every single day.



There are many of my favorite bands and drummers, but I have to mention names like Gene Hoglan – ex drummer of Death, Strapping Young Lad, Dark Angel... Recently is appealing to me Shannón Lucas from The Black Dahlia Murder and Adam Jarvis from Misery Index. I cannot forget on Dave Lombardo, Pete Sandoval, Donald Tardy... I am just a beginner and I have got still much to learn, but the only one advice I can give you guys is: Practice! Practice! Practice!

Do you plan to record for your new album any cover song? If so, what band's song can we expect there?

- No, there won't be any cover song on the new album. We do cover songs from Obituary or Bolt Thrower only at the concerts and usually just as bonus tracks.

If there would be a chance to select from any of your favorite bands to play with on your upcoming tour, who would they be? In a word, how should your dream-tour look like?

- Wow this is a good question. It's hard to say, because each of us like different bands and have got favorite ones. Personally I would choose The Black Dahlia Murder or Misery Index. These are my favorite ones at the moment. We are a modest band, we'd like to play anywhere with anyone, we don't see differences between the bands. Metal is Metal.



At the end, please send a chain of words to all the Ukrainian Killchain fans and add your plans or anything else that you think I might forget to ask from you during this conversation.

- First of all I would like to thank you Cornelius for this great interview. Also I would like to greet all Ukrainian metal Killchain fans. You're the best! I am looking forward to see you at the Metal Heads' Mission Fest. Thanks again!

HOLY MOSES

Another dream came true with this Holy Moses interview. I was honored by the phone call of Sabina Classen herself on the 9th of June, 2008. It was my first phone interview so I was a little bit hectic, ha-ha... But right after the first seconds I've realized that everything is going rather smoothly, because Sabina is a hell of a great yet charismatic person and likes to talk a lot. Below you have the result of our almost 25 minutes long conversation. Enjoy every inch of it! Thrash 'til death!!!

“Agony of Death (Todeskampf)” is the title of the forthcoming Holy Moses album.

- Yes, that's right!

Please tell us why did you change the previously announced “Bloodbound” title. What symbolizes the new title for you? Is there any special meaning behind it?

- The “Bloodbound” title was only that we had a name before we started recording. Our fanclub is named “Bloodbound Alliance” and so we said OK, we wanna do a bloodbound thing, so this was the reason why we said in the pre-production of the album, we name it “Bloodbound”, but this was only for the pre-production. And during I was writing the lyrics I could see that what the bloodbound means to me, because it's the agony of death what we are doing, we have an agony of death in our whole life and also we have agony of death, which helps Holy Moses with the bloodbound to still be in the business. And so we said “Agony of Death” to say for everybody is a better name and you can't say that the bloodbound is something like an under title, because the bloodbound helps to fight against the agony of death, he-he-he...

On the new album you are dealing with some melodies/harmonies between the growls. Is it kind of experiment from your side or the structures of the new songs needed them to be involved?

- Oh, this is a good question. I mean, I always did and try to do to put some harmonize in my voice. I also did this already on the “Finished with the Dogs” album. I did it on the “Terminal Terror” album also. And with my old band, the other one – Temple of the Absurd, I've always was trying to put something into my voice. And this time it fits totally to the music we wrote, because we have some more things, what's going really deep into your soul and to put a little kind of harmony into it is always good but it's not too much, because I like to growl and this is my typical voice, but I think all aspects of my voice is a kind of harmony, a kind of hysterical aggressive higher crying and my deep growls. So now everything will be in the album, because a lot of fans told me – Oh, Sabina, please sing like on the “Finished with the Dogs”, please sing like on “The New Machine of Liechtenstein” – and I said everything is always like a movement of my soul, how I can sing. But now all the music is between all the other stuff what we ever did and it's a new kind of aggression and power in Holy Moses. So I had the possibility to use all my voices rejoin in my body. And so we also have some harmonies, but not too much, so I am not going in to be a power metal singer, he-he-he-he... So it's typical Sabina and I think more typical than ever, because it's all kind of colors of my voice are now in the new album.

By the way, how many songs will include the new masterpiece?

- It will be 12 songs, it's more than 80 minutes, the whole album. So we did a really full production and I think everybody can really be happy, because it's a really long album and value for money.

The new album will be released in September 2008 by Wacken Records/SPV. How do they treat Holy Moses compared to your previous labels?

What was bad with Armageddon Music and Century Media?

- OK. Armageddon Music is Wacken Records. So we didn't change the label. The only name, it's still behind the Armageddon Music company, but it's now the mark, it's Wacken Records. And we only changed the distributor with the record company. So because we were distributed with Soulfood in Europe and especially in Germany and now it's SPV worldwide. And it's great for us, I mean it's a lot of power what we're getting now with SPV also and it's a great step I think with changing the distributor here, but we didn't change the record label. So Wacken Records is Armageddon Music, ha-ha-ha...



You are already confirmed for this year's Wacken Open Air festival. It's the biggest metal festival on the globe. Tell us your impressions about past appearances. Are you preparing some special show and setlist for it?

- OK, that is 3 questions in 1, he-he-he... First, Wacken is always a huge party. I mean, we played already in 1995 the first time at Wacken. So we saw the festival growing really and we were a part of this growing festival. And this is a really great feeling for me, because now to see that so many people are coming to Wacken and celebrate a huge party this is always a special moment. I mean, so many metal fans from all over the world together and I think this is special. Mostly on the biggest festivals in Germany not so many people from foreign countries are coming and in Wacken the focus is we have a metal party from all metal fans from all over the world. I mean the people coming from Australia, from South America, from the USA, from everywhere in Europe and I think this is a perfect thing. And yes, the second question. We will put there a special show. We have 45 minutes. So it's not so much. It's always hard for a band like us with 12 albums to choose the right playlist. But we will do it. In the next days we are e-mail and in forums that we wanna discuss with our fans, which songs they wanna hear live from us and on top we will play 2 new songs from the new album. And we have a special thing also what we wanna do, but I will say not now, ha-ha-ha... That will be a surprise. And yeah this is the playlist, we will let decide the fans.

Let's talk about the actual line-up. Michael earlier played in Erosion. It was a thrash metal yet hardcore-oriented band. His first album with Holy Moses was “Strength, Power, Will, Passion”

in 2005. How did you find him back then? Was it due to his work in Erosion?

- Yeah, I was finding Michael, it was like a special thing. I was coming back with “Disorder of the Order” album in 2002 from the studio and he was in the studio here in my house with Erosion, ha-ha-ha... And he was really nervous, he wanted to listen to the new Holy Moses thing that was the “Disorder of the Order” one. And he liked it a lot and he said: “Sabina if you ever need a guitar player you can always phone me”. And only 2 months later that was April and 2 months later in June 2002 I have to phone him and said: “Yes, you remember what you said to me? I need a guitar player”. And he said directly: “Yes”. And so he is here in the band since the “Disorder of the Order” tour and he is really into the band. I mean, Erosion was a lot the same kind of mix between thrash and hardcore like Holy Moses did and he was directly familiar to the music of Holy Moses, he was directly feeling Holy Moses and so he did the first real album with songwriting and production with the “Strength, Power, Will, Passion” and now he was writing most of the stuff also and he is the producer again of the album. And yeah, it's really great to have Michael in the band and yes, he's a real deep member.

Atomic Steiff also returned to the band. He played on the famous “Terminal Terror” album. How did you recruit him again?

- Yeah, it was Olly, our second guitar player, when we were searching, because we were always searching for the right drummer for Holy Moses. Everybody I've checked out was really young, they were playing well, but the feeling was not into thrash metal. And they were too young to feel it really. And they were doing it only to get success and not because of the music. And then Olly said so we will be going through all the ex-members and I was knowing that most of them are not playing anymore and then we were like: “Atomic Steiff! Let's phone him!”. And I phoned him and it's really curious, because in the '94 Steiff was dreaming that one of his ex-bands from the bigger ones will phone him and asking if he will play again. And there were only 2 possibilities – Sodom or Holy Moses. And I was on his answer machine and for him was in this moment clear that is my dream. And he phoned me back and he only said on the phone “Yes”, ha-ha-ha... And so I was feeling yeah that's the right thing, so that must be right.

Oliver Jaath has taken over bass duties through your recent tours and gigs, but now he became your second guitar player. He already recorded his guitar parts for the new album, right? How was to work with him now as a guitarist?

- It's perfect because he's also playing the guitar in records tight. So his normal instrument was the guitar. And the only problem was, because I was knowing him such a long time and we were a good focused band to find the right second guitar player or a new bass player. And when we were talking to Thomas, he did our website, and then he explains of “I am a great bass player”. And we said: “Hmm”. That's my opinion/idea, he's a really nice person, because he does really important for us also to have a great character in the band. And yeah, we said: “Do you know the Holy Moses songs?” and he said: “Yes! I am younger

than you all, but I have all Holy Moses albums, I love the band, I know every song". And we said: "Let's try!". So we rehearsed only 2 times and then we were flying directly to Oslo (Norway) and we played our first show together a few weeks ago. So that was a reason why Olly changed back to the guitar, what is his normal instrument, and then we have Thomas in the band.

Thomas Neitsch is the new bass player. What should we know about him?

- He was playing and still playing in a great band from Berlin called Desilence. He's young, he's like 26 years old, but he is a real thrasher. And when we are on stage and together so I don't feel that he is 26. I mean, he has a much older character, he knows a lot and he's a player. Sometimes when I look on the stage, like last time in Oslo and I saw the pictures and I said: "Oh, my god, he's looking like Cliff Burton", ha-ha-ha... So it's a reincarnation maybe from Cliff Burton...

In 2006 you've played in Ukraine at "Metal Heads' Mission-7" Open Air Festival. What are your memories/thoughts from that show and did you like the atmosphere of MHM itself?

- Oh, yeah. It was wonderful. I remember it was totally hot. It was at the beach. It was sold out. I was feeling like playing in Slayer, because 3-4 bands before we started to play I've heard already the crowd calling Holy Moses, Holy Moses... It was a nice city. I mean, there was like a, I don't know, like a, from the feeling at the beach and all the people like the tourist center it was like if you go here somewhere to Mallorca, Ibiza, ha-ha... It was great! I mean, I really would like to go back. Great fans, great atmosphere, great organization, a lot of great things to drink, he-he-he... Great food. Yeah, it was wonderful. So I really hope that we can come back to Ukraine.

"Strength, Power, Will, Passion" included a hidden bonus track with Tom Angelripper on guest vocals. It's a funny track. Please enlighten us some details about this collaboration.

- Tom Angelripper is a longtime friend of mine. I mean, we know each other now more than 20 years and I was singing on his Onkel Tom albums and so I've said song like this, like a typical German schlager song, what you only can listen to when you drunk, ha-ha-ha, because it's a funny idea, only person who can do this with me together is Tom. Yeah, I did one phone call and said: "Hey Tom, I have a song on the album, so we have to sing it together" and he said: "Yeah", directly "Yes". When he is getting the idea about the song, which one will it be, he said directly: "Yes, we will do it".

Also voice your opinion about the latest releases of Sodom as well as other German thrash metal acts such as Kreator, Destruction, Tankard or Headhunter just to name a few. Which one impressed you the best and why?

- Ah, this is hard, because they're all my friends, ha-ha-ha-ha... And I can't say now which one is the best, because they wanna kill me, ha-ha-ha...

Do Holy Moses have in plans to release an official DVD shortly? If so, please tell us when and what kind of program can we expect on it. Do you ever thought to release or re-release/re-master some old and rare concerts and video clips in a DVD format?

- Yes. We are in the plans, but now we have first to finish the new album "Agony of Death". But when we are back from tours. So we will start the tour end of September, next European tour, then after we are back we start, because we wanna do a kind of historical DVD, which all the old albums, old live stuff all we have here we collected in the last nearly 30 years such a lot of things. But I think the main thing will also be from the new Wacken Open Air 2008. We will do things from our 21st anniversary party and we will record new stuff now when we are on tour in the end of September. So I think you will get like a really huge thing that we will release next year.

In January/February you had a European tour

with death metal monsters Obituary. Tell us briefly how this tour was and were there any funny or just nice to remember stories during it.

- Oh yes. We had a lot of nice things. Because, they're really good friends of us now, Obituary. We did a lot of nice party, he-he... But all these things there, what happened, so it's more private things between the bands, he-he-he... I mean if it has to match it some. Yeah, I mean, a lot of things happening in the night, in the nightliner, we are all together making party. So it's not so good to tell everything, ha-ha-ha...

How the guys of Obituary treated you plus tell us your opinion about their latest album "Xecutioner's Return" as well as what is your beloved Obituary album from their entire discography.

- Oh, I don't know. I mean, I really like the first stuff of them and so the new one, I've got listened on the tour and I like it also, but I am always a fan, so I like really the first and second one of Obituary. But they've played a really good mix live from all the albums and so I really loved to see this band live, because it's a mix of everything.



How did you like the show in Budapest on the A38 boat? Did you play earlier at other strange or I would say unordinary places/venues?

- This is a very strange and great venue. I mean, I couldn't believe when I saw the ship and I was looking always, but where is the venue, ha-ha... No, it's on the ship. OK. A great ship, I mean, at first was in fear that I maybe when I am on stage that I feared that there is water, ha-ha-ha-ha... under my feet. But it was like a normal club when you played. That the surrounding in the ship, great catering, so nice people there. Yeah, that was a special experience.

Will you prepare a video clip for a particular song out of the "Agony of Death" album? If so, please name us this song as well as the story behind it.

- We don't know like now. We will do a video definitely, but we are still in the mix of the album and we will decide together with the record company and also with our fan club. The fan club got already some tunes and they will building up already ideas, ha-ha... and so we will see, but this decision is not their, it's too early. I mean, we will be ready with the album in 2 weeks and when we are ready then we will start to think about the video clip and the ideas behind.

Nowadays more and more people, bands, record labels, magazines, etc. using the growing services of MySpace! In my opinion it's an awesome opportunity to get known better and meet interesting people on the net, who might not be found otherwise. It makes people really close, sometimes you even get a "big family" feeling. How do you feel about MySpace and its possibilities?

- The possibilities are amazing. And I feel really good with it, because we are meeting a lot of fans there. And we are now since 2 years on MySpace and I see we have now more than 250000 people on our site. And I am getting amazing e-mails through MySpace about people finding out about Holy Moses. And I think without MySpace these people were never knowing about Holy Moses, because promotion is so expensive if you do it with advertisings and so we don't have those moneys to do that, but with MySpace all the people can listen directly to the songs, you can meet fans. I could see that when we played on the tour with Obituary there

everybody was knowing the "End of Time" song, because it's a video on the site. Yeah, I think it's a great opportunity for bands, to be working in the underground and being now for more people it's a great situation.

A personal question. Michael became your husband for almost 2 years now (if my information's rightful). How is your family life going? Any plans to widen it with children? Or at the moment Holy Moses is the main priority for both of you?

- Yes, this children is the most important one, ha-ha-ha-ha... This is my children, yeah. And the bad thing it's not growing, ha-ha-ha-ha... It's still a kid we have to work on.

What newcomer bands/albums impressed you lately from the up and coming mass in the underground? Do you prefer to listen to some new stuff or you better stick to the good old-school bands and their albums in general?

- Um. It's a mix, because I also work for Wacken Records and I am listening to a lot of new bands. Like now we signed Torture Squad from Brazil, a really great newcomer thrash band. So I am listening to the good old stuff, especially when I am relaxing myself, but all the day I working into the music business, especially because of MySpace I am getting so many e-mails from bands from MySpace. And I am listening to everything. So I think I am in everything. But when I'm relaxing in my own apartment then I am listening to the good old stuff. Like only a few days ago I was live at KISS. KISS played live in Hamburg and it was amazing, ha-ha-ha...

Do any of you still have jobs besides the band? If so, what kind of work do you pursue and is it enough interesting for you, I mean, compared to playing live and recording albums with the band. Would you change anything in the future regarding it?

- Yes, I am working for Wacken Records also in the time when I can't be on tour with Holy Moses. Michael is a producer. So he is producing all the bands, making DVDs and stuff like that. Olly has also a little job behind Holy Moses. Thomas is working as a graphic, I also. But we all have our time to do the Holy Moses thing and working on our jobs when we have free with Holy Moses, because we need to earn money in that time, he-he... And to pay our rents, so when we are not on tour we have to do other jobs. But I mean, the best is to be on stage, producing albums and getting the money to live and getting all paid our rents with doing the music. And yeah, I mean this a dream of every musician, and we try to do it mostly being on tour with Holy Moses as much we can do.

Please share with us your five-year plan or at least what can we expect from Holy Moses in the very near future.

- Yeah, very near future is finishing the album. Then we will bring on MySpace the first audio files. Then starting to make the video. Rehearsing for Wacken Open Air. Then rehearsing for the next tour, because end of September will be the release of the new album we will be on a new European tour. When we are back from this European tour we start with the DVD and also going to the United States, to South America, to Japan and hopefully Australia the first time. So the next months will be really busy and I think we will not so much at home.

Thank you, Sabina, for taking the time to answer my questions. Please finish the interview by sending your blood-bounded wishes to all the Ukrainian Holy Moses fans.

- Yeah! Hello all my Ukrainian fans. Thank you very much for joining us 2 years ago at the festival. And I hope I will come back with Holy Moses to you. Thank you all for the bloodbound and your great support all over the years. Thanks! And buy the new album "Agony of Death"!

Thank you for the interview. That's all I had.

- Thank you very much!

This Italian death metal machinery shocked pretty well the spheres of the underground with their masterful debut album called "Oracles". The ingenious mix between different musical styles made this album simply mind-blowing and extraordinary! The band actually is in full speed ahead mode, so I've thought it's the right time to ask the guys to share their latest news with us. The answers were transported by Paolo Rossi (vocals/bass), but for a few moments Cristiano Trionfera (guitar/vocals) also joined in. Enjoy this apocalyptic conversation and stay tuned for their next release!

Fleshgod Apocalypse appeared nearly 3 years ago and despite this short period of time you managed to release a promo (2007), a split (2008) and the debut album "Oracles" (2009), which is definitely a huge phenomenon, and also took part in numerous tours with colleagues from the very first row. Tell us what is the key to your success? And would you please draw conclusions from these past years?

Paolo: Hi Cornelius! First of all, thank you for the interview and support! The key to our success? Perseverance, indeed. These years have been very difficult for us, many line-up changes, problems with labels, losing jobs, shit like that. You have to be very focused on your goal if you wanna leave behind these obstacles. Then you start reaching something concrete, but you have to realize that's just the beginning and you have many other mountains to climb! Ehheh!

"Oracles" made a huge boom in the underground not just with its well-guessed formula between brutality and classical music, but with the sheer aggression, complexity, precision and hyper speeds beyond belief. Tell us what inspired you to create such an awesome musical combination plus which classical composers as well as bands from the metal spheres had a big impact on the musical aspects of Fleshgod Apocalypse?

Paolo: All we wanna do is to create the feeling of an eternal apocalypse! What's better than the death metal aggressiveness and the dramatic aspect of classical music? For sure we like bands like Nile, Behemoth, At the Gates, Vader, as well as Beethoven, Bach, Wagner among many others! A freaking mixture of all of them sounds crazy, isn't it? But it worked well till now, so we'll continue exploring this combination.



I have to admit "Oracles" has got a massive and totally devastating sound production! You've recorded it at 16th Cellar Studio under the supervision of Stefano "Saul" Morabito. Tell us how many weeks it took to record the album there and was it hard to achieve the final result? Can we expect your collaboration with Saul for the 2nd full-length as well?

Paolo: Yeah, Saul did a great job, as usual! It's a friend and a great worker, so it took just one month to record and to produce the album! It's been not so easy to reach the final product, 'cause there were many aspects about the general sound to take care, but we're very proud of the result. Yes, for sure we'll continue that collaboration; we're entering the 16th Cellar again in January to record a new EP!

Do you already have new songs written? Please tell us about the musical direction of your second album? Do you play those new songs live yet? If so, what is the fans' reaction on them?

Paolo: Of course we have! I don't know what will be the second album, but for sure I know about the EP we're going to record now! The new stuff is faster, much more epic and dramatic. We never played that songs till now. I think we're gonna do that during our next tour.

4th of July, 2009 I witnessed your live brutality in Debrecen (Hungary) during your tour along with God Dethroned and Sacramental Blood. It was simply amazing! How the hell can you be so precise and intense live as well? Any special warming up

rituals before the shows?

Paolo: No rituals man! I don't even warm up before the show! I know I should, but who cares? Ahaha! Just concentration and will to destroy all on stage!

Cristiano: Yes, I cherish my nuts for a while before goin' on stage.

Paolo: You shut up! You still have to learn playing!

Cristiano: Yes, I do!

Paolo: By the way, you perform great nuts-solos!
Cristiano: I'm the king of that kind of stuff!

After "Storming the Balkans" tour 2 more followed, namely "Funeral Nation" (with Marduk, Vader & The Ordher) and "Oracles UK-Eire" (with Skyfire & Ingested). You've visited quite a lot of countries with these 3 tours, tell us your impressions and which places you liked the most and why? Can you also tell us any funny or weird stories from these tours and how was to share the stage with the aforementioned bands?

Paolo: Every country we visited was fantastic, surely about different aspects, but everywhere the reaction of the fans was good, maybe I have to spend a special word for our friends in Ireland, great drinkers and great fans! Moreover, sharing the stage with such big bands it's been an honour for us, we learnt a lot of things just watching how they work simple things out, you know what I mean! Ehheh, many weird stories man, too much to talk about with few words!

Lyricaly you judge the false and blind faith movements of the religious streams we face today. In my opinion, religion kills individuality and vice versa. What do you think about this? Also tell us what inspires you to write such lyrics. What themes will you touch & incorporate for the next album?

Paolo: Usually when I write lyrics for our music I concentrate myself on all the aspects that tried to blind human mind in the whole history. And, you know, religion is a perfect way to control people. At the same time, I don't think we're gonna blame only religion on our next lyrics like we did on "Oracles". Next albums we'll surely talk about other "chains" that are still binding our minds.



I remember that on the "Storming the Balkans" tour you had to cancel the last gig in Romania, because some idiots didn't want to allow God Dethroned to play there. Did you ever have any similar problems towards Fleshgod Apocalypse? By the way, whose idea was to name the band such killer way and what did you mean exactly under these words?

Paolo: Such a shame man... I remember well! Actually we didn't have problems with our moniker till now! Anyway the name's idea is mine, and with these words I wanted to express the "apocalypse of the god of flesh", that's an ironic way to call all the human kind, destroyed by its own mistakes, like religion, slavery, superstitions.

Tommaso Riccardi became the fourth element for Fleshgod Apocalypse. What should we know about him besides he is an awesome guitar player & vocalist? Will his ideas get materialized on your second album as well?

Paolo: Tommaso is our new frontman, that's why he joined the band after Francesco switched behind the drumkit! I took care about that role just for the "Storming the Balkans" tour, because I knew all the lyrics and

he hadn't enough time to learn both guitar and vocals. Now he's totally focused on his role, and he will give us important contribution in writing sessions too!

Do you have daylight jobs or all of you totally concentrate on playing/touring with Fleshgod Apocalypse and with the rest of musical bands/projects you have?

Paolo: We had jobs, but, as I told you before, we had to quit due to the tours, so right now we're focused on the band. But, you know, it's obvious that everyone of us have always to search temporary works during the band's break-time periods (that are very unusual, indeed!) in order to earn some money. The band is still too underground to allow us not working anymore.

You are all skilled & experienced musicians, so it's pretty interesting for me how long it takes for you to compose a given song and does the skeleton of the song usually comes from Francesco's mind?

Paolo: Ahah! Right now Francesco's here with me blaspheming about the arrangement of a new song! He usually come out with a basic idea, then he develops it by himself writing rhythm guitars and drums, then we give him suggestions and contribution with our own instrument-lines and I usually take care about the lyrical aspects.

Did you sign to Willowtip Records only for the release of "Oracles" or this co-operation will continue for your future releases as well? Are you satisfied with their work done for "Oracles"?

Paolo: We're very happy about the work done by Jason and all the Willowtip's staff. Our new EP and our second album will be released by Willowtip Records.



Will you perform some special songs on your forthcoming "Legacy of Blood" European tour 2010 in support for mighty Suffocation? Can you enlighten us some details about this massive tour as well as what places are you eager to visit again?

Paolo: We're looking forward to tour with Suffocation! It'll be a great experience for sure! We're gonna visit many places where we've already played, so much more people will know about us, as long as new countries like Poland and Slovakia where we've never been before!

Tell us in a few words how the Italian death metal scene, their bands, fans & supporters look like today. What bands would you recommend us to check out? Also name us those bands from the worldwide underground community which recent releases impressed you or simply changed in you something.

Paolo: Italian death metal scene is good, but still too much underground. There are many bands deserving much more interest from critics and labels. Anyway someone of those are pretty known even outside Italy, like Hour of Penance, Septycal Gorge, Blasphemer, Natron, Gory Bliester and so on...

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer my questions. Please share your last apocalyptic visions with the readers of Encomium and send your flesh-addicted wishes to all the Ukrainian fans of Fleshgod Apocalypse!

Paolo: May you have a killer New Year bros! We hope to play in Ukraine soon! Stay Fucking Metal.

Cristiano: Have a great year guys! We really hope to hit your country soon! Cheers!

Open-minded grinders from Slovakia have finally out their new, innovative & totally unordinary release called "Something Wrong". I've talked with guitarist Ivan about this great album, past tours, future plans and things beyond. Enjoy this transmission of thoughts!



Hi Ivan! Your long-awaited new album "Something Wrong" has recently been released by Austrian Noisehead Records. How do you feel about the album after a few months later & tell us about your co-operation with Noisehead? Also share the reaction of fans and media onto it in a few words.

- Hi. Yes, the album was released by Noisehead Records with a 3/4-year delay, but that wasn't their failure, the album has to be released in autumn 2008 by Czech label Grodhain, but they had some financial troubles and they cancelled almost all their releases. Noisehead Records was the only label who was interested and we signed with them. What they did perfectly is that you can buy the album almost everywhere in EU and in USA through Relapse. What I'm a little bit disappointed about is that I expected more promo activity from their side. Fans are reacting very cool, maybe some of them are a little shocked with new Obliterate, but the majority is satisfied. And media? That is also different, what I'm noticed is that the Czech media don't like the new CD, but in the rest of the world the reactions are cool.

Compared to the band's previous albums "Something Wrong" definitely opens a new chapter for Obliterate. I suppose it happened mainly due to your addition to the line-up, am I right? So the question is: Was it a conscious decision from your side or the band in general to go this way music-wise in the future?

- Yes, it is true. When they asked me if I want to join in Obliterate I warned them that I have a different point of view on music (like some orthodox grinder). But when we made the material for "Something Wrong" I didn't push them, everything has become in a natural process.

During the recording sessions of "Something Wrong" you've also covered Pink Floyd's famous "Another Brick in the Wall" song. Your version became quite innovative yet fresh to me and it just surprises me why this cover didn't land on the CD too. What will be the future of this cover song then?

- We had a very long chat in the band about this song, some of us wanted to put it on CD and some of us no. So we decided not to put this cover on CD, but right at this time I've uploaded it for free as an Xmas present here: <http://bandzone.cz/obliterate>.

In October 2009 you visited Ukraine for a 7-day tour. It was your fourth visit to this country. Tell us your impressions about the tour, the fans and Ukraine in general. How was to play at the biggest metal festival, i.e. "Metal Heads' Mission", in 2008?

Are you planning to visit us in 2010 as well?

- Tour was for me totally awesome. I've met so many cool people, especially guys from Castrum (Kori, Doni, Rodik) & Oleg. Also I'm very glad that I've been at places where we didn't play before. We liked playing at "Metal Heads' Mission" but, we were disappointed with a few organizational mistakes and chaos there. Yes, I think that I can say for all from the band that we certainly want to go and visit Ukraine again.

Besides the band everybody has a job or engaged in other fields. Tell us a bit about every band members' occupation. I know, you are working as a surveyor and dealing with geodesy and all the geographical aspects herein. How does it affect your life and time you have to bestow your family and the band?

- Barbie works as a serviceman in US steel (steel plant factory), Matkes is a seller in building materials and Gaby works in a restaurant as a waiter. Sometimes it is hard to coordinate us together, but we are trying to do our best.

As I've noticed, through the past few years, you are a professional photographer. How and when this hobby appeared in your life? What urged you to step on this side of the art as well? How often you get invites to make photos on gigs and festivals?

- Thanks, but I'm not a pro just a fan. I'm started just a few years ago with my first digital camera. I was shooting pics everywhere and everybody. Then I started shooting gigs for my friend Ján Košič (he is writing for metalopolis.net). Through the years I realized that I like more to make reportage pics than art.

The sound of "Something Wrong" owes a big one to you and your experience and talent in the producing fields. How long are you into mixing & mastering materials? And tell us what programs you use recently? Also what other works you produced besides the new Obliterate album?

- Thanks. I started in 2001 when we decided to record album with my previous band Nostrum and the reason of it all was money and discontent with the sound from Slovak studios. With every record I learned something new. My tools are: Cakewalk, Soundforge, T-racks and many plugins. You can hear my work on both Nostrum albums, latest Caress, Zombiemoles, G.P.G. "Spacetríp", V13ault, Ownbliss, Bicyklothorturerer, Ke-ground, Cruent and I did the master on latest Contempt.

Before joining Obliterate you were also involved in the following bands: Nostrum, V13ault and Zombiemoles. Please introduce us these bands and their

releases. Do you plan to release any new material with Nostrum for example?

- Zombiemoles was a funproject with my friends from Cruent (Ado & Tomy). With V13ault I did one EP "A Carrion" and we have an almost complete material for album (from 2005!!!), but I didn't find a drummer, which would record live drums. And what can I say about the V13 music? I think it will be better if you would listen to it and make your own opinion. Nostrum – it is good that you asked about it right now, because we are planning to come back on stage and we will have, if we make, some new material, because everybody has major priority in other bands me in Obliterate, Alex in God Defamer and Kamil in Siempre.

Tell us a bit about your "Autumn Massacre Tour" along with God Defamer. How was that experience? What cities you've visited with this tour and how the fans treated both bands?

- It was a weekend tour (Friday, Saturday) and we played in Strážske, Prešov, Liptovský Mikuláš, Vrāble, Poprad, Púchov, Prievidza, Lučenec. Tour was OK, but at some places were quite a few fans. Fans fortunately liked both bands.

I suppose it's a bit early to ask about your new songs, but is there anything new composed yet? And if so in what direction you will continue to write new material. And as usual when do you plan to record your next full-length?

- We are working on new material at this moment. We have done two songs yet. Direction is unknown yet, but we will find some, I promise. At first we have to finish the writing process and after that we will see...

Košice has a big underground scene. What bands would you like to point out and which are your personal favorites and why?

- I'm not the right person to answer this question, because the bands that I liked most are dead now (Dreams, Xibalba, Weed, Erytroxy), but you can check these bands: Killchain, Contempt, BloodRage, new Andeathonium, Fading Tomorrow, Feeding the Vultures, and I'm sure that I forgot a few names.

Thank you very much Ivan for the interview. Please send your wishes & regards to all our readers and last but not least to all the Obliterate fans in Ukraine. The space is yours!

- I'm sending again a big thank you to fans & people in Ukraine, which we met. Also I want to thank all readers of Encomium for their interest. And I wish for all Obliterate fans that next year will be better than 2009!

SUPREME PAIN

THE NETHERLANDS PRODUCED LOTS OF GREAT DEATH METAL BANDS THROUGH THE YEARS AND STILL PRODUCING... ANOTHER GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THIS IS THE RISING DEATH MACHINE OF SHEER BRUTALITY CALLED SUPREME PAIN! THIS BAND WAS FORMED BACK IN 2006, BUT ALREADY HAS 2 ALBUMS TO DISPLAY! I'VE ASKED GUITARIST ERWIN HARREMAN ABOUT THEIR NEW FULL-LENGTH ALBUM "NEMESIS ENFORCER", RECENT LINE-UP CHANGES & PLANS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. ENJOY THE PAIN OF SUPREMACY!!!

Having such a great musician as Aad from Sinister/Infinited Hate in the band immediately raises the question whose idea was to form the band and how the hell Aad got there? Please tell the story of Supreme Pain's foundation.

- Well I and Aad are already longtime friends and we came with the idea to start together a brutal death metal band. I already had written a couple of songs, so Supreme Pain was born.

How did you hook up with Slovenian drummer Robert Kovačič (Scaffold) and why you decided to part ways with him after the recordings of the promo and debut album for Supreme Pain?

- I knew Robert and I just asked him if he would like to be part of Supreme Pain. He liked the songs and so he became a member. We recorded the promo and "Cadaver Pleasures" CD. Shortly after the release of "Cadaver Pleasures" he became live session drummer for Belphegor and he said he didn't know if he could play gigs with Supreme Pain. For us this was not a good situation, so for us the only solution was to kick him out and search for a new drummer. And we found an excellent drummer in the person of Toep Duin.



Your debut album "Cadaver Pleasures" has been released by Comatose Music in 2008. The only thing I remember when I've heard it for the first time that I was totally blown away by the intense songs and ultra-heavy sound coming from the loudspeakers. Does it happened occasionally due to the mixing/mastering processes or it was a conscious decision to make it such destroying?

- We wanted to make a brutal and crushing death metal album not only intense, fast, brutal songs, but also a heavy sound. And it worked out very good. Great to hear that it worked out on you that way, haha.

Your new album "Nemesis Enforcer" was recorded at the Soundlodge Studio (Germany) under the supervision of Jörg Uken, who also worked on the latest albums of such killer bands as God Dethroned, Sinister and Dew-Scented just to name a few. How was to work with him and did you decide to work with him due to the results reached for the albums of the above mentioned bands?

- Aad recorded with Sinister "The Silent Howling" CD at the Soundlodge with Jörg and he said it was great to work with him. So we decided to record the second Supreme Pain with Jörg at Soundlodge. I already heard a couple of productions from Jörg, so I knew it will turn out good. And working with Jörg is excellent, he is such a good producer engineer and a very relaxed nice person. And as you can hear the "Nemesis Enforcer" CD has crushing sound. We are all very happy with the result and our next CD will also be recorded at Soundlodge with Jörg Uken.

For the second full-length you signed a contract with Slovakian Metal Age Productions. What was bad with Comatose Music and tell us your fresh impressions towards the new alliance?

- Well, first of all, nothing was bad at Comatose Music, Steve Green did an excellent job. We signed a contract with Supreme Pain for 1 CD. And just after the release we came in contact with Peter from Metal Age, he would like to sign Supreme Pain and he offered us a very good deal. Comatose Music could not offer us a better one so we parted ways as friends. For Supreme Pain Metal Age is just a step forward. The alliance with Metal Age is so far very good, we signed a deal for 3 CDs and looking forward to our forthcoming releases.

Toep Duin of Putrefied/Blastcorps became your new drummer. His work on "Nemesis Enforcer" is just awesome. What should we know about him?

- Toep is a very experienced drummer. He played in several bands, as Unlord, Consolation, Blastcorps, Putrefied. And now in Supreme Pain. He is also drummer in the progressive metal band Godmode. He is an awesome drummer and I am

very happy he is in Supreme Pain. We knew him from Putrefied, because they played a couple of gigs together with Sinister and after Robert left, he was the best solution to sit behind the drumkit and blast for Supreme Pain. So we asked him and he said yes!! Toep joined Supreme Pain a few months before we started the recordings of "Nemesis Enforcer", so you can imagine that the new songs will be even more crushing.



Lately you've also replaced Tadej Cholewa (Scaffold) and the position for the bass player was taken by Aleša Šare. From what I've seen on your live videos, she's quite talented and pretty easily adapted to the life-style of Supreme Pain. Tell us your comment about this recent addition and also what do you think about the music of her previous bands (Sarcasm and Root 'a Balluta)?

- Tadej was not able to combine his job and Supreme Pain anymore. It is a shame it didn't work out, but no hard feelings towards each other. Aleša already played a couple of gigs as stand-in bassplayer, so she was the best solution to become the new bassplayer. She is a very talented musician and she likes the music of Supreme Pain, so it was pretty easy to adapt the brutality, hehe. I saw Aleša playing with Sarcasm a couple of years ago and it was pretty good gig. Sarcasm is an old-school thrash metal band from Slovenia, the music of Root 'a Balluta I don't really know. But Aleša is now a full member of Supreme Pain and it is great that we are now having a complete line-up again. Ready to shred!!!

It seems to me you have really good ties & friendship with Slovenian bands/musicians, 'cause there's always somebody from Slovenia in the band. Is it hard to find lately musicians in Holland? Please share your thoughts on this subject.

- Yeah we are connected with Slovenia, my girlfriend is from Slovenia so that's why I know a lot of bands and musicians from Slovenia. And somehow they are part of Supreme Pain, hehe. And Aleša is the girlfriend of Aad and also from Slovenia, but now lives in Netherlands. In Netherlands are also good musicians, but why look around if there are good musicians nearby, haha.

Your music displays a well-guessed combination between the good old-school death metal riffs and hypersonic blasting of today's bands. Was it made consciously right at the beginning or it just came naturally? What bands would you mention as influential ones for the musical aspect of Supreme Pain? Name us your favorites.

- When we started with Supreme Pain it was clear that we want to combine the old-school death metal feeling with the blasting and brutality of today. So from the beginning we wanted to create this sound and style of death metal with Supreme Pain. And we will always play this way, because it is the music we all like and fits best with Supreme Pain. All members have their favorite bands. For me it is Suffocation, Behemoth, Nile, Morbid Angel, Zyklon, Dying Fetus and many more, but these are my influences. But every day more bands come in the scene and some are very good new bands.

While your first record was mainly kept in the traditions & formula of Holland death metal style, I would say "Nemesis Enforcer" got some US influences as well, for example in songs like "Vengeful Wrath" (I hear a strong Suffocation influence in the guitar riffs) and "The Unholy Throne" (is quite reminiscent of Morbid Angel due to its opening riffs and drumming). In what direction will you proceed for the third album and what can we expect music-wise from Supreme Pain in 2010?

- We will move forward in this style of music, as I said before this kind of music we like a lot and fits best with Supreme Pain. Of course, we will try to improve ourselves with songwriting

and playing our instruments and also we will try out a few new things and see how it will fit. We are now together for some time and this line-up will be steady and as a band we keep improving ourselves. At the moment we are slowly busy with writing and practicing/creating new material and I can tell you it will be sick!!! For now, we don't know when we hit the studio again. We will start with recording the third album when we think the new songs are ready to be recorded.



I should say your art-works (both the covers and the T-shirt designs) look pretty killer and done with a totally old-school spirit. Who is responsible for them?

- Mottla Arts did the artwork. He is from Austria and we told him a bit the idea of the album title etc. and he came up with this sick design, which is amazing. Metal Age arranged the shirts and they did a very good job as well, the shirts are very high quality printed.

Holland's death metal scene is quite big and varied. What do you think about the latest records of such killer Dutch bands as Pestilence, Asphyx, Hail of Bullets, Gorefest, Sinister, God Dethroned & Thanatos. Which is your favorite release and why? Also please would you recommend us bands from the newcomers?

- Well some releases I like others I don't, he-

he-he. So my favourite releases are Sinister, God Dethroned and a few songs of Pestilence, because it fits the best with the kind of music I like. About newcomers, I can recommend Weapons to Hunt, it's a new project of Infinited Hate members Aad and Ron and the songs I heard were pretty cool, thrash with some death metal influences. For others I don't know so many new Dutch bands. Well, the project band H.D.K. released a good CD.

Do you have some European tours in plans for the near future? If so, please enlighten us the details. Would be also simply killer to see you playing live in Ukraine? Any plans to visit us?

- At the moment there are no plans for a European tour. It is also not easy to tour, because of our private lives. We all have daily jobs and also a family life with girlfriend/wives and kids. So we play some gigs all around and maybe we can work out a short 7-day tour in the Balkan. And, of course, it would be killer to play in Ukraine a couple of gigs, would be awesome!!!

By the way, have you ever been to Ukraine and do you know any death metal bands from the Ukraine? What would be your first association when you hear the word "Ukraine"?

- I never had the chance to visit Ukraine, I know a couple of years ago Sinister played at a festival in Kyiv. And I know Fleshgore and now Castrum, hehe. My first association with Ukraine is that it is far away from Netherlands and it was a part of the former Soviet Union and sports, mainly football, there was a Dutch coach which won UEFA Cup with Shakhtar Donetsk. The European football championship of 2012 will be in Ukraine and I know the country from a couple of winter sports.

Finally, I would like to thank you Erwin for taking the time and answering my questionnaire. Please finish the interview by sending your supreme regards to all the Ukrainian Supreme Pain fans as well as to the fans of death metal music in general.

- It was my pleasure to answer your questions. And thank you so much for your support!!! And to all Ukraine fans of Supreme Pain: Stay brutal and horns up!!! Keep supporting brutal death metal, because without the fans there is no scene!!! Maybe we will have a chance to shred in Ukraine a couple of gigs and to meet the death metal fans from Ukraine.



AYAHUAIRA

“El Dominio de la Verdadera Fuerza Suprema” demo 2002

This Peruvian Black Metal horde wants to complete the legacy of their ancestors as they emphasize it in their letter. The four pagan warriors are Sajgra (vocals), Ochoja (guitar), Chopjas Atipac (bass) and Tapraja (Drums). The plan is the following: they try to capture all the splendor of their ancestral culture and combine it with the raw atmosphere of black metal. I should say they do it pretty sure even if there's a lot of technical mistakes along their repertory. But there's a big plus against those mistakes, which I see in the total dedication of Ayahuaira's members towards the music they admire and they play. Because they do it with a deep feeling and with a big respect to middle 80s and early 90s black metal bands' heritage! In short, their evident influences are come from the early materials of Bathory (especially it reminded me when those gloomy acoustic parts appear throughout their songs), but Burzum had also a big influence when we are talking about the slow depressive parts, while the fast ones are reminiscent more of the Marduk-type of blasting tempos. My copy also includes the band's debut 8-song material called “El Poder de la Divinidad” (2000) too. It's more simple, slower and sound-wise very poor, thus it is very hard to enjoy it, but even through this bad sound I can easily identify Ayahuaira's special song-structures. Fans of pagan black metal should contact the band for these 2 demos. They last together about 67 minutes! Both demos have pro-printed b/w covers! The band already has 5 new tracks written for their third production and they're looking for some producer or label that could produce it!

BANISHER

“Human Sacrifice” EP 2007

This 2-song EP is like an appetizer before the release of the band's full-length album. The musicianship is simply remarkable and combines from the following geniuses: Kuba Gawroński (vocals), Hubert Więcek (guitar), Michał Wyrwa (guitar), Tomasz Trzpis (bass) and Michał Such (drums). As you guessed already the quintet is from Poland and as usual Polish bands produce superb sound production by default. Moreover, if I list here the names of such bands as Cynic, Atheist, Nocturnus or Death as influences I guess you know what to expect, right? Well, Banisher plays a sort of killer ultra-technical death metal with maximum level of brutality and expressivity! Believe me, these guys have really something to show us, be it structure- or complexity-wise. “Massacre in the Main Temple” starts the EP with its twisted riffs, roaring bass lines and varied vocal solutions (pig-snorts are also presented here!), which have been aptly spiced up with some sophisticated drum patterns and just mind-breaking soloing work in the middle of the song! The 2nd and unfortunately last song on this EP, the self-titled “Human Sacrifice” displays a classical song-structuring attitude.



Nevertheless, it captures a lot of interesting riffs and passages as well. The level of the guys is pretty high, especially Hubert's soloing skills are beyond the imagination! He's like the secret weapon of the band, ha-ha... Can't wait to check out their full-length! Until then simply get acquainted with this awesome EP! Fans of progressive and technical death metal will like it for sure!

CASKETGARDEN

“The Non-Existent” promo 2002

Proudly focusing on the brilliant “Slaughter of the Soul” album of At The Gates this Hungarian 5-piece managed to come up with their best sounding material to date. “The Non-Existent” promo already features the new bassist, namely Gábor Óri, with whom the band's core – i.e. István Cseh (vocals),



Péter Musitz (guitar), Balázs Tóth (lead guitar) and Attila Cseh (drums) – became even stronger. The 3 new tracks display us the band-members' eminent proficiency and technical knowledge towards the aggressive and ultra-melodic kind of death metal. “Non-Existent” opens their repertory, which is their fastest song ever having a bunch of ripping guitar riffs, blasting drumming and merciless vocalizing. It follows a more melodic, mid-paced tune called “The Day – When Silence Died”. A cool track so to speak with incredibly well constructed chains of rhythm variations and with an extremely distorted bass stand out somewhere at the very end of it. And finally we have “7th Scar” that completes the roughly 12 minutes long material. Undoubtedly this song captures the most original ideas and I hope they will continue to write songs in this way further on. I would also like to mention the great over-polished soloing work that appears in every song and leads their music to a very masterful level. In a word get this non-stop, non-existent, non-divine death metal stuff for only \$4 (incl. postage)!

DATURA

Promo 2004

I always wanted to hear Datura's music with a professional sound production! It finally happened in 2004! Unfortunately, this promo contains only 3 songs. Nevertheless, I can easily create a comprehensive opinion even from one of their songs, because brutal death metal is the style, which makes very easy to estimate the band's level. Well, Datura plays US brutal death metal, but more precisely they are totally into the Deeds of Flesh interpretation of brutality! That means they change rhythms every 4-5 seconds, thus the songs combine from 30-40 riffs. Sure it's technical and complex plus the drum-work is simply insane and yet very dynamic (even if the drums on the promo are programmed ones). Nevermind it anyway, 'cause they do not sound so synthetic as most of the drum-machine based bands used to be. I like and respect Deeds of Flesh very much as the guys of Datura do for sure! But in my opinion, would be better to concentrate more on some own ideas and song-structures instead of just cloning the aforementioned Deeds of Flesh materials. Believe me, this is non-sense, even if the songs they managed to demonstrate on this promo are totally professional. But where is the originality? Please do a favor guys and evolve your music into an own style as soon as possible, because now it seems you're just the Ukrainian Deeds of Flesh and not the Ukrainian brutal death metal band called Datura! Anyway, it's a great progression compared to their old materials, just lack of originality. My advice will be very limited: fans that can't wait for the new Deeds of Flesh material should get this stuff immediately! The line-up on this record was the following: Dimas (ultra-guttural vocals & bass on 2nd song), Antosick (guitars & bass on songs 1,3), Bob (guitars) and Alex (drums), while the featured songs were: “Bent Within”, “Operation Saturn” and “Supertzar” with a total time over 8 minutes!

DATURA

Promo 2007

There will be always bands that never change music-wise and Datura is definitely from that sort of bands. If I mention they started back in 1999, but their song-structures just slightly modified during the past years, you will know what to expect from them, right? From release to release even their sound production not improved too much. But maybe it's all for the best, 'cause fans of Datura will always get what they expect from. So musically we have the usual Deeds of Flesh formula diluted a little bit with elements taken from the second Morbid Angel release. The promo features 3 new songs with over 9 minutes of playing time. The sound is pretty boring; especially it goes to the plastic drum sound. I would advise to change that annoying kick sound immediately. After the replacement of their old drummer, in 2007 Datura looks as follows: Dimas (bass/vocals), Bob (guitar), Antos (guitar/vocals) and Edic (drums). Only die-hard maniacs of Datura & Deeds of Flesh allowed tasting the following product!

DEMENTOR

“Faithless” limited tour edition 2008

“Faithless” is a 2008 album of Dementor, a well-known Slovakian death metal band. The band has already released a number of albums and with each succeeding one the level of hatred and blasphemy has been rising. This time Dementor's contempt for Christianity has reached its peak. “Faithless” consists of 9 extremely blasphemous tracks, the lyrical theme of which is focused on a total abhorrence towards religion. But this unity displayed by the lyrics won't balance out the value of the album. Personally I have no doubt as for the skill of members of Dementor. Here they proved their masterly ability to destroy everything as well as to deliver their particular message to the listener. I have no remarks on the quality of music, the vocals and the lyrics. But the only thing I dislike about “Faithless” is the lack of melody in it. Nevertheless, one can definitely find here fantastic tracks such as “Seven Demons”, “Religion in Blood”,



“Creature in the Darkness” and others. Get any of the Cannibal Corpse's albums, take away the solos and you'll get “Faithless” by Dementor. (Review written by Outsider)

DOMHRING

“The Vicar Of Satan” demo 2008

I've never thought that Hungary's got any underground movement as well as great bands worth being listened to, but for several exceptions, of course. This time a 1-year-old black metal band from Debrecen made me open my eyes. And now I'd like to introduce a 5-piece Domhring to you. It's famous for their vocalist who has been formerly engaged in a legendary Ukrainian death metal band Castrum. Fervens (drums), Aboath (guitar), Messor (guitar), Shandorh (bass) and Georgius (vocals) are beyond any doubt very good musicians, but they wouldn't have coped without some extra help in producing their material. And props to Cornelius (Castrum) for helping out his ex-bandmate. Domhring's first demo “The Vicar of Satan” was recorded in June 2008, however the band has previously released another demo titled “Hellgoat” before they had changed their name. Being composed

of 6 tracks, “The Vicar of Satan” is a story of Listius László, a 17th century count, whose horrible accomplishments can be compared to the deeds of Elizabeth Bathory. The structure of the demo is more than simply great and along with its lyrical theme it evolves into a finished piece of art. Beginning with “Credo In Unum Satanem...” a dark instrumental track which serves a preface to the entire demo and introducing the Vicar to the listener, the album gradually develops into a highly dynamic, violent and melodic “Decease of a Dominican Exorcist”. Another instrumental, namely “Oppidum Köpcsény” is responsible for that feeling of apprehension in you. “A Shameful Matrimony” has more of death features but in this case the lyrics do not fit onto the music. The last instrumental piece is “Listius' Furious Carnal Desire”, an unbelievably thrilling one. The story reaches its end with “Rise and Fall of the Satan's Vicar”, the conclusion of the demo.



It is a fantastic and catchy song, the second half of which is distinguished for some soft riffs and violent fast blasting. “The Vicar of Satan” is, to my mind, an excellent result of collaboration of two mature musicians and a group of young but talented ones. Here I can point out only one flaw, that is vocals; and of course, the band should pay more attention to the lyrics as it is grammatically incorrect and rather messy. (Review written by Outsider)

DOPING/THE SYMBIOZ

“Запахи Людей” split 2005

(Smells Records)

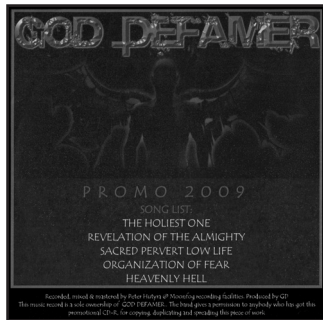
This split CD features 2 young punk-influenced bands from Uzhhorod (Ukraine). Both bands present 6 tracks. First on split is the trio called Doping. They play “melodic punk” as mentioned in the booklet. Their music structured very plain and simple. We have a deal with the usually used 3-4 riffs per song plus some rock-based melodies. Unfortunately, the drums have been programmed so the synthetic sound makes the overall stuff a bit fake as for me. The lyrics have been sung in Ukrainian language and talking about social things like fear, insomnia, alcoholic problems, etc. Their part of split lasts about 15 minutes. My advice for Doping is quite simple. Guys practice as much as possible, because nowadays even punk music should be played professionally. Next on split is the so-called “punk-core” oriented The Symbioz. The quartet plays more varied and their song-structures are also better as in the case of Doping. Nevertheless, there are lots of mistakes in almost all of their songs. With a more serious attitude this material would definitely sound better. The drums were recorded live, which adds some pluses to the overall sound quality, but the drummer's inaccurate playing makes very intolerable the material here and there. The guitar sound is OK, though the balance between the aforementioned instrument and the rest isn't very fair at times. I would say the mix not uniformed at all, thus it is chaotic and differs from song to song! As in case of the first band, The Symbioz uses Ukrainian lyrics too. Again they are about social themes as depression, alcohol, and people in general. The vocal parts are better structured here, though there are lots of false notes in both the main and backing vocalists' parts. The shouting of the lead vocalist is more hardcore than punk it's for sure. Music-wise it is also more harder and have some experimental solutions like the use of accordion in the last

2 songs, for example. The band has a definite potential, but somehow it doesn't work properly with the actual sound. The key to a better result hides in more practice and dedication to what the band advocates. Personally I think both bands have pluses and minuses. So to avoid all those minuses in the future, please pay more attention to accuracy and rehearse your asses off before recording anything.

GOD DEFAMER

Promo 2009

A half-year old Slovak God Defamer isn't as popular as its predecessor Dementor, but it's definitely going to be another European death metal legend. God Defamer comprises the work of 5 skilled musicians, three of which have previously played in Dementor. And now meet Jaro Kyselica (vocals), Alex Sucháček (guitar), René Blahušák (guitar), Marián "Majo" Letko (bass) and Rudy Strhak (drums). In December of 2008 the band recorded a promo, which I have the honour to introduce to you. This unbelievable blasphemous substance consists of 5 mind-blowing tracks which is beyond comparison with any death metal band from Slovakia. The opus starts with "The Holiest One", this track is a fine example of collaboration of these skillful guys. The massacre is continued by the "Revelation of the Almighty". Here and up till the very end of the CD you'll enjoy a masterly drumming by Rudy as well as killer guitars complemented by some incredibly powerful vocals.



"Sacred Perverv Low Life" is followed by "Organization of Fear". The track is a perfect characteristics of Christianity. God Defamer have a lot of things to tell God for sure. The promo ends with "Heavenly Hell", in this case the title speaks for itself. If you're excited enough, go and get God Defamer's stuff as soon as possible. This is not the chance to be missed! (Review written by Outsider)

HALUCYNOGEN

"Virus" promo 2008

I should say this band is totally awesome live and it goes to their studio performance as well. The band was founded back in 2006 and this promo is their second studio stuff yet, but what a great stuff! The Rzeszów-



based quartet – Maniek (guitar & vocals), Jun (guitar), Fishdick (bass & vocals) and Mayo (drums) – delivers us 3 songs (12 minutes) in a maximally groove-oriented thrashcore way with strong death metal influences. Quite interesting mix to be honest! And what is great about this band, they deal with lots of modern stuff in their music, but somehow everything they do sounds the old good way. The song-titles are "Sekta", "Zdrada" and "Doktor". As you see all of them are in Polish and that's the second thing that is great about them, be-

cause the vocal parts provide some special I would even risk to say dark atmosphere to the overall material, which I prefer so much! Aggressive, hateful music it is with ominous energies to materialize in the following sound-formula & proportions: crazy bass lines placed onto massive groovy guitar riffs yet incorporated by devastating double-bass attacks and last but not least spiced up with deep growls, angry screams and shouts! As a parallel to be cited regarding their musical approach I should name Behemoth here, because of some riffing and accenting similarities, but it's only my view. Finally, I would also like to recommend for all the fans of death & thrash metal to keep your eyes and ears on this formation and their new materials as their name will definitely haunt us in the future!!!

HYPERION

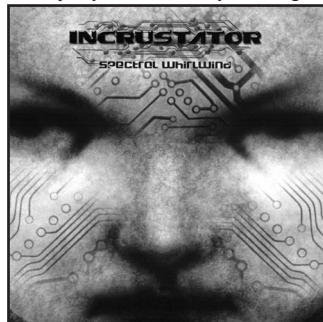
Promo 2004

Hyperion was formed in 2001 by Architect (guitar) and Max (drums). Later on joined them Sirius (guitar), Pastr (vocals) and Vitek (bass). This promo displays 4 very well composed songs and lasts exactly 18 minutes. The core of their music is definitely death metal, but a small dose of black metal influence is also presented there, mainly due to the use of keyboards. Anyway, it is rather OK as far as it adds some ominous atmosphere to their repertory. The lyrics were written in Russian language and have been executed by Pastr quite decently to my surprise. However, in my opinion the language of death metal is English. The pair of guitarists did a damn good job recording their twisted harmonies and complex riffs onto the undoubtedly complex rhythm section. Congratulations! By the way, the solos are simply splendid. Well, let's see the rhythm section. Bassist Vitek handles well his instrument, but his parts sometimes drown in the overall sound production (which is surely a mix problem). Now let me say some words about the drummer. First of all, Max without any doubt is one of the best yet high-skilled metal drummers over here in Ukraine. His technique is incredible and at the same time diverse from the usual metal drummers. Secondly, he likes to mix the fast grind beats with catchy china-based double-bass attacks as well as to combine some so-called follow-the-rhythm patterns, for example like at the end of the "Creators of Absurd" song. Structure-wise it reminded me a bit Vader's "Sothis" track, but it's just my comparison anyway. I also noticed a strong Behemoth influence in the "Decayed Cross" tune. Nevertheless, we have a deal with an original band that will definitely raise the flag of the Ukrainian death metal high with time. The success is inevitable! So labels please give the deserved chance for Hyperion!

INCRUSTATOR

"Spectral Whirlwind" demo 2009

The debut material from this Ukrainian trio became quite futuristic so to say. I would call their musical approach as technical cyber-motivated death metal. It's mainly due to the big portion of unordinary samples & weird effects involved there, which makes them sound pretty fresh and always focusing the



listener's attention onto different sounds & noises. The circa forty-minute long stuff sounds proportional & rather tough taking into account that it was a self-produced one, but somehow the drum sound leaves a plastic feeling after all. The technical aspect of the

band is quite fascinating and surely represents the visions of today's modern & progressive genres embodied in our beloved death metal style. The classical & basic elements of this style can be also found there in riffs that mostly reminded me Behemoth, Death, Brutality, Cannibal Corpse or Meshuggah, but for example the song "Delusions" has a strong Dissection touch that is definitely due to the female vocal parts which are pretty similar to those applied in Dissection's "Maha Kali" song. In total, "Spectral Whirlwind" is a decent and promising debut material. So I am eagerly looking forward to its continuation and hereby warmly can recommend to all the fanatics of technical, jazz-influenced & progressive music. Futuristic yet atmospheric death metal at its best!

JORMUNDGAND

"Satanic Attack" demo 2009

From the deepest depths of Uddevalla, where the unformed chaos spreads its dark wings, hails Jormundgand. This obscure formation lurked in the shadows of the underworld since 2004, but the time has finally come and now the first omen was born & unleashed upon the mortals in the form of a 4-song demo. Forces to join in for the recordings of "Satanic Attack" are as follows: Tobias Fongelius (lead guitar & vocals), Erika Hansson (guitar, piano & keyboards), Tobias Pettersson (bass) and guest appearances by Erik Kjörnsberg (lead guitar & solos) and Marcus Fors (drums). The demo starts with an atmospheric keyboard-based tune called "Occult Sacrifice", which slowly fades into the opening riffs of "Black Winds of Death". This almost 9 minutes long tune offers us a big variety of dark feelings and atmospheres from the worlds beyond. You can find there slow marching-like guitar passages & melodies to grasp your soul mixed with an awesome portion of galloping riffs, which reminded me quite a lot the 80s Euro thrash metal bands' song-writing formula, while the vocal parts sound really like a wind of death and thus I can only compare them to Jon Nödtveidt's heritage.



The third track is "Satanic Attack". It delivers us a 6-minute long journey into the storming spheres of darkness & death. It also captures the cruel backing vocals by Hellbutcher of Nifelheim. The demo ends with the sorrowful "By the Grace of Death" tune. The guitar harmonies there are just masterful and what's more they were accompanied by some real death-like whispers. At the very end of the track the aforementioned guitar harmonies slowly turn into the splendid sounds of a piano. Strange, but the overall atmosphere of this piano passage reminded me pretty much Dissection's instrumental track, namely "No Dreams Breed in Breathless Sleep". Musically Jormundgand unites the darkest marks & traditions of the Scandinavian death & black metal scenes (especially Dissection should be mentioned here, "cause their influence is evident and vital for the music of Jormundgand) as well as the attitude of 80s thrash metal movement. I would recommend this 19 minutes long demo to all the extreme metalheads dwelling in the death & black metal underground world-wide. It's a must to have "Satanic Attack" in your collection. Eagerly looking forward to Jormundgand's new material!

KLISYOS

"Human Answer" demo 2007

This young Italian metal band was formed in June of 2007 and a few months later in

November they've recorded their first demo called "Human Answer". Klisyos' style can be explained as a compound of traditional heavy metal and progressive music. There are parts inspired by such great progressive metal bands as Dream Theater or Opeth, while their heavy metal roots are really in the past,



'cause the following bands came first into my mind: Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden & Merciful Fate. During their almost 37 minutes long demo you can get acquainted with 6 chapters reminiscent of the old good heavy metal times injected with elements coming from modern & progressive bands. The seventh piece of "Human Answer", which is the very first actually, is a nice symphonic intro. I've really enjoyed the twisted harmonies of both guitarists as well as the technical bass parts there. 99% of the vocal parts are melodic and they come in a rather clear way paying tribute to the above mentioned classics. I wouldn't say the band opened the gates to something new or innovative here, but this is a decent demo, which despite its home-recorded nature sounds pretty good. Looking forward to their next release! On this demo the band's line-up was: Flavio D'Ambra (voice/rhythm guitar), Alberto D'Ambra (bass), Santino Puleio (solo guitar/voice) and Gabriele Palumbo (drums).

MENTAL DEMISE

"Consumption" promo 2003

The most insane maniacs of the Ukrainian death/grind community are back! Their new 3-song promo is a precursor to their upcoming full-length album called "Disgraceful Sores", which besides these tracks will contain four more songs. At once I should point out that the band managed to create their most devastating sound production to date. Congratulations guys! It's simply killer! The guitars sound so destructive and ear-crushing that sometimes I felt a bulldozer going through me or so. Fester and Pinky can really get your brains out of your innocent head. The riff-masters brought us their most complex and sickest riffs ever. They really know how to give a song optimal heaviness and dynamism at the same time! On this promo we can finally witness how powerful and clever the live drum-sound of Mental Demise is. Non-stop blasting assaults and ultra-sophisticated breaks are the ingredients of Tom Grinder's play. Maybe natural brutality would be the most proper expression in this case! Old's very deep growling style is the cream on the cake so to say. He's not a one-dimensional vocalist at all as he always spices up the deep growls with unique high-pitched-like sounding screeches and inhuman voices. The new bass-player, Baltus Hash, maximally performs his parts and delivers us an incredibly strong and grumbling bass-sound. This extraordinary bass-sound can be easily heard in the aptly titled "Coitus per Machina" song! If you crave for an ultra-tough yet overbrutalized death/grind material then do not waste your time and get in touch with the band directly! Sonic suffering guaranteed! Labels don't be fool, give this band a chance! No doubt, it's a milestone for the Ukrainian brutal scene! Preferred tracks: "Pornopedophilic Mockery" and "Soporific Anabiosis".

MURK EXORBITANCE

"Grotesque Sonic Devourment" demo 2002

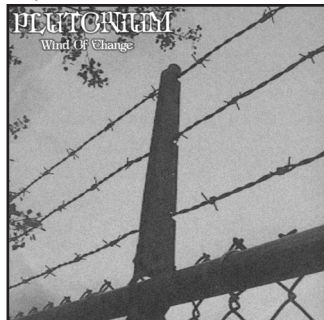
Murk Exorbitance was born in autumn 1999 and this is their first demo to date. The

material of this demo is quite varied so to say. It includes 2 studio tracks and 7 live tracks from which 4 are cover versions. Their lineup is also as varied as the material having different drummers and vocalists on most of the songs. So I'll better concentrate more on the music itself. We are speaking of brutal death metal even if the sextet likes to spice up their songs with melodious solos and acoustic guitar inclusions. Unfortunately, their sound production not supports entirely their style (I mean the prefix "brutal" here), because the sound is very weak and chaotic at times. OK, after being separated all the instruments from different kind of noises I can conclude that these guys have a big potential in song-writing and attentive listeners can also separate every instrument on this demo and enjoy their insane repertory as I did. Strange thing, but I better liked the live songs instead of the studio ones, maybe because of the raw live feeling. Nevertheless, I would like to point out "Sounds of War", "Ichorizing Gastrolith" (both live tracks) and the studio track called "Self-Autopsy" as great examples of the band's talent and dedication to death metal. For me was also extremely interesting to listen to the cover-songs of such death metal monsters as Carcass (they selected "Incarnated Solvent Abuse" and some riffs taken from a song of "Symphonies of Sickness" album and called it simply "Instrumental"), Dying Fetus (hey, they play "Grotesque Impalement" very intensively live!) and Cannibal Corpse (of course, they picked up everyone's favorite "Hammer Smashed Face") even if the band doesn't played them properly, but they've done it with feeling and that's count! Oh, I almost forget to take a mention about their double-vocal assassination. It's like in case with Gorerotted; they use low growling and mid-pitched screaming vocalists. Very effective and "pleasant" assault on ears, for sure! I think it's a good demo despite of the production defects I listed above. Keep your

eyes on this band as I am sure they will surprise us in the future!

PLUTONIUM
 "Wind Of Change" demo 2004

Swedish Plutonium was formed in the year of 2003. This is their debut 4-track demo, which displays a marching essence out of the most abstract elements of the black & death metal styles. Although the band labels their music as extreme metal with industrial touch, I think the influences coming from the beforehand mentioned styles are more than evident for the musical approach of Plutonium. Their songs are definitely not about the speed, they rather about some atmospheric mid-tempo passages filled with the voices of depression and despair. The eighteen minutes long demo captures a materialization of their dark feelings. In some ways musically I can compare Plutonium to Satyricon, Dissection and Bathory. Also interesting fact that the band dedicates this release to the memory of Quorthon. Now about the industrial touch.



Well, I won't say their first 3 tracks are too industrialized or so, but their last one, the title track "Wind of change" is a pure industrial cut. On this demo the band was: J. Carlsson (lead guitar, vocals, programming), H. Fosso (guitar) and Lars. H. (bass). If you like to listen to some experimental extreme metal music, then

feel free to check Plutonium's demo along with their recent releases.

SCORN AGE
 Promo 2004

Scorn Age is a young but very promising quintet coming from Kyiv (Ukraine). Their 2-song promo has been kept in the classical death metal vein, even if we have a mix between melodic and brutal death metal at once. The first song, called "Scorn Age", displays a rhythmically well-thought chain of blasting double-bass attacks, memorable guitar riffs, rolling bass lines and two types of terrorizing vocals. Basically the same goes to their second tune "Goat Saved Us" too, which they managed to shorten down to less than 2 minutes. Hell, next time I advise to record more than 5 minutes and 38 seconds as this kind of music is better enjoyable with a half an hour of playing time and minimum 8 songs! However, I see a bright future for Scorn Age as the five-piece handles well their instruments and their musical level in general is also above average. Just increase the number of songs, please!

SCREAMING AFTERBIRTH
 "Inhuman Invasion Tour" demo 2003

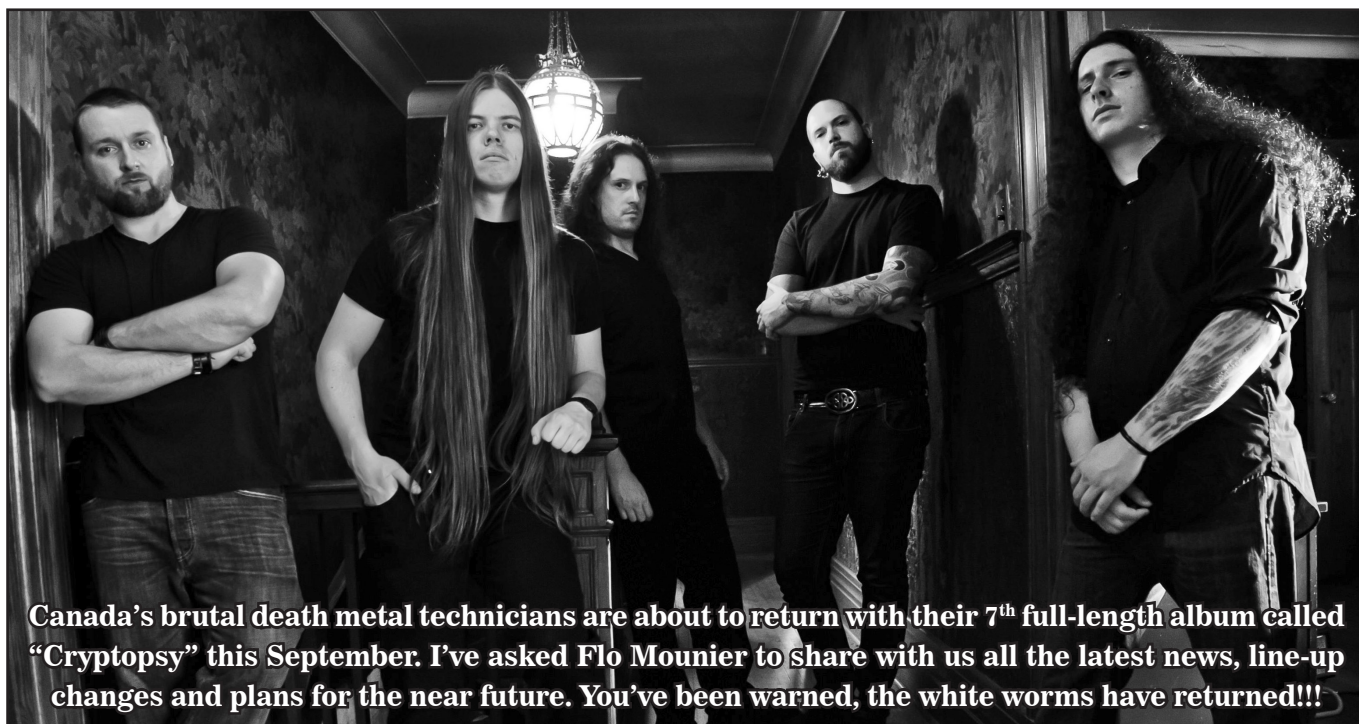
OK, that is truly inhuman! Never heard such a great mix of sick pig-snorts along with ultra-deep growling vocal-assaults before! The band features some of the craziest grind freaks ever, i.e. K.P. Ripper (vocals), J.J. Blaze (drums), D.K. Destroyer (guitars, screams & robovox), Captain Party (bass & the so-called pig snorts) and Sticky Privates (guitars on 1st song). With their new 6-track massacre they put the etalon of brutal death/grind even higher! Songs like "Septic", "Blowtorch Lynchings" and "Judeo-Zoophilism" can easily take the intestines out of your rotten stomach due to the overloaded brutality and pressure on nerves they serve there! And if you still crave more for your ulcerous soul then you can take a listen to

two more brutal (s)hits ("Skunk Butt - Gutter Pussy"; "Colostomy Bag Mouthwash") and a brilliantly executed cover-version of Terrorizer's "Fear of Napalm"! The sound is as brutal as possible so don't waste your time and invest into this killer stuff! By the way, these 6 tracks will be released as part of a split with Mincing Fury and Gutturral Clamour of Queer Decay on Bizarre Leprous Records! You can also order the band's debut CD "Puke Pile" from United Gutturral Records: www.unitedgutturral.com

VIOLENT ASSAULT
 "The Flag Of The Inverted Cross" promo 2009

Lately it seems to me is quite common thing amongst the die-hard metalheads to form a band that plays & supports totally old-school music! With Violent Assault we have this case maximally fulfilled. Being formed in 2006 and after 4 rehearsal recordings the band decided to come up with their first demo called "The Flag of the Inverted Cross". The demo embraces 4 tracks + intro/outro executed in the best traditions of 80s German thrash metal bands. I would say every inch of this demo is dedicated to that great period, i.e. music, lyrics, nicknames, packaging, etc. If you are into bands like Sodom, Destruction, Kreator, Violent Force, Necronomicon or Tankard just to name a few, this material won't disappoint you. My personal favorite is "Devastator", which combines some really memorable thrashing riffs with razor-sharp guitar sound and vocals straight from hell. The other songs like "In Honour of Satan", "Antimosh" & "Teutonic Furor" are also about to capture the greatness of the thrash metal style. Remember, this 19 minutes long demo has been released only on tape and was limited to 222 hand-numbered copies! So if you feel enough old-school yourself, order this piece of thrashing art right now! Wimps & posers please stay away! It's exclusively for headbangers worldwide!!!

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Canada's brutal death metal technicians are about to return with their 7th full-length album called "Cryptopsy" this September. I've asked Flo Mounier to share with us all the latest news, line-up changes and plans for the near future. You've been warned, the white worms have returned!!!

Hi Flo! Your new album, modestly titled "Cryptopsy", is about to be released 11th of September. It was definitely worth waiting 4 years for this masterpiece as those 2 songs online fragmentally display a return to the "Whisper Supremacy" era. Was it a conscious decision, to write/make the new album this way or it was mainly due to Jon Levasseur's return?

- Well, Jon coming back does not hurt I'll say that, because he and I wrote most of Cryptopsy's albums in the past. So our chemistry mixed with Chris and Matt really give it an authentic Cryptopsy sound.

Our intentions were to have fun and write a killer album and that's what we tried to do. Just to clear things up though the album will be sent to preorder participants the week of September 11th, but street dates are later.

I am extremely happy to see Jon in the band again. What he did in the past 8-9 years? Did he play anywhere else? Also tell the story of his return.

- No, he basically worked and told me that he almost gave up the guitar entirely (what a shame that would have been). I called him up towards the end of 2010 and left him a message that I wanted to talk to him. 3 months later he called me back and we had a long discussion, he had been playing hard over the 3 months passed and had a lot of ideas. We met up and had a jam session that was really cool. Then it just took off and we started writing.

You had a couple of line-up changes the past years. Why Alex Auburn left the band in 2009 and then Éric Langlois (your long-time bass player) as well in 2011? Were their departures due to personal or musical disagreements?

- Well, personal reasons tend to effect musical reasons, so yeah both, lol... It's hard to try to devote your life in this musical style, people come and go. If band members aren't all on the same page it makes things difficult for the band's evolution. That's pretty the explanation, different pages.

Your previous release, "The Unspoken King" in 2008, was pretty experimental or I would say the most unordinary record in the history of Cryptopsy. It had a lot of modern influences, like the deathcore/metalcore feelings for example. That album was the debut for vocalist Matt McGachy & guitarist Chris Donaldson and for the first time you also had a keyboard-player in the band, namely Maggie Durand. Was that album musically become so unusual because of the new members or it was just a natural progress for Cryptopsy?

- I think that it wasn't the new members so much as it was the new compositional chemistry between Alex and I.

I had never written an album with just Alex and that was different therefore the songs were different. Just to assure you though we never heard of deathcore or metalcore at the time, so if people think that's what it sounded like then it's very self-interpretive.

Your new bass player is Olivier Pinard. He also plays in Neuraxis and Vengeful. What else should we know about him? How he appeared to be the new bass player for Cryptopsy?

- Well, as soon as we suggested to Chris that we needed a bass player he mentioned Oli. Chris had recorded him before and really liked his playing. Jon went to visit him and show him some stuff and that was it.

He's awesome!

Mircea Gabriel Eftemie did the cover artwork for "Cryptopsy", which is simply awesome. It looks like a coat of arms or an emblem. Whose idea was it and what symbolizes this cover for you?

- That's pretty much what I wanted to see a coat of arms. I gave Mircea a vague description and he just nailed it! It represents passed, present and future I suppose.

As with your previous album the new one was recorded at Garage Studio again. And as I see it was mainly self-produced, as the drums were recorded at your own studio, while Chris did the rest of the job (producing, engineering & mixing it). How was to work at Garage Studio this time?

- The studio process for this album was great! It was really easy to track the songs, because everybody was very prepared. We had finished writing for the album early December 2011 and started tracking late February 2012. What took the most time was mixing and mastering. We went back and forth to make sure that everyone was pleased and finally got a really good end result. It's always comfortable recording in familiar environments, and that's exactly what we did.

Will you prepare a video clip for any of the new songs? If so, tell us which one it will be. By the way, don't you plan to make a new DVD?

- Yes, probably for "The Golden Square Mile". I want to, just gotta find the time, lol.

For the fall of this year no European tour dates are scheduled for Cryptopsy. Can we expect an extensive one for 2013? Please tell us more about your concert/tour plans for the near future.

- For now, we are waiting for proper tour offers. Europe is in the works for early 2013, but no dates have yet been confirmed.

We may do local shows before the end of the year and possibly Loud Park in Japan.

The band really wants to tour and is ready to.

In 2011 you joined a special project called Nader

Sadek. A quite obscure & surrealistic death metal formation to be honest. Can we expect a continuation of the great "In the Flesh" debut shortly?

- Nader, Rune and I are working on something new. I'm not sure when an album will be done, but we are definitely working on it. There will be surprises in the line-up and so far the songs are really interesting. Let's see what the future holds.

You also become a session live drummer for the Canadian thrash metal pioneers Annihilator. How it happened? Tell us more about this alliance.

- A friend of mine (Redge, Pearl Canada) contacted me 'cause Jeff had asked him if he knew any drummers that could fill the spot. He suggested me and I tried out. It was a cool personal challenge for me to do a few shows with them, but at one point I got too busy with Cryptopsy so I had to step back. It was fun working with the boys even though some of the music isn't necessarily my cup of tea.

Speak us a little bit about the series of clinics you are doing for Roland. You are using SPD 20 for quite a while now. Tell us your impressions about this product.

- The new series of clinics for Roland is actually for the new TD 30, the HD of electronic drums!!! Seriously this machine is awesome, so many possibilities, so much dynamic range, just crazy.

Darren, the Canada representative has been a good friend for a while now and he had asked me 5 years ago to do the clinic run for the (then) new TD 20, it went really well, so he asked me to do the same kinda clinic run for the brand new TD 30. Tons of fun!!!

About 6 years ago you've released an instructional drumming DVD called "Extreme Metal Drumming 101". That 2 DVD set was simply awesome! Do you plan to release something similar soon?

- I do have lots of ideas for a new DVD and I'm sure I will be doing a new one in the near future, just gotta find the time and then simply dive into it.

In 2009 you've played in Ukraine at Metal Heads' Mission Festival. How did you like it? How do you remember that show? What are your memories about Ukraine?

- Yes, that was a very cool show! Even though it was very hot!!! lol

We enjoyed that time very much, it was such a cool setting and people were very pumped. I remember driving a lot in Ukraine!! lol. But really beautiful when we got to the beach. It was a different world for us, but everyone was so cool that it was easy to fit right in.

Thank you very much Flo for taking the time and filling out my questionnaire. Last words are yours.

- Thank you very much for your support!!! Hope to see you soon on tour.

Grand Supreme Blood Court



Photo by Jeanny Petrocchi

From now on the Dutch underground scene got richer with an excellent death/doom band called Grand Supreme Blood Court. Featuring very well-known musicians from Asphyx, Soulburn & Hail of Bullets the quintet is about to release their debut album shortly. I was happy about questioning the riff-master of obscure & grief harmonies – Eric Daniels, who told us all the recent news & the born of Grand Supreme Blood Court. Now the grand jury sentences you to read the following supreme lines!!!

Hail to thee Eric! Welcome back to the spheres of real death & doom Metal. Tell us more about the antecedents and factors that motivated you to form Grand Supreme Blood Court in 2011.

- Hi Kornel, thank you. Well after a long resting-period it was boiling again inside me to play the doom/death again. Grab my guitar and started to compose. I sent the demo-riffs to Bob and Martin and they liked it very much. The idea was to form a band together, and we asked Alwin and Theo if they like to join us. Together Alwin and I shaped the songs made new riffs and made demo-songs at our homes to get a view for the songs. Alwin has the skills to make demos, and we all liked it very much. This was the idea to form GSBC.

You teamed up with Century Media Records. Was it natural or due to your past in Asphyx and later on in Soulburn? When can we expect the release of your debut album?

- Well, before we teamed up with CMR, we already had contacts with other record-companies. However, concerning the past and the good relationship with CMR we decided together to sign with them, 'cause we are very satisfied with the work they do and personal contact we have.

Where did you record it? Who was the producer and who will be charged for the mixing & mastering?

- We recorded the guitars, drums and bass at the Sonic Assault Studio with Frank Klein Douwel as studio-engineer, planning is to do the vocals at Har-

row Productions with Harry Wijering. The mixing and mastering will be done by Dan Swanö at his Unisound. We already received two songs mixed to get the idea of the sound. It sounds really awesome and we are very happy so far.

Musically you mention that there won't be any wink or connection to your former bands. Please describe us then the way and musical approach GSBC will follow.

- Well that's hard to describe in words, however our musical influences are random, bands like: old Possessed, Deathstrike, Necrovore, Infernal Mä-jesty, Hellhammer and Malhavoc. It sounds heavy, downtuned to open B, and with 2 guitar-players. It has possibilities this way. GSBC has its own character, but if you listen later when the release is done, people can hear for themselves. Pure and real doom/death it will be.

The band's line-up consists of all the good, old and pretty well-known Dutch death metal warriors. Was it a conscious way to unite with them or it happened spontaneously? Any mysterious story behind this alliance?

- It all happened spontaneously, it was not planned. We kept in touch for a time ago. I started to compose riffs and together with Alwin we made the foundation of the songs. I am very happy to play in this band. Of course with Bob and Martin, it feels like home. The drums pounding with his own style... it never stops the beats, pure death metal. And Martin his vocals to me the best death-voice

in metal-land. And I like the style of Theo bass-playing... brutal and give a punch between the guitar-saws. I wasn't used very much in the past to play with a second guitar-player. With Alwin it feels right... tandem-wise. It was always a personal wish to play with 2 saws, now it's getting real. No mysteries in the back of the story. Just some friends with the doom/death in the veins and playing with heart and soul, like to play together. That's all.

What kind of lyrics will contain the debut album? Who wrote them? Please share with us the album title and some song titles respectively?

- The album is gonna be a concept-album about the Blood Court. All lyrics are bounded together for this idea. Martin wrote the whole concept, and what we heard so far it sounds awesome. It is too much detail to tell about the lyrics, but the main inspiration is that the Blood Court is coming on earth, don't know where it came from, and will judge everyone inside the court a brutal death. When you are picked out and dragged inside the court you know already going to die. Which way you're gonna die you don't know that's the decision about the grand jury and judges. After the task is done for the Blood Court it will vanish to another place nobody knows where to. This is the main inspiration for the album packed in brutal lyrics and of course music. We have only work-titles yet.

In 2010 you've played one show with Asphyx. How did it turn out? Didn't you plan to return to your former band?

- I had a great time to play as a special-guest at CM Yardsale in Dortmund 2010. It felt really good after 10 years not being on stage. They did a great job to let me feel comfortable, and I played the whole show. We just had a good time and I am thankful for this opportunity. No that's not on my mind and my decision, it was a one-time show I did, my focus is at GSBC. Asphyx is an oiled machine, never change a winning team I say.

You've been away from making music more than a decade. Didn't you miss it? What have you been doing over these past years?

- Yes, that's true. I made the decision back than to pull back from making music. I had other things in life which got my interests. But after some time I really missed to play the guitar again. So 3 years ago I started to play again, just for myself, got the feeling back, and it gave me so much comfort and joy, I started to make riffs and recorded them into my PC. Just ideas I worked out, and after some time, I started to send them to the other guys just to ask their opinion. Well, the story is further in this interview how it turned out. It feels great to be a member of a band again, new energy, and the heart and soul to spread the real doom/death.

How do you estimate the two latest Asphyx albums? What is your opinion about Hail of Bullets and their kind of death metal?

- I really like the last two Asphyx albums very much, from the "Death... The Brutal Way" I played a couple of songs live together on the CM Yardsale, and they are killer songs, very crushing riffs and in your face. It feels good to me, the story continues and that matters. I got the advance CD from Martin before the release of the latest HOB album. I liked listen to it, it's different from my personal taste of death metal, but I can hear the energy and songwriting, it is done with the true believe and that always will have my respects.

You are a pretty experienced musician, thus tell us more about your gear and special guitar sound. What kind of guitars, amplifiers, effects and strings you use?

- Our guitar-sound is in the effects. Alwin and I, we are not guitars- and amps-branded. However, we use both the Jackson Flying V X-series the most.

The neck gives so much playability they are famous for and the sound is awesome with these ones. The type and brand of picks and guitar strings are important to give that clarity and crunch. We both use a different brand, but that's a personal matter. Also the style of playing, we don't treat the strings as our lovely house-pets, but just be angry at those 6 steel barbed-wire things. Aggressive, but tight playing is our thing. The guitars we use nowadays are B.C. Rich, DBZ, and Jackson. All Flying V's 'cause that's the shape of guitar for metal! When we compose we like the variety of brands 'cause they all have a different neck, which we like, and the mood we are to pick the guitar with that kind of neck when we are playing or composing riffs. All guitars are neck-through or set-in. It gives more sustain and sounds more tight. All equipped with EMG active pick-ups 'cause the steady sound of it. For the aggressive trem-solo's Floyd Rose original trem. We can use cheap guitars and amps or expensive ones; we can manage to get our sound from any guitar and amp. All our equipment is out of the box, no modifications. That point of view, if something will damage or fail, it can be bought right away without the time and money to spend on modifications. It will be a long list to write what stuff we are using, so I keep it shorter this way. We don't like to spend lots of time in studio or at home or on stage to adjust the sound. The last recordings we did for GSBC it only took about 5 minutes to get the sound for the recordings.

GSBC has also signed a deal with the independent booking agency, namely TMR Music Promotions. When do you plan to start your concert activity? Any plans for a continuous European tour (maybe along with Asphyx & Hail of Bullets)?

- That's a bit too far ahead to discuss about playing shows, where and when. Our major concern is to finish the album, then release, and then we just see how we want to plan shows. We want to play shows, but not too much. Yes, it's correct we are in contact with TMR Music. However, touring is not an option, concerning the busy activities and commitments of the other band-members. Some of them have families to take care of, and we also

have jobs besides music. Just see what coming our way, about shows.

How's the metal life in Oldenzaal? Do you often visit local gigs? What was the latest gig you've visited?

- Metal life in Oldenzaal itself is hard to find. If we go visit gigs from other bands, we like to go to Enschede "Atak" and Hengelo "Metropool". The last gigs we hanged out together were at Nailgun Massacre and Entrapment. Very good bands, playing the real kind of death.

Please list us your recommendations regarding the Dutch national food and drinks for all those who aren't familiar with.

- Beer: Grolsch... Food: stew, kale, potatoes, gravy, and others. Douwe Egberts coffee, Van Nelle Export tobacco, and sure many other groceries I forget here. Just try it... if you dislike it, well... at least you tried it!

Are you into arts and museums? Is there any notable museum around you? The Netherlands is pretty famous for their painters, like Hieronymus Bosch, Rembrandt, Johannes Vermeer, Paulus Potter, Jan de Bray and many more. Do you have your favorite ones?

- Personally I am not into art that much, but I don't go very often to museums. I was in the national Museum in Amsterdam, but that was years ago. I am not a knowledge person of museums and art. My view is... When I see something I like it right away or I dislike it right away. I like music more than art. But as an open-minded person I am not right away leave things or dislike 'em. I know the painters you mentioned. In history-class they came up. A few years ago I went to a weekly-during museum to see the paintings from Van Gogh. I like his colours he used and the details of his paintings. Besides a rich death-metal country, we also have famous painters as well ☺

Thanks a lot for the interview, Eric! Please finish it by sending your grand supreme wishes to all the Ukrainian death & doom metal fans...

- Thank you Kornel for this interview. Deadly doom/death-wishes to all Ukrainian death-thrashers... You rule! Check out the GSBC album later, death-metal even got deadlier.





Hails! The name of Kill With Hate spins pretty often lately in the death metal underground scene. Is it due to some fortune or years of hard work involved into?

- It's hard work, conscious promotion, and the fact that we have and had underground veterans in the band with the right connections.

The band was formed back in 2003, but only from 2007 starts actively progressing and playing live everywhere where it is possible. Why took it so long to activate the band?

- The band was formed by Khrul (former drummer) and a guy named Feco (we don't even know his full name) as a hobby project. They first made a 4-song demo in 2006 (we still play one song from that material, "Family"). Khrul was always more into black metal, he had several active black metal bands and for some time he couldn't focus on KWH. Feco later immigrated to Germany to work. Our former bassist Tamás "Kocsonya" Meilinger basically reformed the band in 2007 with me and Marci on guitars. Khrul finally focused on us and we started composing new songs and performing live.

On the debut album "Voices of Obliteration" we acknowledge a very strong musicianship. Tell us in short the band-members experience in other bands and how the actual line-up forged together.

- All of us have played in bands before Kill With Hate. Notably Krisztián, our singer, who's been doing this for decades, and was the singer of Sin Of Kain. I played in the thrash metal band Archaic from 2006 to 2008, Patrik (bass) played with Khrul and his band Funebre, Turi (drums) and Marci played in Limb For A Limb. All this experience culminated in the writing and recording of "Voices of Obliteration".

Canadian PRC Music was the label to release your debut CD. What kind of contract do you have with them and are you satisfied with the work done so far? Tell us more about this alliance.

- It's not a "real" contract, we only agreed in email. It's more of a collaboration than a contract. We help each other. Most minor independent labels want to rip you off (like paying for your own CDs or hundreds of euros for promotion), but he was really helpful all the time. He basically paid us, in the form of CDs. He's got connections all around the world, and now our CD can be bought in distros in North America and Europe.

The year 2013 was very fruitful for the band: worldwide release of the debut album, lots of gigs, a European tour and last but not least playing at the mighty Wacken festival. Sum it up and reveal us what can we expect from Kill With Hate in 2014.

- We'll tour again in Europe for sure, and we'll play a few gigs at home, but our main focus is writing

the new material. We're changing to sevenstrings, which will give us new dimensions to explore. This spring/summer will be spent with composing, so we can record our new album in 2015.

The band owns some super killer merchandise. Who makes those sick T-shirt arts for you? Also tell us about the magic co-operation with Gyula Havancsák as for the cover art of "Voices of Obliteration". Who came up with that cover idea?

- For T-shirts we worked with Robert Borbás (grindesign) and lately with Örs Bakonyi (Hartproject).

The cover was first visioned by Márton our guitarist who also writes all the lyrics. He's responsible for the concept. But we also gave all artistic freedom to Gyula. We sent him the concept in email and a few months later (he's very busy) he sent us the first draft (which was basically the final cover art without the blood). We were happy with it in the first place.

For the song "The Beast Within" you made a nice bloodsoaked video clip. Shall we expect another one in the near future?

- Definitely ☺, but next time we want the band to have more screen time in the video.

Being a 5-piece band you have a special 6th member, namely Szandra or as most of us know "The Catering Queen", whose work is simply vital for Kill With Hate. Be it about a regular show, a tour, the bandmerch, etc. she is always there and maximally support Kill With Hate. How it all began? Enlighten our readers more about Szandra and her interests.

- She's the fiancé of our singer Krisztián, and she's a good partner, so she supports his man ☺. They're together for 19 years now, she always helped and supported Krisztián in his music and she enjoys managing the band. I don't know where we'd be without her ☺.

Since the material for your debut album was written more than a year ago the question rises have you ready with some new songs and if so what direction they will follow?

- We have only one new song at the moment, but there are riffs in the works all the time. Even Turi, our drummer wrote riffs in guitar pro ☺.

The direction is not yet known. We all evolved as musicians, so we'll try to set the bar higher with the next record in every way.

Shortly the band will perform at the Death by Metal festival in Budapest with such monster death metal acts as Kataklysm, Krisiun or Fleshgod Apocalypse just to name a few. Do you plan some special set-list or live appearance for that event? What can expect a regular death metal fan on a show performed by Kill With Hate?

- We're planning something for that event, but it's a secret ☺.

But for a regular show, you can expect a tight performance, high speed, blast beats and arpeggios. We also have a few slow/mid-tempo riffs and songs to make the set easier to take.

So far you played quite a lot of shows. There were club shows and big stage appearances as well. You played with famous acts and less known too. What was the most memorable show for you and why? Which city or country impressed you by their metal maniacs the most?

- The last one or two years we had nothing but awesome shows. The band got tighter, and we built a little fan base.

One of our all-time favorite show was the one with The Black Dahlia Murder. It was also the debut show for our bassist Patrik. It was a free party, 800 people saw us that day.

Since then we played with Cannibal Corpse, Origin, Krisiun, Lock Up to name a few. It's always a huge honor and an even bigger opportunity to support such great names.

And of course the performance in Wacken... Playing for more than a thousand people, fantastic experience.

And we recently had a tour in the region, including Slovakia, Poland, the Czech Republic and Austria. All shows were great, but the show in Klodzko, in Poland, was the greatest. The place was tiny, but completely filled with people. They were moshing and screaming, and they didn't let us off the stage. We played 3 encore songs!

We also recently played in the Ukraine at the UzhGoreRot festival, thanks to you ☺.

It can be listed among one of the best shows we've ever played. We received a very warm welcome from the Hungarian members of the crowd and the Ukrainians were very nice to us as well. Constant moshing, circle pit and wall of death. We can't wait to come back!

Death metal was never meant to be a style for survival. So what the band members do and work besides playing in Kill With Hate? You can share your hobbies here as well.

- Patrik works as a security guard, Márton is a financial advisor, Krisztián is an usher at one of the best venues in Budapest (and in Europe) the A38 ship. Turi and I, are finishing school and we hope we'll get a job after that. Our hobby is Kill With Hate.

Finally, send your killing regards to our readers and to all the Ukrainian Kill With Hate fans!

- Keep the metal faith alive in Ukraine! Thanks for the great experience you gave us, we are looking forward to return to you!

Swedish death/black metal band Necrophobic are one of those obscure underground hordes that always kept their music true to the fans and to the musical path they started back in 1989. Drummer Joakim Sterner was cool enough to answer a few questions of mine. Read this brief conversation right before the dawn!



Hails Joakim! As I see you have some special live appearances in preparation for 2015. Please enlighten us more details about these gigs and tours to come. Do you plan an extensive European tour as well?

- In the nearest future, we will go to Mexico. We also have a festival in England and some more that we are not able to release information about at this time. Check our official page on Facebook for the latest news. You find it at: facebook.com/necrophobic.official

Compared to the previous two albums "Womb of Lilith" became less monumental still very dark with some abstract touch that I've experienced for the first time in the band's history. How do you see this? Was it due to the changes over the guitarists' spots?

- It has of course something to do with that Fredrik is the main composer to the songs on the latest album. However, I think all the basics and our foundation is still there, the stuff that the band has had as our trademark since the beginning.

Now the band performs with one guitar live. Since I witnessed Necrophobic only with two guitarists in the past, the question rises, does your songs sound enough informative, massive and atmospheric with one guitar?

- I understand the question and all I can say about it is that it still sounds powerful, but also more clear and distinct.

Fredrik Folkare of Unleashed joined Necrophobic in 2011. Does it easy for him to maximally focus on both bands, play live and create music? Don't you plan to involve a second guitarist to the band in the future?

- Fredrik is fully capable of handling all his musical duties in all bands and projects he's part of. It's all about dedication and planning. A second guitarist is something that is not discussed as of yet.

I am very happy to see Anders Strökirk in the band again. But tell me what went wrong with Tobias? Recently his new gothic formation Order of Isaz released their debut album. Did you check that album yet? If so, tell us your opinion and impressions.

- Yes, it's great that Anders is back again, since he was part of the band before. The thing with Tobias is

something that we have put behind us now, and no, I have not heard the album. I'm sure it is a good one within that goth genre.

Now as Anders is in, do you plan to perform more tracks from the classic "The Nocturnal Silence" album live? Can you share with us the actual set list you play live?

- The recent set list we performed on the Black Christmas festival in Norrköping, here in Sweden, was a set of 45 minutes and it included "Splendour Nigri Solis", "Dreams Shall Flesh", "Astaroth", "Furfur", "Revelation 666", "Blinded by Light, Enlightened by Darkness", "Before the Dawn" and "The Nocturnal Silence". We plan to include more from the first album, but what more and how much more, is not decided yet.

During this absence Anders has been active with Blackshine and they've released 4 albums to date. Did you listen to those albums? Your opinion about their kind of thrash/death'n'roll?

- I have heard all their albums and I think they do it good.

"Womb of Lilith" was your first record out on Season of Mist. Since more than a year passed since its release, please tell us how this new alliance works. Are you satisfied with your new label's job? What kind of deal you signed with them?

- Season of Mist is a big label with a lot of people working with different specific areas, so to speak. So far, we have had a good collaboration with them. The deal is something that doesn't necessary has to be revealed, even though it's not a secret or anything, but I believe both parts will continue to work for a long time together.

There was some oddity behind the release of your compilation album called "Satanic Blasphemies". Three labels released it. First Regain Records in 2009, then Floga Records in 2011 on vinyl and Hammerheart Records in 2012. You had some disagreements with Regain Records on that subject and I suppose that was the main fact you parted ways with them, am I right? Tell us the whole story behind it.

- I really don't know every detail behind the releases from HHR and Floga, but I called David (Parland) before doing it together with Regain Records and

discussed it with him. The other stuff is beyond my control. What happened to Regain is that they left the surface a few years back and is not able to reach.

I guess it is too early to speak about a new Necrophobic release yet. Anyway, do you have some new tracks ready? If so, tell us more about their musical approach as well as what kind of lyrical themes will be used there? When do you plan to release it?

- It's too early to speak of. We have a few embryos. That's all I can say right now.

Necrophobic's music was always dealing with obscure, occult and black topics. Where all those dark inspirations come from? What motivates you personally to walk on the dark path of life?

- The music, the image, the art all go hand in hand for what we do as artists. We put these topics in the spotlight to tell about this strong force.

Are there any records out of the death/black metal scene that impressed you lately? Name us your Top 10 records of all time. How's the situation of selling your physical merchandise (CDs, LPs, T-shirts, etc.) in Sweden? Is it differs too much from other European countries when you are on tour for example?

- The latest album I got a kick out of is the album "The Formulas of Death" by Tribulation. I don't really understand what you mean with the merchandise, but I think it's not so different from other countries, but it's more hard to sell our merch in poor countries, but on the other hand, those poor countries really appreciate that you come to their countries and play.

A top 10 list of all time, would be something like this, in no particular order: Iron Maiden "The Number of the Beast", Bathory "Under the Sign of the Black Mark", Metallica "Ride the Lightning", Slayer "Reign in Blood", W.A.S.P. "W.A.S.P.", Entombed "Left Hand Path", Morbid Angel "Altars of Madness", Kreator "Pleasure to Kill", Judas Priest "Screaming for Vengeance", Accept "Restless and Wild".

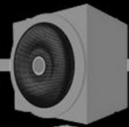
Thank you very much for taking the time to answer these questions. Share your final thoughts to all the Ukrainian death/black fans. Last blackened words are yours!

- Thanks for the support and hope to see all of you fans on a future tour!



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GORGUTS - CONSIDERED DEAD



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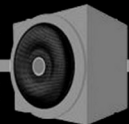
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