ENCOMINATION?

Extreme Underground 'zine

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DATURA, DESTRUCTION, DESULTORY, DISSECTION, EFFRONTERY ENDOCRANIAL, FAITHXTRACTOR, F.A.M., FLESHGORE GRINDING JESUS BROTHERS, GUTTED, INQUISITOR, PESTILENCE PROTECTOR, STABBED, TANKARD, THORWALD, UNBORN SUFFER

Items flies fast, especially I would say it regarding the past 15 years. You are holding in your hands the 4th printed issue of Encomium 'zine, which I decided to bring out exactly on the day of the UzhGoreRot 2017 festival, to support as many of its participants as possible this way as well. Most of the readers don't know that the first printed issue was out back in 1998 and it was followed by two more printed issues, in 1999 and in 2001. Well, after the third printed issue was out, I've decided to turn Encomium into a webzine. So in between the 3rd and the actual 4th issues I've managed to commit quite a lot of interviews with smaller and bigger bands as well. But we are talking



underground here, so no need to classify them, right? In the actual issue I've decided to place only the freshest interviews I've done in the past 2 years, except a timeless one, which I had the pleasure to execute 10th of June, 2005 in Budapest (Hungary), with none other than Jon Nödtveidt (R.I.P.) of DISSECTION. I am very proud of that conversation, but since it was only online available so far, I've tought it would be a great idea to materialize it in a printed way as well. So here it is, untouched, the way it was published back in 2005. Regarding the reviews I've decided to feature them starting with releases from 2010 up to these days. Now, as you have a complete overview of the featured content, all is left to say: Have a pleasant reading! And always keep in your mind that local bands need your support better than you ever thought of!!! So keep the underground spirit alive!!!

Cornelius' Top 50:

1. Destruction - "Infernal Overkill" (1985) 2. Kreator - "Pleasure To Kill" (1986) 3. Sodom - "Persecution Mania" (1987) 4. Death - "Individual Thought Patterns" (1993) 5. Hypocrisy - "Abducted" (1996) 6. Dissection - "Storm Of The Light's Bane" (1995) 7. King Diamond - "Abigail" (1987) 8. Mercyful Fate - "Don't Break The Oath" (1984) 9. Dismember - "Like An Everflowing Stream" (1991) 10. Entombed - "Left Hand Path" (1990) 11. Pestilence - "Consuming Impulse" (1989) 12. Morbid Angel - "Blessed Are The Sick" (1991) 13. Carcass - "Necroticism - Descanting The Insalubrious" (1991) 14. Bolt Thrower - "Realm Of Chaos" (1989) 15. Massacra - "Signs Of The Decline" (1992) 16. Deicide - "Legion" (1992) 17. Vader - "De Profundis" (1995) 18. Grave - "You'll Never See..." (1992) 19. Asphyx - "The Rack" (1991) 20. Cancer - "Death Shall Rise" (1991) 21. Carnage - "Dark Recollections" (1990) 22. Unleashed - "Shadows In The Deep" (1992) 23. Desultory - "Into Eternity" (1993) 24. Necrophobic - "The Nocturnal Silence" (1993) 25. At The Gates - "Slaughter Of The Soul" (1995) 26. Nile - "Amongst The Catacombs Of Nephren-Ka" (1998) 27. Cradle Of Filth - "The Principle Of Evil Made Flesh" (1994) 28. Control Denied - "The Fragile Art Of Existence" (1999) 29. Atrocity - "Todessehnsucht" (1992) 30. Kataklysm - "Sorcery" (1995) 31. Cryptopsy - "Whisper Supremacy" (1998) 32. Immolation - "Dawn Of Possession" (1991) 33. Incubus - "Beyond The Unknown" (1990) 34. Cannibal Corpse - "Eaten Back To Life" (1990) 35. Hate Eternal - "King Of All Kings" (2002) 36. Protector - "A Shedding Of Skin" (1991) 37. Sinister - "Bastard Saints" (1996) 38. Tankard - "The Meaning Of Life" (1990) 39. Holy Moses - "Terminal Terror" (1991) 40. Sepultura - "Beneath The Remains" (1989) 41. Helloween - "Walls Of Jericho" (1985) 42. Running Wild - "Port Royal" (1988) 43. Angel Dust - "To Dust You Will Decay" (1988) 44. Judas Priest - "Painkiller" (1990) 45. Overkill - "Horrorscope" (1991)

46. Slayer - "Show No Mercy" (1983)

47. Exodus - "Pleasures Of The Flesh" (1987)

48. Testament - "The New Order" (1988)

49. Whiplash - "Insult To Injury" (1989)

50. Forbidden - "Twisted Into Form" (1990)

My eternal respect and gratitude goes out to the following ones: Georgius, Kate "Outsider" Siyartova (R.I.P.), Olly Zubor, Alexander Erhardt & Bloodbucket Productions, Jon Nödtveidt (R.I.P.) & DISSECTION, Klas Morberg & DESULTORY, Gerre & TANKARD, Schmier & DESTRUCTION, Patrizio Marco Giovanni Mameli & PESTILENCE, Sándor Hajnali & GUTTED, Damian "Sfenson" Bednarski & UNBORN SUFFER, Ivan "Ivin" Babilonský & STABBED/OBLITERATE, Igor Lystopad & FLESHGORE, Andrey Malikov & ENDOCRANIAL, Martin Missy & PROTECTOR, Péter Lipák & EFFRONTERY, Pavel Glumin & KSM 'zine, Kolya & Trismus Records, Radu Vulpe & DECEASE, Štefan Tokár & BRUTE, Kamil "Spider" Rusiecki & BLACKSNAKE, Ivoš Krátký & DRACO HYPNALIS, Jarek & FINAL SIX, Igor Ignatezyk, Piotr & Strych Promotions, Android & EXEGUTOR, Martin Brňovják & ARCHEONIC, Peter "Pete Flesh" Karlsson & THE PETE FLESH DEATHTRIP, Steven Henry, Hendrik Bruns & OBSCENITY, Andrey Khomenko & SPIT BILE, Piotr "Młody" Winiarski & ROTENGEIST, Gyda & Edda from ANGIST, Kacper & HEGEMONE, Aleksey & Satanath Records, Piotr & PARRICIDE, Tobias Fongelius & VOODUS, Jozef & Vlado from GRINDING JESUS BROTHERS, Iždo & HUMAN HUMUS, Erik Sprooten & Wim van der Valk from INQUISITOR, Anton Subbotin & DATURA, Ash Thomas & FAITHXTRACTOR, Martin Lukáč & NOMENMORTIS, Haglaz & MORGON, Bindi & THORWALD, Andrey Batura, Szalai Alexandra, Krisztián Gyémánt & KILL WITH HATE, Joakim Sterner & NECROPHOBIC, Erwin Harreman & SUPREME PAIN, Karl Sanders & NILE, Sabina Classen & HOLY MOSES, Lars Szöke, Jeff Becerra & POSSESSED, Mary Abaza & MERLIN, Otto & NEEDFUL THINGS, Kubo & KILLCHAIN, Justin Knipper & MUCOPUS, Carl Stokes & CANCER, Flo Mounier & CRYPTOPSY, Ed Warby & THE 11TH HOUR, Fred Estby & DISMEMBER, Henrik Jacobsen & HATESPHERE, Adam Dryś, Marcin Dyvan, Brian Hobbie, Antonio Donadeo, Martin Schulman & DEMONICAL, Gianluca Lucarini & DEGENERHATE, George "Corpsegrinder" Fisher & CANNIBAL CORPSE, Paolo Rossi & Cristiano Trionfera from FLESHGOD APOCALYPSE, Lev Kurgansky, Marco Pitruzzella, Darek Młody & F.A.M., Hellbutcher & NIFELHEIM, Bob Bagchus & Eric Daniels from SOULBURN, Krzysztof & MANIPULATION and everyone else who has helped and supported ENCOMIUM in any way! You rule!!!

Georgius' Top so:

1. Dismember - "Like An Everflowing Stream" (1991) 2. Dissection - "Storm Of The Light's Bane" (1995) 3. Kreator - "Pleasure To Kill" (1986) 4. Sodom - "Persecution Mania" (1987) 5. King Diamond - "The Eye" (1990) 6. Mercyful Fate - "Don't Break The Oath" (1984) 7. Running Wild - "Death Or Glory" (1989) 8. Entombed - "Left Hand Path" (1990) 9. Carnage - "Dark Recollections" (1990) 10. Helloween - "Helloween" (1985) 11. Grave - "You'll Never See..." (1992) 12. Unleashed - "Shadows In The Deep" (1992) 13. Pestilence - "Malleus Maleficarum" (1988) 14. Hypocrisy - "Osculum Obscenum" (1993) 15. Destruction - "Live Without Sense" (1989) 16. Desultory - "Into Eternity" (1993) 17. Asphyx - "Last One On Earth" (1992) 18. Maze Of Torment - "The Force" (1997) 19. Cradle Of Filth - "The Principle Of Evil Made Flesh" (1994) 20. Death - "Scream Bloody Gore" (1987) 21. Exodus - "Bonded By Blood" (1985) 22. Protector - "Golem" (1988) 23. At The Gates - "With Fear I Kiss The Burning Darkness" (1993) 24. The Black - "The Priest Of Satan" (1994) 25. Ancient Rites - "And The Hordes Stood As One" (2003) 26. Massacra - "Signs Of The Decline" (1992) 27. Centurian - "Choronzonic Chaos Gods" (1999) 28. Inquisitor - "Walpurgis - Sabbath Of Lust" (1996) 29. Unanimated - "Ancient God Of Evil" (1995) 30. Shaarimoth - "Current 11" (2005) 31. Comecon - "Megatrends In Brutality" (1992) 32. Mefisto - "The Truth" (1999) 33. Sabbat - "Dreamweaver" (1989) 34. Bolt Thrower - "Realm Of Chaos" (1989) 35. Possessed - "Seven Churches" (1985) 36. Nile - "Amongst The Catacombs Of Nephren-Ka" (1998) 37. Angel Dust - "To Dust You Will Decay" (1988) 38. Tankard - "Chemical Invasion" (1987) 39. Pentacle - "...Rides The Moonstorm" (1998) 40. The Pete Flesh Deathtrip - "Svartnad" (2016) 41. Accept - "Balls To The Wall" (1983) 42. Judas Priest - "Defenders Of The Faith" (1984) 43. Iron Maiden - "The Number Of The Beast" (1982) 44. Morbid - "Year Of The Goat" (2011) 45. Impaled Nazerene - "Ugra-Karma" (1993) 46. Atrocity - "Todessehnsucht" (1992) 47. Necrocurse - "Grip Of The Dead" (2013) 48. Carcass - "Necroticism - Descanting The Insalubrious" (1991) 49. Sinister - "Diabolical Summoning" (1993) 50. Paradox - "Heresy" (1989)

Massive hails to you from the Ukraine! For some time there was no news from the DESULTORY camp, but totally unexpectedly you've just announced the release date and revealed the cover art for your new album "Through Aching Aeons". So it is going to be released 23rd of June and will capture 9 songs. Tell us more about these new songs, their musical directions and the creating process in general.

- The album consists of material that we have been working on slowly but surely for the last couple of years, for this album we wanted to evolve a bit from the "Counting Our Scars" album, we wanted to try to make the arrangements a bit more complex and we really worked on getting the songs to get their own identity.

Where did you record "Through Aching Aeons", in what line-up and who produced it?

- In Necromorbus Studio with Tore Stjerna as a producer. Klas – guitar/vox, Håkan – guitar, Thomas – drums, Jojje – bass.

Who is responsible for such an eerie cover art? I suppose this cover art totally fits the lyrical content. Can you tell us briefly about the concept and lyrics behind your fifth album?

- Pierre-Alain Durand made the cover. We think it really fits and have a gloomy, dystopic vibe to it. The lyrics deal with stuff that goes around us is these times, and it does not look very promising so the lyrical message is quite dark, but it's written in an abstract way so that everyone can do their own interpretation.

Unfortunately along with all the great news about the upcoming new album we've been also told that DESULTORY will cease to exist as a band after its release. What motivated you to make this decision? Will any of the

members continue to play music in other bands/projects after the socalled stop of DESULTORY?

- We have always taken our music really seriously and we now felt that we didn't have the motivation to go in 100% in the songwriting process again, so we decided that this was the best and most honest way to put DESULTORY to rest with this album, which we feel is one of our strongest ever

Personally I was really happy and it was extremely great to see your comeback with "Counting Our Scars" in November 2010. It was definitely one of the highlight materials of the Death Metal genre in 2010! Who initiated to reform DESULTORY back then? What were the media's and fans' reactions about that album?

- The feedback on "Counting" was really good. We did already in 2007-2008 feel the urge to awaken DESULTORY so we started to write some stuff and play some gigs again, and finally the material turned out to be "Counting", which we felt became a good and honest comeback album.

Pulverised Records did a fantastic job with "Counting Our Scars" as well as with your first 2 records, which were re-mastered and re-issued again with your demo tracks as bonuses. Tell us a bit about your co-operation and how do they treat you. Are they going to release your final album as well?

- Yes Pulverised has been a great partner these last years, because we are not easy to work with as everything we do takes so long time. But they are really understanding and let us go in our pace and do not put any deadlines. The reissues were great and they helped us to preserve all our old demo-tracks, which was great. They will also release "Through Aching Aeons" both on CD and vinyl.

For the vinyl freaks "Into Eternity" and "Bitterness" were also re-released as gatefold ones by War Anthem Records. Will "Through Aching Aeons" be released on vinyl too? Do you collect vinyl records? If so, what were your latest vinyl investments?

- Yes, gatefold, both on black and also milky white vinyl. I do not collect, but both Thomas and Jojje do, they buy new vinyls all the time.

When DESULTORY broke up after the 3rd full-length Thomas, Håkan & you formed ZEBULON and continued to play "Swallow the Snake" style music there. You managed to release an EP and 2 albums through People Like You Records. How was the success with ZEBULON throughout its existence?

- We did not so much success when it comes to album sales or media attention, I think the albums were really good and was fun to play and record, but at the end we felt the urge to play death metal again and that led to the comeback with "Counting"...

Your bass player Johan also plays in UNANIMATED as guitarist. Their reformation in 2007 was a nice surprise, while their comeback album "In the Light of Darkness" in 2009 was undoubtedly a good gift for all the Death/Black metal maniacs worldwide. How do you like that record? Have you any news about them?

- Yeah that was a great album... I think they are working on new stuff as well, but I'm not sure what plans they have.

Stockholm is the cradle of the Swedish Death Metal movement with lots of remarkable pioneers of the genre itself. Please tell us in short about the atmosphere that reigned in the end of 80s, early 90s and the nowadays situation there.

- In the very beginning there was a quite limited amount of bands around, but suddenly it just exploded and there were bands everywhere, underground gigs every weekend, demos that you could buy on every gig. There were gigs with NIHILIST/ENTOMBED, DISMEMBER, UNLEASHED, THERION and tons of other not so known bands. It was a really cool period, especially now in retrospect when you realize the impact these early years have had on a complete genre.

Could you name us some of your favorite albums? And also which bands motivated/influenced you to start playing Death Metal and to create DESULTORY back in the time?

- My biggest influences when we started DESULTORY were DEATH, MORBID ANGEL

and AUTOPSY as well as KREATOR and, of course, ENTOMBED. I also loved SEPULTURA in the beginning. Also CANDLEMASS was an inspiration. I still remember when MORBID ANGEL came to Stockholm in 1990 to play in Fagersta, but we couldn't go to the show as we had booked Sunlight studio to record our first demo!

All I can say that I really waiting for your 5th album "Through Aching Aeons" to be released. Until then, please finish this interview with your farewell wishes to all the Ukrainian DESULTORY fans and add your last thoughts.

- I really hope you guys like our final album... Thanx a lot for your support during all these years, it was great!



Desultory's farewell album "Through Aching Aeons" has been released a few months ago worldwide! I've asked Klas Morberg to reveal us all the details about their final masterpiece and about their deliberate departure.

I would say TANKARD is really hyperactive lately. Their newest full-length album "One Foot in the Grave" was released in June, but they are already preparing a new version of the "Schwarz-Weiß wie Schnee" EP (which has been completely sold out for over ten years) to be released in September. I can't keep pace with them, hahahaha... Well, in the interview below we mainly focus on "One Foot in the Grave", but some interesting topics has been touched as well. Gerre was super nice and answered all my questions in details. Enjoy!!!

Hi Gerre! My congratulations to your recent album, the aptly titled "One Foot in the Grave", which is your 17th full-length album in the row. It has a massive sound production and all the beloved TANKARD trademark elements included there. I can calmly admit that those ten new songs are kind of balsam to the hearts of all the die-hard Thrash Metal maniacs worldwide. How do you personally feel about the new release and 35 years of TANKARD? Which songs from the new album will you definitely perform live?

- Thanks a lot for your kind words, we are still really satisfied with the result and hope that the fans going to like that album too. The album title is not really seriously, a typical TANKARD joke, although we are very old guys, hahahaha...... After 35 years we had to do a break, so we are really looking forward for the next 35 years and still feel young! Of course, we're going to play the title track live, concerning the other songs we still have to discuss; it's not so easy to decide!

I am also happy to see the green alien figure on the cover again, which for the very first time appeared on the cover of the "Alien" MLP in 1989. Was it totally initiated by Sebastian Krüger back then or you've told him your strict ideas how the alien should look like? How did you get in contact with Patrick Strogulski? He did a fantastic job in recreating and rearranging the alien figure for the album cover of "One Foot in the Grave". Will you continue to work with him in the future?

- Mr. Strogulski was a student of mighty Sebastian Krüger, who did a lot of old legendary TANKARD covers. He worked the first time for us in 2012, creating the "A Girl Called Cerveza" cover. I really love the new cover, one of my TANKARD top five! As far as I can remember Sebastian Krüger created the Alien by his own...... And of course, we would love to continue the work with Patrick.

I've bought the digibook version, which comes with a cool bonus live CD, including your full set from last year's Rock Hard Festival.

Nevertheless, preliminarily at the Nuclear Blast website it was said it will be released with a bonus DVD. What's up with that plan? Will that DVD come out a bit later separately?

- Really??? That must be a mistake, it was just planned to release that concert as an Audio CD. But you can watch the whole show here: http://www1.wdr.de/mediathek/video/sendungen/rockpalast/video-rockpalast-tankard---rock-hard-festival-102.html

The lyrical content became as interesting and variegating as usual. This time it captures a great mixture of thoughtfulness, violence, fun, truth and black humor soaked up with maximum number of beers. Whilst reading, one can get a pretty realistic interpretation about the things that irritate you the most these days. Does the actual

situation look so pessimistic? Be it about today's metal fans, metal bands, social media, backstage experiences and the music industry in general.

- We always try to do a good mixture of serious and funny stuff. Nowadays we live in very strange times, so the focus is more on the serious topics. When we started with TANKARD we did a lot for that kind of image, later we wanted to get rid of it, we really failed. Today we going to make a lot of jokes about our own image, we don't take ourselves too seriously, we don't go blind through life, that's the reason for a song like "Syrian Nightmare"! On the one hand, it makes us very sad what happened over there, on the other hand, it makes us really angry, because so many countries are involved of that conflict, but nobody really takes care about the normal people, they have to suffer and die!

It was also nice to notice the assistance of Andy Bulgaropoulos in most of the lyrics. Do you keep in touch with most of the past members of TANKARD? Don't you plan some kind of special 35 years of TANKARD show with some of the ex-members?

- We still have a great contact with Andy and we are really thankful he is helping us with the lyrics. The other guys I didn't see for many years, maybe we going to invite some of them when we play here in our hometown city end of the year! Especially I really would love to meet our old guitar player Axel again.

Tell us a little bit about your lifetime friendship with Uwe "Buffo" Schnädelbach. How it all began? To me he's like a universal and fulltime member of the band as well, an all in one person (manager, photographer, etc.). Do you have some funny stories to tell?

- Buffo is really something like the fifth member of TANKARD; he started managing TANKARD in 1986 after we released our first album. I did know him from the beginning or middle of the eighties, we both joined the fan club of VENOM

called "Venom's Legions Germany", also Buffo did the POSSESSED fan club. We did a funny song about him on our new album called "Sole Grinder", so just go through the lyrics and you're going to find out something about him, hahahahaha......

Andi besides tearing the strings in TANKARD is also very active as a sportsman. If I remember well he was nominated as an iron man lately, am I right? Would you please tell us more about his hobby and recent achievements? You are a big football fan. When it started? Which is your favorite football team and FC?

-Andi is really crazy about sports. I really guess it's something like a drug for him. He did the iron man and I think he will do this again. He drives a lot on bicycle, every day more than 40 km one way to his job, he is crazy! I visit the games of my team Eintracht Frankfurt since 1975; my father took me there when I was 8 years old. Since those days I am infected and try to visit as much games as possible, although we are often on tour at the weekends.

"One Foot in the Grave" was produced, mixed & mastered by Martin Buchwalter at Gernhart Studio. It was your very first experience with Martin. How was it to work with him? I know that it is too early to ask, but will you continue to work with him in the future?

- Although we were really satisfied with our old producer Michael Mainx we wanted to try something new with "One Foot in the Grave". We know Martin for a very long time, he did good productions and we are really satisfied with the result of the new album. It was a great experience to work together with him, he had a lot of great ideas, but we really don't know what will happen in the future!

"A Girl Called Cerveza" in 2012 marked your debut for Nuclear Blast Records. How was it to work with them for the past 5 years? What

advantages or disadvantages they have compared to your previous labels, Noise Records and AFM Records?

100% satisfied and hope to keep on going

in Ukraine.

with them!



- Thanks a lot for all your support in the last 35 years; we really would love to come over one day to have a great Thrash Metal Party together!

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■ ENCOMIUM #4: FLESHGORE ■

Hails! Your lattermost album "Denial of the Scriptures" was released 19th of February, 2016 by Spanish Xtreem Music. How did you hook up with them and what kind of deal they offered for FLESHGORE?

- Yes! I really proud and happy about it. Our new CD came out a while! Also twice as nice to release this material by Xtreem Music. Right after we recorded new songs we have sent a lot of promo CDs to interested labels all over the world. Of course, we received several positive answers back about signing us. But we have chosen Xtreem Music, because this label has a huge reputation, powerful name in death metal and all their releases are in the old-school death metal wave predominantly. Also they know their work very well! All together, has left us no choice! So we have signed a contract with Xtreem Music and really hope for a great collaboration in the future.

Tell us a little bit about the recording process for this album: rehearsals, pre-production, studios where the recordings took place, mastering, etc.

- We split the recordings of the new album in 2 studio sessions during 2015 year. The last 2 releases were recorded in my home studio and rehearsal room. I called it Sick Carnage Studio. Also mixing and mastering I made at my home studio. Previous EP "Domain of Death" was recorded the same way and everybody liked the sound and production, so we decided to record the full-length material on our own too.

"Denial of the Scriptures" has a killer artwork done by none other than the awesome Seeming Watcher. He did a few other covers for you recently. Who came up with the basic idea and concept for this artwork? Was it totally up to Seeming Watcher when it goes to the small details or you had an exact vision of how it should look like?

- Yes, we've collaborated with Seeming Watcher during our last releases and will work with him in the future, because he is cool as artist. I really like his vision of arts. (Totally agree with you, he's a mastermind – Ed.) In June I have called him and asked about the new cover art for our upcoming material and said that I haven't any idea what it have to be. He used own ideas in artwork. I just asked him to put a few details on the final version.

The lyrics became quite antireligious this time. Please share with us more details about the themes you touched in those 9 tracks. What were influential on you during the writing of the lyrics?

- The biggest influences we took from real life and real world around us. We touched themes about wars, death, mass genocide, forgotten knowledge, total and mind control and many more. Of course, the most important thing is that people close their eyes and they hide behind the screen of religion. But now it's time to wake up! Denial of the scriptures!

Let's talk a bit about the music of "Denial of the Scriptures". The advance song "Inception of Incursion" displays a super massive and groovy Death Metal alloy, which reminded me somehow the well-developed formula of DYING FETUS in some way. How do you feel about it?

- I can't hide that DF is one of my favorite bands in death metal. But I can't say that track "Inception of Incursion" is so close to their style. (Well, maybe it wasn't the best example, I agree, had to compare it better to any of the "Domain of Death" songs, but still their influence is quite evident – Ed.) Maybe in other tracks we are more influenced, also by other great death metal bands. But on the new album we tried to create our own style totally. Times when the

There's no doubt that FLESHGORE is a super hard-working band and if comes to the Brutal Death Metal scene of Ukraine they surely appear in the very top of it. Their fifth and strongest to date album "Denial of the Scriptures" was released last year, so it was more than obvious to interview the band. Founder guitarist Igor Lystopad was cool enough and answered all my questions in details. Enjoy this conversation and make sure to check FLESHGORE's latest album out!



young musicians wanted to be like others long gone. (Really happy to read this and looking forward to listen to the whole new album in details — Ed.)

There was a cover song of PYAEMIA recorded for your new album. What's the story behind it? Any plans, which band(s)/song(s) will you going to cover for your future release(s)?

- We always like to play cover versions. And sometimes we record covers in our studio, because it's so nice to have an own studio and to have unlimited access to it. So during the last recording session we recorded a few covers as well. I asked Dave Rotten (Xtreem Music boss) about the possibility to add some cover as a bonus track on our upcoming CD. He said PYAEMIA will be cool. Usually we try to play and record cover songs of our favorite bands. Maybe you already heard our MORBID ANGEL cover on YouTube. (Sure I've heard it, and your version of "Immortal Rites" became really awesome – Ed.) In the nearest future we are planning to finish the cover versions of INTERNAL BLEEDING and GORGASM too.

Who is responsible in FLESHGORE for writing the songs? Do you provide a complete track for the band-members or it is a team work to complete and finish a new song?

- I write most of the music, but at the rehearsals we try to add ideas from all the other members. This time not all the tracks were written by me. For example, the track "Bloody Hands of Aggressor" from "Denial of the Scriptures" was created by our vocalist/bass player Ruslan. He did a perfect track. So I just added my solo on it plus a few details and that's all. The structure and musical ideas were perfect, so we didn't change anything.

During the existence of the band, you've changed its style quite a few times. You've started as a Brutal Death Metal band then skipped to some modern/experimental kind of extreme music. Why those drastic changes took place? What motivated you to try those modern experiments out? Since the "Domain of Death" EP (2014) you've returned to the good old Brutal

Death Metal style again. Was it due to the new band-members or it was just natural for you to return to your roots?

- In fact, the stylistic changes took place from 2007 to 2012. This was due, because the wishes of some of the former participants in the upgraded group grew into something new, initiated by the current trend. And later with the changes in the band's line-up, which, in fact, resulted in a strong stylistic deviation from the original course. However, later in 2013, the line-up was totally changed and I, as a

founder of the band came to the decision that FLESHGORE must go back to the roots of its original style and to become even better than before, with a great experience and new good musicians in the line-up! But now we are all like-minded persons and can work and create quality death metal as earlier and even better!

Since 2013 you are working quite successfully as a trio and your line-up is stable. Please introduce us the members of FLESHGORE and talk a little about their jobs, interests, hobbies and other actual musical projects.

- Current line-up is: Igor Lystopad (guitars), Ruslan Drozd (vocals/bass), Lev Kurgansky (drums). Ican say advanced about myself. About hobbies I like photography and ride my bike a lot. Also I am recording and mixing some other bands in my home studio. A month ago I've joined a new band project-REVOLT. I knew guys over the years and liked their music, so I will play with them soon. Hope this project will go up! About the other members. Our drummer Lev is a huge fan of old-school death metal and Indonesian

Death Metal bands. He collects rare tapes, demos and any records from 90s. He's also playing in many other bands. His main bands besides FLESHGORE are: EZOPHAGOTHOMIA and CIUTAPT. Earlier he played in more than 20 bands I think and still playing sometimes as a session drummer in some bands. Ruslan also have a project band called ZORG INCORPORATED, where he sings only. Before FLESHGORE he played in many bands like: APXAT, HANDFUL OF STARS, FIRELAKE, INVERSUS, AUDI SILE and GLOOM OF DOOM. So the musical skills and experiences of all the FLESHGORE members are high enough.

There were two interesting tape releases by DAC Productions in 2015, both with unreleased FLESHGORE materials. We talk about the demoing era for "Killing Absorption" album, which happened back in 2002 and about the 2004 demo of "May God Strike Me Dead". Whose idea was to release them this way?

- Our drummer and our good friend Dmitriy from DAC Productions many times asked me to release some demo recordings and the most important idea was to release it unusually and originally. So we decided to release them on tapes without any mastering or fixes for old-school fans and collectors.

Will there be any extended Ukrainian/ European tours set up in support of "Denial of the Scriptures" shortly? Enlighten us some details if they are available yet.

- At the moment I don't have plans about EU tours. I hope to arrange it next year. But I'm sure we will play local gigs over Ukraine and some nearest countries during this year.

Thanks a lot for the answers. To finish the interview, please share your final thoughts to the readers of Encomium.

- Stay true! Support your favorite bands! Visit their shows and buy their stuff. Your support is very important!!!

info@fleshgore.com | www.fleshgore.com www.facebook.com/fleshgoreofficial Hi Martin! First of all, let me congratulate you with the newest release of PROTECTOR. "Cursed and Coronated" is the second full-length album you've made in alliance with the Swedish guys we known before from the MARTIN MISSY AND THE PROTECTORS. In 2011 "The Return of Thrash and Madness" demo marked your return with them. Tell me more about the new start and also what the reactions towards your latest release are.

-Well, it all started in 2005, when I met a metalhead by the name of Jonas Svensson at a NIFELHEIM aftershow party. We talked for hours and in the end the idea of a PROTECTOR coverband came up. Jonas went back to his hometown Uddevalla and recruited Carl-Gustav Karlsson (drums), Mathias Johansson (bass) and Michael Carlsson (guitar) for the project. From 2006 we played a couple of gigs in Europe and in 2011 we decided that we would like to write new songs, and to release them under the name PROTECTOR. I talked to founding member Hansi Müller about it, and he liked the idea. We released a demo in 2011, our comeback LP "Reanimated Homunculus" in 2013 and PROTECTOR's 6th LP "Cursed and Coronated" in 2016

The new album became as awesome as its predecessor and can't glorify enough how cool that you still following the good old Thrash Metal style of PROTECTOR. I suppose it was maximally conscious, right?

- Yes. When we decided to write new songs, we knew that we wanted to do it "the old-school PROTECTOR way", so we wrote all the songs in that direction.

Both of your recent albums were recorded at the famous Sunlight studio. How was it to work with Tomas Skogsberg? Interesting fact that you still sound very old-school, like on your very first records. Was it due to Tomas or exclusively to the new band members and you?

- That the riffs and the songs sound old-school is the result of the good work of my bandcolleagues. The overall sound of our last two recordings were in the hands of Tomas Skogsberg and Patrick W. Engel, who did the mastering. They all did a really great job!

Since 1995 you live in Sweden. Why you moved from Germany? Tell me a little bit about your recent activities: jobs, hobbies, interests, etc. Also please enlighten us the same factors about Michael Carlsson, Mathias Johansson and Carl-Gustav Karlsson. Do you hang along a lot besides the band duties, of course?

- I moved to my mother's homecountry Sweden, because I wanted to try something new. I went to school there for two years and then I started working for the German National Tourist Bureau in Stockholm. I worked there for 13 years before they kicked me out, because they had to save money. Since then I am unemployed and only have had a couple of occasional jobs. In 2008 I got married and in 2011 my two sons were born.

About my bandcolleagues: First of all, I have to say that they all are really great, funny and sympathetic guys. That's probably the main reason why we now have been playing together in the same line-up for 10 years. Carl-Gustav and Michael have been playing their instruments in various bands for quite a while (Michael is at the moment also playing in the Hard Rock'n'Roll band RAWHIDE). Mathias is actually a singer (in SUICIDAL WINDS and AXIS POWERS), but has also been playing guitar for some years, so taking over the bass was no problem for him. Unfortunately, we don't hang out that much, because they live in Uddevalla, which is 500 km from were I live (Stockholm). We meet 2-3 times a year for rehearsal, and when we play live.



PROTECTOR's 6th full-length album "Cursed and Coronated" has been out a while, thus the underground masses had the chance to test it quite thoroughly. I've asked vocalist Martin Missy about the past, the present and the future. Read on our chat!

How is your actual live set-list look like? Besides the very old songs and new ones are you performing some tracks off from the "Leviathan's Desire", "A Shedding of Skin", "The Heritage" and "Resurrected" records as well? How do you like those materials, by the way? Name us your favorite songs from them.

- This year we actually will be having songs from all PROTECTOR albums in the setlist (not the demo "Resurrected" though). Earlier on it was either from "Leviathan's Desire" or "The Heritage" we hadn't any songs in the setlist from. My favorite tracks from the records, on which I didn't sing, are the ones, that we also play live: "Mortal Passion", "A Shedding of Skin", "Retribution in Darkness" and "Mental Malaria".

"Cursed and Coronated" was released both on vinyl and CD formats. The latter one has even 3 more live tracks included as bonus there. Have to say High Roller Records did an excellent job so far. Tell me more about your ties with them. Whose idea was to re-release your back catalogue on CDs and vinyls?

- The guys from High Roller are really great to work with. They are totally into the whole stuff and if you have a question, you get answers right away. It was their idea to release the complete back-catalogue, and thanks to the collaboration of Oliver Wiebel and Matze Grün, that all actually did happen.

Really can't neglect the super awesome cover arts of Kristian Wåhlin done for "Reanimated Homunculus" and "Cursed and Coronated". Was those cover-ideas totally of his own or you had an exact vision how they should look like?

- My ideas were quite different from the final versions Kristian painted. But that's ok with me, because the result is great. He just asked for the name of the album and some background facts to it, and then he started painting.

There were different official and unofficial compilations released between 1995 and 2012, like "Lost in Eternity", "Echoes from the Past...", "Ominous Message of Brutality", "Welcome to

Fire", "Kain and Abel" and "Wolfsburg Edition". Do you own these compilations? What's your opinion about them? Me personally, I really liked the versions of the Swedish I Hate Records.

- Yeah, I own all the compilations you named. I think they are all great in a special way. I also like the I Hate compilations a lot, because the sound is good and they have done a great work with the layout.

Do you keep in touch with past members of PROTECTOR? Have you any news about them, maybe you met some of them recently?

- In 2001 I did a tribute homepage about PROTECTOR, and at that time I contacted all the old members again (I also met them later when I visited Germany), to get information about the time when I wasn't a part of PROTECTOR anymore. We still have contact. Some of them come to our gigs when we play in Wolfsburg (as in last autumn). All former members also receive the newest album of the band, so they can see what we are creating in the name of PROTECTOR.

The lyrics on your latest records are pretty variegated theme-wise. Can you tell us more about them and what are the main inspirations and influences when it comes to write a new lyric for you?

- I get inspired by a lot of different themes when I write lyrics, just as I am interested in a lot of stuff in "real life". On "Cursed and Coronated" the lyrics of the songs are about Sci-Fi, fantasy, history, social topics, religion and Thrash Metal in general.

The underground scene changed quite a lot since the 80s. How do you see it nowadays? What bands are you listening to with pleasure and what records did you bought lately? Do you listen exclusively to old-school bands or there are new ones which made

an impact on you too?

- I like the underground scene of today. It's cool to go to gigs and see all these young people with vests, bullet belts and old-school shirts.

I mainly listen to bands/recordings from the 80s (and 70s). Bands like AC/DC, MOTÖRHEAD, EXODUS, SCORPIONS, SODOM, BLACK SABBATH, ACCEPT, IRON MAIDEN and JUDAS PRIEST are big favorites. Some of the "newer" bands I listen to are HELLISH CROSSFIRE and DESASTER.

Do you plan an extensive worldwide tour in support of "Cursed and Coronated"? Tell us more about your tour & concert plans for the near future. Can we expect to see you playing live once upon a time in Ukraine too?

- Due to the fact that I have a family, and the others have jobs (and Michael also has another band), we don't do any tours. We focus on 5-7 single gigs each year. This year we've played two gigs in Sweden, and will play two in Germany and one in Holland. 2-3 more gigs are in the "planning-stage".

Unfortunately, we will probably never play in the Ukraine, because it's quite far away from Sweden and I don't fly (I have EXTREME claustrophobia).

Just noticed at the HRR vinyl info sheet that there should be a "Live 1989" LP to be released as well. Explain it please in details (where was that live show recorded, tracks and when it will be out).

- That is a project which has been going on for a while. It's a concert that was recorded in Düsseldorf back in 1989. It was my last show with "the old PROTECTOR", and the tracks were from our first three recordings. At the moment this project is on hold, because High Roller just has (re-)released seven albums of PROTECTOR, and didn't want to put another one out at the moment.

Please coronate the end of this interview with your wishes to all the Ukrainian PROTECTOR fans. Last words are yours.

- Thank you for doing this interview with me. To all our fans in the Ukraine: Stay Metal, and if you find the time, visit our facebook page: www.facebook.com/Protector.666not777 Rock on!

Are you into brutally downtuned death/grind music? Well, I really hope so, 'cause UNBORN SUFFER from Poland is the right choice for that purpose. The trio's latest album "Nihilist" is about to serve you a fine lesson in brutality and that's for sure! My questions were answered by Damian "Sfenson" Bednarski (guitar/vocals) and Łukasz "Lukass" Ziółkowski (drums).

Last year Selfmadegod Records released your fifth album in the row, titled as "Nihilist". It was your debut for the label. How do they treat UNBORN SUFFER and what kind of deal did you sign with them? "Nihilist" was spread by them in different versions. Please describe us all the variations.

Sfenson: It was released in two CD formats: standard and a limited edition in black case. It was also available in bundle with a t-shirt. We signed a very simple and good deal and we are very satisfied with it. The label treats us good and contact is very fluent. It was a small dream came true for me personally, so I'm very happy with it. You can still buy our stuff here, new t-shirts are on the way: https://selfmadegod.com/shop/

"Nihilist" is a kind of massive yet ultra downtuned Death/Grind madness consisting of 17 cuts. How do you remember on the creating process of the aforementioned 17 songs? Do you compose songs altogether or separately? Who writes most of the riffs in the band?

Lukass: I remember it rather positively. It was a long process. Now we are mainly working on a distance, but not always. We try to find time to meet and assemble the song together, arrange it together, discuss it. As far as "Nihilist" goes I rehearsed most of the songs with Damian.

In what tune you play lately? What kind of gear you use for the sonic extermination live, in the studio and at your rehearsal room?

Sfenson: Right now I play a 9-string guitar, Ibanez RG9, tuned to C# (factory tuning), so it's 6 strings in E standard + B + F# + C#. Dreadrock plays a 5 string bass, Ibanez K5, tuned to F#, but the F# string is tuned unison and any sounds I play on C# string he plays on his B string.

We generally use the same equipment live, in studio and during rehearsals. It's very important for us to maintain the same sound in every environment so when it comes to recording we try to use as small studio interference as possible, not to loose our sound identity.

I own a Marshall 1960 B cabinet and play a Marshall JCM 2000 but I recently decided to use it only in studio and bought a Line 6 Flextone II for live performances and tours. Dreadrock uses an Ampeg B2R head + Sansamp + Ashdown Bass Drive Plus distortion. Lukass uses Czarcie Kopyto drum pedals, Pearl Werbel Joey Jordison Signature snare, Alesis D4 drum module + Roland RT10K drum trigger (we only trigger the kick, rest of the kit is live sound) and cymbals.

I've noticed that most of the Polish Death/ Grind acts are really in love with cowbell. What is the reason for that in your opinion? When did you start to use it for the music of UNBORN SUFFER?

Lukass: This is not my favorite drum element. I use it for the band's needs. I guess there was always a cow bell in UNBORN SUFFER so when I joined the band in 2009 I was asked to use it as much as possible. ©

For the track "Open Defiance" you've made a crazy video clip and as I see, for its visual story, two of the band-members were also in charge. I am really curious what is the main idea and story behind it? Who helped you to film and realize your ideas visually?

Lukass: The main idea was given to us by the text of this song. I remember being very happy

that this track was chosen by us on video. Later we brainstormed. Everyone was supposed to come with the idea how to describe themselves. Piotrek had already recorded his performance much earlier when he cut his dreadlocks. Damian was filmed in his basement. I recorded my image in Bydgoszcz, in a skyscraper, in some empty dirty room with Damian and Jaroslaw Piskozub who was our director and assembled the video clip.

There was a cool live album out digitally in 2014, it was called "Live Suffering", and then a year later it was released on CD by Infernum Media with some splits and an EP of yours. Where that live material was recorded, how do you personally remember that show? As I see you like to record and also play quite a lot of covers live. Recently which covers are colorizing your live set?

Lukass: Everything is correct. That concert was registered in Warsaw club Fonobar, which no longer exists. It was in 2013 on a gig supporting PARRICIDE and SPASM. I recall this event very warmly, though the temperature was under minus. It was really sensational. This is one of the best concerts we have ever played. Everything was positive, the reaction of the people, the bands, the climate and the possibility to record the sound. As for me, I prefer to play live than in the studio, covers as well. ☺ In our two sets there are covers of: DYING FETUS - "Kill Your Mother, Rape Your Dog", MORTICIAN - "Zombie Apocalypse" and GROSSMEMBER - "An Impulse to Create".



Speaking about covers. Tell us what bands influenced you lately and list us some of your all-time favorite records.

Sfenson: Lately I've been very strongly influenced by social/political grindcore bands, especially ASSÜCK. It's a shame I discovered

this band so late, but better late than never! But generally my influences haven't change much since the beginnings. I'm very into American style of playing, be it a death metal, grindcore, hardcore etc. DYING FETUS, MORTICIAN and SUFFOCATION, to name a few.

My all time favourite records, that's always a hard question. © I'll try to name five from the brutal genre. Let's see, I think that would be (in no particular order): MALEVOLENT CREATION - "Retribution", SUFFOCATION - "Effigy of the Forgotten", MORTICIAN - "Zombie Apocalypse", DYING FETUS - "Destroy the Opposition", NAPALM DEATH - "From Enslavement to Obliteration".

How the situation with the Polish Death Metal and Grindcore scene looks like these days? Does it better in sense of musical products than it was 10 or 15 years ago? Any newcomers you would like to recommend us?

Sfenson: Hard to say. On one hand, there are some gigs promoting this type of music and some of them are very successful. For example we played at the first edition of ŚWIŃSKI FEST (roughly translated as Porcine Fest @) in Gdańsk, in June this year and it was spectacular. A lot of people from whole Poland came. But on the other hand, I witnessed a lot of good fests promoting brutal death and grindcore fade into obscurity throughout all these years, which is very sad. I don't know how the other bands are doing as far as CD/merch sales go, but we are quite happy with sales of "Nihilist". It could be better of course, but that's life. © To sum this up – this scene now is different than 10-15 years ago, not better, not worse, different. No newcomer in grindcore comes to my mind in the moment, sorry.

In a few months you are going to perform at the 8th edition of UzhGoreRot festival. What should the local Death/Grind freaks expect from you live? Do you plan some special set for that event? As I know you've been to Ukraine earlier as well. Please share your memories from those past visits with our readers.

Lukass: As far as I know UNBORN SUFFER never played in Ukraine. I guess what you are thinking about is Lithuania? (Well, it seems I have mistaken – Ed.)

Currently, we have two sets that we play depending on the location or number of concerts played in a particular city or country. One set is promoting the last album and the other contains songs refreshed for the occasion of our 15th birthday. I do not know yet which one will we show at the UzhGoreRot festival. But we will certainly bring out the heaviest guns!

At the end of my questionnaire please talk us a little bit about the freshest songs and ideas for the approaching UNBORN SUFFER material. When can we expect the follow-up to "Nihilist" and in what direction the new songs will be? Add your final thoughts, please.

Lukass: At this time we have prepared 6 songs. It's hard to say what the whole album will look like. There are a lot of ideas and there will be probably even more. Probably the album won't appear next year. This is quite a long process in our case and it will take a while, but at that time surely there will be a lot going on in UNBORN SUFFER. Patience and you will receive. ©

This year marks the 30th anniversary of two classic DESTRUCTION releases, namely "Mad Butcher" MLP and "Release from Agony" LP. How do you personally feel about this fact? High Roller Records was quick enough and already released them with other DESTRUCTION classics on different colored vinyls retaining the original sound productions as well. Do you plan to unleash some other special reissues of these masterpieces upon the die-hard Thrash Metal community in the very near future? If so, please share with us as many as possible details.

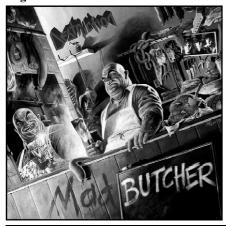
- It is, of course, fantastic to finally celebrate those classics with vinyl re-

releases. It took a long time to get control back on those 80s albums. But now as we have the rights again, there will be reissues also on CD in 2018. Re-masters with bonus material, maybe "Cracked Brain" with my vocals, etc.

Both of these records were equipped with amazing cover artworks. Sebastian Krüger was responsible for the "Mad Butcher" cover painting, while Joachim Luetke for the "Release from Agony" album cover. With Krüger's painting was initiated first the character of the mad butcher, which appeared on quite a few DESTRUCTION album covers later on. Was it totally Krüger's vision how the mad butcher should look like or you gave him an exact description/guide on this subject?

- No, it was my vision; we told him what we want. The mirror, the appearance, the grin, etc. But Krüger is a great artist and he brought in his special touch. He already did "Eternal Devastation" with us, so we knew he could give the butcher a great visual look.

I can definitely say that Joachim's "Release from Agony" painting became my favorite DESTRUCTION cover art of all times. And I am really curious how this awesome masterpiece was born. Can you please enlighten us all the details that were concerned the embodiment of this huge visual creation?



I am really happy to present you the following in-depth interview with Schmier about two special releases from the past: "Mad Butcher" and "Release from Agony". You will have the chance to read some interesting facts you have never read before. So dive into the facts from the past and welcome the band's upcoming release "Thrash Anthems II"!!! Thrash 'til death!!!

- Joachim was born and raised in the same little village in the south west of Germany before he moved away and studied in Vienna. He was keen on doing some bizarre metal artwork. So I sent him the lyrics of "Release from Agony" and he created this insane nightmare creature. The world was in shock in 1987 about the brutality of the cover. At that time art like this was still shocking!

We got many letters and calls from upset parents, especially in the USA. Also the cover got voted for the best and worst cover of the year in Metal Hammer Magazine in Germany. I guess it says it all: LOVE IT OR HATE IT!!!

I believe 1987 was a special year for DESTRUCTION as two great musicians (Oliver Kaiser on drums and Harry Wilkens on guitar) joined in the band. How did you find them and how do you remember their addition?

- We saw Harry live with his old band and we recognized his amazing lead skills for that time and age. He first wasn't interested, because he thought we were too heavy for him. But somehow he still came to an audition and the chance to be in a professional band was, of course, tempting for him... The rest became history.

He was also the one that brought in Oli, a friend of him, that was a fantastic drummer, but wasn't a metalhead at that time, when Tommy left us for his police-career... Both, of course, brought in some influences.

Interesting fact that both of these records were produced by Kalle Trapp at Karo Studio. How do you remember those times being in the studio with Kalle? How was it to work with him?

- The "Mad Butcher" work was great. We learned a lot. I still like the result also. "Release from Agony" is a different story.

Kalle failed under a lot of pressure with the mix & master and the album sounds not even close as good as the first demo mixes we did. We were really disappointed with the result, as we put in a lot of work. Many years later he apologized for overcompressing the mix too hard, which led to a weird sound. I wish we could re-mix this album, because there is so much details hiding in the muddy overall-mix. But the original tapes seem to be broken, so the max we can do I guess will be a re-master...

Regarding the "Release from Agony" sound production I've read some strange facts/things that it didn't appear the way as it was supposed to be due to some technical issues during the mixing procedure. So at the end it was released

with kind of unfulfilled mix, right? Can you please explain that situation to us? Is there a possibility to mix that album again and to have it sound the way you always wanted?

- As I already explained in the last question, there were some difficulties with the mix and SPV did not let us re-mix the record back then. Time pressure I guess.

We will see how we can pimp up the CD-reissues of this record, because compared to the first albums this is really the only one I would re-mix. Luckily nowadays you can do re-masters that will be an amazing improvement to original low sounding productions, if you do it with respect for the original.

With these two releases DESTRUC-TION went into a more complex and technical way of Thrash Metal and raised the bar quite high. How do you remind those days at the rehearsal room? Creating sophisticated songs just came natural?

- No, we rehearsed a lot at that time. We busted our asses. The new guys raised the bar for our musicianship. If I look back we were a bit ahead of time, many fans did not understand the progress. It came too fast for some diehards. "Release from Agony" was the worst selling DESTRUCTION record in Europe, but the best selling one in Japan and the USA. A controversial record in the end...





I am more than sure that lately not too many people notice the fact that you had plenty of cool guest musicians doing backing vocals on the "Release from Agony" album. For example Mille and Ventor from KREATOR on the title track and V.O. and André of POLTERGEIST on "Dissatisfied Existence", "Our Oppression" and "Survive to Die". The latter ones are frequently contributing to recent DESTRUCTION records. What kind of memories can you bring back from that past alliance? And how is to work and co-operate with V.O. and André now?

- KREATOR & POLTERGEIST were our best buddies, so we asked them to come up north to the studio to drink, party & do backing vocals with us. I remember the party was legendary and maybe it was the sausage juice that we sold Mille as whisky that made him became a vegan after all many years later...haha! But seriously it meant a lot to us to bring in our friends – at that time it wasn't common to do this.

V.O. Pulver has a studio since many years in Switzerland and we work with him ever since the reunion of DESTRUCTION. He is our No. 1 man behind the mixing desk here. So we always kept in touch and André the singer is back in business since the POLTERGEIST comeback. So letting them be a part of "Thrash Anthems II" now was just a very natural thought.

For "Thrash Anthems" you re-recorded quite a lot of tracks from both records and with "Thrash Anthems II" we will hear the re-recorded version of the "Dissatisfied Existence" song as well. Great news for



sure! But to my surprise Michael Amott of ARCH ENEMY will be doing the guest solo appearance instead of Harry. Don't get me wrong, I like this idea too, but somehow expected Harry to shred on it. Was it a challenge to re-record this song after so many years?

- It is always a challenge to re-record and re-create old classics. We are aware of that fact and would not touch songs we don't feel anymore. Michael Amott is a huge old DESTRUCTION fan and he loves that song. I respect him as a person and as a fantastic player, there are not many like him in the scene nowadays. Also Ol Drake (ex-EVILE) who helped us out before, played some fantastic leads.

We lost contact with Harry since a while, because he had some issues that are maybe more private, so we should respect that. He still plays music as a hobby but isn't in the condition to play professionally again. We, of course, wish him all the best, as we have good contact with all former members.



Nowadays it's kind of fashion to play some very old albums in their entirety live. So the question arises from itself. Will you perform "Release from Agony" album live in the very near future? I know that you might need a second guitar player to play those songs live, but somehow I feel it won't be a problem for you to solve—it and make a 30th anniversary live performance of "Release from Agony" or even a tour in celebration of that great record.

- Indeed, it is not possible to play that album without a second guitar player. So at the moment there are no such thoughts. I am also not a big fan of the full album performances. I love the mix of old and new – as a musician great fun to play. Also a setlist of classics from all eras is better for the crowd. But never say never... Maybe one day we will play "Release from Agony" in its full glory! ©

Release your last thoughts at the end.

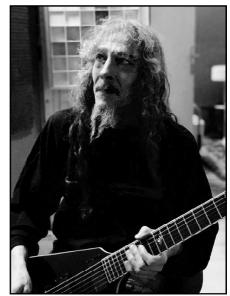
- I wanna thank all those people that supported underground music over all these long years. We never thought we could do this so long, but are still here and running well. METAL unites the world; that is the most fantastic experience that I have with my band traveling around the globe! Keep it that way Metalheads – Rock N Roll is KING!!!











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 to 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.

Fear the return!!!!!!

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 mythology, 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

STATES STATES



evil chaos and reach to the source, reach to the essence beyond all this 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 lyries 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 your both musical and lyrical ways or it's 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 anticosmic 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 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!

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 it completely in the human life. But we are all on that path and this is the highest gold become one with the essence and all the formless state 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 Thomas... All I can say about them is that they are, for what I feel, the ultimate members of DISSECTION. I think it's an honour 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". Se we just give it fucking 110% energy and don't let anything stop us. That's all.

Wasn'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 members. 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 musicwise 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 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 like 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 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've also read that you're 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 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 relay 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 relay on what we did 10 years ago, but we are in the position that we have a completely new lineup 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 were 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 fetivals 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 stagedive 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 this psychic limits, to break this psychic barriers to finally be able to transcend all illusion. It is very interesting. They worship Tara, the mothergoddess 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!

You've just finished the recordings of your 8th studio album, called "Hadeon". How was it to work with Christian Moos at the Space Lab studio? Please introduce to us the recent PESTILENCE line-up and how the musical chemistry looked like during the recording process.

- Well, I knew Christian already from the C-187 and "Obsideo" recordings. I really like the way he works. Pretty old school, but really intelligent. He has a great ear and can adapt really fast to problems. The line up is: Santiago Dobles (guitars), Septimiu Hărşan (drums) and Tilen Hudrap (bass).

"Hadeon" will be released by Hammerheart Records at the beginning of 2018. Will you plan an extensive European or US tour in support of it? If so, can you enlighten us more details?

- The idea is to tour extensively for not only "Hadeon", but also for the whole catalogue. PESTILENCE will be flexible and can offer

different sets. All "Consuming", all "Testimony", etc.

From September until **December Hammerheart** Records will also re-release your first 4 full-lengths in different formats and with special bonus materials. Great news, for sure! Would you please tell us exactly what bonuses should we expect there?

- You will just have to wait and see/hear. The full-lengths will be all totally remastered and will sound so much better. Demos will be included. Exclusive pics, etc.

I know that you admire and pretty inspired by the musical heritage of the great Allan Holdsworth. How was it to meet him in person? Which are your

most favorite albums and songs out of his discography?

- Met him twice, and he seemed very shy and soft spoken. He didn't feel he was a good guitarplayer most of the time. Very humble indeed, but full of humor. As far as discography... I really like it all. But to be more specific; I like the Allan Holdsworth band the most. Where he really is featured as the main composer and not hired in musician. The album "Secrets" is my all time favorite.

Alessio Strallo from Lucifero Guitars made you a superb custom guitar, a signature model, a handmade one. Tell us the specs for it and about your co-operation with Alessio. How and when it started? How it sounds compared to your other guitars? Which are your favorite guitars out of your personal guitar collection and why?

- I'm not really a guitar guy. I tend to play on everything I can get my hands on, until I bought my Steinberger. Then the rest was kind of not good enough anymore. I played them all, from Gibson to Ibanez, but nothing can beat a Steinberger. Oh wait, and then there was Lucifero Guitars. Alessio contacted me and asked me if he could build me a top custom made headless guitar. I told him about my Steinberger and that this guitar had to be better than this guitar. He said he could pull it off. This guitar he made for me is just a dream come true. 1 mm action!!! I am a really soft player. I don't hit the strings too hard and I need a tool that can give me this! The wood used is very expensive, Honduras body and neck. EMG 89 and 89R with never used before electronics inside, designed by him and his friend. Custom Headless Research tremolo system. I feel very honored to have this guitar. You will be able to see and hear it on tour.

Actually, besides PESTILENCE you have two more active musical projects, namely MOORDZUCHT and NEUROMORPH. What kind of music should we expect from these projects of yours? In what way will they differ from PESTILENCE?

- I like to be able to express myself musically in different ways. PESTILENCE can only

Italy and the Netherlands are very rich and famous by their historical & cultural heritages. Which landscapes of Italy and the Netherlands impress you the best and why? Are there any tempting places you try to definitely visit each year?

- I just love the roughness of Sardegna. The mountains, etc. But I also really love Rome and just outside Rome. Nothing can beat this. Although I'm sure there are a lot of other places on earth that are really high recommended. In Holland I love the Veluwe. I have already been to a lot of places in the world. I love South America, but this time I really want to check out Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Do you have favorite painters/composers or just a historical era from Italy and the Netherlands? Pick us a few, please.

- I have to disappoint here. I am not too much into that at all to give a good example and not sounding too simple with answers like da Vinci or Rembrandt.

Which football clubs and teams do you support lately? Do you frequently visit

> football matches? If you do, you go alone or with your kids and other family members, relatives?

- I used to go to FC Twente, of course, but once you get older, this becomes less important to me. Both my kids are not too interested in soccer, although my oldest plays soccer himself. He likes Twente as well. I do love to work out and do body building. This takes up all of my spare time anyways.

Let's talk a little bit about books and movies. Please name us some of your favorite authors and books of all time. What movie you watched the last? Which genre of movies you prefer

to watch with pleasure and why?

- I hate to read really. Such a waste of time. I just don't have the patience really. I'm more of a visual guy. But even with movies, I tend to not being able to find the patience. Yesterday I watched "Life" with my kids and my girlfriend. Anything about aliens and futuristic stuff has my attention. I used to love horror movies, but I tend to go more towards simple comedy. I'm getting old I guess.

We really do hope you enjoyed our questions. Please finish the interview with your multidimensional manifestations towards the worldwide PESTILENCE army.

- Those were some great questions to answer. Thanks for that. I hope that you all will enjoy the times to come regarding PESTILENCE. We are going to be really busy the next few years. A big shout out goes to Ukraine!!!

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For my more jazz fusion approach to music I have my NEUROMORPH project. MOORD-ZUCHT will be the most brutal stuff I can come up with. The only guy that will be present in all those projects is Septimiu. This guy is so good that he can adapt to any style.

and be prepared for the return of the mighty PESTILENCE!!!

What kind of food would you recommend to us from the Italian kitchen? List us some of your beloved ones and also talk us a bit about the Keto recipes you prefer the most.

- That's a real hard one. The Italian kitchen is too big to pinpoint just a few. I'm not even talking about the different pasta's one can eat. All kinds of soups, meat, sausages and fresh vegetables can do the trick. I hardly ever have to inject insulin, but on my vacation to Sardegna, I was not able to handle myself. It's a bad country to be in being a diabetic, hahaha. Keto-wise, I'm a spoiled brat really. My girl made it her mission to feed me with healthy foods. I have to stay under 20g of carbs a day. So I can eat meat, eggs and vegetables. Not so much fruit. Keto pizza is among my faves. It's made mainly of almond flour and has regular pizza topping.

At the beginning of the year your second full-length album "Seven Years of Agony" was out. How's the response of the fans and media so far?

- We've got very good feedback from the media and from the fans as well. Apparently, the new album was easier to listen to than the previous one, "Mayfly". All the reviews highlighted our instrumental capabilities and songwriting skills. They also mentioned that we could easily fit in the top of the genre if the album had been released by a big record label. This refers to the quality of the recording and the sound, which we fully prepared ourselves, using our best knowledge. There were numerous downloads from our website, on the release day already hundreds obtained our music and it had good numbers on lots of torrent sites too.

In my opinion, in comparison with your debut album "Mayfly" (2012) the new tracks have less symphonic elements, no female vocals, but soundproduction- and songstructure-wise they display a way more extreme and dynamically raging musical mixture. Sure the melodic side is more than evident for your songs, but I hear more blasting drum parts for example. How do you see it? I know it's a bit early to ask, but in what direction will you proceed with the material for your next release?

- Indeed, the classical instruments got much less emphasis here, since I opted for a more metal-like record. And metal is done by guitars, so I used the strings just for undertones, where I felt it completes the

music. So, which direction will we go next time? I already put together the material for the next album, but obviously these are raw demo versions, I still need to work a lot on them before they even get to the rehearsal room. Structurally, it will be like "SYoA", there will be some very fast, dynamic songs and midtempo melodic ones as well. I don't know if there will be any symphonic elements yet.

Both albums were released by your own efforts. Why is it so? Didn't you try to find a label to release your albums or you decided to control this process totally on your own?

- After the release, we sent the record to many places. Still, in terms of a record label, without any result for now. We don't give up, keep on trying. On the other hand, since none of the band members make a living from music, it's more convenient not to be committed. There are no deadlines to keep when we still would like to work on the material.

Your musical skills and level of technical preparedness are pretty imposing to me. Did anyone of the members graduate at some musical school or it was a natural result of conscious practice and multiple hours of sweat every single day?

- Except for Zsölt (vocals), all of us went to music school, I am glad to hear it can be spotted. © But still, we try to avoid the usual conventions when composing. All of us practice a lot, and Zsölt has undergone a massive self-development by listening to lots and lots of death metal.

During the listening of "Seven Years of Agony" a few band-similarities came to my mind. First of all, GARDEN OF SHADOWS, because of the deep-growling manner of the vocal parts and ultra melodious guitar harmonies, then PSYCROPTIC and NILE due to the drumming patterns and some really fast guitar picking. How do you see this? Talk a little bit about your musical influences and name us some of your favorites.

- I'm not familiar with the works of PSYCROPTIC and GARDEN OF SHADOWS, but NILE is an obvious influence. We saw them on tour with their first album which was fresh and overwhelming. It's still my favourite record from them. We should also mention DEATH here, with capital letters, which determined my taste in music. There was only one album I could not really handle, "Spiritual Healing", but the others are 10/10 for me. Plus MORBID ANGEL, CARCASS, OPETH, CHILDREN OF BODOM, SLAYER and GUNS N' ROSES.

In April you played a few shows supporting VADER and IMMOLATION on their European leg of the tour. How many gigs in total you played with them? How was it to open before those monsters of Death Metal? Share your memories and experiences from that journey.



EFFRONTERY is a quite promising Death Metal quintet hailing from Hungary. Their latest album "Seven Years of Agony" became huge and very perspective to be honest. Moreover, they are going to play at our local festival called UzhGoreRot in August. So I've asked Péter Lipák to

share with us as many news as possible.

- We agreed in 3 gigs, but unfortunately one got cancelled due to snowstorm and traffic collision. The ones we played at were very good. We are talking about VADER and IMMO paired, so the circumstances were perfect. This was the first opportunity for the band to play outside of Hungary. People apparently liked our music. The bands were friendly and helpful. The members of IMMOLATION complimented us personally after our concert, it was a real honor. We enjoyed this experience a lot and we certainly would like to continue.

Regarding your live activities, where will you play this year, where can we catch EFFRONTERY live?

- For the moment, we have 2 gigs fixed for August, on 19th in Debrecen and on 26th in Uzhgorod. We are excited for both events, Debrecen is always great, and Uzhgorod is new for the band. We will play material from the new album on both concerts, for sure.

There was another recent trip of yours, quite important I would say, but along with GUTTED (where you play bass instead of guitar) to the state of Nevada. How was it to perform at Las Vegas Deathfest 2017? Tell us your personal impressions from visiting the United States and meeting/greeting Death Metal fans on the other side of the globe?

- It's a tremendous and unrepeatable experience to stand on the stage in Las Vegas. It released a lot of energy in us and seemingly it was contagious, the audience got very

enthusiastic. It was a funny mixture, while death metal was blasting in the club, when you stepped out to Fremont street you could take pics with topless girls, casinos and bars were flashing everywhere. We also visited Grand Canyon, which is breathtaking. But who else got knocked off the tourist bus for alcohol consumption, if not us? 44 degrees in the shadow were a bit tough.

EFFRONTERY was formed back in 2001. Sixteen years are behind your backs. Two demos and two albums were successfully released. What are your plans for the near future, achievements you would definitely like to fulfill

in the perspective of the time ahead?

- I have some backlog with the band's stuff for personal reasons, but surely, I try to speed up in the 2nd half of the year. Next step is releasing the video we already recorded. It's also produced on our own. I would like to prepare an EP from the songs before the 1st album, which were never released. Probably this will take place next year. And for sure, we will start to work on the songs for the 3rd album.

I hope you enjoyed answering my questions. Last profound thoughts are yours

- Thank you for the interview, hope to see many of you at the festival.

Brutal fellas from ENDOCRANIAL have returned with a devastating new release that will definitely widen the borders of Brutal Death Metal and enter its arsenal in a glorious way. My questions were answered by the whole band, so I was more than happy about the teamwork and its result. Enjoy every piece of this brutal puzzle!!!

Your second full-length album "In Presence of Total Absence" has just been released by Japanese Amputated Vein Records. How did you hook up with them and how do you feel about the collaboration with such a cult label in the world of Brutal Death Metal?

Andrey: Hello Cornelius and to all the admirers of death metal from the UA band ENDOCRANIAL! Well, the story began in 2014 with my first message about to be published exactly on Amputated Vein Records. I think this is the royal icon in the brutal league. So all our efforts were crowned with success and Masakatsu after listening to the album in 2017, after all the sound stuff was over, was able to appreciate our work. We are very satisfied to work with

them, because it is really about the cooperation in full understanding of this word.

Hennadiy: Amputated Vein is a very cool label and we are wildly happy to work with them.

Musically the material on your new album became more sophisticated and variegated compared to the songs of "Impact of Change" (2013). Was it due to the line-up changes or it just happened the way of natural progression?

Andrey: The album became more complex. I would say this is certainly a new level of the team's approach to work on songs. Separately I want to mention the

work of Alexey (drums) and Zlat (bass) over the rhythm sections, which were enriched by a non-standard approach and crystal analyzing.

Hennadiy: There are many factors that influenced this growth. On first place is the desire to play something more technical. With such a participant as Alexey many ideas began to be realized, then Zlat joined us and everything became supernatural. © I don't want to say that the previous material is bad. Each album has its own story, as well as this one.

The sound production on "In Presence of..." is also heads above any of your earlier efforts. It is ultra massive, dynamically destroying and just remarkably precise. Where did you record it and who was in charge of producing, mixing and mastering it?

Zlatoyar: I just want to say that I'm very impressed working with Alexander. He works very quickly and gives your desired idea in a finished form. All members of our band have their own thoughts about the album sound, but Alexander made it! So



loud crystal drums, clean punchy bass and sharp distorted vocals – and all these things sound great together. Andrey: It was done by the god of sound

Andrey: It was done by the god of sound vibrations Alexander of TsunTsun Prods. He magically packed everything in a juicy iron-concrete block of Brutal Death Metal.



Tell us more about your song-writing process. How the songs of "In Presence of..." were created? Is there any special method you are focusing on when it comes to build/structure and to arrange a particular song?

Alexey: The bone of the songs was created by one person – guitarist Andrey, and it's not only riffs, but the skeleton of the compositions in general. The other guys, at the same time, have a wide field for fantasy and experiments with the arrangements. For me this is a new and interesting experience; all my former bands had riffs that were written for my drum patterns. Working with ENDOCRANIAL is different. It's instructive, interesting, new kind of teamwork to me.

Andrey: The songs have been created after certain brain activities, after some past events and situations. The compositions are based on my riffing and further work is based on collecting and bridging that stuff with the group.

Zlatoyar: I've started working when the album was already recorded, so I had all

When you see all pictures of arrangements you can create your line complementing the song: you can play with guitar, or accent drum lines, or have soloing moments and so on.

To me your new tracks are more digestible and they have more melodies and memorable hooks. Do you agree with me? Was it a conscious decision to add more clarity to the final product?

Andrey: I don't know. © All moments are specially memorable for me.

Zlatoyar: I think the band became more mature and gained a more musical approach. (Yeah, that's exactly what I meant — Ed.)

Alexey: There are a lot of hit moments on the album... I think this is good. At the same time, there are a lot of multi-layered textures that not every listener can taste from the first two listening; those are just for the sophisticated listener.

Lately it is kind of preferred tendency to invite guest musicians to appear in some tunes. Well, you did it as well. Christian Kühn of DEFEATED SANITY and Anthony Voight of GORGASM were selected for this duty. How these alliances came about? Tell the story to the readers.

Alexey: In the year of 2013, my band STALINO was touring in the depths of the Russian Urals with a great company, the most beautiful and favorite for me – DEFEATED SANITY. We made a friendship with the German guys and had an active communication on the network in these four years. I asked Chris (guitar player) to record a solo for one of our new album's song, he listened to the raw track, he liked the song and asked us to give him a month to compose a good solo. The result is satisfying, and I hope the listener is not disappointed too...

Andrey: Everything turned out the same way as with the label. Those guys are the coolest musicians and they've made their work on a high level, big thanks to them!

Your new bass player Zlatoyar spiced up the whole album in an awesome way, especially it can be audible in the instrumental cut called "Pluto's Cave". Hats off how skilled he is. Where did you find him? Does he play in other musical projects?

Andrey: Zlat is the king of bass sadism!!! **Alexey:** Zlatoyar is an incredible musician,

I'm happy with our cooperation, I'm proud! I've been following his musical path not for the first year. I've always admired his technical abilities and versatility, openness to a variety of styles!!!

Zlatovar: Thanks guvs! Andrev contacted me to record bass guitar for their new album, it was kinda session work. At first I was recording like they asked me, but there were a few moments where I could not resist myself and added some extra stuff... They liked it and asked me to add more haha, so I did. "Pluto's Cave" was written spontaneously, we just wanted to make some outro for the album and the guys asked me to play some solo stuff. It was great inspiration, so the composition was created very quickly. I'm almost a session musician. You can find me on JONCOFY - "Velet" (single), BLAME - "Dark eyes" (EP) and many other session works. I'm also creating my Black Metal project and play in many pop/funk/fusion/rock bands and have some solo stuff in a jazzy way.

Can't neglect the perfect album cover. Who did it? What meaning lies behind it? Has the artwork any connection with the lyrics?

Hennadiy: Of course! There is a sense in the album cover as well as in the previous album. The meaning is a global affair of all the "two-legs" by informational manipulation and geopolitics. Of course, we have slightly embellished the texts (but basically everything was taken from historical situations), added alien creatures. Conspiracy theories are different. © In general, this album maximally uncovers the world fuckers of all mankind. In the previous albums we had more local stuff and even more mentally-individual psychological experiences plus social beings.

Andrey: Propaganda. Manipulation. Utopia.

You've recently played and premiered the new album at "Famous Flesh Fest II". Tell us your impressions about the whole event and your show in particular. Did you record your full set for a possible DVD release?

Andrey: "Famous" was a kinda debut performance for ENDOCRANIAL and the first gig after a two-year non-concert period due to the reasons of military operations in our country. The DVD was recorded, but we will not publish it. ©

You've also played a new song there, namely S.A.T.O.F.A. What should we know about that song? Do you already have some new stuff prepared for your third album? In what musical direction should we expect your new material?

Andrey: "Satofa" is something other and completely different for understanding and building riffs for us. It is essentially an experiment.

Alexey: It is an experiment, interesting as it seems to me... About the vector – it's too early for talking, creative researches for

the new material are in the process, time will show...

Zlatoyar: We have different thoughts about creating a song, so new material will have another wave, I think.

There's a couple of great festivals are ahead for you, like "Metal Heads' Mission", "UzhGoreRot" and "KSM". What should the fans expect from you live? Will you prepare some special sets for those events? Will they differ from each other or added by a bonus cover song?

Andrey: We are preparing a very tasty piece of brutalized metal, because this is our task: come, gut and leave. ©

Do you have plans to play outside of Ukraine as well? Did you fix any European tours or festivals for the near future? If so, please reveal us more details.

Andrey: Yeah, we are planning and speaking with local promoters, the work is boiling.

Zlatoyar: Outside gigs are very important, we need to show our music to other people without boiling all time in one cup.

How do you see the Brutal Death Metal movement of Ukraine nowadays? Earlier Donetsk region produced at least 70% of all the brutal bands, but lately it seems to me that Kyiv takes the power and going to dominate and conquer the brutal scene. Don't get me wrong, it is fine, but we all know that it's mostly affected by the actual situation in our country and

political scum we face every day. Share your thoughts on that issue.

Andrey: Everything's in order with metal and brutal metal: EZOPHAGOTHOMIA, DATURA, FLESHGORE, SCHIZOGEN, INTOXICATE, AFFINITY HYPOTHESIS, SERPENTERNITY, AMBIVALENCE and many others, everybody is very good. What about politics: I can only bend a known finger in the direction of these individuals and ask normal metalheads to think their own heads as much as possible before doing something.

Alexey: I just wanna add to Andrey's list the great band ZOOFAGUS. I personally admire what they do, IMITATION and VANSTORBING INSOLOBRIDISHN are also amazing bands, I like them very much! About politics: we try not to be there...

Thanks a lot for taking the time to answer all my questions! It's time to finish the interview the way you prefer to. Send your greetings to all the brutal readers of Encomium.

Hennadiy: Respect to all the comrades who make something in our country, because even though it is underground on which you will not earn money, but this is the story that we write on the granite of life. Friends, musicians and listeners – keep supporting Death Metal movement, because initially everything is done for you. Thank

Andrey: My wishes: to be and not to burn out

Alexey: Everything good to everyone! ©



E-mail: endocranialofficial@gmail.com | **Bandcamp:** endocranialkiev.bandcamp.com **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/Endocranial | **YouTube:** www.youtube.com/Antipobrutal

ARCANUM SANCTUM "Fidus Achates" CD 2010 (More Hate Productions)

Let me start with some background info on this Russian Melodic Death Metal band. Formed 2004 in Komsomolsk-on-Amur, first demo came in 2005 and now we have the chance to taste their first fulllength album. ARCANUM SANCTUM's line-up consists of Vadim "Sad" Nalivaiko (vocals/guitars), Anatoly Kobylin (session bass) and Viktor Reshetnikov (session drums). Their debut consists of 8 mostly Gothenburg-influenced melodic Death Metal cuts. I say Gothenburg-style, 'cause such pioneers as IN FLAMES and DARK TRANQUILLITY have their definite stamp on this record. The sound production is honest and the song-structures are also fair to me, though there's a real lack of originality throughout this 31-minute long material.



I would really advise to make more memorable tunes in the future, 'cause after one listen I lost my interest to listen to it again. The band also uses keyboards on some tracks, which add some variety as well as atmosphere for sure. You can also find 2 successful instrumental tracks included there, which have been executed in a classical manner with a medieval touch in the first one. If you prefer melodic and a little bit modern Death Metal then here's the chance to try out a Russian band this time! E-mail: arcanum-sanctum@vandex.ru

BESTIAL HORDES "Nuclear Metal Lust" MCD 2011 (Evil Dead Production)

This chaotically performed 5-song MCD will guide us to the old yet golden days of 80s Thrash, Death & Black Metal genres. The spirit is definitely there and everything sounds so raw and unpolished that I really felt myself at least 20 years younger listening to this 15 minutes long metal assault. The bestial trio combines from the evil forces of Firdauzt (hellish screams), Fausstzie (all guitars) and Iblyss



(drums). Song titles such as "Street Metal Fucker", "Metal, Sex, Alcohol", "Nuclear Metal Lust" & "Revenge of Hate" will leave no doubt about the band's seriousness and dedication to old-school metal in all its form. They play every note with total enthusiasm and also paying a tribute to BATHORY by performing their classic "Die in Fire". What else can I add here? The nuclear metal lust is upon us!!! Fans of the 80's metal will surely like this stuff so check out BESTIAL HORDES immediately! Band

& label contact: Mohd Firdaus, P.O. Box 706, 89808 Beaufort, Sabah, MALAYSIA. E-mail: evildeadproduction@yahoo.com Website: www.evildeadprod.com

BLACKSNAKE "Lucifer's Bride" CD 2013 (Diabolizer Records/Defense Records)

Polish BLACKSNAKE was formed in 2005 and "Lucifer's Bride" is their second full-length to date. If I say that the quartet is heavily inspired by the rock music of the 70s and 80s you will definitely know what to expect from them on this circa 38 minutes album. The 10 tracks of this professionally produced CD will bring you back in time and will remind you how cool was to listen to all those great Rock'n'Roll, Hard Rock and Heavy Metal bands 3-4 decades ago. I won't go into any comparisons now, just say that I've enjoyed listening to this album from the very beginning to the very end of it. Great songs, nice vocals, professional performance and what's important played wholeheartedly! My favorite tracks are "Legacy of Rock", "Red Death" and the MOTÖRHEAD-ish "Say Goodbye to Heaven". Lots of guests were also involved



in the recording of this album, from bands such as SACRIFER and ROTENGEIST for example. Fans of old-school are really encouraged to get this piece of masterfulness! This is Rock'n'Roll straight from hell!!! E-mail: blacksnakeband@o2.pl Website: www.blacksnakeband.pl

BRUTE "Sophisticated Atrocity" CD 2012 (Nice To Eat You Records)

BRUTE's debut album consists of 8 songs and over 30 minutes of pure Death Metal brutality. I should say each of their song storms like a tsunami and leaves no escape for the listener. Their sonic devastation is carefully produced and at the same time perfectly served. Recording line-up was: Pavol Fil (vocals), Štefan Tokár (guitar), Robert Demeter (guitar) and Peter Heteš (drums). The band mostly operates with ultra complex yet twisted riff-structures and technical drum parts, but to complete their destructive formula you have to imagine



all these on furious tempos supported by a massive sound production. So speed and brutality are definitely vital aspects in their songs, but then we have those catchy guitar melodies & harmonies that were precisely incorporated and arranged throughout their material. If I had to compare their music to someone else, I would definitely mention

such well-known bands as VITAL REMAINS, MORBID ANGEL and NILE for example. My favorite tracks are "Repulsive loss of self-respect", "Trust in yourself or burn" and the killer title track. The CD comes with a post-apocalyptic cover artwork and a nice 6-paged booklet. Fans of uncompromised Death Metal should check BRUTE's music immediately!!! Facebook: facebook.com/brute.esdm

CIRCUS OF LAMIA "Welcome Madness" EP 2011 (Self-released)

Futuristic avant-garde music spiced up with potential experimentalism & gothic metal is what we have on the debut 3-track EP from this young Stockholm-based quintet.



The musicianship combines the abstract forces of Jade & Matt on vocals, Alex on guitar, Martin on bass and Samuel on drums. Throughout their sixteen and a half minutes long repertory you can travel into different musical genres and taste the freedom of the music itself. The whole material imbues with sadness, grief and total despair, thus the atmosphere is pretty apocalyptic there. The sound-production has been also finely tuned for this kind of music, though the drums (with some corrections and good balances) could be sound better. The clean vocals of Jade & the growling, screaming and even whispering ones of Matt have been materialized & arranged very good, should I say "it was a well-guessed idea", I think yes. Plus we have in some parts additional vocals by Rebecka Heijel. I would also note that riff-structurewise melodic Death Metal bands definitely made their stamp on CIRCUS OF LAMIA, because the influence of AT THE GATES in their "Dreamland" tune is more than evident. I really do hope the band will progress further on and will become even more original with their next release as there's a definite potential in C.O.L.! I would also like to mention the awesome artwork created by Gustavo Sazes, which has a lot to do not just with the EP's title, but with the band's name too. All is left to say, join the madness provided by these Swedish newcomers and enter the CIRCUS OF LAMIA!!!

E-mail: info@circusoflamia.com Website: www.circusoflamia.com

DECEASE "Age Of The Covenant" CD 2014 (ACM/Hatework)

First I saw this Romanian band playing live was 2 years ago at our local festival. I have to say their live set was totally mindblowing and their skills were just as impressive! After their show I was rewarded by their latest album to date and it was obvious to me that it won't disappoint me likewise. The trio plays some kind of over brutalized or better to say strongly Death Metal influenced Thrash Metal. The basic song- and riff-structures are pretty close to SEPULTURA's "Beneath the Remains" and 'Arise" albums, while the Death Metal feeling comes from such godfathers of the genre as DEATH and MORBID ANGEL. The aforementioned triumvirate is the definitive key to DECEASE's music. Nevertheless, there's much more magic

going on in their 38 minutes long repertory as the band members incorporate a lot of



virtuosity there as well. The album consists of eight fine deathrash cuts plus an intro & an outro. The overall sound production is quite dynamic, enough massive and has the so-called punch in it too. Really looking forward to their forthcoming release and also advice to all the maniacs into Thrash & Death Metal to have their eyes focused on them! E-mail: decease.band@gmail.com Facebook: facebook.com/decease.band

DEUS MORTEM "Emanations Of The Black Light" CD 2013 (Strych Promotions)

This fairly new Polish band was formed in 2008 by Necrosodom (ANIMA DAMNATA, AZARATH, BLITZKRIEG, ex-THUNDER-BOLT, etc.) and joined by Inferno (AZARATH, BEHEMOTH, WITCHMASTER, ex-CHRIST AGONY, ex-DAMNATION, ex-DELIRIUM). After or at the same time as their 2-track EP titled as "Darknessence" was born the duo starts to record their debut full-length, which became "Emanations of the Black Light".



The album contains 7 ferocious pieces performed in the coldest way of the Black Metal arts. The overall atmosphere of the album is quite Nordic and kind of grim all the way. I would draw a closely parallel to the following Scandinavian hordes: MARDUK, DISSECTION, SATYRICON and GORGOROTH. However DEUS MORTEM definitely has its own goals and potentials on this record. You can expect circa 44 minutes of uncompromising Black Metal rayage filled with fast double bass attacks and boreal guitar harmonies. All the string parts and vocals were masterfully executed by N., while the drums were recorded by I. in an appropriate way. The album was mixed and mastered at Hertz Studio, so the result is as massive as monumental. Lately the band went through some line-up additions & modifications, and "Emanations of the Black Light" was rereleased in 2016 by Malignant Voices, which is the band's current label for Poland, while for the rest of the world they are represented by Terratur Possessions!

Bandcamp: deusmortemofficial.bandcamp.com **Facebook:** facebook.com/deusmortemofficial

DISEASE ILLUSION "Backworld" CD 2011 (Ultimhate Records)

The following is an over 50 minutes long product made in Italy. The young five-piece unit precisely mixes the Gothenburg-style

melodic Death Metal genre along with the modern & nowadays really popular Deathcore movement. Their sonic propaganda has been supported by an excellent sound production and flawless musicianship. The latter one composes from the inevitable talents of Fabio (vocals), Dario (guitar), Frederico (guitar), Michele (bass) and Alex (drums). Their 10-song repertory



is pretty strong and thoroughly worked out, although I am not fond of all those modern elements, especially the so-called breakdowns. In my opinion, the whole material would be just better without them. But it's only my opinion. If I had to compare their music to any of the bands' from the above mentioned categories then I would definitely mention IN FLAMES, DARK TRANQUILLITY, AT THE GATES, DESULTORY, OPETH and AMON AMARTH. But to be honest, the list is pretty long. Nevertheless, as for the band's first fulllength album "Backworld" is simply remarkable and I really wish them to find their own and original path/style for the second album. The cover art is also something to look for. Keep my fingers crossed for the followup! Until then fans of melodic Death Metal are encouraged to take a journey into the Backworld of the Italian maestros!

Facebook: facebook.com/diseaseillusion

DISPLEASE "Think!" CD 2010 (Old Hat/Drink And Be Merry/Imhopang/Trismus/Miravoice)

I have the pleasure to introduce you the newcomers of the Ukrainian crust movement, namely DISPLEASE from Uzhgorod. This band was born in August 2009 as a kind of side project incorporating members from local punk, hardcore & grindcore bands. But now it's more than clear that DISPLEASE functioning as a fulltime band. Their debut album "Think!"



has been out a few weeks ago and I have to say it's an awesome crust release. Musically you will find all the traditional trademarks of the aforesaid style there and the "dis" prefix will kindly assure you about the band's dedication to DISCHARGE and the love to the d-beats. The album starts with a groovy intro, which shortly turns into the killer riffs of "Online Slaves". It follows "Victim of Overconsumption" that, in my opinion, is one of the best songs on this album, really memorable tune. The plainbut really well-constructed "Dead Justice" & "Urban Prison" songs continue the d-beat rapture. "Alcoholocaust" is the next cut that combines a quite catchy mid-paced riff in the middle plus some blasts at the very end

of the song. When a track has a title "Nuclear War" it should be definitely fast as hell and to combine as many as possible blasts. So it was done perfectly and the grinding atmosphere further increases in the song called "Can We Call It Food?" and smoothly transforms into the slow yet depressive riffs of "Mercy of Slumber", a cover of RUDIMENTARY PENI. In fact, this is the longest song on the album, but really good choice as the dark mood of the song makes the so-called "calm before the storm" effect. The aftermath is "Pathetic" with its hateful lyrical content & raw punk riffing. "Anthem" starts as a typical crust song, but after a few seconds it turns to a really cool track, mainly due to the wellstructured vocal parts and great bass & guitar solos in the middle. The album ends with the desperate, both music- & lyricswise, song titled as "Ecocide". I believe you've got a good insight into the lyrical content of the album by the song titles mentioned. In case, you aren't, I can tell you most of them are social oriented and focusing on the biggest mistakes of humanity ever. "Think!" lasts a little bit more than 21 minutes and can be obtained from any of the above listed labels (as you see it was a co-operation between 5 labels, underground rules supreme!) or directly from the band. There's only one thing I forgot and that goes to the overall sound of the album. But don't worry; it's totally OK as the material got a really cool & enjoyable old-school feeling, which makes it just even more worth to listen to! Oh, almost forget to mention the superior design and nice digipack packaging, so get your pen, keyboard or whatever and write to the band immediately! Crust or die!!!

DRACO HYPNALIS "Balance Of Moments" CD 2012 (Zero Budget Productions)

The third masterpiece has been finally arrived and I should say it was definitely worth 5 years waiting for. The CD opens by the ultra-technical "We are only dewdrops" tune, which to my surprise starts with drums fade in DEATH's "Flattening of emotions" way. It has more fragments associated with the heritage of DEATH, especially when we look at the bass parts there. Nevertheless I have to stress on the magical combination of the orchestral arrangements and atmospheric effects which take control and reign supreme during their 8 songs and 45 minutes playing time. "Shostakovich" is the title of the second track, which in my opinion says all. Here we have a variation on the Leningrad symphony theme. Simply awesome! "Beyond the bent seas" continues the trip to the landscapes of beautiful notes & enchanted harmonies. The proportions between classical and metal music seem to materialize the most proper way in their repertory. As an example to that balance we have the laconic "Étude Variable". It follows "Perceive the shadow spears", which in some moments reminded me DREAM THEATER due to the nice variations between the guitars & keyboards. The sixth track of the album is called "The woe of passing". It has an ominous atmosphere almost throughout the whole song, plus at the end of it we have the most expressive vocals for sure. Then comes "Star chasing coyote" that is a pretty fast song with lots of blasts, melodies and tempo changes Thunderous effect guaranteed! And as a final chord to DRACO HYPNALIS' brand new creation "Balance of moments" completes the album in an apt way. In a word Mira, Petr & Ivoš made a huge album again and two guest musicians were also in charge to help them, namely Martin Krč on drums from MARTYRIUM CHRISTI and Jitka Šuranská on violins. Get this professional classic music influenced Death/Black album right away!!! E-mail: ivokratky@o2active.cz Facebook: facebook.com/draco.hypnalis

DUOBETIC HOMUNKULUS "Ani já, ani ty, robit nebudzeme šedneme

"Ani já, ani ty, robit nebudzeme šednem do koca, vozit še budzeme." CD 2013 (Zero Budget Productions)

At first listen the music this weirdnamed Czech band creates is very hard to digest. It mostly looks like a spontaneous orgy of riffs with sudden changes between different musical styles. And believe or not, there are only 2 people behind this masterful creation, namely Wokis (vocals, guitars, programming) and Walis (bass, flugelhorn).

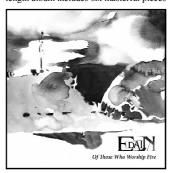


Their debut full-length album includes 7 pieces into the oddest and craziest musical solutions ever. On the one hand, it's super technical, experimental, progressive, classical and fusion-like; while on the other hand, it has lots of fun and humor included there. You might understand what I'm talking about if you imaginarily cross DEATH's "The sound of perseverance" album with some Schrammelmusik. The folkish touch is just inseparable in their repertory. If we would take away all those strange elements we would get a strong technical Death Metal fundament with lyrics in Czech language, though their lyrical content is as crazy as their music. Just imagine lyrics about machinery, industrialization, technology and abstract mechanical concepts adapted to progressive Death Metal. Well, they do it quite dedicated and masterfully. Their debut album features a few guest musicians with different tasks that made this record even more varied and sophisticated. The CD comes with a superb digisleeve design and has an enhanced part as well, which consists of tablatures, exclusive tour and studio photos, 2 live videos and home recordings in mp3 format. Their kind of music definitely needs multiple listens, but after you merge with their 24 minutes repertory, it appears to be extremely captivating. I am eagerly looking forward to the continuation!

Bandzone: bandzone.cz/duobetichomunkulus **Facebook:** facebook.com/duobetic.homunkulus

EDAIN "Of Those Who Worship Fire" CD 2013 (Zero Budget Productions)

EDAIN is a brilliant experimental/ progressive metal band, which was born from the ashes of such a well-known Death Metal band in the Czech underground scene as ABSURD CONFLICT. Their second fulllength album includes six masterful pieces



of the highest musical arts. The quintet does really know how to create majestic sounds out of their instruments. Each of their compositions displays a different mood or combination of genres. You can find there elements beginning from Heavy. Power. Thrash to Death Metal, but all these you should imagine in a super technical way spiced up by classical, jazzy and fusion-like patterns. They switch easily between all those styles, for example after an epic passage they can turn to some heavy riffs or change the whole atmosphere of the song by a chain of ultra technical progressiveness and then all of a sudden return to heaviness or massive walls of riffs. The musicianship is just awesome, they can play whatever you wish for. The vocal parts are as variegated as their music is. I really enjoyed listening to their circa 29-minute long stuff and can wholeheartedly recommend EDAIN to all those freaks into the fields of experimental and progressive music.

E-mail: martinbrnovjak@gmail.com Bandcamp: edain.bandcamp.com Facebook: facebook.com/aphrodisiacmetal

EXEGUTOR "Cure For Dull" CD 2011 (HeadXplode Records)

EXEGUTOR from Belarus was established in 2009 and "Cure For Dull" is their very successful debut release. It contains 21 short cuts of raw uncompromising grindcore with some dirty punk touch. The circa 30 minutes long material mostly deals with plain riff- and song-structures, but this genre was never meant to be complex or super technical. It has to be fast and extreme, but these components are given, so let's just simply dive into the sonic madness served by four crazy musicians, namely Lavrik (insane vocal duties), Android (guitar parts played by the speed of light), Antoine (roaring bass passages from the depth of hell) and Ivan (hammering drum parts).



These Belarusian guys really know how to play & create fast yet rather memorable tunes without sacrificing the intensity and extremity. So don't waste your time, better buy this great gem that will definitely once become a part of the world's grindcore heritage. The album includes 2 cover songs ("Pure Fucking Armageddon" from MAYHEM and "False Unity" from GROSSMEMBER), both performed in a worthy way. To all this I have to add the masterful cover artwork and the superb digipack design. Grind or die!!!

E-mail: exegutorband@gmail.com Facebook: facebook.com/exegutor.band

EXEGUTOR "Embassy Of Hell" CD 2015 (More Hate Productions/Satanath Records)

The recent full-length of this Belarusian combo delivers us 13 precisely prepared & recorded grindcore tunes! The half an hour long album spins perfectly and has no idling in my opinion. It just storms the right way, with the right mood and with the right combination of riffs! The band combines the following forces of hell: Lavrik (vocals), Android (guitars), Antoine (bass) and Barmalej (drums). You can listen there to fast tracks with non-stop blasting, groovy thrash-oriented ones with middle tempos and

great singalongs. I can recommend it both for the old-school grindcore freaks who grew up listening to TERRORIZER, NAPALM DEATH or to the die-hard punk/hardcore dudes whose veins are swelling for the music of AGNOSTIC FRONT, D.R.I. and CRYPTIC SLAUGHTER. The sound is enough heavy and crystal clear which aren't too typical for the styles listed previously,



but with the fast change of recording technologies the sound of these genres has to change as well. There's also a great cover of VENOM's famous "Black Metal" song featured on the CD as well, but with an interesting modification in the middle of it, where MAYHEM's infamous opener riff of the "Deathcrush" song was used to spice the energy up. The cover artwork is also notable, like it very much! All is left to say, order this ripping piece of art immediately as this is real grindcore made in Belarus!

FANTHRASH "Duality Of Things" CD 2011 (Rising Records)

The roots of FANTHRASH guides us back to the year 1986, when they formed under the name of FANTOM. Unfortunately, after a couple of demos the band split up in 1992, but luckily reformed in 2007. "Duality Of Things" is their very first full-length album to date, but I have to admit it's pretty mature and has a top sounding quality. The quintet – Less (vocals), Greg (guitars & artistic vision), Pilate (lead guitars), Mary (bass) and Radd (drums) – processed a flawless work on the 12 tracks of the near 50 minutes long CD. Stylistically the five-piece propagates and possesses Thrash Metal in its heaviest form



But they are so tough and heavy sometimes that I would even consider them a Thrash/Death Metal band though. Plenty of great, twisted, complex riffs, groovy parts, ultra melodic yet fast solos combine their songs. For checking out their skills I advise you to listen to their experimental "Lizard Skeleton" tune. As the practice proved us, Polish bands whatever do, they do it seriously and professionally. So if you are into quality Thrash Metal, get this album right now. The CD comes with a nice quality booklet designed by Greg & Less. There's a new 3-track EP called "Apocalypse Cyanide" is out as well, so get both by contacting the band at: www.fanthrash.com

FATAL BAND "Cornered" MCD 2010 (MSR Productions)

Hailing from Moscow FATAL BAND presents us a quite strong & tough sounding

debut material. "Cornered" consists of 7 short but rather furious tracks. The basic Death Metal riffs were precisely injected by a technical & fusion-like alloy, which I found very impressive, 'cause each song has something to say with its abstract riffstructures & drum patterns. Even the cover version of SIX FEET UNDER's "Torture Killer" comes in a special, slow & mindtorturing way. The nearly 20 minutes long EP features some really heavy & blasting cuts filled up by complex, progressive yet jazzlike moments, especially in songs like "The Antisymbol" and "Million Names, Thousand Eyes" one can hear those elements to be maximally materialized. On the other hand, we have songs such as "It's All Over" "Reframe" & the title track, which reminded me quite a lot Belgium's ABORTED, not just music-wise, but by the manner of the vocalist as well. In total, we have an honest & pretty massive sounding EP here, so the chance now is yours to discover the fatality of this Russian Death Metal band.

E-mail: moleskin@fatalband.com Website: http://fatalband.com

FINAL SIX "Religious Psychosis" CD 2015 (Thanatology Productions)

Experimental grind'n'roll massacre with only bass, drums & vocals is what awaits us on "Religious Psychosis" — an album that features 19 songs in total. I would grade their music into two categories; the first contains straight, super fast and super short grindcore tunes, which are paying tribute to the pioneers of the genre, while there are songs full of funny, catchy, groovy parts with crazy hysteric-like screams and ultra deep pig snorts — something that is pretty common for the new-generation of gore- and porngrind acts.



The absence of guitars in is this kind of style is a bit strange to me, but I can assure you FINAL SIX sounds super killer with their over-distorted bass likewise. The band features Jarek on bass, Krzysztof on drums and both Kacper & Kasia on vocals. Their debut album lasts a little bit more than half an hour and hides 2 special covers at the end of it (VADER's "Carnal" and AGNOSTIC FRONT's "Power"). Both are worth to check out! Besides the insane musical mixture I also really enjoyed to observe their fantastic cover artwork! Hope to listen to their second album in the near future!

E-mail: finalsixband@gmail.com Bandcamp: finalsix.bandcamp.com Facebook: facebook.com/FinalSixBand

FORMOSUS "Signvm" MCD 2012 (Self-released)

Unfortunately this Polish Melodic Death Metal quintet is already split-up. Besides this 5-track EP they also released a demo called "Alter" in 2008. Listening to their 20 minutes long stuff one can clearly understand why this band broke up so fast. First of all, because the music they made was totally unoriginal/uninteresting and lack of any highlights in it. Secondly, nowadays there's a pile of other bands copying the outworn Swedish Melodic Death Metal cliché, which does this far better. I can only

write about the influences and parallels regarding their compositions. Here's a list of a few Swedish bands, which names just automatically jumped in during the listening of their EP: AT THE GATES, early IN FLAMES and DARK TRANQUILLITY,



HYPOCRISY (especially during the instrumental title track), A CANOROUS QUINTET and SACRILEGE. In case you collect every single release put out by a melodic Death Metal band, then go ahead and grab this one too!

E-mail: band@formosus.pl Website: www.formosus.pl Facebook: facebook.com/formosusband

GUTTED "Martyr Creation" CD 2016 (Xtreem Music)

I've been paying attention to Hungarian GUTTED since their debut album "Defiled" (2001). I remember how complex and atrocious was it at first listen, albeit musically it captured an over brutalized mixture of such Death Metal pioneers as DEICIDE. CANNIBAL CORPSE and CRYPTOPSY in my opinion. With the addition of Gábor Drótos (guitarist) the band began to evolve step by step omitting the influences. There were two more releases "Human Race Deserves to Die" (2005) and "Mankind Carries the Seeds of Hell" (2010) in the row until their most original and best work to date was born. "Martyr Creation" is simply mindblowing in every sense of it. After the mysterious intro "Chaos of the Beginning" the 5-piece pounder-unit strikes into the riffs of "Cosmos of Humans", which is my favorite song off the 10-track CD. That one has the essence of Death Metal in its 3 minutes. I mean here the ultimate combination of speed, melodies, dynamism and brutality. The energy is just awesome there. It follows "False Happiness". Another super fast tune with lots of staccato like guitar madness and soloing from the world beyond.



Have to admit with Tamás Sándor behind the drumkit the band did a fair replacement to Zsolt Kovács, who was an insane beast drummer so to say. The bulldozer-like drumming in "Consuming Life" corroborates their right choice. The 5th track is "Deeper than Hell" which was selected for the video clip idea as well. This one became very variegated to be honest. You can hear there lots of interesting rhythm changes, blasting, otherworldly acoustic parts plus an awesome child monologue executed by the daughter of the vocalist. In a few moments I felt a strong BEHEMOTH/NILE twist, but who cares, still amazing track in total. "Fades

Away" continues the massacre. It's a hyper fast track featuring a catchy but pretty short guest solo by Attila Vörös. It reminded me a bit the "Defiled" era. Pure brutality in a word! Then we have "Kings of Emptiness", a massive riff-orgy with kind of DECAPITATED-like riffing and crazy as hell bass parts of Péter Lipák. Interesting fact, that this is the only song contributed by the other guitar player András Horváth. Composition number eight named "Hell Dwells Inside". It grinds perfectly and is followed by the most abstract and surreal track of the album called "Into Oblivion". This song also features guest vocals by Attila Csihar. Coincidence? I think not! Anyway it is a superb tune which at the end continuously passes into the last cut, a symphonic-oriented outro, namely "Atrophied Existence". I can easily conclude that the ultra fast tempos are more than determinative for GUTTED's music. They dictate so high tempos that you have to hear them to believe! The chemistry of the musicianship is just remarkable. At the end, let me introduce Sándor Hajnali the man behind the microphone and only member left from the beginnings. His vocals or rather say growls/screams are kind of trademark in GUTTED's music. Earlier he used to sing mostly in the manner of Glen Benton, but on "Martyr Creation" he stepped forward quite a lot and finally built-up an own character that's just great. Still there's a small detail he should definitely improve in the near future, which concerns his pronunciation, though it sounds special in some cases. To sum it up, this album is a blast from the beginning to the end! I really enjoyed listening to it and thus waiting for the continuation. Fans into technical and brutal Death Metal should check it immediately!

E-mail: guttedhungary@gmail.com Bandcamp: gutted1 bandcamp.com Facebook: facebook.com/guttedhorde

HEAVING EARTH "Redemption Ablaze" EP 2012 (Self-released)

After the successful debut album "Diabolic Prophecies" (2010) the Czech Death Metal quintet returns with its freshest stuff, a 2-track teaser entitled as "Redemption Ablaze". The obscure IMMOLATION-like riffs of "I am nothing" start the EP and afterwards they turn into some complex guitar madness with storming drum parts & growls from the deepest depths of hell. The IMMOLATION feeling is quite strong throughout the whole track, but who cares if the song itself is killing the right way. The second piece, called "Into the depths of abomination", builds upon the cruel guitar formulas of HATE ETERNAL and fragmentally has some SUFFOCATION touch too. It continues the sonic massacre with its unmerciful blast-beats and doublebass attacks. This tune has rather technical riff-structures, some sick solos and harmonies from beyond. The EP lasts circa 12 minutes.



It comes with a superior sound production and cover artwork done by Filip Halama. Fans of obscure Death Metal should put their hands on this stuff right now!!!

E-mail: heavingearth666@gmail.com **Bandzone:** http://bandzone.cz/heavingearth

HEGEMONE "Luminosity" CD 2014 (Self-released)

If you like atmospheric, slow motionpicture-like marching music then you will definitely enjoy HEGEMONE's debut album. The quartet plays king of really catchy blackened post metal during their six-song repertory. The overall atmosphere is pretty Nordic thus the fact the band comes from Poland adds even an exotic touch to HEGEMONE as a musical entity. The cyclic,



sometimes even ritualistic and trans-like riffing approach creates a calm and very relaxing mood. The 47 minutes long album is full of better and better soundscapes, which are perfect for just relaxing or also for reading books meanwhile. The electronics got a big part in making this album even more variegated plus have to admit the mesmerizing saxophone parts are just fantastic and extraordinary. The angry blackish vocals come pretty good along with the well-thought sound production of "Luminosity". Meanwhile the band released a digital split with Belarusian CHALLENGER DEEP, where their new track demonstrates a bit less black metal influenced approach; it is more experimental and I would say ambient-like. Anyone interested in this outstanding Polish band, feel free to get in touch with the band to order this masterpiece or simply visit their pages to dive into their sounds. Me personally, looking forward to their second full-length album!

E-mail: hegemone.band@gmail.com Bandcamp: hegemone.bandcamp.com Facebook: facebook.com/Hegemonepzn

HELL UNITED "Aura Damage" CD 2012 (Hellthrasher Productions)

Massive second album has been unleashed upon the humankind by the Tarnów-based Death/Black squad HELL UNITED. The band counts four sinner souls in its ranks, i.e. Void (vocals/guitar), Rzulty (guitar), Bartollo (bass) & Dügy (drums).



The CD consists of 9 blasphemous pieces, which are about to crush your brain not only sonically, but lyrically as well. The band plays very tight plus knows the ultimate combinations between harmonies and brutality, which led them to create a perfect essence of dark arts. However, the albums of such huge hordes as BEHEMOTH, KRISIUN and IMMOLATION had a very big impact on HELL UNITED's musical substance. Still it doesn't mean they have nothing own to offer, just keep in mind the

mentioned analogies. In the 35 minutes of "Aura Damage" you can witness the sheer power and immense brutality of the strong yet devastating unit called HELL UNITED. Throughout their tunes you will definitely bump into some really high-speed double bass attacks, morbid invocations, obscure blackish atmospheres and solos from the other side. A must for all the fans of Death & Black Metal genres! Can't wait to check out their forthcoming release, hopefully it will arrive sooner than I assume!

Facebook: facebook.com/hellunited

HELLBRINGER "Hellbringer" CD 2011 (Iron Pegasus Records)

The debut album from this young Australian trio (formerly known as FORGERY) travels us to the good old past, when Thrash Metal dominated triumphantly the underground scene. I talk about the golden 80s. If you miss (or even missed) those times pretty much then HELLBRINGER is the right choice to remind you those musical spheres again! The album features an intro + 7 crushing die-hard Speed/Thrash tunes, which have been provided by the sound of the past (and mastered by Harris Johns) respectively. The band combines the magic forces of Luke Bennett (bass & vocals), Tim Sheppard (guitar & backing vocals) and Josh Bennett (drums). Musically we have a strong influence of the German Thrash triumvirate there: SODOM (definitely due to the riffing structures), DESTRUCTION (not just musicwise, but even vocal-wise too, just check



songs such as "The Rapture" or "Spawns of the Void") and KREATOR (listen to their "Screams from the Catacombs" song and you will know what I mean), but I would also draw a strong parallel with Swiss bands CORONER & CELTIC FROST, mainly because of Luke's vocalizing manner. There's also a superb cover of ARMOURED ANGEL's "My Fist Your Face" song that supports the fact about the band's roots and dedication to the local scene! All in all, I really enjoyed listening their over 32 minutes long debut and would wholeheartedly recommend it to every die-hard Thrash & Speed Metal maniacs worldwide!!! Label contact: Iron Pegasus, P.O. Box 1462, 56804 Cochem/ Mosel, Germany.

E-mail: iron-pegasus@t-online.de Website: www.iron-pegasus.com

HELLEBORUS "The Carnal Sabbath" CD 2016 (Satanath Records)

HELLEBORUS is a creation of the Houseman brothers known also from the Black/Death Metal entity called AKHENATEN. In HELLEBORUS the music is a bit different, I would say more mystic, grandiose, atmospheric and abstract at the same time. Still they use to compose songs mainly in the frames of Black Metal, more punctually in its symphonic vein. The nine tracks of "The Carnal Sabbath" debut album have been masterfully arranged, executed and armed with a top sound quality. The influences of CRADLE OF FILTH and DIMMU BORGIR can be heard in a few compositions, but still the USBM way is

totally different in my opinion. For example in their "Temple of Seventh Death" the contemplative approach is just awesome, while songs like "Edge of Black Waters" and "A Gift of Renewal" start off with some really old-school Heavy Metal riffs, that are pretty odd for such music, but still work fine in total.



They also like to incorporate relaxant parts in their music, thus I found their album good for meditation too. And as beseem for such a material it lasts almost an hour, well 55 minutes to be precise. You can order this CD directly from Satanath Records or have a listen to the entire album at the band's bandcamp site.

E-mail: helleborusblack@gmail.com Bandcamp: helleborusblack.bandcamp.com Facebook: facebook.com/HelleborusBlack

HELLSPAWN "The Great Red Dragon" CD 2012 (Wydawnictwo Muzyczne Psycho)

This is the second full-length album of this less-known, but really worthy Polish Death Metal quartet. To my surprise their 10song repertory stormed pretty well in my earphones. Their tunes are very well-constructed and professionally recorded. Musically I would compare them to their most successful neighbours - BEHEMOTH - and their "Pandemonic Incantations" album. The riffing techniques, the musicians' overall skills and even the sound production are pretty similar to that era of BEHEMOTH. We have a deal with obscure fairly blackened Death Metal inferno. The greatest thing about this release is that it has no modern influences at all, everything kept in the old-school way of the 90s! Their tracks are full of evil energies, killer dynamics, fast blast beats and unmerciful vocals! The album lasts nearly 28 minutes, which one would say isn't a long album at all, am I right? But believe me it is simply ideal for this kind of sonic destruction as "The Great Red Dragon" crushes like a tsunami and songs like "Diabolic" or "The Greatest King Among Demons" display how proficient the musicians of HELLSPAWN are!



E-mail: hellspawn.metal@gmail.com Website: www.hellspawn.metal.pl Facebook: facebook.com/hellspawn.metal

IBLIS "Menthell" CD 2012 (Death To Music Productions)

Rather innovative musical creation has been served on IBLIS' debut album. Kind of hard to categorize their musical approach, but epithets such as abstract, avant-garde and sophisticated are fit really well to their type of music. Indeed we have a deal with a very unusual mixture, which mostly focuses on Black Metal style, but has lots of weird elements and solutions at the same time. This quartet is definitely about to explore new dimensions for extreme music in general. They create something really different from those musically "expected" bands. In some ways I would compare IBLIS to ENSLAVED (only recent albums to be compared to), EMPEROR (due to technicality) and MAYHEM (reminded me pretty much Blasphemer's guitar sound and playing technique too), but "Menthell" is an album you should better to listen to, because it is full of unexpectedness and musical virtuosity. Eight songs are about to catch your attention, to leave your mind free and to dive into the world of unexpected.



The album comes with a flawless sound production, especially I liked the guitar sound (which is so massive yet still one can hear every single note played) and those funky bass lines, but I would also pick out those impressive vocal parts and storming blast-beats. All is left to say, order this 33 minutes long masterpiece and welcome Post-Modern Black Metal!!!

E-mail: borsukh8@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/iblispl

INFERNAL DEATH "Gniew" CD 2012 (Wydawnictwo Muzyczne Psycho)

Despite this band was formed in 1991 (but then split up in 1993 and became active again from 2009) their heritage is pretty small. Having a couple of demos on their bill the first full-length album came out only in 2012. The main influence as one can already notice by the band's name is the mighty DEATH, especially their "Scream Bloody Gore" masterpiece. The 10 songs of "Gniew" musically reflect those plain riffs, but unfortunately the lack of originality is totally audible in their repertory. The sound production is raw and close to those times when DEATH, AUTOPSY, MASSACRE, INCANTATION and other classic Death Metal bands ruled the scene. Moreover, the 5-piece eagerly spices up their songs with some Thrash Metal vibe, which is cool indeed plus a big dose of blast beats are also presented there. Their lyrics were written and sang in Polish language, this fact in my opinion can be taken as an exotic approach.



As a bonus the CD contains the band's 1991 demo called "Twilight Tales". The sound is quite bad there, but being restored from some old archive cassette it is still interesting to

listen to it. The only thing I wish for INFERNAL DEATH for the future is to find their own path and try to sound less like old DEATH demos!

E-mail: infernalmanagement@gmail.com **Facebook:** facebook.com/infernal.death.band

KILL WITH HATE "Voices Of Obliteration" CD 2012 (PRC Music)

Hungarian Death Metal machine KILL WITH HATE storms pretty well on their debut full-length album. The 5-piece squad perfectly combines the fastness, brutality and technicality of the US Brutal Death Metal bands along with the classical yet obscure attitude of the European hordes. I would say a right formula with right proportions was applied for the songs of "Voices of Obliteration". Some modern & experimental elements were also used there (in songs like "Doubt", "Imprisoned" & "Speech of the Defendant", just to name a few), which were meant to variegate the overall material as there's no doubt that brutality dominates most of the time in their repertory. At the end we have a salutation to the heritage of an old Hungarian Death Metal band EXTREME DEFORMITY in form of a cover song called "Internal". Very well executed one! In total there's 39 minutes of professionally recorded and served Death Metal madness! Sure to hear more about this hand in the future



Support them and order this great piece of massive killing and destruction! Thanks to Szandra for giving me this killer CD!

Facebook: facebook.com/killwithhateband

MANIPULATION "Ecstasy" CD 2015 (Satanath Records)

Let's imagine a musical alloy that combines the dark monumentality of BEHEMOTH plus the nowadays so beloved movement among the youth, which is deathcore respectively. The five members of MANIPULATION are skilled enough to bring you some super technical, ultra complex and heavy as hell repertory. Thus you can easily bump into a bunch of blasting machinegun fires with unmissable breakdowns, twisted guitar riffs spiced up with otherworldly melodies and fairly wicked vocalizing techniques. Musically it is a very



variegated album so to say, but quite enjoyable and there's a big potential in this musicianship, just listen to their "Sunset over Vatican" song, which besides the marvelous soloing includes a decent dose of originality as well. Needless to say, the sound-

production of the whole material is just crushing and as massive as possible. If you crave for extreme, here and there experimental but totally high-quality Death Metal made in Poland, don't hesitate to order the third opus of MANIPULATION! Worth to check out!!!

E-mail: manipulation@interia.pl
Facebook: facebook.com/manipulation.net

MASACHIST "Scorned" CD 2012 (Selfmadegod Records)

This is the second album by this allstar Polish Death Metal squad. The band features Pig on vocals (better-known as Sauron from his past works in DECAPITATED), Thrufel on lead & rhythm guitars (ex-AZARATH, ex-YATTERING), Aro on rhythm guitar (SHADOWS LAND, TORQUEMADA), Heinrich on bass (VESANIA, ex-DECAPITATED, ex-ROOTWATER) and Daray on drums (DIMMU BORGIR, VESANIA, ex-VADER, ex-PYORRHOEA and many more). The material on "Scorned" can be characterized as a precisely mechanized sonic invasion with lots of ominous background motives that mainly give an industrial touch to the songs



There are 9 crushing songs in total supported by a crystal clear yet super massive sound production. On the one hand, you can find there militarily marching themes as "Drilling the nerves", "Straight and narrow path" & "Inner void", while on the other hand, you can bump into a bunch of fiercely storming Death Metal cuts like "The process of elimination", "Manifesto (100% D.M.K.M.)" or "Liberation" just to name a few. The album has an awesome instrumental track called "Liberation Part II" as well. Sometimes I felt some kind of surrealism in their songs. If "Scorned" would be materialized on a painting then it would definitely display a post-apocalyptic vision! The cover art of Anna Rosól is also something to look and think for. I think the music of MASACHIST would be positively priced by any extreme metal music fan on the globe, but as an advice my recommendations are going at first to the fans of FEAR FACTORY, DECAPITATED and YATTERING!!! At the end I would like to express my gratitude to Marcin of Mythrone Promotion for this submission! E-mail: masachist@masachist.pl

Website: www.masachist.pl Facebook: www.facebook.com/masachist

NOMENMORTIS "Forget Arcadia" CD 2011 (Darzamadicus Records/Sevared Records)

NOMENMORTIS is around us since 1992 and this is their fourth full-length album to date. The band was always mixing the most extreme forms of underground music. "Forget Arcadia" can be divided into 3 parts. First part including their new effort in 14 tracks (circa 46 minutes), which mainly reminded me the first 2 records of CARCASS, so you can expect a fast, unmerciful, non-stop blasting mixture of grindcore with a sound that perfectly fits this kind of extreme music! Recording line-up was Martin (lead vocals—the only member who left since 1992), Adam (guitars, bass, backing vocals) and Neptun

(drums). Fans of old-school grindcore musick will definitely enjoy this sonic massacre! The second part features an old, maximally fastened up, song from the band's 3rd album re-recorded in 2011, so the sound is as massive as for the beforehand mentioned 14 cuts. Then we have the third part that gathers 6 more tunes taken from the unreleased "Loathspells" album (2009). These tracks have a little bit chaotic mixing, but they still do a pretty awesome sound effect. Somehow it reminded me in some ways GORGUTS' latter over-brutalized era. So in total we have 21 lethal pieces to select from. Get this devastating CD right now!!!

E-mail: nomenmortis@post.sk

PARRICIDE

"Sometimes It's Better To Be Blind And Deaf" CD 2015 (Mad Lion Records)

After a few split releases PARRICIDE strikes back with their newest grind manifesto. The album showcases 13 grindcore attacks in the very unique PARRICIDE style that is always about extremity, fastness and humor.

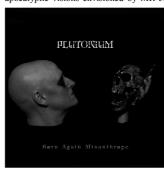


The 26 minutes long material sounds tough and totally devastating. For the past four years the band's line-up doesn't change, became stable, since that time Kuba Brewczyński handling over the microphone duties. His manner is pretty straightforward, mostly operating in the ultra low and high-pitched registers. In the maze of the so-called uncompromised grindcore madness you can bump into quite a lot of groovy bulldozerlike riffs and twisted guitar harmonies. As usual for this modest musical genre drums are bombing all the way with superhuman precision and breathtaking speed. This is high quality grindcore stuff for sure! Oh, and those funny yet intriguing intros & outros, can't stop laughing. In a word, I really enjoyed listening to PARRICIDE's new album! Grindcore freaks out there pick a copy of this great CD and support the underground!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/parricidepl

PLUTONIUM "Born Again Misanthrope" CD 2016 (Self-released)

The third PLUTONIUM album follows naturally its predecessors and further continues spreading the mechanized post-apocalyptic visions envisioned by MR J.



The 9 pieces of "Born Again Misanthrope" have been carefully composed and sonically served. The entire material radiates off deep depression and despair while being heavily militarized as well. The all the way marching tempos and monotonous yet cyclic passages

force you to fall into some kind of trance and to wander in a maze that lasts 53 minutes. If you like to experience weird mixtures between grim Black Metal and industrial music then give a try to PLUTONIUM. "Born Again Misanthrope" is available through all kinds of digital music services, so don't waste your time, listen to it immediately! E-mail: plutonium_platoon@hotmail.com Bandcamp: thetrueplutonium.bandcamp.com Facebook: facebook.com/thetrueplutonium

QUEBEC EXTREME METAL "Sampler" CD 2016 (NewCore Music)

I've got this nice compilation disc from a very great friend of mine, and initiator of this sampler itself, namely Steven Henry. The CD starts with the super variegated song called "Under the Chalet" by URBAN ALIENS, where Steven plays guitar. It combines different styles of metal (the core of their music is Death Metal) and not only with an addition of some quite freaky vocals so to say plus a big portion of black humor. The second band is DECADAWN. Their track "Solitary Confinement" displays a pretty soft yet over melodic approach of Death Metal, which is pretty close to the Gothenburg-style. Though at some point I felt like it's a Power or Heavy Metal band that has some vocals into Death Metal. ÉOHUM continues it with a grim and unmerciful Black Metal cut, "The Apathetic Plague". Their tune has a lot of killer bloodthirsty shrieks and an ambient-like keyboard atmosphere included. AGES are the fourth on the disc with "Heinous Nemesis". That's some crazy song for sure. This band plays ultra technical dissonant Death Metal with vocals doubled most of the time and twisted guitar structures. It is followed by KILLITOROUS' "Fecal Fellatio". Kind of modern interpretation of a technical Death/Grind alloy. Sounds pretty massive! The sixth band is TERAMOBIL.



The title of their instrumental track "Molecular Spectrometry" says all, isn't it? Well, the trio has a sick combination between progressive, technical, math and groove metal genres. It's just awesome and masterful! CANCERIC storms further with their "Religious War". The five-piece incorporates an energetic into your face kind of Thrash/ Death Metal with really nice bass line parts in the middle of the song. The eighth position is reserved for UNHUMAN. Their "Chaotic Equilibrium" delivers us a super technical Death Metal tune with lots of variations and unexpected transitions from sheer brutality to divine melodiousness. It follows "Gore on My Snare", a mega dynamic song by DARK CENTURY. The band says they play Death Mosh Metal and indeed their sort of music makes your head banging until the end of the song. Great job! The tenth are HIDDEN PRIDE with a non-stop bulldozing Death Metal track titled as "Born on a Landmine". Brutal stuff in a word, but ABITABYSS adds even more brutality and continues the sonic massacre with "Swompe Apokalypse". Rural Death Metal at its best! Next band is the super sick NERVOUS IMPULSE. Three minutes of insane Death/Grind brutality awaits you in their "Overwhelming Positive Vibe" tune. The thirteenth band is CROSSTITUTION They present "Extorsion". A short Death

Metal influenced Grindcore opus with raw distorted vocals. Experimentalists of INSURRECTION are the following. "Sueurs Froides" is a nice example of how varied this band is. They blend Death Metal with melodies from the outer space and tight staccato guitar riffing. It continues an oldschool Hardcore-influenced song called "The 99%" by VANTABLACK WARSHIP. The vocals are simply killer there! The sixteenth band on the CD is HANG THE PROPHETS. The mixture of their track "Serpent Enthroned" reminded me some crust/punk releases crossed with Black Metal attitude. A definitely interesting combination, as for me. For the end we have a demo song from EMPATHY DENIED named as "The Enforcer". It reminded me pretty much their colleagues KATAKLYSM's very first demos, both music- and vocals-wise, though to my surprise some punk-influenced riffs are also featured there. Anyway, looking forward to hear some more from them. Steven growls and plays guitar in this band too. And the last, closing track is served by IDIOTPATHETICS. It is the strangest track of this CD. You should imagine some soft alternative metal music where the clean vocals once in a while are mixed up with extreme roaring screams. The guitar parts are also of different moods there; sometimes they are calm and atmospheric, while the other time they just go crazy and heavy as fuck. To sum it up, I had a great time listening to the actual extreme metal scene of Quebec. Really great overview and no boring bands at all. I suppose it will have a continuation next year! Once again thanks a lot Steven for this great sampler! By the way, the cover artwork by Filip Ivanović became huge.

RAW POWER "Resuscitate" CD 2010 (PIG Records)

This Italian cult punk/hardcore band started its existence in the early 80s and after 3 decades still putting out great records and spreading its social manifesto to the actual generations. The CD contains 27 into your face hardcore cuts. The playing time is a bit more than 48 minutes in total, which is pretty long in my opinion for such a genre, but it can be interpreted otherwise too, ahaha... It just means the band is still over productive.



On "Resuscitate" the line-up was: Mauro (voice), Tommi (guitar), Marco (bass) and Fabio (drums). The members know well how to play it fast, dirty, rolling and as punchy as possible. Besides the concrete lyrical content, their kind of "raw" straightforward music influenced generations of punk, hardcore, grindcore & metal bands as well. But this release features two of their influences likewise, namely covers on IGGY POP's "I Wanna Be Your Dog" and THE STOOGES' "Raw Power" (the latter one is too evident, right?). If you loved this band earlier you will continue to love them furthermore. Why? Because they are RAW POWER! Website: http://rawpowerhardcore.com

ROTENGEIST "Start To Exterminate" CD 2014 (Defense/Diabolizer)

Piotr was cool enough and sent me their brand new second album. It features 9

compositions of pretty tough Thrash Metal, which musically forge a mixture between the European & US types of thrashing! Needless to say, the sound production is simply flawless and heavy as hell. The trio – Piotr Winiarski (guitars, vocals), Aleksander Partyński (bass) & Ziemowit Gawlik (drums) – perfectly constructs, arranges & plays their dynamic yet totally headbanging songs.



In my opinion, this new album puts the music of ROTENGEIST to a new level. You can find there not just energy, speed, tunefulness, complexity but even progressiveness and sheer brutality. To widen the borders of the vocal parts, a common friend was invited to share the microphones in 5 songs. His name is Marcin "Dyvan" Pitorak, previously known from the great Polish Death Metal band UNDERDARK. Dyvan adds some real variety and heaviness to the 32 minutes long album. He did it so good that actually he became a full-time member of the band. The SODOM influence is pretty evident for most of the songs, but for example in song called "Stone" I found some ATROPHY feeling, which was a great surprise to me. The album comes with nice layout graphics designed by Ziemowit Gawlik himself and a masterful cover art! All is left to say, order this great album and start to exterminate! My favorite tracks are "Success of a Pill", "This Emptiness" and "Landscape of Dust".

Website: www.rotengeist.pl Facebook: www.facebook.com/rotengeist

SARATAN "Antireligion" CD 2010 (My Kingdom Music)

In fact this is a pretty old stuff taking into account SARATAN has released two more new albums since "Antireligion" Nevertheless, recently I discovered this CD in one of the boxes with promos and realized I didn't review it yet, so here I go. The band's second album propagates some strange mixture of Groove and Thrash Metal, which has been strongly influenced by the progressive and technical Death Metal movements likewise. The virtuosity of the band-members is just remarkable. They perfectly handle their instruments. Especially I liked the weird riff-structures and soloing techniques, but the drummer plays his ass off as well. The manner of the vocalist somehow reminded me very much UK's XENTRIX,



while their music here and there was reminiscent of the early DECAPITATED albums. There's also a big dose of Arabic influences there, mostly in the acoustic guitar parts, but it was done willfully, the same way, as the choosing of the band's name (which means cancer in Arabic language). If you prefer constant experiments that sometimes even off the musical styles mentioned before then SARATAN will be a perfect choice for you! Now I should check their newer releases too!

Website: http://saratan.pl

SIDUS MORTUORUM "Endless Funeral" CD 2010 (Nocturnus Records)

If you are into the deepest depths of the good and old-school Death Metal style of the 90s, when bands such as OBITUARY, CANNIBAL CORPSE, DEATH, MORGOTH or ASPHYX reigned the scene, then the music delivered by the young Ukrainian quintet is definitely for you. You will get 9 uncompromised Death Metal songs full of great mid-paced riffs & melodies from the past. Basically you won't discover any novelties during their circa 40 minutes long debut, but as you might noticed there wasn't even a plan to commit something new or different at all. "Endless Funeral" is 100% dedicated to the traditional & classic forms of Death Metal. So don't expect any modern shit, like sweeps, hyper fast guitar techniques or gravity blasts, ha-ha... This is pure Death Metal! Moreover, the album's sound is pretty obscure and close to those used in the end of the 90s. Another interesting thing that has to be mentioned here is their vocalist's manner,



which is very, and I mean really very close to John Tardy's style of vocalizing. If you are keen on the music of OBITUARY & SIX FEET UNDER you have to invest into this record right now! Finally I will mention you the line-up, which is: Demented Vlad (vocals), Roman (lead guitar), Vadim (rhythm guitar), Vova (bass) & Andriy (drums). To get in touch with the band or to order their CD, please contact their manager Mudryk at: mygpuk@ukr.net

SOULREST "Pathological Processes" CD 2017 (Self-released)

Finally this great record from the past has been exhumed and materialized on a compact disc format with a superb packaging. Had to wait exactly 20 years for this to happen, but lastly I hold this piece of masterful art in my hands. The material for this album was recorded in 1996/1997. except the bonus track. The sound-production became quite versatile likewise all their songs. It was mainly because each member entered the band with totally different musical tastes/backgrounds and thus each of them approached the SOULREST sound with a different vision. This helped them to compose variegated songs and enrich their Death Thrash Metal core with elements of progressive, classical music and hard rock. The five individuals behind "Pathological Processes" were Carcass on vocals. Yasva and Igor on guitars. Dima on keyboards and Doni on drums. The first 3 tracks of the album are about an ordinary Death Metal approach still with lots of technical twists, melodic guitar passages and weird keyboard tunes. while the next 5 compositions display a more orchestrated and grandiose way of metal with

lots of catchy solos. As you might assume by the nickname of the vocalist that directly refers to the grindcore pioneers CARCASS we have a vocalizing manner fully dedicated to Jeff Walker there. Yet other influences are also outcropping during their repertory, for example in "This Is My Life" we have an ENTOMBED "Stranger Aeons" similarity spiced up preliminarily with some PESTILENCE feeling in the guitar harmonies. "And Then Will Be Rot" starts with a cool CELTIC FROST-like hook



and so on. But we all know that influences are necessary and useful to progress to some own in the end. As a very good example and to prop up the beforehand mentioned progression we have a song called "The Mask". This is their most complex and sophisticated track in my opinion. We have 2 versions of this track featured there; the original one is fully instrumental, while the bonus version at the end of the disc features adapted lyrics and vocals of the early passed away Kasym (R.I.P.). Almost forgot to mention two more interesting songs, both of them were heavily influenced by classical music, namely "Artworks of Farewell" and "Visualization of Vitiosity". Thanks to Dima they got remarkable orchestrations. The over 42-minute long musical alloy they propagate is well-built and artfully presented. Fans of avant-garde Death Metal should definitely check this masterpiece out! This special 20th anniversary digipak edition includes restored lyrics, liner notes and a great collage of old photos. There's only one thing I couldn't figure out and it is regarding the burned CD-R disc. I really expected a factory pressed CD inside, but nope! Anyway order your copy right now as only 50 copies were made!

E-mail: soulrestband@gmail.com
Bandcamp: soulrest.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/soulrestofficial

SPHERE "Homo Hereticus" CD 2012 (Masterful Records)

Bands from Poland were always famous about their massive sound productions and precise handling of their instruments. SPHERE is a good example of these qualities too. The quintet proudly showcases their superb skills during the 35 minutes of "Home Hereticus". It embraces 12 songs of high quality Death Metal in the very Polish way. The music they create



neither too original nor too interesting, but quite professional. If you like the Polish scene and such bands as DECAPITATED, SCEPTIC, DIES IRAE, HATE, DEVILYN or TRAUMA for example, then give a shot for SPHERE as well. You won't be disappointed, that's for sure. My preferred tracks are "Third Scent Carcass", "Psalm to the Dark One", "Devil's Reunion" and "War". On "Home Hereticus" the band looked like: Analripper on vocals, Lucas & Cthulhu on guitars, Burning on bass and Th0rn on drums. There was a newer album, namely "Mindless Mass", released in the middle of 2015, where 80% of the line-up was changed, only Th0rn left. Let's hope those interchanges will emerge in a new musical approach for SPHERE!

E-mail: damnedsphere@gmail.com Facebook: facebook.com/damnedsphere

STILLBORN "Los Asesinos Del Sur" CD 2011 (Ataman Productions)

The fourth full-length album by these Polish Death/Black blasphemers represents an extremely obscure and evil essence of the true underground spirit. Recording line-up was the following: Ataman Tolovy (vocals/ bass), Killer (guitars/vocals), Rzulty (guitars) and August (drums). "Los Asesinos Del Sur" features 10 unholy sonic assaults, which mostly storm like a hurricane and leave no mercy for the listener. Their sound is pretty harsh, but totally dynamic and precisely wellthought-out. I also really enjoyed their wicked guitar melodies and spit-out-the-soul manner of the vocalist that definitely add a special sinister atmosphere for the 32 minutes long album. Musically I would mention an



influence of their domestic colleagues BEHEMOTH here and there, though bands like ANGELCORPSE and KRISIUN have been also influential on STILLBORN's repertory. If you are into fast blasting Death/Black rituals, then don't hesitate to check out this hellish masterpiece! By the way, there's really just a few days left until the release of the band's newest creation called "Testimonio de Bautismo". It will be out on Godz ov War Productions 27th of February, 2016!

Facebook: facebook.com/stillborn.pol

SUMMER BEATDOWN "Polish Independent Label's Special" CD 2012 (Takt24)

This 17-song compilation sampler features 17 up and coming bands from different territories of Poland. In the near 69 minutes of it you can dive into quite a few genres, mainly metal-oriented ones.



Thrash Metal nowadays enjoys its second coming, so bands such as TERRORDOME, WHOREHOUSE, CROSSROADS and FORTRESS are making clear for us this movement is healthy and lives on in Poland too. Then we have the Death Metal package with names like DEAD GOATS, CALM HATCHERY, DIRA MORTIS and FORMOSUS. Furthermore you can find there Grindcore sickos EPITOME, groovy modern-metal-dealers SERPENTIA, extreme progressive innovators like KETHA, blackish IBLIS, rock'n'roll influenced RONNIE RIPPER'S PRIVATE WAR, heavy metalized TENEBRIS and symphonic LACRIMA, stoner rockers of BELZEBONG and the pretty soft almost ambient-like ALTERNATIVE 4. This compilation CD can be a useful tool to get a better insight on what's happening actually in the Polish underground market. To search for the above mentioned bands, and not only, feel free to visit Takt24's web store! Website: http://takt24.pl

THE PETE FLESH DEATHTRIP "Svartnad" CD 2016 (Critical Mass Recordings)

Three years passed since "Mortui Vivos Docent" was out, so it was time for Pete Flesh to strike back again. I can definitely say "Svartnad" will start a new chapter in the band's career. While "Mortui Vivos Docent" was more of a straightforward Death Metal release this new album showcases a completely different songwriting approach. The whole material radiates some kind of deep depression and despair. The dark moods and sinister atmospheres got a leading role almost in all the songs. Even if there are moments filled with traditional fast guitar parts and blast beats, the majority of the tunes are mid-paced and totally marching. This renewed combination of moods makes perfect the Pete Flesh formula.



"Svartnad" features eight well-composed and professionally performed songs by Peter "Pete Flesh" Karlsson (vocals, guitars, bass) & Henrik Borg (session drums). I want to highlight "The winter of the wolves", a very special tune, fully soaked in cyclic harmonies of emotional hopelessness. It became my absolute favorite one. Then I like the extremely epic and marching "The sun will fail" plus the desperately sad "She dwells into the dark". Awesome songs and really awesome moods there! Recommended for all the fans into the obscure arts of metal! There's no doubt, "Svartnad" is a masterpiece and I am devilishly looking forward to its follow-up! Let the blackened death doom obsess you!!! Facebook: www.facebook.com/peteflesh

THE SYMBIOZ "Unpromising Pictures Of Present" CD 2011 (Young Voices/Trismus/Drink And Be Merry/Mirravoice)

After 2 successful split releases I have finally hold in my hands the band's debut album. This long play, which in fact became not too long (24 minutes in total), consists of 8 really catchy, metal-influenced punk/hardcore tracks. The metal influence is pretty essential for this material, be it according to the sound production that turned out a massive one or concerning the song's structuring, both are just worked out precisely. The four-piece (Kolya "D-Kay" – vocals, Vasya – guitars/backing vocals, Dima "Spade" – bass & Zhenia "Maliy" – drums)

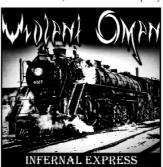
progressed quite a lot in terms of making memorable tunes, while incorporating new innovative ideas and arrangements to a few of them, just check their nice folklore additions to "No justification for war" or the splendid violin parts in "Greed alloyed mind" (to my surprise this track features a lot of Black Metal influences too) and the lyrically sad-based "October 13th". The latter one, by the way, has a cool riff reminiscent to D.R.I.'s "Definition" era. I really enjoyed the whole material and thus want to advise it to everybody into good hardcore & metal music.



As usual to the band, their lyrics are written in Ukrainian language (but the booklet contains translations in English as well) and deal with social issues. The CD comes in a nice digipak packaging with a masterful artwork and 12-paged booklet. Get your copy now or listen to the album at their bandcamp profile: thesymbioz.bandcamp.com

VIOLENT OMEN "Infernal Express" CD 2010 (Atomic Carnage Records)

This young but damn promising band from Zhytomyr guides us back to the golden ages of Thrash Metal. Yes, we talk about the magic 80s! So be prepared for some totally old-fashioned riffing. "Infernal Express" is their first release, which was executed by Floods (screaming vocals & guitars), Metal Priest (lunatic bass & backing vocals), Faunus (evil lyrics) and Mordor (session drums). The album gathers 9 die-hard metal hymns and as usual they pay a tribute to such dinosaurs of Thrash Metal as KREATOR ("Tormentor" was selected from "Endless Pain") and DARK ANGEL (what else as "We Have Arrived" from the band's awesome same-titled debut)! The whole album is pretty



captivating, has a very good & raw sound production and what's more it has been done with a true metal spirit! It lasts 35 minutes and will surely please all the fans of old-school Thrash Metal! Preferred tracks are "Waste of Flesh" (killer thrashing madness) and "Violent Omen" (just an awesome instrumental track).

VIOLENT OMEN "Lunatic's Revenge" CD 2011 (Lunatic Productions)

The second attack from VIOLENT OMEN comes in 11 carefully selected thrash praising cuts. The trio – Floods (guitar/vocals), Metal Priest (bass/backing vocals) & Yury Sin It Sky (drums) – extremely well combines the neck-breaking guitar riffs along with precisely roaring bass lines and massive drum assaults. The almost 46-minute long album features everything from fast,

technical, melodic to groovy, progressive yet doom-oriented elements. Sometimes they even rub the spheres of Death Metal genre and even beyond (I mean the blast beats here, which aren't as usual for the Thrash Metal style). You can find there insane tracks such as "Marathon of Madness" & "Gravestone Face" or great instrumental improvisations in the title track; there is also kind of tribute to DEATH riffing in the aptly titled "The Underworld Message". Moreover, fans of BLACK SABBATH can enjoy a new interpretation of the classic "Symptom of the Universe" song and as a bonus we have an updated version of "Waste of Flesh" track from the debut album with guest vocals of Faunus. Good job! The vocalizing manner on this album I would characterize as a well-crossed mix of CORONER, ARTILLERY and TANKARD voices, while



musically this time I feel a very strong DESTRUCTION feeling on most of the compositions. So fans of Teutonic Thrash Metal should definitely invest into this VIOLENT OMEN album! The CD has a multimedia part as well, which features a live video of "Doomed Masquerade" and "Out of Mind" (as an "Infernal Express" presentation).

ZOMBIE ATTACK "Through The Circles Of Hell" CD 2014 (NitroAtmosfericum Records)

With a bandname coming from German Beer Thrashers TANKARD's first album title (and also song) the experienced metal fans can definitely know what to expect musicwise from these Kyiv-located moshers. And yes, we are talking about the same musical attitude (be it live or on this debut record) and partly lyrical content the Frankfurters got well-known for 3 decades now. These days it's kind of a fashion to start a band and play the old-school way, but let's focus on the record itself. The CD contains 12 fair Thrash Metal compositions in circa 34 minutes. Surely nothing new was created there, but the band plays very wholeheartedly and it makes enjoyable their set. This whole album is about having fun, so no need to list the similarities with bands from the golden 80s.



If you like Thrash Metal you will definitely like this album! The sound production is pretty good and it also tries to capture those old days as close as possible. Guys of VIOLENT OMEN have been also massively involved to make this record the way it is, be it about guest appearances or the album's recording. Seen the band playing live a couple of times and have to say they are good enough and funny as well. So keep your eyes on them, order their album and thrash on!

DISKOBRA / DISPLEASE Displit MC 2014 (Trismus Records)

Hungarian DISKOBRA starts the split. They present 4 songs in the lately quite popular d-beat style. The trio – Kobra (guitars/vocals), Viktor (bass) & Márk (drums) – plays their kind of dirty raw punk music very intensely. Their set of songs runs



off extremely quickly. But this is the deal with the aforementioned genre. The sound is also fair. Only the yelling manner of the vocalist seems to me very stressful at times. Anyway, rather good material was achieved by DISKOBRA. On the B-side we have 4 songs delivered by our local d-beaters called DISPLEASE. The duo – Vasya (guitars/vocals/bass) and Zhenya (drums) – dictates a higher tempo in their

songs even blast beats are present there. Their repertory reminded me a non-stop rush, which besides the usual d-beat elements included a few short, but really cool, motives coming from the Thrash and Black Metal styles. They also successfully transformed AT THE GATES' famous "Blinded by Fear" song into somewhat new, unheard yet, as it was totally d-beat-alized! Looking forward to hear some more materials from both bands! This cassette comes with a pro-done booklet that features all the lyrics, except the cover song. To order the split, please contact the bands at the links below or Trismus Records at: trismusrecords@gmail.com

Bandcamp: diskobra.bandcamp.com

KOP4A / THE SYMBIOZ Split MC 2013 (Trismus Records/No Name Records)

Side A of the split contains 2 tracks from the Moscow-located Black Metal-influenced Punk band called KOP4A. Have to admit, very chaotic sound production they've got. While the first track is more into Black Metal, the second tune shows some ultra plain riffs, which are common for the punk style, but still to me, they play a rather boring music in general. Side B has 2 songs from THE SYMBIOZ, a band that in my opinion is still in search for their own style. Believe me or not, but all their releases stylistically are very different and have elements I would say actual for the period of time they've composed their tracks. In other words, bands and musical styles that had an impact and big influence on the members right then. Thus we can't speak about one exact style in their case. Their music includes ingredients from alternative, hardcore, punk, metal, crust and grindcore genres, just to name a few. Despite all these facts, I really enjoyed

listening to their new songs. Plus should also acknowledge their sound became quite good. It is tough, but still all the instruments are audible and come in a crystal clear way. Let's



hope their future release will be more focused on creating their kind of own and original style. E-mail: trismusrecords@gmail.com Bandcamp: thesymbioz.bandcamp.com

X-BOX MURDER "В Круге Первом" MC 2014 (Trismus Records)

The latest EP of Kharkiv-based X-BOX MURDER consists of five well-constructed Black/Death Metal songs. The sound production is quite massive and monumental, being mixed by Luc Ferre at O'O Studio in France. During the 19 minutes of the EP I've bumped into a lot of familiar riffs and atmospheres, mainly they reminded me bands like BEHEMOTH, IMMOLATION and

CELESTE. The quintet doesn't stress on originality at all, but have to say their "Oofpan" piece impressed me a lot. That tune has a big potential and a very abstract interpretation. I really do hope they will continue to write new songs in that way. The drummers work is also notable. Their songs are filled with a bunch of hyper fast kick drum patterns and solid blasts. The guitars sound pretty raw and a little bit noisy, but thus giving that magic called mood to the whole material



The lyrics are written in Russian language and tell different stories, e.g. about eternal struggles for freedom, misanthropy, exorcism and spiritual experiences. The vocal parts mainly come in the screeching way, but at some places they are doubled with deep growls. In a word, this is a pretty decent EP in my opinion, so if you are into melodic or atmospheric Death/Black Metal, then go and check out X-BOX MURDER's music!

Bandcamp: x-boxmurder.bandcamp.com

ATMOSFEAR MAGAZINE Issue #14, 2014

This Ukrainian magazine started its existence back in 2006. At once I should point out the high-quality offset printing of the content. By the way, the interviews and reviews are written in Russian language. This is the 14th issue already and you can browse the following interviews within the 132 A4 pages: APKOHA, ENNUI, ДО СКОНУ, FUNGOID STREAM, AMON, IMPALED NAZARENE, SIMON BELMONT, AURA HIEMIS, ARROGANT DESTRUKTOR, SHATTERED HOPE, TWILIGHTFALL, ОТКРОВЕНИЯ ДОЖДЯ, DIATHRA, AEONS CONFER. THE NIGHTSTALKER. GRENOUER, VALINOR, MOHCAJIBBAT. SINFUL, MONUMENTOMB, DEMONIC MANIFESTATION, LEAVES' EYES



SIGH, DOOM:VS, FRIGHT NIGHT, INSOMNIUM, MIRZADEH, INTERVALS, EUDAIMONY, TALES OF DARKNORD, HELEVORN, KYPCK, GALAR, VOTUM, THE GATHERING, I MISS MY DEATH, MEKIGAH, ORIGIN, NEGATIVE VOICE, HELENGARD, PULVIS ET UMBRA, RAVEN THRONE, APOKEFALE, WINGS

IN MOTION, SLEETGROUT, EARTH, DISTORTED WORLD, SUTEKH HEXEN, THE COMMITTEE, DARK FORTRESS, TODTGELICHTER and FIMBULVET. Quite a lot, isn't it? There are 3 more articles as well: an ALCEST live report, a Black Sea Metal Festival report and a DUB BUK story. You can also read more than 250 reviews on different musical formats and while reading you can put the 17-track compilation disc into your CD-player and enjoy the sounds of some of the interviewed bands. Massive issue for sure! The only thing I disliked a bit is the extremely big amount of ads there, more than 28 pages in total, do you find it normal? Well, despite this it's a very good issue, which reminded me design-like the once well-known but unfortunately inactive Polish THRASH'EM ALL magazine.

E-mail: atmosfearzine@ukr.net Facebook: facebook.com/Atmosfearzine

THRASH METAL REVIVAL Issue #2, 2010

Second issue continues where the first ended. Unfortunately, design-wise we have totally no improvements, I would say the letters even more unreadable compared to the debut issue, especially when it goes to some interviews' forewords or the editor's introduction itself. Really hard to read those small, pretty light letters due to the badquality xeroxed way. This time we have 36 Russian-written pages kept on A5 format. Interviews are as follows with ATOMIC CARNAGE Records, DRAUGGARD. ARBITRATOR, BLOOD POLLUTION, KOMA. SIDUS MORTUORUM. TANTAL. MASTEMAH and TORTURER. Some of them are interesting and some are not, while some of them are too long or became too short. I would advice to find something in between regarding the length and to have those interviews thrilling from the beginning to the end and to keep the reader always excited and not bored to death while the interview ends. To all this you can add a

2-paged article about the latest gigs of Metal Special Fest, one page full of hot news, 3 pages of reviews, which are still too less for me and as usual a bonus CD-R containing



15 tracks from most of the above interviewed bands. I really do hope that next issues will provide us more reviews & interviews with the deserved thrill & quality!!!

THRASH METAL REVIVAL Issue #3-4, 2011

The newest split issue of Thrash Metal Revival finally shows the marks of progression. First of all, the quality of the whole print has been improved thus the letters became enjoyable to read as well. Secondly, the A5 format changed to A4, which is very good! Page-wise we have 48 to explore. You can read on interviews with KARMA RAGE, METAL SPECIAL Fest, VACULA Productions, RAPEN WINTER Records, D.ANGER, VIOLENT OMEN, UNGOLIANTHA, TEMHUH, FROZEN ROCK, AMBIVALENCE, SOMNOLENT, HOLY DRAGONS, SANHEIM, BLOOD POLLUTION, TPYTIHBIЙ ЯД, MAD V

and IMMORALIST. There's also a bunch of articles dealing with festivals & gigs, such as Global East Rock Festival, Metal Special Fest, Metal Freedom Festival, Teutonic Assault Vol.2, Thrash You Ass, Summerhate plus an article covering the rising Thrash Metal movement in Ukraine. Well, really not bad content in general. Although the album/demo/'zine reviews still lack in my opinion as we have only 5 pages with pretty big letters to read about. In comparison to predecessor issues this split one definitely displays a better level. So I keep my fingers crossed to all the future issues!!! The only thing I would still exclude is the presence of free unused spaces



Please put there some ads or more band photos, album covers, whatever just not the way it is used for this issue. People who want to know more about the Ukrainian metal underground should get their hands on this edition. The only requirement is the knowledge of Russian language. It comes with a bonus audio compilation, so you can listen to some music as well during your read.

E-mail: slavall@ukr.net

ARCHEONIC "16th Dimension" promo 2016

The line-up of this young progressive Czech metal band combines well-known musicians from SCENERY and EDAIN, while the musical alloy they try to create is quite CORONER-like sounding as for me.



Well, maybe heavier, but there's a definite influence of the Swiss guys there. You can expect a big dose of technicality with sophisticated riff-structures, skillful drum patterns and dodgy bass lines. Their musical formula is maximally technical and progressive and to all this you should add a hoarse vocalizing manner with futuristic lyrics. If I had to categorize their music I would say it's kind of tricky sci-fi metal with inflows coming mostly from Thrash and Death Metal genres. Sure they've got some other impacts as well, like groove and modern metal, but those aren't too attracting to me. The five songs of their debut material were quite well engineered and produced. Everything sounds balanced and just powerful there. The soloing works are remarkable and pretty thoughtful. I would heartily suggest listening to this 22-minute long promo for every fan of progressive and technical metal music. Looking forward to check any of their future releases, but until then just feel free to visit their bandcamp profile, to listen to the entire promo there and to support ARCHEONIC!

Bandcamp: archeonic.bandcamp.com **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/archeonic

BESTIAL INVASION "Silent Wonders" demo 2014

The debut material of this newcomer Thrash Metal band from Ukraine hides 2 special songs I would say. The first one is the bearer of the single itself and displays a pretty technical manner full of tricky riffstructures, mind-blowing guitar solos, abstract bass lines and some really catchy yet intriguing female vocals. Drums performed a little bit chaotically there, but still played with dedication and that counts to me. Moreover they sound totally analogues without any triggers or re-sampled bullshit. The overall sound is very raw and 100% live! The second tune is a MORBID SAINT cover. namely "Damien". It came out really different if I compare it to the original track, but on the other hand it is rather versatile too, mainly due to the female vocal solutions. These 2 songs were mixed, mastered & produced by Don Doty, former vocalist of DARK ANGEL. As for the musical influences I can say the Teutonic Thrash scene had a big impact on the band, just take a look at the band's name. Right, DESTRUCTION is one of those. So I am eagerly looking forward to hear some new stuff from BESTIAL INVASION, hopefully a fulllength album will follow Thrash 'til death!!! Facebook: facebook com/bestialinvasionua

BLOOD EXPECTORATION "Disfigured Vision" promo 2012

Recently got this promo from a good friend of mine, Bogdan of CRIMSON SKY. BLOOD EXPECTORATION is a rather young but definitely promising band formed in the fall of 2006. This is their first full-length

stuff consisting of 8 meaty Death Metal cuts. The band's music mainly accentuates on CANNIBAL CORPSE's early heritage, especially when it goes to those bulldozerlike mid-tempo riffs. Although the quartet -Bob (vocals), Roman (guitar), Ivan (bass) & Genry (drums) - displays a side which is full of great technical solutions and remarkable breaks. I would really advise to continue to explore those complex fields instead of having the so-called CC clichés. The sound of the material is pretty massive (guitars, bass & vocals are fine), but the synthetic drums, which are pretty sampled and plastic to me, killing in some ways the overall dynamism. This material would definitely sound better with properly-set live drums. Fans of oldschool Brutal Death Metal will definitely price this 35 minutes long stuff. Preferred tracks are: "Isolated and Mutilated" (a bunch of killer groovy riffs performed there), "Hate Detonated" (in my opinion, this musical way should be followed in the future) & "Perfect Enemy" (love those twisted bass lines at the beginning). For more info visit their facebook page at: facebook.com/bloodexpectoration

HAIDUK "Plagueswept" demo 2010

This is the very first recording of the Calgary-based one-man band called HAIDUK. The eight songs of "Plagueswept" sound raw and dirty as hell, but the ideas are clear. Luka Milojica (all instruments, vocals) is pursuing to combine the grim atmospheres and melodies of Black Metal with the heaviness and dynamism of Death Metal. The resulting alloy is quite good, despite the bad sounding quality of the drum-machine and the over-distorted sound of the guitars. Both the riff-structures and the accompanying vocals are pretty reminiscent of BOLT THROWER's heritage. However, you should



imagine them spiced up with a Nordic touch and a few acoustic passages. The half an hour long debut has its pluses and minuses, but in total we have a decent start. Moreover, the demo comes on a pro-done CD with quality booklet. Recommended for fans of melodic and blackened Death Metal!

Bandcamp: haiduk.bandcamp.com Facebook: facebook.com/haidukmetal

HUMAN HUMUS "Elitists Equal Disgrace" EP 2011

Got this EP from the band's vocalist Iždo on some gig in Kosice. It includes 5 short pieces with a playing time a little bit over than 7 minutes! Musically it captures a bunch of cool, old-school grindcore riffs along with a strong fastcore influence and some really crazy vocal parts. The sound is raw and massive enough to blow your minds up. Somehow I felt a coincidence with the musical approach of such bands as LYCANTHROPHY and ATTACK OF RAGE, although it's just a fact I've noticed for myself, so don't take it seriously. The grind quartet on this EP was Iždo (vocals), Monte (guitars), 600 (bass & vocals) and Sedrik (drums). Would be great to listen to a full-length stuff from them, but as we know grindcore bands mostly prefer splits and 7' releases. Their cover artwork looks the oldschool way too and it won't be a surprise if I say it reminded me NAPALM DEATH's early covers pretty much. If you wanna listen to some Slovakian grindcore insanity, feel free to contact the band at the addresses below! Grind on!!!

Bandzone: bandzone.cz/humanhumus **Facebook:** facebook.com/humanhumus

K.A.S.K.

"Brutal Abstraction" EP 2011

This strangely named Polish band plays Deathcore. The style which is without any doubts the most popular in the 21st century. Besides this 7-song EP the band has a demo from 2008 on their bill. In their actual 24 minutes set you can dive into all the clichés of this highly praised genre. There's really nothing remarkable or interesting happening there. Why? First of all, because all those mechanized kind of riff-structures we heard more than two decades ago by FEAR FACTORY. And believe me; they did it way better than these new generation bands are used to lately. Secondly, I am really getting fed up with all those stupid non-sense breakdowns, which are painfully common these days for a huge number of bands. If you prefer bands such as CARNIFEX, HEAVEN SHALL BURN or BENEATH THE MASSACRE then I suppose you can easily try and listen to K.A.S.K.'s music as well. The only thing that reminded me that they are coming from Poland is the similarity in a few vocal parts to BEHEMOTH; mostly it appeared in the use of the doubled and tripled vocals

Bandcamp: kaskband.bandcamp.com **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/kaskband

NADIR "Exitus" promo 2012

This is the 4^{th} full-length material from Hungarian NADIR. On "Exitus" the Budapest-based quintet achieved a crystal clear yet massive sound production. Throughout their 9 songs repertory (33 minutes) we can listen to a quality mixture of death/doom and sludge core. Mostly it can be described as a crossover between BOLT THROWER and CROWBAR Both bands did a big impact on NADIR's music that's for sure. Nevertheless, NADIR tries to add more modernism and actual ideas of today's perception. Here and there the band even travels into the spheres of depression and abstract. Their melodies are really catchy and punchy at the same time. I felt places where you can simply dive into the writhe atmosphere. It sonically surrounds you and won't let you out easily (especially I felt it in the song called "The last one in the wild"). The only thing I would change about the whole material goes to the vocalist's manner. which is pretty forced and hoarse in my opinion, thus it mainly comes in an extremely dry way. Preferred tracks: "We're here for a cause", "Altamira" and "Indirect Genocide". E-mail: info@nadir-official.com

Website: www.nadir-official.com Facebook: facebook.com/nadirhungary

ОБРІЙ "Олтар Утопії" demo 2017 (Trismus Records)

Welcome the debut release by Uzhgorod-based Death/Doom followers -ОБРІЙ. Their line-up features members of DISPLEASE, OMNIVERSE, SKRUTA, SOULREST and THE SYMBIOZ. The 4track demo starts with a death'n'rollish riff, which turns into a pretty slow marching-like groove pattern. The pace is quite calm in this song, almost meditative. It has been also spiced up with melodies reminiscent of some old SENTENCED and PARADISE LOST cuts. The second track continues the sluggish attack of riffs with a cool refrain of vocals about the fields of Cambodia. At the end of it we even have a chain of heavy metal-like guitar harmonies. Track number three starts with a massive but typical UNLEASHED riff supported by nailing double bass parts. Then from a sudden the whole song gets a galloping manner, which surely changes here and there just to inject a few soloing melodies and to dive into an errant atmosphere. Their fourth and last track continues the galloping, but with another kind of mood, somehow it



reminded me KREATOR's "Outcast" era for some moments. This song has interesting riff structures, lots of great solos and twists included, thus became the most versatile in my opinion. The overall sound production is decent as well. You can listen to the entire material at OBPIĂ's bandcamp profile. The burnt CD-R comes with a nice digipak garnish and can be ordered either from the band or their label.

E-mail: trismusrecords@gmail.com Bandcamp: obrij.bandcamp.com Facebook: facebook.com/obriymetaluzh

PANDEMONIUM Promo 2010 (Godz Ov War Productions)

This is a 2-track appetizer, promo CD, before the release of the new album "Misanthropy", which will out sometime in 2011. I have to say both tracks, namely "Black Forest" and "God Delusion", represent a masterful musical production and a mature band. For all those who aren't familiar with this Polish band, I just mention that they are around us for more than 2 decades. Their kind of Blackened Death Metal or as they call it Satanic Dark Metal is pretty impressive to me. All those obscure & evil riffs they propagate over the 8 minutes & 20 seconds long promo are simply remarkable and devastating. This is a 100% underground product! You won't find there any modern influences or fake experiments! As a bonus the digipak-designed promo CD comes with 9 video tracks, which display the band's fierce yet unholy live performance too! On this record the band is: Paul (guitar & vocals), Mark (guitar), Michael (bass) and Simon (drums). Can't wait to check out the band's full-length album shortly. Hail PANDEMONIUM, hail true underground music!

Website: www.pandemonium.metal.pl Facebook: facebook.com/pandemoniumpl

SPIT BILE "Spider" demo 2014

Lately Ukraine produces more and more worthy Thrash Metal bands. SPIT BILE is another good example for that. Their recent stuff contains 3 own tracks plus a cover on EXODUS' famous "Piranha" song. The band doesn't stress on making complex tunes at all, their songs are rather simple riff- and structure-wise, but the catchiness is there and that's definitely a good fact. Also great to notice that their music isn't filled with all those modern 21st century diarrhoeas, like sweep arpeggios and pro-tools for example. Their music is straight and honest as it was used to be in the 80s and 90s. Lyrically their tunes deal with social themes: anger. corruption, greed, violence, ecology, etc. The pro-done CD-R comes with a great 4-paged colour booklet and 2 stickers. If you consider yourself a die-hard Thrash Metal freak then go and get your copy now before it's too late! Bandcamp: spitbile.bandcamp.com

Facebook: facebook.com/spitbilethrashua

ANGIST Promo 2010

Iceland is not only famous as a beautiful country with rich Viking heritage, but this ravishing island has some great bands like SÓLSTAFIR, SVARTIDAUÐI, SEVERED CROTCH and last but not least a Death Metal quartet ANGIST. I've listened to ANGIST's music the first time on MySpace and I must say I was absolutely fascinated!



Well, ANGIST horde was formed by two female (!!!) guitarists, Edda and Gyða in 2008. ANGIST's line-up was completed late 2009 and they recorded a promo CD (which contains two excellent old-school Death Metal tracks "Our ruin" and "Rotten mind") in 2010. I was lucky, because I've interviewed the band and thanks to Gyða I've got ANGIST's promo CD this summer. The material splendidly demonstrates the huge potential of ANGIST for death metal listeners: the wind-stormy riffs, distracting drum-parts masterly mixed with groovy elements and all these crowned by very strong and greatly harsh growls of Edda (!). ANGIST lyrics, by the members' words, are about the human misery, destructive behavior and overall degeneration of humanity, which totally fit into the musical massacre of this Icelandic horde. I would also mention that ANGIST released a new material, "Circle of Suffering" in October this year. I've only listened to a song "Godless" and for me this track is one of my favorites from death metal releases in 2011. Who likes old-school Death Metal inferno, strongly recommended the unique music of ANGIST!

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ANGIST "Circle Of Suffering" EP 2011 (Self-released)

My great friends, two female guitarists from Reykjavik, Iceland – Gyða (guitar) and Edda (guitar & vokills) – were so kind and sent me this year their latest release, which they recorded in the fall of 2011. I wrote a review about their 2-track promo back then and it's a pleasure to me again to share my thoughts about their "Circle of Suffering" EP.



I would notice at once the line-up changes, namely Haraldur Ingi (bass) and Hafþór (drums) joined the band. This awesome Icelandic Death Metal horde totally conquered me again with their killer songs. The EP includes 5 excellent Death Metal masterpieces with passages and influences out of the Thrash and Black Metal genres. Three songs were composed by Edda, while

"Godless" and "Silence" by Gvða & Edda. I would like to note that Edda's voice is deeper than it was on the promo. The variety in their tracks is just remarkable as you can find there brutality, fast yet murderous tempos as well as doom-oriented ones changing step by step. so the listener. I think, can enjoy all the moments of this EP. The lyrics were written by Edda and as I see ANGIST is about to create their individual thoughts about darkness and human scum. Some trivia: ANGIST's logo was created by the wellknown artist, Christophe Szpajdel and the amazing artwork by Christian Sloan Hall. Summa summarum: Icelandic ANGIST is obligatory to all the true Death Metal warriors worldwide! They are marching and winning wholeheartedly on the battlefield of real underground!

E-mail: gydathesixstringsamurai@hotmail.com Bandcamp: angisttheband.bandcamp.com

JORMUNDGAND "The Eleventh Path" demo 2010

Hell yeah, the new material of Swedish JORMUNDGAND – "The Eleventh Path" – has arrived! This unique band recorded its satanic hymns in July this year with the following line-up: Tobias "Tobbe" Fongelius – guitar and vocals; Erika Hansson – guitar;



Tobias Pettersson - bass; Ingemar Carlsson - drums. The single contains two impressive tracks, "The Eleventh Path" and "Raping Corpse" (by good old European Death/ Thrash/Black traditions), and a brilliant acoustic song, called "Jormundgand". Some parts of first and second infernal masterpieces reminded me one of my eternal favorite albums. KREATOR's "Pleasure to kill": raw and aggressive guitar riffs, fast drumparts larded with Tobbe's diabolical voice. After the excellent "Satanic Attack" demo JORMUNDGAND has proved again that Jon Nödtveidt's heritage never dies! Finally I would like to note that "The Eleventh Path" single (cover artwork by Tyrant of NIFELHEIM) will be released officially through Burning Eye Productions soon. Hail the Northern Dragon of Chaos! Facebook: facebook com/yoodus666

MORGON "Infinitas" demo 2010

German horde from Sachsen-Anhalt was formed in 2007 by two Death/Black metal maniacs, Haglaz and Nordah (both of them are guitarists and vocalists). A year later Grym (drums) and Urisaz (bass) joined the band. After some rehearsal material the guys recorded their debut material this year. "Infinitas" includes 5 masterpieces of Blackened Death Metal and an acoustic track, "Als Der Regen Fiel". The recording quality is great, powerful riffs mixed up by sorrowful harmonies, hellish vocals, technical drum and bass parts characterize this first studio-material. Every song from the young, talented musicianship sounds extremely varied and leads the listener to an eternal realm of death. My absolute favorite songs are "Destroyed & Reborn" and "Gates of Eternity". For fanatics, who like the heritage of DISSECTION (especially "The Somberlain" album) and GATES OF ISHTAR, this stuff is highly

recommended! Hail chaos and keep the black flame burning!



Website: www.morgonofficial.de Facebook: facebook.com/MorgonOfficial

MORGON "Saint Of Death" demo 2011

Circa a year ago I wrote in Encomium about the debut EP "Infinitas" of German horde MORGON, which is based in Aschersleben, Saxony-Anhalt. After the EP the guys didn't stop to write new tracks and recorded their new demo "Saint of Death" this year. Recently my great friends sent me their new material with a high quality cover and a MORGON patch (Special thanks for that!). Well, MORGON's demo starts with a ritualistic intro, "Qayin's Call - The Forbidden Spell" that magnificently introduces the song "Saint of Death". The tracks "Saint of Death", "Bloodline of Fire" and "Thorn Crowned King" to my mind are perfectly composed, great mixes of brutality and occult harmonies. Listening to these tunes, they reminded me the atmosphere of cult DISSECTION's two first masterpieces ("The Somberlain" and "Storm of the Light's Bane"). The demo ends with the instrumental guitar parts called "Winds of Gulgata". To sum it up, I should say that "Saint of Death" is not a simple demo (rather EP), because the sound's quality is great just like the musical ability of Haglaz (guitars/vocals), Nordah (guitars), Urisaz (bass) and Grym (drums). I hope



I'll be able to see MORGON live in the near future and to listen to their new stuff soon! DISSECTION fans don't hesitate, visit the MORGON pages!!! Chao Ab Ordo!!!

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Bandcamp: morgon.bandcamp.com

OBSCENITY "Atrophied In Anguish" CD 2012 (Apostasy Records)

The German war-machine OBSCE-NITY is back under Hendrik Bruns' (lead/rhythm guitars) leadership to the great delight of Death Metal maniacs! OBSCENITY returned with 3 new members (Christoph Weerts – guitars, Jörg Pirch – bass and Jeff Rudes – vocals) and original drummer Sascha Knust has ranked on Hendrik's side in addition. Their 8th full-length "Atrophied in Anguish" was recorded at Soundlodge Studio with well-known producer Jörg Uken and it includes 10 masterpieces of brutality with excellent mixture of impressive solos. The opening track, "Erase the Divine",

immediately attacks the ears of the listener: cruel, fast riffs, crushing drumparts spiced with low growls will make to headbang the fanatics from the first moment of this composition. The intensity of the following songs keeps on and the guys masterfully alloy murderous, technical riffs with middle tempos, but it doesn't mean a simple butchery. On tracks like "Perfect Pain", "Neurotic Frenzy" or



"Diary of a Scapegoat" we can meet with fascinating solos in a classic Hard Rock/ Heavy Metal style. "Atrophied in Anguish" excellently unites and represents European and American Death Metal traditions and I think this new material will add to this German band a lot of new fans. For me OBSCENITY's new album is one of the best Death Metal releases in this year and finally I would like to thank Hendrik "Henne" Bruns for the package.

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SUICIDAL ANGELS "Bloodbath" CD 2012 (NoiseArt Records)

Greek Thrash Metal horde SUICIDAL ANGELS started in the year of 2001 and now the guys released their fourth fulllength, "Bloodbath", in the end of January, 2012. The quartet did a good thrashcrushing job on this album as well as on their previous ones. "Bloodbath" contains 10 songs. The old-school thrasher-listeners have a choice to headbang through 43 minutes, because the album is very intense, except 2 tracks (which ones were written in middle tempo), very fast and definitely massacring the acoustic meatus. The lyrics definitely fit to music, they are about total hate, death and misanthropy. For the album's title track the Greek thrashers made an excellent video clip, which I highly recommend to check out for all the oldschool-maniacs. I'm very thankful to Obscura Pulla (Miriam), who sent me this fantastic album with signatures of Panos (guitars) and Orpheas (drums) and an original SUICIDAL ANGELS pick, because she visited their show in Switzerland. It was a good start of this year with "Bloodbath" album to all the thrashers and I think this year will be perfect to all the true thrashbangers,



because KREATOR's new album and many other great releases, wait them... Thrash 'til death!

E-mail: suicidalangelsofficial@yahoo.gr Website: www.suicidalangels.net Facebook: facebook.com/SuicidalAngels STABBED is a very young but rather promising quartet hailing from Slovakia. The band plays old-school Death Metal and includes members of OBLITERATE. Read my interview with guitarist Ivan "Ivin" Babilonský.

At the beginning of 2017 you've decided to form STABBED, a band that plays old-school Death Metal exclusively. It started as a side project, right? How this idea came to your mind? Was the name of the band chosen due to Stu's recent incident?

- It all was shaped into this form in November 2016, first idea was to do some "funny & humorous" band maybe in goregrind style, but after a few days and first songs, we realized that "fun" can turn against us, and even music was different. Somehow it all turned naturally and STABBED become STABBED. Yes, you are guessing right, it

was inspired by Stu's bad experiences, we had a totally different name for that "funny project", but that name wasn't right for what we wanted to play and what we want to tell with our band. I really liked this band name, because it's short, strong, and truthfully.

Your line-up mostly combines members of OBLITE-RATE. Please share them to the readers and also refer to other bands they're actually involved in.

- In the beginning the line-up was the same as in OBLITE-RATE, but Gaby had strong life changing situations at the same time, when we shaped STAB-BED. At this time Gaby is no longer the singer in STABBED, and Marek became the only singer in STABBED, not just as

stand-in. Besides OBLITERATE, Matúš have a prog-death band – ORTOMEN, Stu grinds bass in ATARAXIA with Gaby, Marek has a Death Metal band ALMA PERSONA, with Matúš on drums ©, and I have a few side projects, for example my solo "band"

The first single came in April along with a video clip to the song called "Cellar Story". As I've understood from it, your lyrics are connected with crimes and criminals. Who writes the lyrics and what kind of topics will be touched in the future?

- Yes, themes for STABBED are mainly about crimes, violence and horror movies, just like for the early Death Metal bands from the 90s. © Matúš wrote "Cellar story", and most of the lyrics on the forthcoming album are written by me, but in the future, I think Marek will contribute with his own lyrics as well.

In the beginning of July you've visited Gothoom Studio and recorded drums there. How was it to work there? What kind of material should we expect to be released shortly? Where will you record the rest of the instruments?

- It was a hard work, because we had just one day to record drums for the debut album, but it was also a lot of fun there. Matúš did a perfect job on drums, you will hear it in the near future. ③ I already started recording guitars in my home studio, but at this time I've stopped recordings because of my broken arm. Nowadays you don't have to go to big studios, especially if you don't have that budget to pay them. ⑤ So Stu will do bass recordings at his home, and Marek will sing maybe at my home studio, or somewhere at rehearsal rooms, as we did for the first single "Cellar story".



You've started to play live quite actively. How was the crowd's reaction to the STABBED material so far? What should the people of UzhGoreRot festival expect from you live in August?

- We are glad that most reactions are positive. On the mini-tour with OBLITE-RATE and ANIME TORMENT, a few people was a little bit disoriented when they saw playing the same people on stage, but two different bands. © What can you expect from us? I am hoping that the audience will enjoy our catchy rhythms & riffs and, of course, our live performance. ©

Speaking of old-school Death Metal bands. Can you list us some favorites of yours, please? From the old-school Death Metal veterans which albums impressed you the best lately and why?

- I will speak only for myself, and there's nothing surprising in my list. ③ Classic bands, like DEATH, PESTILENCE, ATHEIST, CARCASS, CYNIC..., but I have to confess, I didn't follow most of the Death Metal bands these days. ⑤ Well, maybe the latest album from CARCASS made me to impress, especially I'm really happy that I have finally seen them playing after their reunion. ⑤

Talk us a bit about the actual underground scene of Slovakia. How do you see it these days? Is it better by now or it was better in the past? What bands, magazines, festivals and labels would you recommend to us?

- SK scene is mostly like other local scenes, we have good bands and we have bad bands. © I don't want to live in the past, so now it is better. © Definitely check labels like Gothoom, SMA, Support Underground; from bands ATARAXIA, ORTOMEN, MINOR, DOOMAS, HOLOTROPIC, ČAD and many more. If you want to have

the best experience with the Slovak UG scene, just visit Gothoom festival, where you will see the best from it live. ©

There's a new material in progress with your main band OBLITERATE as well. Could you tell us more about that record? Where do you move musically this time? How many songs will be there? When and where it will be out?

- It will be a five-song EP called "Universe, milk, structures" and you can expect some tech stuff as on "Superboring", but also more energy in songs. At this time we are still stuck in recording process due to Gaby's changes in his personal life, he still don't have the time to go into the studio and record his parts, so I can't tell when it will

be out, just hoping it will be soon. ©

As I know from time to time you are also working at the Gothoom Studio, recording and producing Slovakian metal bands there. Which bands produced you so far, what band did you like the most to work with?

- The list isn't as long, because this job isn't my main job, which pays my bills.
But I worked with these bands so far: ACHSAR, ANSTRATUS, BORDERLINE, DOOMAS, DYSANGELIUM, ABORT TO BE BORN, GOD DEFAMER, STAGE OF SYNERGY and I enjoyed all of them, because every job was special and different, and you are always learning through these experiences, so I'm glad for everything.

Last stabbed words are yours. Please finish the interview in a way you would prefer to.

- First of all, I want to thank you for this interview. And also can't wait to see you at UzhGoreRot, where I hope there will be a majority of the readers of this 'zine too. What else can I say; ok maybe this: if you want to have a strong scene, just support it! **E-mail:** stabbed.metal@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stabbed.metal



IF WE ARE STARTING TO TALK ABOUT THE UKRAINIAN BRUTAL DEATH/GRIND SCENE, THEN DATURA'S NAME SURELY APPEARS IN THE VERY TOP OF IT. I'VE HAD A NICE CHAT WITH GUITARIST/VOCALIST -- ANTON SUBBOTIN -- ABOUT THEIR ACTUAL SITUATION AND FUTURE PLANS.

Since your last album "Spreading the Absorption" three years passed already. Are you working on some new stuff to be recorded and released shortly?

- Hi everyone, DATURA here. Yes, we are working on the new stuff, actually we've started to work on it right after the previous album was recorded, but the war has made some corrections to our plans, and thus composing of the new tracks became less intense than usual for some period. Now we are planning to record new stuff probably this year, and it's going to be kind of EP or something – 6 brand new tracks, and some cover or two maybe – for a total time to be a bit longer. And surely this stuff will be released in some form. We had to make a choice to wait some more years to write some more tracks to fill up the full-length's total time or to mark our current milestone this way and being honest with our fans.

You have a long-term friendship with Russian label Coyote Records, How this cooperation began? Will your new release be treated by them likewise?

- We've made friendship with Dmitry Coyote in 2005, when we were looking for a label to release our stuff on CD. That was due to our manager, Evgeny Butenko, and since that time we had some good years, some albums released and tours managed by the label. As for the upcoming release, yet we had no discussion on this matter with any of the labels.

At the moment you are playing as a duo live. How is it to play as a duo? What's up with Dimas? When can we expect his rejoining?

- You know, though a duo format is somehow incomplete for the genre, plus the absence of bass line is not good in general, but playing live as a duo we feel rather comfortable. It allows better listening to each other during the performance, gives us more control on the sound. Of course, we lack branded vox parts of Dimas and his solid, tough and contoured bass lines. Dimas is okay, he's playing drums in IMITATION with Bob and also in some other projects in the region.

We expect his rejoining, as well as he does, but recent years showed us that history and politics do not give a shit about our expectations and plans. So we just have to hope for some good outcome of the conflict, which has led to our disjunction.

You also live on big distances from each other right now. Do you rehearse at all? Or everybody just doing his homework and you meet at gigs & festivals only?

 We do rehearse rather seldom, but recently Ed has moved to Kyiv, so our rehearsals tend to occur more often now.

Musically you are totally influenced by the US brutal Death/Grind scene. Does it mean you are

not listening to European Death or Grindcore bands at all? And none of the European Death/ Grind bands influenced you anyhow? Talk us a bit about your all-time favorites.

- We never thought of it from that point and have discussed it specially to prepare the answer. What matters is the music itself, not the region. It happened so that we all started to listen and became fans of Death and Thrash Metal with bands from the Florida, New York and California scenes, as well as English bands. We used to listen to a few European bands like PESTILENCE, SINISTER, KREATOR, HELL-HAMMER and ATROCITY as well. Probably because these are rather close in style to the North-American school in comparison to many other European bands, but that's all, maybe. I guess it's something like 85/15 percent ratio of US and European bands respectively, which influenced DATURA's music. Hey, and what about the great Canadian scene, acts like CRYPTOPSY and GOR-GUTS?! Let's count them as US or North-American percentage in general.

Earlier Donbass region was the cradle for the most brutal Death/Grind bands in Ukraine, But since the political shitstorm in our country started the things changed pretty much. Lately quite a lot of brutal bands appeared in Kyiv, which is good as well. How do you see the actual brutal Death Metal scene of Ukraine? Are there bands you would warmly recommend to us?

- I think that our Death Metal scene is constantly evolving regardless of any politics and conflicts, as it did before and will do after.

As for the Donbass region, we have such examples as Dimas, Bob and Co., whose projects IMITATION (will be recording their second full-length shortly) and VANSTORBING INSOLOBRIDISHN (full-length released recently by Coyote Records) do their job in the region independently of any territorial claims. And we have other bands, whose members were able and had to move to other regions, and these bands are continuing to function in some way, no matter the place where they are now.

Recently we've got some great releases of SER-PENTERNITY, FLESHGORE and ENDOCRA-NIAL, we are waiting for the upcoming NECROPSY DEFECATION album and for the new material from EZOPHAGOTHOMIA (as a 5-piece now!).

In August you will visit two great underground festivals in Ukraine, first "Metal Heads' Mission" and then "UzhGoreRot". At MHM you played a few times, how do you remember those times and tell us what are you expecting from this year's one? What kind of live set will you prepare for

these festivals? Will you play some special covers as well?

- Oh yes, we are looking forward to play on these fests and to meet all our old and new fellow bands, musicians, friends and fans. MHM is a special case, because of the beach and stuff, of course, and then there will be our first appearance on UzhGoreRot festival, that is great!!! But not our first time in Uzhgorod, of course – the city and Death Metal Assault fests, which we played a few times on, have always showed us special powers and excellent sound and fans!

Our current live set is all-new material except for one track from the previous album, and some new covers, of course, of some great US bands that influenced us, as usual.

For the last couple of years Ed played drums for NECROPSY DEFECATION. They recently released a 3-song promo. How do you like it? Tell us your impressions from that promo.

- It is awesome, the right style and school, and the roots, and it shows us their potential for the future growth. But it lacks a little bit of aggression and power, as to my taste.

You played quite a lot of shows in Ukraine and in Russia, but what about gigs in other countries? I am pretty sure DATURA would be very well welcomed in Europe and USA as well. Don't you plan to break out and conquer the other countries

- Don't know, time will tell. We are open for contact with any promoters or labels from all regions, and in case of proposal I hope that now it will be much easier to do it for us, because of the visa-free regime activated recently. Also a duo format is not what the promoters look for, generally, and yet we are not ready to invite any session or full-time bassist other than Dimas, so keeping the band in such a disjoint state. All that stupid war situation lead to many big changes in our lives, families and jobs, so that still we are under circumstances, so to speak, and thus our main goals in music now are limited to making new material, raise our performance skills and playing for ourselves, putting aside nearly any promotional activity.

For the end, please spread all the latest news from the DATURA camp. Last words are yours.

- Thank you for the good questions, bro! All the latest news is already covered by the answers! Greetings to everyone, keep listening to good music and stay brutal, and thanks for reading this interview and supporting the underground! Sincerely yours, DATURA.

This great underground band was a long while around us, but only with their recent album "Martyr Creation" they've started to open doors to new dimensions!!! The following is an interview with Sándor Hajnali, vocalist of the Hungarian Death Metal veterans GUTTED.

Let's start the interview with your recent impressions from Las Vegas Deathfest 2017. It was your first visit to the United States. How did you feel yourselves there? Share all your bright memories from this trip.

- It was a great honor to be part of this amazing festival and we were invited there! Still can't believe that Big Mike invited us and it was not me who looked for him! Unbelievable!!! We've never been in the US before. It was our 1st trip as individuals as well. We were there for 10 nights. It was like a holiday with my band. © We played only one show, but that show killed it! The crowd was amazing. It was one of our best experiences so far. I can't find any words to describe how amazing it was

Your 4th album "Martyr Creation" (2016) just blew me away with its super intense and fullspeed ahead Death Metal alloy. It's brutal, it's melodic and dynamic as hell. How the songs for this masterpiece were born? Can you enlighten us more details about the GUTTED song-writing mode in general?

- Thanks for your great words, we really appreciate it! Our songs were written by our guitarist Gábor, except "Kings of Emptiness", it was written by the other guitarist András. All lyrics were written by me. Usually Gábor shows us full songs in the form of a demo song and everyone gives a bit to it. But the whole idea, song structure coming from him.

More than 90% of the songs are written by him.

Gábor Drótos – your guitar player – was in charge for the killer sound production on "Martyr Creation". Does he produces and mixes other bands' materials too? Tell us more about his activity as a producer as well as about his classical music oriented side project.

- He works for other bands as well, but it is not easy for him, because he needs to do it besides his normal, daily job. He is not doing it for living. He started a few years ago and he is ready now to produce and mix full albums. He really knows the death metal sound. He knows how it should sound. It was easy working with him. He will do our next album, I suppose. But it is really far from here. © He is a very talented artist. He can play many instruments. Piano, cello... and he writes his own classical music. He wrote and played our intro and outro on the album and he wrote the classical part of "Deeper than Hell" as well. He should do it for living! He deserves it!

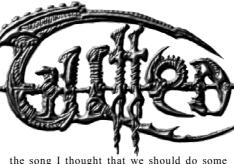
For the release of "Martyr Creation" you've signed a deal with Spanish Xtreem Music. How do they actually treat GUTTED? Was it just a

one album deal or they will be releasing all your forthcoming materials as well?

- I wrote to Dave, owner of the label, and sent him our demo songs. He really liked them and wanted to release our upcoming album. I always wanted to work with him, because I really admire his work thru the years. I'm happy that we are part of Xtreem Music. It was only for one album, but we will see what future brings.

An involvement of guests also took place on your latest record. Namely, Attila Csihar colored "Into Oblivion" with his vocal parts and Attila Vörös added a solo to "Fades Away", but the most interesting feature was your daughter's monologue in "Deeper than Hell". Awesome thing to be honest! You should be really proud of this fact. But was it conscious from the very beginning to add her monologue there or it just turned out that way? How was your family members' and relatives' reaction to it?

- Yes, I'm very proud of her work! She was 6 years old and didn't know anything about the meaning of the monologue. [©] When Gábor sent me



the song I thought that we should do some whispering on the classical parts of the song. He agreed, but when we recorded it as demo we were not satisfied with the result. He put some child voice effect to my whispering, but it was not what we expected. So together we decided that I will teach it to my daughter. © She learned it very fast and she was very clever in the studio as well. The bigger part of my family cannot speak English so there was no war against me. ©

Lately the band seems to get more festival invites and that's good. Will you plan some kind of tour in support of "Martyr Creation"? Reveal us details about all the forthcoming live actions of the band.

- We have some confirmed gigs, but we will not play too much. It is not so easy to organize gigs beside our normal work. 10-12 shows per year are more than enough for us. There won't be more. This year is very special for GUTTED, because we are

going to visit countries we've never been before. USA, UK, Poland, Spain and we will go back to the USA in 2018 to play at the Maryland Deathfest, but this time we will play more shows there, not only the festival one. At least 4-5 shows at the East Coast!

There's a unique GUTTED tape collection in progress by Hungarian Fekete Terror Productions. The four tapes will come out in a box and for diehard fans it will include extra stuff, like T-shirt and patch. Let's talk a bit about the resultant idea, the content of the cassettes plus the new cover designs.

- The idea itself came from Attila Dudás. He found me about this idea and I liked it from the beginning. I'm not a tape collector, but I know that some people still love this format. It will feature our demos from the very beginning and our first three full-length albums as well. We wanted to have some new artwork for this special release and Anvil Kvlt from Hungary made a brilliant new cover for it. We didn't want to release it with the old covers, because it's a very unique release. There won't be re-press!

Your bassist – Péter Lipák – has another band called EFFRONTERY. He plays there guitar. What's your opinion about their music and their new album called "Seven Years of Agony"?

- He is a very talented guitarist, but I'm not into the style they play. It is great music played by great musicians, but it is not my cup of tea.

Metal underground scene today? Was it changed to a better since you started playing in a band or? Which bands/releases would you recommend us to check out and pay attention to?

- It has been changed a lot, but still very small. ③ I like the Hungarian underground scene, because it is very colorful. We have bands from every corner of the metal genre, we have great fanzines, some cool clubs and festivals. No need to cry. ⑤ Don't complain, do it! I listen to every kind of rock and metal music so I have some faves from Hungary. I don't wanna list them, because I will miss someone for sure and I don't want that.

At the end, feel free to add all the important GUTTED information that I might not asked or pointed on, so the readers can have an up-to-date view about all your future plans. Thanks a lot!

- We talked about everything, I think. Thanks for your support and I hope we will return to Ukraine someday soon. ☺

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Hi Bindi. How are you? Let's start with some short background information about the actual members of THORWALD. Please introduce them to the readers.

- Hi Kornel, thanks I'm doing fine. The current THORWALD assembly is:

Kubo – drums from 2015. He is also a member of the KILLCHAIN band. After a long search, we finally found a drummer who conformed to us as a musician and as a human. Kubo is a loving father and a passionate cyclist.

Fuko – guitarist since 2009. Besides playing he also writes great lyrics. As it is obvious from his appearance, he loves tattoos. In addition to this, he is a loving father.

Wurma – bassist since 1999. He is a founding member of the band and its brain. He likes to spend time in a gym. Besides this he's an everhungry man.

Miki – singer since 2009. He loves alcohol and alcohol loves him.

Bindi – singer since 2010. Having known Wurma for 20 years, I had the honor to be with THORWALD from its beginnings. First I was just a member and a so-called girl for everything. I organized their concerts and was the band's driver. Only later I started to sing. Currently I take care of recording, mixing and mastering. I like technique and cycling.

Your latest release "Kolízie Systému" was out in 2016. You've presented 8 new ultra fast, grinding death cuts plus a remix there. How's the response to the album so far? Did you manage to sign a deal with some label to release it?

- The audience's response is great. We haven't expected that people will like it so much. Originally we planned to record it as a demo. However we were

forced to program drums, since we haven't had any drummer for a year. The drum programming experiment was successful, so we published it as a free digital download. After a big demand we released a limited edition of 40 vinyl records. So far we don't have a plan to publish it through any label. However, if we would receive an offer, we certainly would not reject it. Currently we are preparing our new record.

The song titles of "Kolízie Systému" impressed me quite a lot. I am sure you are talking about social themes there, but please tell us more about your lyrics and what makes you to write them in such a straight and outspoken way.

- You're right. The lyrics are about issues that suck. It's a form of reflection to this (fucking) world. We talk about all the dirt that begins with religion, continues in politics and ends up with ordinary people, unable to appreciate what the earth is giving them. The art, including music, is one of the first categories that reflects and reacts to such things and we are not an exception. We don't like the extent to which manipulation went so far, where human is just a toy in the hands of wealthy men (mushrooms) that are having fun. We want to draw attention to this fact at least through our music. (Rightful perceptions and true words indeed – Ed.)

You are from Košice. What bands would you pick out from the current Death/Grind scene of Košice? Is there a friendship and unity between all those bands there?

- Yeah, sure! We have the greatest "brother-hood" with KILLCHAIN, at least, because we share the same drummer and the same rehearsal room. CRUENT is another band from Košice that crushes with us. These guys play grind with gore themes (mass murderers, horrors, zombies, simply delicatessen). ⑤ Basically, we are friends with the whole underground in Košice. I'd like to mention a band called ATARAXIA that is from Ružomberok. We are good friends with these guys and musically we are very close. We had some concerts together and are planning some more. I definitely recommend them for the next UzhGoreRot festival. (Thanks for the advice, will keep them in my mind − Ed.)



Are you ready to read an interview with bodycheck grinders from Slovakia?!!! Well, I really hope so! THORWALD's music is a mix between ultrafast powerviolence and rough grindcore. Plus their latest stuff "Kolīzie Systému" just kills the right way! Vocalist Bindi was kind enough and shared with us all the news we have to know! Go, read and explore!!!

What kind of bands do you like to listen to with pleasure lately? Please name us your influences.

- Okay, let me nominate bands for entire THORWALD: MISERY INDEX, DISFEAR, AT THE GATES, TESTAMENT, DARK ANGEL, DEATH, ROTTEN SOUND, INSECT WARFARE, PHOBIA, BLOCKHEAD, NASUM, S.O.D., SLAYER, IMPLORE, FEAST, MURDER CONSTRUCT, MAGRUDERGRIND, PANTERA, GUNS N' ROSES, ALICE IN CHAINS, VENOMOUS CONCEPT, LOCK UP, GADGET, AGNOSTIC FRONT, NAPALM DEATH, BRUTAL TRUTH, GOJIRA, ENTOMBED.

It's a selection of variety. Each of us likes something else and we transfer it into our acting on the stage. Obviously, we don't want to sound like someone's copy that's why we aim for originality in our songs. The average age of our band members is 35 years, so we are old-school fans. However, we do not kick against new trends. It is very important that every member of the band identifies with it. It isn't worth doing something that makes no sense.

Whose duty is to write the music in the band? How the creative process looks like within THORWALD? I assume you already have some new tracks ready, right? Talk a little bit about them as well.

- Wurma is the one primarily responsible for the music. He prepares the frame of a track, then Kubo adds drums, Fuko delivers lyrics and then with a song line, we finalize the track. The new material consists of five tracks and a cover of MOTÖRHEAD. In terms of music and sound it's gonna be even bigger massacre than "Kolízie Systému". We need to fine-tune the details and it should be out by end of this year.

You labeled the band's style as bodycheck grindcore. Why is it so? What do you mean under bodycheck?

- [©] Good question. During THORWALD's goregrind period (2003-2005) the band was flirting with ice-hockey themes. Gradually we got used to it and the ice-hockey crackdown − the bodycheck − became a metaphor of our style. Simply, just play THORWALD and you'll hit the ground.

Tell us more about your live activity. Where will you conquer the stages in the near future? You will also visit Ukraine for the very first time. What should the Ukrainian extreme metal fans expect from you live?

- After the concert in Ukraine, we have a scheduled concert with DEAD INFEC-TION, EPITOME, HALUCY-NOGEN and ATROPINE. It will take place in Strážske on September 2, where EPI-TOME will celebrate 25 years on stage. It's not so easy with concerts, since every band member has a regular employment and they also deal with other things. Therefore, we are grateful for every concert. We are looking forward to the Ukrainian audience. We're gonna serve stuff from the actual record and will add some fresh stuff too.

In March there was a cool tribute album released by

The Hills Are Dead Records. It was titled as "Aces öf Grind (Grindcore Tribute to MOTÖRHEAD)" and you were featured with the "Grind Out (Rock Out)" song there. Tell us more about this alliance, how did you select the "Rock Out" song out of the numerous MOTÖRHEAD classics and what's your opinion about the rest of the covers there?

- It was more or less a coincidence connected with a long-term plan. We were thinking to make a cover that would be close to all of us. During this time we got a call for the grind tribute of MOTÖRHEAD. We tried it and got a green light. Why "Rock Out"? As I mentioned, we try to include something original in each song, something that identifies us and this song was not an exception.

Last system colliding words are yours. Feel free to add all your latest news or plans here.

- I think everything was said. In the near future, we'd like to find a publisher for the upcoming album, we'd like to play many concerts and make new songs. Last but not least, we want to greet the Ukrainian fans. We hope you will enjoy our show. Follow us on the internet, feel free to share and download us. Do not forget to enjoy your life! Thank you for the interview, fingers crossed and wish you a lot of success. Bye!

It was a real pleasure to interview Erik Sprooten of the Dutch Thrash/Death brigade – INQUISITOR. He talked in details about their forthcoming releases and things you can eventually read only here. So welcome the INQUISITOR!!!

As we all get informed recently, a new INQUISITOR material has been scheduled for release through Hammerheart Records this coming October. We talk about the "I Am Sick, I Must Die" 7" EP. That EP includes a brand new INQUISITOR song as well as two special covers. Tell us where did you record it, who produced/mixed/mastered it and how did you select the covers for this EP. As I know there's some story behind the DARKANGEL cover, am I right?

- We recorded the songs for this EP and also the songs for the forthcoming album at Toneshed studio in The Netherlands, which is owned by Erwin Hermsen. He also took care of the production as well as the mixing and mastering and did a phenomenal job! I'm not going into details, but initially our plans were a bit different, but if everything goes as planned, the EP will be released in October and our new album in January 2018.

The basis of our own song "I'm Sick, I Must Die" was already written in 1996 after the recordings of "Walpurgis – Sabbath of Lust", but we changed it a bit and added quite some great ideas to it, I think.

Of course, we prefer to play our own material, but it is nice to play a cover tune from time to time. We were thinking about doing a new cover tune and it was Wim (our drummer) who suggested "Extreme Unction" by PESTILENCE, and all of us liked the idea. So we tried "Extreme Unction" and we all felt good about it. I think that our

version turned out great and can be heard on the forthcoming EP. (Yes, it was definitely a good idea to cover that track – Ed.)

We didn't plan to record a cover of DARK ANGEL, but at some point during the recordings, Erwin Hermsen suggested that we should record a cover of DARK ANGEL, because he really felt that it would be great if we could do that. We love DARK ANGEL, but we hardly have played any DARK ANGEL songs in our rehearsal room, so that was more or less out of the question for us. Then Erwin proposed us to record a DARK ANGEL cover, but free of charge, just because he really liked us to do that. In the end, we agreed to do that, and selected "Perish in Flames", a song which hasn't been covered much by other bands. We couldn't rehearse in our rehearsal room, because the drumkit was in the studio. Because of that, we had to practice at home individually to the original version. The next week, Wim and I rehearsed the song quite a couple of times in the studio before recording the first drum take. We managed to get a good drum take and a good guide guitar. Later during the recording process, the vocals and bass were added, and I re-recorded the guitar parts. When the idea for an EP arose after the recordings, we thought it would be great to include our version of "Perish in Flames" on it.

There was a pretty long pause in the career of INQUISITOR. We speak at least about 20 years of absence. Where the musicians of INQUISITOR do spent those

years? Besides the other bands they played in or still actively play for, you can also enlighten us some details about their jobs and/or hobbies.

- I quit INQUISITOR at the end of 1996 and joined ANCIENT RITES (in which I'm still a member), and Wim carried on for a few months under the moniker of INQUISITOR with new members, which eventually led to the formation of CENTURIAN in which Wim stayed until 2003. In 2002, me and bass-player Alex Bakker joined Hard Rock coverband PLUSMINUS in which we both are still active. Our singer Alex Wesdijk didn't do any serious musical activities since quitting INQUISITOR in 1996 until the reunion of INQUISITOR. Wim also didn't play drums since the last time he performed with CENTURIAN until INOUISITOR reunited. Nowadays Wim also plays drums for SAMMATH. Our bands are in fact our hobbies.

At the moment my job is electrician. Wim is an engineer (I think) and Alex Bakker works for a metal separation company and therefore he is the most metal guy in INQUISITOR (hahaha). Alex Wesdijk used to be a welder.

Your awesome debut album "Walpurgis – Sabbath of Lust" (1996) was lately rereleased, first by Hammerheart Records on 2CD, LP, 2LP formats, then a bit later by Zwaertgevegt in cassette version. Plus your cult demos have been also pressed onto vinyl by Hammerheart too. Does these



re-presses motivated you to rebirth the Extreme Death/Thrash entity called INQUISITOR or there were totally different events that led to the reunion?

- The full reunion took place just a few weeks prior to the re-release. The re-presses were certainly a motivation to reform INQUISITOR with the original line-up, although we didn't expect this to happen. But working on this re-release brought the band back together, more or less.

The actual line-up includes all the original members from the demo eras. How it happened exactly that way? Do

you have some interesting stories to tell?

- In 2014, right after the remastering, I met Wim again for the first time since a long time and we discussed the idea of playing some INQUISITOR songs together in a rehearsal room, just for the fun. We would later ask original bass player and founding member Alex Bakker if he felt like joining us. At some point we were asked to perform at a small local festival, which we agreed to do, and that gave us the opportunity to do a "tryout" gig, but we didn't know

who was going to do the vocals as we'd lost contact with our original singer. In the end the first rehearsal we did was in September of 2014 with the original line-up, but without a singer. About two weeks later we received a message that our singer Alex Wesdijk was also interested in returning to INQUISITOR. I went to visit him and a few days later we did our first rehearsal with the complete original line-up. From then on we've been back together. We only rehearsed three times with the complete original line-up before the try-out gig in November. We are enjoying playing together again, which is, above all, the right reason for this reformation.

Since 1996 you are a proud member of the Belgian ANCIENT RITES? How did it happen back then? "Laguz" was your recent work with them. Can you share with us some news about the forthcoming ANCIENT RITES release and the direction of the fresh songs?

- Back in 1996 I did the "Blasfemia Eternal" tour as a session-guitarist, when I was still in INQUISITOR. During that tour, Gunther and Walter already had future plans to have two guitarists again in ANCIENT RITES. Later that year when INQUISITOR was having line-up problems, the idea of me joining ANCIENT RITES arose. I knew at that time that they already had a new guitarist, but no second guitarist, so I contacted Gunther to see if they are interested in having me as the other guitarist. Gunther told me that another guitarist was also interested to join ANCIENT RITES, so an audition was organized. In the

end I was chosen, and became second guitarist of ANCIENT RITES.

At the moment, ANCIENT RITES is not yet in full writing modus, but I'm sure there are plenty of new ideas already, but I can't really say much about a possible direction.

How do you see the actual Death/Thrash Metal movement in your country? Does the underground scene changed to a better since the beginning of the 90s or you have something other to say us? Please recommend us some bands, labels, festivals, magazines, 'zines that are really impressed you these days.



- I'm not easy to impress, hahaha. Fortunately there are still Death/Thrash and other metal bands in The Netherlands who are keeping the flame burning, so it's still healthy. Compared to the 90s, the scene changed, but I can't say for the better or for worse, it's just different, because of the changed times like for instance internet. It seems that metal in general isn't as popular as it used to be, but it will never ever die.

Relatively new Dutch bands I would recommend are LUCIFERICON (Occult Death Metal) and DISTILLATOR (Thrash Metal). Furthermore I like the new album "Swine Plague" of DEAD HEAD. DEAD HEAD is a great Thrash Metal band from my country, check them out! Some great friends of mine are in a band called HORDEARII. This band plays (an interesting) mix of Thrash, Death and Modern Metal. Their new material, which is not released yet, is quite aggressive. We still have some (underground) labels like Hammerheart Records, Vic Records, New Era Productions, etc. which keep metal alive. Some festivals I like in my country are Stonehenge, Occultfest, Eindhoven Metal Meeting, etc. Recommendable webzines from my country are: www.lordsofmetal.nl, www. zwaremetalen.com, www.metalfan.nl and www.wingsofdeath.net.

What kind of gear you use when you play in the studio, live or at the rehearsal room? I am really curios about the guitars, amps and string settings you are using lately. Does any of you endorsed by some bigger company?

- At the moment I'm using a Line6 Vetta amp in the rehearsal room as well as on stage. Although I'm still satisfied with it, I might be interested in getting myself a different amp. However, on the forthcoming EP and album my trusty old Marshall 2203 from 1980 has been used again, which was also used on "Walpurgis – Sabbath of Lust". When it comes to strings, I don't use a particular brand, but the gauge I play is 010-046, which is quite standard, and can be bought in every music store. We are not endorsed by big companies, but I do have a deal with Bare Knuckle pickups. I own quite

a lot of guitars, but my main guitars at the moment are my black Gibson Flying-V from 1985, the black Gibson Explorer also from 1985 and a Les Paul from the Heritage model H-150 black built in 1992.

Our drummer Wim uses Pearl drums and has a deal called the "ABC for Drummers", which include Amedia cymbals, Balbex drumsticks and Cympad cymbal washers.

Our bass player Alex Bakker uses a Fender Jazz Bass from 1978 with Seymour Duncan pickups and uses an Ampeg B-2RE amp.

Actually, you are signed to Hammerheart Records. What kind of deal do you have with them? How do they treat you?

- We didn't sign a contract with them, but we have a mutual agreement. They will release the EP and our second album and after that we'll see what happens next. So far the cooperation between Hammerheart Records and INQUISITOR is fine.

You already finished the recordings for your second full-length album, called "Stigmata Me, I'm In Misery", which will be released via Hammerheart Records in January, 2018. I know it is too early to ask for details like song names and lyrical content, but what can the die-hard extreme Thrash/Death Metal fans expect from that release? How was it to work with Erwin Hermsen in the Toneshed Recording Studio?

- The die-hard fans will not be disappointed! We didn't change our style, but we have expanded our style of extreme Thrash Metal with interesting ideas. The bass guitar plays a more prominent role on the new album compared to "Walpurgis – Sabbath of Lust". And..... it definitely sounds like INQUISITOR!

INQUISITOR

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Whose idea was to name the band F.A.M. that is Furor Arma Ministrat? What meaning lies in these words for you? Is there any special story behind this bandname?

- There's no special story about the bandname. Furor Arma Ministrat is a Latin sentence. It began when I had a band called DISSENTER. Me and my guitarist Stocker decided to make a new band called F A M

Your second album "Human Cargo" became huge. While listening to its songs I imagined a kind of supersonic devastation. Where did you record it, who mixed & produced it and how was it to work on this album in the studio?

- We recorded this album at my home studio. Mix and mastering was done for us by Michal Grabowski (BlackTeamMedia). We had a lot of time for recording. We worked really easy and it was time full of fun for us.

I was pretty positively surprised by your cover version on MY DYING BRIDE's "All Swept Away" song. I have to say, it is awesome! How exactly was this song chosen?

- This decision was very spontaneous... I heard this song one day, and I thought... fuck... if we play it faster then it will be a great track... I did not care to make a "typical cover", which other bands make. It was supposed to be a different type of a track, not in our style

You are actually signed with Deformeathing Production. How is your cooperation with this label so far? Will they release your new album as well?

- I know Wojtek from Deformeathing for a really long time. It's not a big label, but he's doing his best to make promotion for bands. We don't know actually if Deformeathing will be the label for our future albums. Speaking of the new F.A.M. material. Do you already have new songs written? What should we know about them and the musical direction of the forthcoming stuff?

- New material is in progress. We want to release it this year. It'll be more brutal than the old albums.

The members of F.A.M. played in rather numerous bands/projects so far. How the actual line-up was formed? Please name us those bands in which the F.A.M. members are still active.

-Actual line-up is: Zajcew – vox (ex-PARRICIDE, ex-CONFUSION), Nelek – guitar (ex-BANISHER, ex-CLIMATE), Darek Młody – drums (ex-DISSENTER, ex-CHRIST AGONY, AMORPHOUS, XAOZ). We have now a new bass player – Armagog – he plays also in bands A.H.P. and THRONEUM.

The Polish Grindcore scene is quite famous I would say. How it looks in the perspective now and how was the scene when you started with F.A.M. back in 2005? Make a comparison, please. Also mention us all the worthy Grindcore bands that recently appeared.

- When we started with F.A.M in 2005 there was less bands than today, but those bands were more into real Grindcore. Today's scene has a lot of shitty quality bands, which do nothing new and productive for the Grindcore style.

You've been touring with PARRICIDE in 2006. How do you remember your visit to Ukraine and in particular your show in Uzhgorod? Did you like it or no? You've been visited Ukraine several times later in the ranks of CHRIST AGONY as well. Share us your memories from those trips too.

- It was really nice and crazy tour with PARRICIDE in 2006. I enjoyed playing in Ukraine. I remember Uzhgorod very well. The crowd was insane and people were really friendly. I think I have records from that gig. (Yeah, you definitely should

have them, as we filmed almost everything back then, ahahaha – Ed.) Funny thing is that present F.A.M. guitarist Nelek played this tour with us with his band called CLIMATE. (Yes, I remember this clearly too – Ed.) My next tour in Ukraine was with CHRIST AGONY. We had sick time with friends from DEAD INFECTION on that trip. Ukraine is always awesome, time full of party and alcohol.

Recently you parted ways with CHRIST AGONY. You've played drums for 5 years there, but what is strange to me that on their latest album "Legacy" (2016) drums were recorded by Dariusz "Daray" Brzozowski. Why is it so? Also please explain to us why everybody leaves that band in a short term of time?

- Cezar is a toxic person. He can't cooperate with people. He's just a piece of liar, shit and thief. These are the reasons, why we quit the band. I didn't know that Daray is recording drums for the new album. Cezar never said it to me. I read the news in the internet. Now Cezar is probably looking for new musicians, but he will lie and cheat them about money for sure. Watch out with him!!!

Can we expect some new releases by AMOR-PHOUS or XAOZ in the very near future? If so, please go into details and enlighten us as more as possible news regarding those bands.

- AMORPHOUS isn't active for now, because Marek Pająk plays a lot with VADER. Today we don't have any plans about new material, but in the future... who knows... © The situation with XAOZ looks similar. Maybe something in the future.

At the end, feel free to express your wishes to all the readers of Encomium and send your greetings to all the F.A.M. fans in Ukraine.

- Thanks for the interview. Greetings for all Encomium readers. Hope to see you in the future on gigs. Keep it brutal \m/



Darek, drummer of F.A.M., was really cool an answered my questions pretty quick! He told us a bit about their latest work "Human Cargo", the upcoming release as well as about the Grindcore scene of Poland! Enjoy our conversation!!!

If you crave for the most obscure sides of the Death Metal genre, then you definitely need to check out FAITHXTRACTOR and their sonic arsenal. I have sent my questions to the mastermind and multi-instrumentalist behind dozens of underground hordes, namely Ash Thomas. Read his answers and perceive the total death illumination!!! Enjoy!!!

to each other. So let's start our conversation with some background information about FAITHXTRACTOR, You've formed the band in 2005 and a year later you've recorded all the instruments and vocals for your debut 2-song demo. A bit later Marquis, your brother, joins in with whom you've recorded material for a split and 2 full-length albums. And after the release of "The Great Shadow Infiltrator" (2013) two more members entering the band, first Zdenka on bass and a year later Cody on guitar. Correct me if I am wrong, but it seems to me that FAITHXTRACTOR initially was supposed to be a studio project, am I right? How and when the idea of a fully-functioning band came to your mind? I know that sometimes it just happens naturally, nevertheless tell us more about the beginnings and step by step progression of FAITHXTRACTOR.

Hello Ash! It was quite a while ago we talked

- Yes, that is correct. Originally, FAITH-XTRACTOR was strictly a studio project between my brother Marquis & me. It was a great way for both of us to continue to create music while our main functioning bands were preoccupied with preparing for shows or waiting for other members of those bands to be ready to move forward with the next release, etc. When ESTUARY's drummer, Jesse Wilson, left said band (ESTUARY), Zdenka & I found it very difficult to replace him properly. We both were itching to play live & she (Zdenka) was fond of the FAITHXTRACTOR material. She was into the idea of playing bass with a live incarnation of FAITHXTRACTOR, & pivotal in helping bring a line up together.

There was a superb 7" EP called "Total Death Illumination" released by Austenitized Records in 2015 and spread by the band online through your bandcamp profile. Those 2 tracks displayed quite an obscure mixture of the sickest Death Metal ever, pure darkness and hell so to say. Especially it goes to the "Existential Poison" cut. I felt a strong AUTOPSY/GRAVE/DISMEMBER influence there. How do you feel about this comparison?

- Thanks for the kind words! Well, I absolutely love those bands & consider them among the greats, so I'm pleased with the comparison. I will say, though, that we never strive to emulate any band in particular. Creating sick Death Metal that we ourselves would want to listen to is the prime directive.

Your 3rd full-length album is near completion by the time. Please share with us all the necessary details about it, like album title, amount of songs, recording line-up, studio, etc. What should we expect musically there?

- Well, the new record is entitled "Proverbial Lambs to the Ultimate Slaughter". It'll have 12 tracks total, & the recording line-up is I Ash Thomas on drums & vocals, Zdenka Prado on bass & backing vocals, & Cody Knarr on lead guitar. I know everyone says this, but I honestly feel this is the best material I've ever created from composition to playing ability. I've heard these songs 1000 times during the writing/recording process & I'm still excited by them. The sound is TOTAL DEATH. We recorded it all ourselves in our Frequenscream studios, but will send it off for mixing & mastering.

What themes are you going to unfold in the lyrics this time? Where do you get your inspiration from? List us some of the all-time favorite books and movies of yours.

- There are various themes on the album, but all are rooted in our life philosophy. The wretched & haggard state of humanity & its slavery to some

invisible force is always at the forefront. Some songs deal with nightmare interpretations, the supernatural, & the fusing of parallel worlds. Favorite movies include Alien, Aliens, Robocop, Total Recall, Predator & a lot of sci-fi/horror. Books include The Lucifer Principle, The 12th Planet, Children of the Matrix.



It will be released by the Ohio-based Hells Headbangers Records. What kind of deal you inked with them? Does Deathgasm Records wasn't interested in further cooperation?

- It is a simple album by album deal. More or less a licensing deal as they will handle manufacturing production while we are handling the recording, etc. Evan at Deathgasm is a great friend & there is no problem between us. The deal with HH is just a better path for the band at this point in time. They are one of my favorite labels, & half the music I buy these days comes from them. Be their roster or distro.

You are involved in a plenty of underground acts lately. Talk us a bit about each of them. Especially about your alliance with Kyle Severn of INCANTATION in the band called SHED THE SKIN, about the Horror Punk band with your brother named VLADIMIRS and about SURGIKILL, where Zdenka also appears. How can you focus on so many bands all at once? Reveal us your secret, please.

- The main thing to remember is I'm only a main writer with FAITHXTRACTOR & of course ESTUARY. Two bands that are very different. For SHED THE SKIN, Matt Sorg writes all the music, while he & Kyle Severn arrange the material. I was originally asked to do vocals for the 7" using the lyrics written by INCANTATION bassist Chuck Sherwood. It worked out so well that my role is to place his lyrics creatively to the songs, & perform the best vocals I can. That's what I do. For the VLADIMIRS, I'm helping channel my brother Marquis' vision. He's the main writer for this band, & I'm content with playing the best drums I can for his tunes. The same goes for CRUCIFIED MORTALS. Craig "Reaper" Horval writes the music, & my job is to provide the best drums possible. For SURGIKILL I have a large role in the arrangement of the songs, however, the basis of riffs & core ideas are that of Billy & Vanessa Nocera as well as Stevo! This is how I'm able to do multiple bands. I'm purposely not spreading myself too thin creatively, & although all the bands are extreme, they all have their own separate identities.

Things can still be hectic at times, because a lot of shit seems to happen at the same time, but it has been manageable up to this point.

Since 2015 you also reactivated ESTUARY, which news is as awesome as the band itself. I see you have a complete line-up by now and Cody is also there. The third album was already in

plans back in 2008 and as I remember the whole material was also ready by then, but it just didn't happen and in 2009 the band has ceased to exist. What things motivated you to reform ESTUARY after so many years of silence? Please inform us as many details as possible regarding the upcoming new album and also when should

we expect it to be released.

- Losing our drummer Jesse was a huge part of this. I've played with him since 1992, so we developed our styles together. Sure there are a ton of great drummers, but he had a vibe that has proven difficult to replace.

The timing just happened to be right for the reunion show we did in 2016. Jesse was suddenly back on the map when we were asked to play the BLOOD OF THE WOLF FEST in Lexington, KY & he agreed to do the gig. Things were going great, we played a killer show, but after the gig he once again distanced himself & we haven't done anything since. I honestly don't know what the future holds for ESTUARY, but I do NOT feel things are not finished. Time will ultimately tell...

Earlier we had a talk about the underground scene of Cincinnati and then you wrote me it is lame as fuck. Well, how's the actual situation there and in Ohio in general, is it changed to a better?

- Well, it's still fairly small & a lot of times lame, but admittedly better than it was 10 years ago. Those were the terrible days... haha. We did have a surge of younger people forming bands that were on decent paths. But I'm not going to lie. Even that has diminished somewhat in the last 2 years. People "grow up" & "grow out" of it, so to speak & we're seeing less activity than say 3 years ago. Part of the cycle I suppose... Don't break the circle. Diehards last

You are all committed, die-hard metal fans and true supporters of the underground spirit for many years now. But what do you think about the actual generation of metal fans? Does they committed to metal at all or it's just a 2-3 year fashion for them? Please name us what releases you bought recently and what bands caught your attention.

- I guess I touched on this a bit in my previous answer... Still, there are always some dedicated die hard Metal freaks among the younger crowd. I've met some people half my age that really appreciate the music & are really into collecting physical copies of records, etc. Hell, our guitarist Cody is a great example of a younger individual who is totally dedicated & into the music.

Being an older dude, it's amusing to see cycles repeat, etc. And I have to say; hearing how a lot of these kids speak in "know it all absolutes" is fucking hilarious. SHUT UP & HEAD BANG! If you're here in a year or two from now I'll be impressed, hahaha...

New releases I enjoy are by bands like RUINOUS, KRYPTS, GOREPHILIA, BLOOD INCANTATION, SAVAGE MASTER, UNDERGANG, NECROT, etc. There's still a lot of killer shit being created.

I hope you enjoyed our virtual transmission. Please extract your final illuminations to all the dedicated underground metal fans of the globe.

- Thank you Kornel for the interview, & for the support throughout the years! Be on the lookout for our new full length later this year. If you're into dark & punishing Death Metal you will not be disappointed! Anyone interested in merch can search FAITHXTRACTOR online & find our web presence. METAL 'TIL DEATH!

Bandcamp: faithxtractor.bandcamp.com **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/Faithxtractor



Did you ever hear about Slovakian trio called GRINDING JESUS BROTHERS? I bet you don't! Thus the time has come to fix that for you! Believe me, these crazy grind freaks know pretty well how to crush your head with their bulldozer-like grindcore formula. So don't waste your time anymore and tune to the songs of their debut EP – "Reign of Evil"!!! Jozef and Vlado were really nice and introduced in short their grind combo!!!

Whose idea was to name the band such a funny way? Tell us the story behind the creation of the GRINDING JESUS BROTHERS from the very beginning.

Jozef: The name of the band was made up by Vlado (guitar, vocals). It means something like grinding brothers, because Vlado made it up with his younger brother Marek (drums). The word "Jesus" has been there, because of the great picture of Jesus in the house we are practicing. It is over our heads and it is Marek's grandmother who used to live there. So the band was found by the brothers Vlado and Marek, who asked Očiho to play the bass, he was later replaced by Jozef, who plays with them today.

Your debut material "Reign of Evil", an EP with 8 songs, was issued last year by Czech label called Bizarre Leprous Production. How did you get in contact with them? Talk us about your cooperation with this label.

Jozef: We got to Bizarre according to one of our friends, who knows people from Bizarre. He recommended us, we sent them a sample and they were impressed, so they wanted to issue us without any problems.

The guitar sound is pretty Swedish there. Explain us why is it so and what bands influenced you to do so?

Jozef: We wanted to have that sound from the beginning. We did not think about the others. It's the sound we love. We were influenced by the basic stones of the Swedish grain, the crust. NASUM, ROTTEN SOUND (Well, in fact these guys are from Finland – Ed.), AFGRUND, FEAST, WOLFBRIGADE:

The cover art for "Reign of Evil" became pretty realistic and pessimistic at the same time. What the rats symbolize there? Speak us about the meaning of the cover artwork in general. What topics your lyrics deal with?

Jozef: Those rats on the cover symbolize the attack on the mainstream European listener. © Jesus

symbolizes the name of the band. And the lyrics are socially critical as they are already in the genre of grindcore.

You've just returned from Flesh Party 2017 festival. How was it to play there? Write down your impressions about that festival and please list us the names of other active grindcore festivals in Slovakia.

Jozef: Flesh Party is one amazing festival; also OEF has that kind. We played very well there, even if we played first, the response was super and we think we have turned out to a wider audience. There is a pleasant family environment, where one does not have to make miles between the bar and the stage. When we talk about pure grindcore festivals in Slovakia, it is just Flesh Party, but we have a famous metal fest Gothoom, in Sere there is still the Fluff Fest, which is HC-punk, and we also do Ynfest. It's very small, but also deals with HC-Punk/metal/grind seenes.

What's your recent point of view about the Slovakian grindcore scene? Is it growing or on the contrary? Would you recommend us some worth bands and releases to check out?

Jozef: Slovakia is a small country and there are fewer grindcore bands, but they are good bands that can compete on the world stage. Since I grew up, I have not noticed any new bands, but our older bands like ATTACK OF RAGE, ABORTION, KILLCHAIN and THORWALD are still recording good albums.

How is the situation with your new songs?
What should we expect from your new material?
Will it he a full-length or a split? When do you plan to record and release it?

Jozef: We have a few new songs, but we still have some old ones that are good and it would be a sharne not to record them. But when we will record them, we don't know yet, maybe in 2018. It will be with Swedish sound and we also thought about the split.

Let's talk about your daily duties. What do you do for living and what are you doing in your

free time, besides playing in a grindcore band, of course?

Jozef: Like the other people, we go to work. Vlado is a teacher, Marek is a builder and I am an electrician. In the free time we do sport, go for beer and visit concerts. We like to go to the gym or ride on bike, or just to cut the grass at home.

You are also involved as a drummer/vocalist in the sludge band called FAT. What should we know about this project of yours? Do you already have some recorded stuff by this formation released?

Vlado: Yes, about a year and a half ago we created FAT with Jozef and another guy Radix. Later on, the guitarist from the crust-punk band ROXOR joined us on the second guitar, it's a mix of sludge, doom and stoner. We played some concerts in Eastern Slovakia and we had a success for our surprise. Now it is a little complicated, as Matúš has gone to Cyprus and Radix moved out about 300 km, because of his work. We have not recorded anything yet, but maybe once.

In August you are gonna visit Ukraine. As I assume, it will be your very first visit there, am I right? How do you feel about that? At the end, please send your grinding salutations to the Ukrainian grindcore freaks and listeners of extreme forms of music.

Jozef: Yes, we will visit Ukraine in August and we are looking forward to it. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to play there. (You are welcome - Ed.) Gaby from KILL/CHAIN told us that there are the best concerts in Ukraine! (Ah, Gaby is definitely exaggerate a bit, but I am really happy if he sees it that way - Ed.) We want to greet all the Ukrainian grindcore fans, listen to the best music, join us and watch our concert at UzhGoreRot festival.

Thanks for the support and see you in Uzhgorod. **E-mail:** gjb.grind@gmail.com

Bandzone: bandzone cz/grindingjesusbrothers Facebook: facebook.com/GrindingJesusBrothers

CELOPHYS "Ammonite" CD 2015 (Robustfellow/Iron Hamster Records)

The third long play of this Ukrainian Stoner Doom band consists of seven ultra slow cuts in nearly 56 minutes. The musicians behind CELOPHYS are Alexander Beregovoy (drums & vocals) and Miroslav Kopeyka (guitars). They definitely did a great job on 'Ammonite". I can name lots of band names here, which influenced their music, but let's say it is a kind of extremely heavy and slowed down version of BLACK SABBATH, CROWBAR, SPIRIT CARAVAN, BONG-ZILLA, et cetera type of music. Even riffs of HELLHAMMER and CELTIC FROST are also presented in a small percentage there. So we have a nice alloy. The sound production is as hard as the edge of the tub. Massive, punchy the way it should be! Only from the vocal parts lack something as for me, they are way boring and come in a totally usual manner, nothing special. Until the fourth song it was kind of entertaining to listen to them, but after a while it's just the same riffing and overall mood everywhere. Sure these kind of tracks are rather good for chilling out and to have a rest, but their content is fairly sparse. Anyway, the diehard doomsters may give a chance to these Ukrainians and their professionally realized digipak edition!

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INQUISITOR "I Am Sick, I Must Die" 7" EP 2017 (Hammerheart Records)

It was four years ago when me and my Romanian friend - Sorin - started to conduct interviews with Erik Sprooten (INQUISITOR, ANCIENT RITES, PLUSMINUS) for our web blogs. In May we did for Sadistik Witchfukk one, while the other came in November for the Archangel's Lantern, respectively. Erik told us a lot of interesting details about the early INQUISITOR-days and a possible reunion of the Dutch thrashers. Three years ago, in October 2014, it happened in an unforeseen way. After almost two decades, the Dutch extreme thrash horde resurrected in its original line-up: Alex Wesdijk - vocals, $Erik\ Sprooten-guitars,\ Alex\ Bakker-bass$ and Wim van der Valk - drums. Just a month later, in November 2014, Hammerheart Records re-releases the legendary debut album "Walpurgis - Sabbath Of Lust" (1996) and the extremely sought after demos of the band, i.e. "Blasphemous Accusations" (Demo #1, 1992) and "Your Pain Will Be Exquisite" (Demo #2, 1993). I would also really thank here my Dutch brother, Alex of Zwaertgevegt for sending me the tape version of the cult "Walpurgis - Sabbath Of Lust" album, along with the sticker and patch of INQUISITOR; and Erik Sprooten for the double-CD (including their signatures) and nice pins. Last year with my dear Dutch friend, Anita van Hussen, we asked Erik Sprooten about some news again and he mentioned that new tracks have been prepared for an EP to be released in collaboration with Hammerheart Records. Their label just announced the great news that the INOUISITOR 7" EP. called "I Am Sick. I Must Die" will be officially released 29th of October, 2017 and the long anticipated second full-length "Stigmata Me, I'm In Misery" will come in January 2018. I was fortunate to listen to "I Am Sick. I Must Die" EP before the release date and I have to say I'm still under the heavy influence of the Dutch INOUISITOR's new stuff. There's no doubt. the furious vengeance of INOUISITOR is back and they are in full force and filled with devilish energy after more than 20 years! The unholy quartet clearly lets the thrashers know. the new track is really what they waited for. "I Am Sick, I Must Die" is a brilliant song tuned up with the demonical voice of Alex. precise blast-beats of Wim, Erik's super powerful & speedy riffs and insane bass-parts

by the other Alex. All these include the old

infernal INQUISITOR-feeling masterfully combined by their awesome aggression of our days. Besides the new INQUISITOR track, this special 7" EP contains two covers, namely PESTILENCE's "Extreme Unction" and DARK ANGEL's "Perish In Flames".



Since I'm a big fan of PESTILENCE and DARK ANGEL from the end of the 80s/early 90s, I've been very curious how the inquisitors will play these amazing tracks and I must say, they've made just a perfect job with both of the covers. As an additional note: for their cover art INQUISITOR used a part of the impressive painting of Pieter Brueghel the Elder, called "The Triumph Of Death" (1562), which one perfectly fits to this infernal EP. To sum it up I would say: the Dutch INQUISITOR is definitely ready to spread their sonic tortures onward and they are cruelest than ever!!! (Review written by Georgius)

NIFELHEIM "Satanatas" 12" EP 2014 (TPL Records)

Hellbutcher and Tyrant, the devilish twins (who are known in Sweden as "Bröderna Hårdrock" – "The Hard Rock Brothers") after a 7-year break are back with a very massive old school mini EP, called "Satanatas". They joined forces with Disintegrator (drums), Savage Aggressor (guitars) and, last but not least, Satamás (Tamás Buday, who played the guitars on the first demo "The 7th Day of the Doom" (1987)

of the legendary Hungarian TORMENTOR. "Satanatas" besides an inauspicious intro includes three tracks of uncompromising Svenskt Svartmetall. After the short, but menacing intro the Swedish hell brigade of NIFELHEIM starts off with the sounds of "From Hell's Vast Plains". It's a very intensive track, filled up by brilliant yet fast and midtempo riffs served brutally by Satamás and Savage Aggressor. They combine great melodies to which Tyrant adds technical bass parts. Disintegrator his frantic drumming and Hellbutcher the voice of devilment. The sound in this song is pretty dirty (and on the whole EP), which brought me back to good old 80s. Next composition named as "Bestial Rites" has the same powerful vibe as its predecessor, a well-written Black/Thrash Metal hymn. It follows "Praise Lord Satan", the last and longest track on Side A, an absolutely wrathful one. The bass lines for it were recorded by a guest musician, Frederick "Freddan" Melander, who played bass in



BATHORY (1983-84) and was featured in the famous compilation called "Scandinavian Metal Attack". Side B of "Satanatas" has the same program as Side A, just played backwards. It was total Helvete to listen to it that way. To sum it up, "Satanatas" is an excellent EP, pretty rare limited edition, which highly recommended to all the fans of this Swedish horde! There's no place for disappointment. NIFELHEIM is back, so bow down! I'm very lucky to have "Satanatas" in my collection (Hail to my Swedish brother, Tobias Fongelius

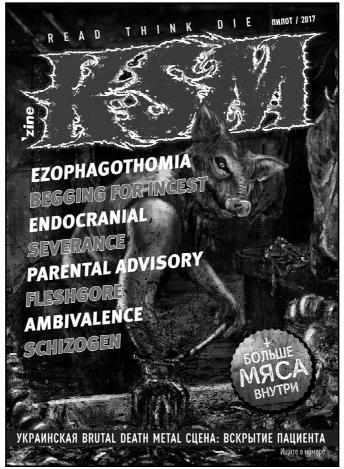
of VOODUS for sending me this vinyl with the signature of the mighty Pelle "Hellbutcher" Gustavsson), because this EP was sold only at NIFELHEIM concerts and cannot be purchased firsthand elsewhere. Praise Lord Satan. 666! (Review written by Georgius)

THE PETE FLESH DEATHTRIP "Mortui Vivos Docent" 12" LP 2015 (Critical Mass Recordings)

The name of Peter Karlsson should sound familiar to all those death-thrasher maniacs, who listened and supported the music of such great bands as MAZE OF TORMENT, DECEIVER and THROWN.



"Mortui Vivos Docent" (in translation "The Dead Teach the Living") is the 4th album done by Peter (as the previous 3 full-lengths were released as FLESH), but the 1st one to be unleashed under the moniker of THE PETE FLESH DEATHTRIP. My Swedish brother Peter (he is responsible in the band for the vocals, guitars, bass & lyrics) co-worked on this awesome album with the following notorious musicians: Micke Broberg (ex-CELESTIAL PAIN LINANIMATED BORN FOR BURNING THE 13th PASSENGER) guest vocals and some lyrics, Cecilia Bjärgö (ex-ARCANA, DER BLAUE REITER)-guest vocals on track "Bleed", Andreas Jonsson (VINTERLAND, TYRANT) – session drums and Peter Bjärgö (ARCANA, CRYPT OF KERBEROS) - guest keyboards. Additionally I would add that "Mortui Vivos Docent" was recorded in studio Beast by Peter Bjärgö (engineering, mixing & mastering) and the artwork, which is simply brilliant to me, was created by Erik Sahlström (ex-DECEIVER, ex-MAZE OF TORMENT, CRUCIFYRE, GENERAL SURGERY). The album starts with "Fallen Bliss". It contains some really furious guitar-riffs by Peter, insane drumparts by Andreas and hellish vocals of Micke. It's an absolutely killer piece of old school Svensk Dödsmetall. The next track is entitled "The Eternal Dawn", which has more middle tempos and vocals done again by Micke Broberg. On the "Crave in Fire" we can listen to Peter's growling. This song is very variegated. It includes mid-parts with guitars and drums of windstorm. "The Suicide End" is a very melancholic one as its title suggests it as well. This is the song where the two excellent vocalists meet for the first time. I must admit. Peter and Micke did an infernal collaboration. The fifth song, called "Burning Darkness", was written by Peter and the listeners can come across his painful voice again, which absolutely fits into this sorrowful track. I have to say "Raven's Reborn" (Micke on vocals) and "God of the Crawling Whore" (Peter and Micke, both on vocals) are very well-written compositions. They come with excellent occult atmospheres as well as the following song, namely "Bleed", where Cecilia Bjärgö and Micke share the vocalparts. For the grand finale we have "Recycle My Death", a song that is magnificently coronate the triumphant end of "Mortui Vivos Docent". Summa summarum, this album has been one of my favorite releases of 2013 (as it was released for the first time exactly that year by Pulverised Records on CD), if we are talking about Swedish Death Metal. Last but not least, tack så mycket, thanks so much to Peter for the signed vinvl & CD, plus the awesome T-shirt. (Review written by Georgius)





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