

EXTREMESUM

Extreme Underground 'zine

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ANÜS, BRUTE, GIGABASTARDS, GOD DETHRONED,
MELECHESH, NECROPHOBIC, NERVOUS IMPULSE, SCHIZOGEN,
SOLFERNUS, TRIDENT, TURBOCHARGED, VENOM INC.

Introduction

Hail to all the metallic souls of the underground community!!! I am ready to give you another portion of interviews/reviews within the printed pages of the 5th issue of Encomium 'zine. As you will see, this time I was more focused on writing as many reviews as possible than doing the regular amount of interviews. Well, I hope that won't affect the positive outcome after reading every bit of the current number. So in total you'll find twelve interviews enclosed. Some of the them aren't as fresh, because time flies insanely, but I definitely believe the majority of the facts found there are rather exclusive, so you are going to be satisfied in one or another way. Hereby I wish you a pleasant reading!!!

Musicians' all time favorite albums (Top 10):

Andreas "Gerre" Geremia (TANKARD)

1. Exciter - "Heavy Metal Maniac" (1983)
2. Exodus - "Bonded By Blood" (1985)
3. Anvil - "Forged In Fire" (1983)
4. Overkill - "The Years Of Decay" (1989)
5. Metallica - "Kill 'Em All" (1983)
6. Riot - "Fire Down Under" (1981)
7. Jag Panzer - "Ample Destruction" (1984)
8. Omen - "Battle Cry" (1984)
9. Oz - "Fire In The Brain" (1983)
10. Slayer - "South Of Heaven" (1988)

Yan Chamberland (NERVOUS IMPULSE)

1. Suffocation - "Pierced From Within" (1995)
2. Cryptopsy - "None So Vile" (1996)
3. Pigsty - "The Return" (2002)
4. Magrudergrind - "Sixty Two Trax Of Thrash" (2005)
5. Rotten Sound - "Under Pressure" (1997)
6. Whorecore - "Protection" (2006)
7. Sanity's Dawn - "Chop Copper" (2001)
8. Human Remains - "Using Sickness As A Hero" (1996)
9. Foetopsy - "In The Bathroom" (2007)
10. Blood Duster - "Yeast" (1996)

Ivan Babilonsky (OBLITERATE/STABBED)

1. Cynic - "Focus" (1993)
2. Carcass - "Heartwork" (1993)
3. Death - "Individual Thought Patterns" (1993)
4. Dream Theater - "Awake" (1994)
5. Nevermore - "Dead Heart In A Dead World" (2000)
6. Meshuggah - "Destroy Erase Improve" (1995)
7. Sepultura - "Arise" (1991)
8. Kreator - "Renewal" (1992)
9. Slayer - "Divine Intervention" (1994)
10. Megadeth - "Countdown To Extinction" (1992)

Erik Sprooten (INQUISITOR/ANCIENT RITES)

1. Judas Priest - "Unleashed In The East" (1979)
2. Dark Angel - "Darkness Descends" (1986)
3. Kreator - "Pleasure To Kill" (1986)
4. Holy Terror - "Mind Wars" (1988)
5. Massacra - "Final Holocaust" (1990)
6. UFO - "Strangers In The Night" (1979)
7. Sathanas - "Black Earth" (1996)
8. Status Quo - "Live!" (1977)
9. Slayer - "Hell Awaits" (1985)
10. Mandator - "Perfect Progeny" (1989)

Eduard Litvyakov (ETSYKH/FLESHGORE)

1. Slayer - "Seasons In The Abyss" (1990)
2. Cannibal Corpse - "Tomb Of The Mutilated" (1992)
3. Morbid Angel - "Formulas Fatal To The Flesh" (1998)
4. Suffocation - "Effigy Of The Forgotten" (1991)
5. Immolation - "Failures For Gods" (1999)
6. Obituary - "The End Complete" (1992)
7. Napalm Death - "Harmony Corruption" (1990)
8. Deicide - "Legion" (1992)
9. Death - "Spiritual Healing" (1990)
10. Deeds Of Flesh - "Inbreeding The Anthropophagi" (1998)

Schmier (DESTRUCTION)

1. Judas Priest - "Unleashed In The East" (1979)
2. Metallica - "Kill 'Em All" (1983)
3. Tygers Of Pan Tang - "Spellbound" (1981)
4. Dead Kennedys - "Fresh Fruit For Rotting Vegetables" (1980)
5. Rainbow - "Rising" (1976)
6. Motörhead - "Ace Of Spades" (1980)
7. Burning Witches - "Hexenhammer" (2018)
8. Racer X - "Technical Difficulties" (1999)
9. Venom - "Black Metal" (1982)
10. Richard Cheese - "Aperitif For Destruction" (2005)

Alexey Tsyphenko (ENDOCRANIAL/STALINO)

1. Deeds Of Flesh - "Trading Pieces" (1996)
2. Pyrexia - "Sermon Of Mockery" (1993)
3. Suffocation - "Pierced From Within" (1995)
4. Dying Fetus - "Destroy The Opposition" (2000)
5. Death - "Human" (1991)
6. Death - "Individual Thought Patterns" (1993)
7. Defeated Sanity - "Psalms Of The Moribund" (2007)
8. Cannibal Corpse - "Tomb Of The Mutilated" (1992)
9. Carcass - "Necroticism - Descanting The Insalubrious" (1991)
10. Hate Eternal - "Conquering The Throne" (1999)

Anton Subbotin (ETSYKH)

1. Slayer - "Hell Awaits" (1985)
2. Slayer - "Reign In Blood" (1986)
3. Cannibal Corpse - "Tomb Of The Mutilated" (1992)
4. Cannibal Corpse - "Butchered At Birth" (1991)
5. Morbid Angel - "Formulas Fatal To The Flesh" (1998)
6. Morbid Angel - "Covenant" (1993)
7. Napalm Death - "Utopia Banished" (1992)
8. Deeds Of Flesh - "Trading Pieces" (1996)
9. Deeds Of Flesh - "Inbreeding The Anthropophagi" (1998)
10. Suffocation - "Breeding The Spawn" (1993)

Johan "Reaper" Norman (TRIDENT)

1. Bathory - "Blood Fire Death" (1988)
2. Morbid Angel - "Altars Of Madness" (1989)
3. Judas Priest - "Defenders Of The Faith" (1984)
4. Candlemass - "Ancient Dreams" (1988)
5. Mayhem - "De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas" (1994)
6. W.A.S.P. - "W.A.S.P." (1984)
7. Accept - "Balls To The Wall" (1983)
8. Iron Maiden - "Powerslave" (1984)
9. Black Sabbath - "Mob Rules" (1981)
10. Slayer - "Reign In Blood" (1986)

Ash Thomas (FAITHXTRACTOR/ESTUARY)

1. King Diamond - "Abigail" (1987)
2. Iron Maiden - "Piece Of Mind" (1983)
3. Metallica - "Master Of Puppets" (1986)
4. Slayer - "Hell Awaits" (1985)
5. Rigor Mortis - "Rigor Mortis" (1990)
6. Death - "Scream Bloody Gore" (1987)
7. Morbid Angel - "Altars Of Madness" (1989)
8. Grave - "Into The Grave" (1991)
9. Autopsy - "Mental Funeral" (1991)
10. Deicide - "Deicide" (1990)

Igor Lystopad (FLESHGORE/REVOLT)

1. Slayer - "Reign In Blood" (1986)
2. Pantera - "Vulgar Display Of Power" (1992)
3. Cannibal Corpse - "Tomb Of The Mutilated" (1992)
4. Dying Fetus - "Destroy The Opposition" (2000)
5. Pyaemia - "Cerebral Cereal" (2001)
6. Suffocation - "Pierced From Within" (1995)
7. Immolation - "Close To A World Below" (2000)
8. Deeds Of Flesh - "Mark Of The Legion" (2001)
9. Internal Bleeding - "Driven To Conquer" (1999)
10. Sepultura - "Arise" (1991)

Hubert Więcek (BANISHER/DECAPITATED)

1. Death - "Human" (1991)
2. Morbid Angel - "Domination" (1995)
3. Suffocation - "Pierced From Within" (1995)
4. Cryptopsy - "None So Vile" (1996)
5. Slayer - "Divine Intervention" (1994)
6. Pestilence - "Resurrection Macabre" (2009)
7. Megadeth - "Rust In Peace" (1990)
8. Hate Eternal - "King Of All Kings" (2002)
9. Vader - "Black To The Blind" (1997)
10. Cannibal Corpse - "Bloodthirst" (1999)

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Contact address: Kornel Kontros, Yarotska str. 7, 88002 Uzhgorod, Ukraine | E-mail: kornel.kontros@gmail.com | Website: castrum.com.ua/encomium | Facebook: facebook.com/encomium.zine

Infernal greetings Sebastian! The 8th full-length album of NECROPHOBIC, the ideally titled "Mark of the Necrogram", in my sincere opinion is a hell of a huge material, it is monumental, it is melodic, it is dynamic and still dark the way it has to be! How the creative process for the 10 songs of it looked like this time? I mean did you change anything regarding the songwriting methods or habits of yours?

Thank you! It was important to write an album that would be not only a follow up to "Death to All", but also a statement that the true NECROPHOBIC is back. Except for two tracks I have written all the music at home by myself. I get a vision or inspiration of what I wanna create. Very often it's a theme of a melody that just appears. Almost like a voice in my head. I often get the overall feeling of how the whole song will be at once. That's why I rarely write with others. I just channel the music that is given to me from the spirit realm. Then comes the great work of getting these themes and structures into actual music. I record at my home studio. Then I present the song to the band. They give me input back and I rearrange things if necessary. This time there was actually very little to add. The songs given to me were great in its pure form. The big difference from earlier albums is that I did not have the interference of a problem struck band. There have been many strong wills in this band. Me and Tobias did a lot of work together, but sometimes it led me astray from my original ideas. I would not say that that was bad, but it was different from this time when I finished my ideas by myself. Alex and Anders did write half of the lyrics. They had great ideas and I think it widened the overall feel of the album.

Its success was kind of perceptible and predictable in some ways for those who did listen to your 7" teaser called "Pesta" last year, which also marked the beginning of your cooperation with Century Media Records. How did you hook up with them?

We had a "guy" shopping around for us. We were given some different offers, but C.M. was far the best. They have been great and it's a pleasure to work with professionals. I hate the business side of music business. I just want to concentrate on writing and performing music.

You've been away from NECROPHOBIC along with Johan Bergeback about 5 years. During that period of time you've started a new band called ORDO INFERUS and managed to release with it an EP in 2013 and a full-length called "Invictus et Aeternus" in 2014. What should we know about this Death Metal alliance? Will there be any new stuff released by ORDO INFERUS in the near future?

Yeah, ORDO was a great project. It's actually Henrik and Janne of old EXCRUCIATE who stands behind that project. They asked me to join as a pure solo guitarist. So I did only play the leads of the full-length. It's Martin Halfdan (ex-NECROPHOBIC) who plays on the EP. I don't know about a follow up. It's up to Henrik. I hope so!

There is a definite spectral touch in your leads with a big dose of old-school Heavy Metal feeling, which I really love and prefer. Thus it would be great to know more about you inspired you back in the time when you've touched your first guitar or do inspiring you lately?

I am a big fan of Heavy Metal. It is what I grew up with. Great guitar solos that fits the songs. Not built on only showing of. IRON MAIDEN and JUDAS PRIEST always had good solos that was a natural part of the music. I think I just want to make solos that lifts the song instead of making it break the song and stand out as a performance of its own. Of course, a little bit of technicality can be fun, but there must be a great theme to remember. At some gigs the audience have actually sung



I was extremely happy to interview Sebastian Ramstedt of NECROPHOBIC, as he is a truly dedicated metalhead and his answers are heart-felt and maximally informative. He talked interesting things not only about the band's freshest album, but deepened well in the explanation of his rare guitars and vinyls too. Quite exciting epistolary transmission, so to say. Read it, enjoy it and don't forget to listen to some "Mark of the Necrogram" stuff during it!

along in some of my solos and that's when I know I did something great. As for influences I think Wolf Hoffmann, Uli Roth, Ritchie Blackmore and more than anyone Jake E. Lee was of great, important for me at the beginning. And still is. The work on "Bark at the Moon" is Heavy Metal's proudest moment I think. Lately I have been inspired by the 80's L.A. bands' guitar magicians. Like Eddie Van Halen and Warren DeMartini. I don't think you can hear that in my playing, but I get a trick or two from every solo I try to learn with my heroes. Except for Yngwie, I'm not much impressed by shredders. I admire a great theme more than extravagant arpeggios.

Let's talk about your guitars. You have plenty of them. Can you list them here? Which are your most favorite ones and why? Do you have in plans to own some more of them? If so, which models are missing as of yet?

Oh! My favorite subject! I will include some pics of my collection! At the moment I mostly play Jacksons. I think my all-time favorite guitar must be the Stratocaster. I have had a crazy Gibson Flying V collection in the past, but I have narrowed it down to only 4 vintage Gibson V's. I will get more. I will get many more. This is nowhere finished! Think I gonna have to be buried with at least one of my guitars! You know as a Viking, a must bring my weapons to the afterlife!

- What I have right now:
- 1975 Gibson Flying V. Mahogany.
 - 1976 Gibson Flying V. Black limited edition.
 - 1980 Gibson Flying V. Dakota Red.
 - 1981 Gibson Flying V. White with binding.
 - Fender American Special Stratocaster. White. Modified with relic and scalloping and new pickups.
 - Fender American Special Stratocaster. Candy Apple Red. Scalloped. Custom plastics and pickups.
 - Fender Road Worn 60's Stratocaster.
 - Jackson/ESP Star Hybrid. Built by myself and scalloped from 10th fret.
 - Jackson RR1 2004. Black with gold pinstripes.
 - Fernandes JS-100 Randy Rhoads copy. Red. (Totally amazing guitar.)
 - Kramer 1987 Baretta FF Blue.
 - The main live guitar at the moment is the

Jackson RR1, but I always bring guitar on the feeling I have for the day.

I know you are a die-hard vinyl freak and collector of rare stuff, especially I see an affinity of yours to the Eastern bands, especially to the ones from Russia and Czechoslovakia. Please name us your beloved releases from those areas and if you're still searching for some particular gem from those lands of metal.

Yes, I love vinyls. At the moment, I buy records that look cool on the cover. Yesterday I bought MISSIO's "1" from Hungary. I have no idea how they sound, but the artwork was great! I love АРИЯ, ПОКОЛГЕП and many, many more. I have too many to mention. Some of my favorites are МАГНИТ "День гнева (Dies Irae)" and ГАЛАКТИКА "В атмосфере гласности".

I really need to get an original cassette of ARIA's "Megalomania" at some point! I recently got a record with VITACIT from my wife. A band I just heard of for so many years, but never listened to. One of my all-time favorite song is CITRON's "Zahradní slavnost". I think TURBO's "Dorosle dzieci" might be my favorite album of all from the East! There is a different feeling of the eastern European bands. The pain seems more real. It like they are desperate in every beat or chord. I also love that I don't get the lyrics. I don't get disappointed. I try to ignore that my favorite CITRON song is about a garden party though. I choose it to be about war and Satan! Ha-ha!

During your absence from NECROPHOBIC there was only one album released and it was "Womb of Lilithu" in 2013. What is your opinion about that material in general? Do you play any songs from that album live?

It is a different album. A side track if you ask me. It is good, but it does not sound like NECROPHOBIC. Fredrik is a fantastic guitar player and song writer, but his style is very different from mine. We play a couple of songs. I think we will still do "Furfur" in the future.

You've been visiting 70000 tons of metal, the world's biggest Heavy Metal cruise, a little while ago. Please share your personal thoughts and impressions on that metal occasion.

That is one crazy trip to make! What a ship! There were many great bands. Personally I thought DESTRUCTION, EXCITER and SEPULTURA were the best. But NAGLFAR and METAL CHURCH were great as well. I'd love to go there again.

The cover artwork for "Mark of the Necrogram" by Kristian Wåhlin became evil and impressive at the same time, totally representing the music enclosed. Whose idea was to hire him again, as if my memories are right it was only the cover of "Darkside" he did before? And in fact, there is a slight similarity between them, don't you think so? I mean not coloring-wise, but thematically.

You are absolutely right. It is the continuation of "Darkside". We asked Kristian to paint what is beyond the red gates in the middle of the "Darkside" album. I have actually had this idea ever since 1997 when I first saw the "Darkside" cover. You know, I always loved how IRON MAIDEN did let traces from the last album appear on the next record. Like the pyramids on the back of "Somewhere in Time". I wanted NECROPHOBIC to do something similar. And now the time was just right! He made a great job!!!

Please leave your dark remembrances at the end and reveal us the future plans of NECROPHOBIC. The space is yours, Sebastian!

At the moment we are going out on the roads. I am also writing for the next album! Hope to see you all out there soon! Stay true to Metal! Never surrender!

Thanks for the interview. This have actually been the greatest questions anyone have asked. Everybody wants to now the same stuff. Like Bio and so on. This was more personal. Thanks for that!

Czech Republic has a very big variety of extreme metal bands and that is for sure. I would recommend now to read an interview with SOLFERNUS, a rather interesting and unusual sounding Black Metal band from Brno. My questions were answered in a super quick manner by guitarist & songwriter Igor Hubík. So read the outcome and perceive the igneous dominion of SOLFERNUS!!!

Your recent album, the ominously titled "Neoantichrist", was out 13th of October, 2017. It was released by a cooperation of two labels, namely the Russian Satanath Records and the Italian Murdher Records. How did you hook up with these labels and what kind of deal you managed to achieve with them? What happened to your ties with the domestic Shindy Productions?

- We offered our album to more labels and negotiated with seven companies, which showed a real interest. The offer from Russian Satanath Records was the best for us, although I must say that the other businessmen were also fair with their plans. But there are more things connected with the whole realization of the album, for example the communication between the band and the label – this is another important thing that works well with Satanath Records. We ask something by e-mail and get the answer during a few hours. Can't say the same about some other labels. Italian Murdher Records are one of the enterprises cooperating with Satanath Records, so they work as one team on releases sometimes. As for Shindy Productions, it is the label from our home town and they are not into the releasing albums so much already. But we still cooperate on merchandise products.

"Neoantichrist" became ghastly good. Was it due to the very long period of time you took to write and compose it or something else stands in its success? Why it took you so long to release it? I mean your debut album "Hysteria in Coma" was out 12 years before.

- Everybody is asking for these twelve years long period, I admit it's probably quite unusual. We've played a few shows to support the debut album "Hysteria in Coma", so the band was quite active for three years after this release. There were made two video clips as well. Then we started to write new songs and even recorded several demos back in 2008, but this work was never finished – our drummer Coroner left SOLFERNUS, because of his health problems with legs. We wanted to continue and record the second album, but were not able to finish that. About three years ago new songs appeared and we recorded these ten tracks in 2016 at Ch-Records studio along with ROOT's drummer Paul Dread. The result is the second album "Neoantichrist", which you're listening right now...

Both the music and the lyrics were written by you. You seem to be very productive. What influences you or initiates you by nowadays to write so dark and obscure riffs? Also tell the readers more about the lyrical content and concept of "Neoantichrist". What motivates you to write such antireligious and blasphemous lyrics lately?

- Not sure if very productive, but yes I like composing new songs, because it's my style of the guitar playing – not searching for riffs and melodies from other artists, but creating my own – that's a point. And if you think the music is obscure and dark then I can be glad, 'cause it seems that it's my style too. The motivation for writing such antireligious and blasphemous lyrics, as you call our verses, is simple: the religion's existence and mainly the behavior of some christian representatives who think they are world's monarchs and must define

what we can, especially cannot do or even which music we can play. Songs like "Pray for Chaos!" or "Neoantichrist" are our statements then. But there are more various lyrics themes on this new album. "Mistresserpent" is such a horror story and we plan to make the video for this one. I love "Once Upon a Time in the East", which is the story about a young German soldier fighting in the World War II at the Russian freezing winter battlefield. There should be mentioned the last composition of the album called "Stone in a River" – really dark and slow song about the solitude and endless night's minutes. Not so usual track from SOLFERNUS, but maybe that's why the people like it as we read in reviews.

You and Paul also play in the cult Black Metal band called ROOT. You play there bass since 1999, while Paul drums since 2010. How did you join it? Do you play live often with them? I suppose your idea was to invite Big Boss to sing some sentences in the song called "Pray for Chaos!". Is there any story behind that guest appearance?

- First of all, we use a signification of Dark Metal for ROOT as some journalists wrote about the band's newer era. Since the third album "The Temple in the Underworld" the band broke the Black Metal borders forever. Yes, we still play shows worldwide, the band hit many countries in the past and this year it was USA, where ROOT played at the famous Maryland Deathfest. Big Boss was a special guest on the debut album of SOLFERNUS in our cover version "The Antichrist" from SLAYER as well as on the new album on which he sings those right words in "Pray for Chaos!". There's a simple story behind this appearance. We took a taxi to our friend's studio and cleaned out four bottles of white wine during the short recording session...



Tell us a little bit about your Progressive Metal band – EQUIRHODONT, where Big Boss of the above mentioned ROOT and Ashok of CRADLE OF FILTH are also members. Do you plan to record any new stuff in the very near future?

- We released two albums with this project and even played a few special live performances. It's much more complicated and really progressive music and I must say it was a great experience for me personally to play such an indefinable style in front of the crowd. EQUIRHODONT played at Brutal Assault too. There's a plan for another album, but it takes some time, 'cause as I've told you, that's a very special stuff and nobody can promise new compositions in the near future.

You've been a part of HYPNOS for quite a long time. I even saw you once performing live with

them at Brutal Assault. Why did you left them? How do you remember to the times spent there?

- I was playing with HYPNOS about two years as a live session member before the band stopped all activities back in 2006. We did a few single shows altogether and one shorter European tour with Death Metal warriors PURGATORY and CENTINEX – especially this journey was simply awesome! HYPNOS returned on stage eight years ago with phenomenal show at Brutal Assault and since then the band started to play more and more gigs worldwide. That was the main reason to quit, 'cause I needed to be fully concentrated on ROOT. I recorded all guitars for HYPNOS' "Heretic Commando – Rise of the New Antikrist" album and created also some acoustic preludes for the actual album "The Whitecrow" as a special guest. We're still friends and organize drinking meetings now and then.

What kind of gear you use when you play live, in the studio and at your rehearsal room? List us your favorite guitars and the current amps you operate with. Are there any endorsements you already enjoy and you are proud of?

- No rehearsal room over here. ☺ Interesting question especially for me, because I am used to play with amplifiers and boxes, which are available at events. Concerning the bass guitar, I am the owner of Vintage and Ibanez Korn model – both five-string instruments. There's a Gallien-Krueger 700RB-II in my apartment waiting for some shows. I play and own two guitars: Gibson Flying V and one cheap Cort, connecting them to Engl amplifier or small old Crate combo. When we have a recording session at any studio we try to get some other amplifiers with boxes and instruments to check out some possible combinations.

Now as "Neoantichrist" is available to the masses, are you planning some extensive tours in support?

Where can we see you playing live in 2017/2018?

- Still have duties with another band, so no plans for touring with SOLFERNUS, but to be honest, we've got a couple of offers already. Let's see and wait some time yet and when the interest will be real and growing, we definitely will think about it, of course. If Wacken calls, we should go ahead! ☺

The underground scene of the Czech Republic is pretty big and varied. Nevertheless, which bands would you recommend us to check out, be those old classic ones or newcomers?

- I should recommend ROOT and HYPNOS to have a quiet sleep without nightmares. ☺

Our country situation: still a lot of active old and nowadays legendary artists as well as talented newcomers, constantly new interesting projects founded just for one album, special comeback of Death Metal veterans KRABATHOR... And actually the biggest affair striking all countries and Black Metal hearts is MASTER'S HAMMER with ROOT's founder Blackosh in the line-up. Check out our bands on YouTube, this web site is full of deluxe videos from Czech bands. I hope you're gonna discover new good music.

Please share your final thoughts at the end and reveal the plans which are still ahead. Last igneous words are yours.

- Thanx for this fine interview and supporting SOLFERNUS' art. Greetings to all the readers of Encomium from the sick Moravian Hellgang!

GOD DETHRONED is a band coming from the deepest depths of the Death Metal underground movement. I guess no further explanation is needed here, just let me add that this Dutch deathmachine has been around us since 1991 and their 10th long play "The World Ablaze" was out in May of 2017. I've asked Henri Sattler & Mike Ferguson to unfold some details about "The World Ablaze" album as well as to see what they are up to these days and where can we see them playing live.

Hails! Let's start off the interview with a question about the reactivation of **GOD DETHRONED**. The band was meant to cease in 2012, but 2 years later you've announced its comeback. What motivated you to change your mind and get back your focus on **GOD DETHRONED**?

Mike: Well, we never intended to actually quit the band, Henri just needed a break from the constant cycle of touring and recording. But he knew that if he would call it a break people would never stop hassling him to reform the band so he said that we broke up. After 3 years the fires start to burn in your belly and you want to perform again, because that is what performers do. So we started back up to do gigs and eventually to write a new album.

From the previously known line-ups only Michiel van der Plicht left. What should we know about guitarist Mike Ferguson and bassist Jeroen Pomper? How did they hook up with **GOD DETHRONED?**

Mike: I know that Jeroen is also from the North of Holland like Michiel and Henri, so they knew him from the local scene. I have been playing in bands for 20 years now. I also played in a band called **DETONATION** in which Michiel drummed for 2 years and we recorded an album together called "Reprisal". So when **GOD DETHRONED** needed a new guitar player Michiel called me if I would be interested. I was always a fan of the band so I gave it a shot and I have been playing with them for three years now.

With the above listed line-up you've recorded the follow up to "Under the Sign of the Iron Cross" (2010) album, which was released 5th of May, 2017 by Metal Blade Records and was titled as "The World Ablaze". It follows so naturally the musical path presented on your latest releases that one can think you never even stopped for a moment. How did you see it? Was it easy to compose and arrange the songs for "The World Ablaze"?

Mike: I knew that Henri had 2 rough outlines for new songs and they were good. After that Henri and me just sat down together and traded ideas. I contributed my riffs and leads. After a couple of writing sessions with Henri I had a good idea of what style the music had to be. And I have always been a song writer in all my bands so it is not difficult for me to be creative. Also because that is what I like to do the best. So I don't think it was very difficult. I think Henri and me complimented each other very well.

I would say it's kind of really rare case, but definitely awesome at some point, when a band has the same label for 20 years now. How did you manage to stick with Metal Blade for so long? What is the secret for such a long friendship and collaboration between you?

Mike: Well, Henri would be the one to answer this the best. But I know that Henri and Brian Slagel have a good relationship. And if the partnership is mutually beneficial I wouldn't know why you would terminate the arrangement. Metal Blade has always been good to **GOD DETHRONED**. They are a professional record label who care about their artist.

The lyrical content of "The World Ablaze" was built upon different battles and wars of the past, for example by The Battle of Messina (7-14 June 1917) in the song called "Messina Ridge" or about the Russian Civil War (November 1917 - October 1922) in "Escape Across the Ice (The White Army)". Pretty interesting topics to cover, so kind of really interesting to me what leads you to write about these historical facts and overwhelmingly about the events of the World War I. Please tell the readers more about the lyrics of "The World Ablaze".

Henri: Yes, this is the final album of the WWI trilogy. It always seemed like a forgotten war. Our schools teach WWII much more thoroughly, because the Netherlands were neutral in WWI. It always fascinated me if I saw a movie like "All quiet on the western front" after that I read the book and it remains one of my favorite war novels of all time. The battles



were so brutal and gut-wrenching that it would fit as a concept for a Death Metal band very well. It's always important to us that we take a bird's eye view of the war and document the horror of the trenches and the disease and gas attacks of the soldier in the trenches.

If I look back onto your discography I can conclude that you started to work and write war-like themes beginning with the "Passiondale (Passchendale)" (2009) album, correct me if I am wrong? What are your most beloved occurrences in the history and why? I assume you like to watch historical movies, right? What were the ones you have been recently watching and what are the ones you would definitely recommend to check us out?

Henri: I got interested in the world war one theme after visiting Ypres in Belgium on a regular basis. This town was on the forefront of trench war battle and contains a lot of history about the battles fought around that town. There I learned about the gruesomeness of WWI by visiting the museum, war memorials, English people in the pub visiting the graves of their lost relatives, etc. Then I also started reading about this war since there's not much film footage available. At school we didn't hear a lot about it, so it felt a bit like a forgotten war.

In the end I think we made some pretty interesting albums about this theme.

Serpent King Guitars (SKG) was founded back in September of 2011. How did it all start for you there? Tell us how and when your interest arose towards guitar-building and later making your own models. What motivated or initiated the spark of creativity & such artfulness within you? Do you remember the very first guitar you built and who was its customer? I suppose it was way before you joined SKG, right?

Henri: After we announced to put GD on hiatus I wanted to do something else with my life, but I wanted to stay connected with the music industry. I went through several options, but building guitars was the one that attracted me a lot. The first guitars were built for the Frankfurter Musikmesse in 2012 and after that things went quick for us. Now in 2018 we also have standard series guitars in stock, which are available from our webshop and besides that we build custom guitars for various customers across the globe. People can check our website for details.

Recently SKG is endorsing and co-operating with quite a lot of extreme metal guitarists worldwide. Let me just name such great musicians as Eric Cutler of **AUTOPSY, Carlo Regadas (ex-**CARCASS**), Dennis Hartog of **SINISTER**, Jimmy Lundqvist of **ENTRAILS**, and this list of artists just growing exponentially upwards. How do you feel about having these well-known shredders in the SKG rooster? How did they find out about SKG and if it's not a secret who is going to be the next?**

Henri: Yes, it's great to have these guitarists on our roster. They all contacted me after they saw the guitars we were building and they told me how much they liked them. These guys are still performing on our guitars today and that's a big compliment for us.

We don't know yet who will be the next well known guitarist. Time will tell.

Do you keep in contact with past members of **GOD DETHRONED? If so, what news can you tell us regarding Roel Sanders, Henk Zinger, Susan Gerl, Ariën van Weesenbeek or Danny Tunker for instance? Do they visit your shows from time to time? Always wanted to know and ask why Roel left the band after the release of the successful "Passiondale" album? And also why did Susan leave the band after the "Passiondale" tour?**

Henri: I sometimes see one of the former band members, but usually not a lot, since we all live far apart from each other. When we do meet it's always nice to have a beer and talk about the past. Every person leaving the band has their own reason. My fanaticism wasn't always the most pleasant thing to endure when playing in GD, so I guess that played a role from time to time when people decided to do something else.

You've been in the Netherlands underground since 1991 with **GOD DETHRONED. How would you estimate the 90s Death/Thrash Metal underground scene of Holland compared to the actual one? I mean the differences of both eras, what was better then or now and which bands do you miss from the past as well as what bands would you recommend us from the recent movement?**

Henri: It is more difficult than 10-15 years ago to make a living from playing in a band. CD sales have gone downhill and we like all other bands have to make their money with playing live shows and selling merchandise at shows. We are well aware of the changes around us and we try to promote the album the best we can. That's why we recorded three music videos for "The World Ablaze" and released them one month before the release in weekly intervals. We used to make one video for an album now we have three. That's a big difference and a telling story of how influential the internet has become. And it does work, because it created a lot of attention for us.

I always was more into the Swedish Melodic Death Metal. I guess that's what you call it now. Bands like **EUCHARIST, **DISSECTION**, **WITHERED BEAUTY**, **THE HAUNTED**. A new band I like a lot nowadays is **SHINING**. I think they have the best guitar player.**

Will there be any extensive tours take place in support of "The World Ablaze"? Talk us a little about the forthcoming tour plans & concerts of **GOD DETHRONED. Can we expect to see you playing live nearby us either in Hungary and Slovakia? Sure in Ukraine would be the best, but somehow I think it is not possible for the moment.**

Henri: We decided not to do long tours anymore. It is very difficult to get a tour that pays enough so we can all keep on paying the rent back home. We play as much as we can and we are always busy, but mostly on the weekends. We are going to play a lot of great festivals like the Bang Your Head Festival and In Flammen. We have about 15 concerts booked for the next couple of months and more shows are being added all the time. Sadly, we don't have anything lined up for the Ukraine, but we will do our best to come to you guys, because we know how dedicated and awesome you guys are.

In 2016 you've joined **GRAND SUPREME BLOOD COURT. What news can you share to us from that camp? Are you finished writing songs for the 2nd full-length disc yet? If so, when do you plan to record it and to release it respectively?**

Henri: No news there. We are all too busy with our own bands and projects at the moment, so there are no plans for the immediate future.

Please foreshadow your final thoughts to all the Ukrainian **GOD DETHRONED fans. Last world ablaze words are yours!**

Henri: Thank you so much for all your support throughout the years and the great reactions to our latest album "The World Ablaze". It is much appreciated and we are doing our best to come your way and to play for all you crazy metal fans.



Lately this Canadian extreme Death/Grind quintet got an instant spin in my player, thus it was really about the right time to ask my questions from Yan Chamberland (drummer/cohesive force). The resulting answers became rather informative and flawless in my opinion! So get an utterly insight into the NERVOUS IMPULSE camp and welcome the masters of the pure insane Death/Grind fury!!!

Hello Yan, what are you up to these days? Did you already launch the process of creating riffs & songs for your third full-length album?

- Hi Kornel! The process is more than started, we are actually nailing new songs in order to enter back in studio in the next few months for another recording session to extend our splits' adventure for another round. For sure, we are planning a full-length album in 2019/2020 and we're still checking the labels' options we got on the table right now, but we are feeling no rush about this since this is so much fun to team up with all those bands so far.

NERVOUS IMPULSE's biography says that the band was formed by you in 2007 and you've selected the band members with one aim to create the most lethal aural weapon possible. I have to admit that plan was gloriously succeeded from the start, but please tell us a little about the beginnings and also introduce to us the actual members in details (jobs, hobbies, other musical projects).

- First of all, thanks for the kind words. I'm glad to see that we reached our goal for more than 10 years without losing our focus. The main point in NERVOUS, is that we are all fans of a lot of different "extreme" music styles and during the creative process everything just happens like a chemical reaction. You mix element "X"

adding the substance "Y" then you got what's resulting in the end. We try to throw in some textures and elements from other scenes than just Grind or classic Death Metal and renew our songs' structures every time we get new ideas in process without compromising the integrity of our band's trajectory. In this exercise, personally, I also take the results so far as a success. It's all about energy and attitude while we are playing our instruments that makes the difference. We want to have some kind of kick down playing it and produce music that we want to hear as fans of the genre ourselves.

We had many line-up changes during the path, but I think we found the good recipe for a long time run here. Éric Fiset (vocals) is my long-time partner since the very beginning and got this unique sound and versatility we want to hear on our tracks. Félix Bourcier (bass) joined the band during the recording sessions of "Enough for Dementia" in 2008 and provides quite an energetic live act. Bruno Mercier (guitar) came at the right moment and gave the music a second breath by adding some new elements that ended up as the "Time to Panic" album. Not so long after the studio session marks the arrival of Francis Cousineau (guitar) at first to fulfill the second guitar during the live performances, but it soon became obvious that he was the missing link to make NERVOUS

IMPULSE what it is to this day.

Francis and Bruno are evolving in another band, more Technical Death Metal oriented, called JOIN THE CONSPIRACY. Check it out!

The band is very productive, especially if it goes to split releases. The past few months you've been part of 2 great splits. Both came out on Russian More Hate Productions in co-operation with Darknagar Records. What should we know about your ties with Alexander & MHP (as I suppose, all started around 2015 and with the re-releases of your first 2 full-length albums, right?) and how did you team up with all those sick underground acts? Any special stories behind these 2 split-projects? There's another split due shortly, right? The one with the Czech grinders of KANDAR. How many songs will be featured there and which label(s) will be going to materialize it?

- Exactly, we wanted to make ourselves a 10th Anniversary gift and expand our horizons by doing those splits with bands, which are my personal favorites, picks from the underground. It seems that this musical party tag team will be in for a longer ride than anticipated. We got RUBUFASO MUKUFO (Czech Republic), EPICRISE (Ukraine), MEAT CUTTING FLOOR (Russia), JAPANISCHE KAMPFHÖRSPIELE (Germany),

BRUD (Ukraine) and KANDAR (Czech Republic) on board for this, for a total of 3 splits so far. What's interesting, is that every band connect and fit all together even if we all own our very unique and different style. All the bands got this bound without being clones of each other and are of great quality rather than being some awkward, bad sounding act to listen to amongst the others on the CDs, which is often the case in splits nowadays. The main essence remains the same and the records are flowing smoothly. This is a very important thing for me during the selection of the partners to team with. These split releases come from a very traditional way to proceed, since the late 80s in the Grindcore scene and are also a great opportunity for fans to discover new bands they would never heard of if it wouldn't be a multiple bands' album. They get more this way than the traditional EPs.

Having More Hate Productions backing up our every move on this helps a lot cutting the pressure on what's happening post production. Ironically, Alexander and I crossed paths when I opened a VK account to get in touch with Artem from BRUD, because I was searching to get their 1st album "Cannibal Cops". Some 5 years later, I put them both in contact and it turned out that I just finished the remaster of this CD and More Hate will release it as a reissue next year. I also discovered MEAT CUTTING FLOOR and get a closer relation with Eastern European/Russian fans which is, by the way, really important for me personally. All this led to the reissue of our self-released 1st album "Enough for Dementia" by More Hate, a split with KRAWORATH and KERANGKEN (basically our 2 promos being released as a split) and the reissue of our out of print 2nd album "Time to Panic", originally out on Blast-Head Records. After a while, I presented these multiple split projects to Alexander and he instantly agreed to work with us and was more than happy to get the opportunity to finally release exclusive NERVOUS IMPULSE's tracks on his label.

Already knowing BRUD, MEAT CUTTING FLOOR and EPICRISE and having mutual respect for each other's music, we convinced to work on this exercise together. JAPANISCHE KAMPFHÖRSPIELE have been one of my favorite bands for a long time and we already worked on a compilation Christof (drummer) and I, so I reached him and one thing leading to another, we ended up splitting both bands together. He also did all the artwork and infographics for the 4-way, RUBUFASO MUKUFO also entered the planning a funny way. These guys are almost all from a very influential band for me in the Czech scene, called CEREBRAL TURBULENCY.

I talked to Daniel (guitars) and they had a recording session still unreleased as a physical copy called "Violent Show", only available on bandcamp. So, 5 minutes later we were both like... "let's split"!!!! KANDAR appeared more surprisingly than the other bands. Topi (singer) and I got in touch for NERVOUS to get the rights to cover one of his PIGSTY songs (little spoiler here) and he got in contact with our previous efforts and offered to do a split with his newest band KANDAR. Awesome news for us again. Bizarre Leprous Productions along with More Hate Productions will be part of this. Our part of the effort is recorded since last summer, but it should be released by the end of 2018/beginning of 2019, since KANDAR will record a full-length before that on BLP. Some other of those "hot breads" with other surprisingly great bands are in the oven, but I can't talk of this right now, since it's not concluded yet. Stay tuned!

As far as I know you've been massively involved to make those productions sound the way they are. Do you record, mix and master other bands' stuff as well apart from the materials of NERVOUS IMPULSE?

- Since day 1, I was involved in producing NERVOUS IMPULSE's stuff and we started to record our own music with the "Time to Panic" album and it seemed to turn out well. Easy to explain, we record all our songs ourselves from now on. We recently geared up with a Focusrite Liquid Saffire 56 external soundcard, which contains 8 integrated pre-amps, the Reaper software, a

computer only for recording purposes, plus some good mics of our own and the formula works perfectly and relieves the pressure of having studio hours stressing us like a meter on a taxi cab. As easy as it sounds, we record drums in Reaper, guitars, bass and vocals at my home, edit everything then pre-mix, fade in, fade out then give the package to a soundman to beef it up. Voilà! I had the chance to experiment on mastering with the splits and discovered that it's a thing that I feel comfortable with. I also helped, as a producer this time, Dmytro Bastanov (sound engineer) with the BRUD and MEAT CUTTING FLOOR recordings for their 4-way effort with us. Hugues Deslauriers (NERVOUS soundman) and myself had a hell of a challenge too. EPICRISE had 4 songs from a session then 3 others from 3 different studio runs available for the 3-way. We did our best to blend those songs together right from the already mixed and mastered files. Cool thing, because being external and not emotively involved like when we record NERVOUS stuff, gave me another vision of what's a recording session and the overall post production process. Like I said before, I remastered BRUD's 1st album, so let's see what's the future holds ahead for me... Who knows?

You play live really seldom and as I see you are mostly focusing to play in Canada. Why is it so? Don't you plan to tour around the globe in support of all those recent splits releases?

- We never been a touring kind of band nor playing local acts every weekend like some bands are doing. For the touring aspect, Éric and I got mortgages. Felix recently became a family father and I got a daughter of my own, then Francis just got engaged last month, so we can all agree that "Pure Insane Death/Grind Fury" won't pay the bills and get any stability in our respective lives. On the other hand, we are open minded to play any well-organized event, even overseas, if the opportunity ever presents to us. Concerning the local shows here in Québec's region, we did 2 years running shows supporting our "Time to Panic" album, consistently here and there, but in a very selective way. Overexposure, in my opinion, has never been good and the fans tend to be bored after a while seeing the same bands repeatedly in a small timeframe. For example, we will be part of the Pukefest again this year, which is an event that we just can't resist. Luke (promoter) and his team, always get a jam-packed venue and the crowd is going nuts every time. This kind of formula is always a win/win type of show for both bands and promoters, but also for the people in there having an insured party every single time.



How looks the extreme underground scene of Montreal lately? Talk us a bit regarding its ups and downs, the newcomers and all those records we should definitely check out in short terms. What's your personal opinion about the latest releases of GORGUTS, CRYPTOPSY and KATAKLYSM? The latter one produced excellent stuff in the period from 1992 to 1996. What's your view on this? Me personally, I've really enjoyed their past materials with the insane vocals of Sylvain Houde. Also, please pick out your favorite records from these Canadian monsters of Death Metal.

- That may surprise you a little, but I'm kind of disconnected of what's up and new in the local scene. It seems that my musical taste in terms of Death Metal are stuck in the 90s or so.

I lately find myself more interested in the European Grindcore scene, Powerviolence and HxCx, which have nice textures that are surprising me musically. Every band we've splitted with so far are a big part of it, but also bands such as MINCING FURY AND GUTTURAL CLAMOUR OF QUEER DECAY, ANÜS, SPINELESS FUCKERS, SHEEVA YOGA, GOOLAGOON, SKODA 120 and FIEND are running in my daily playlist as well.

It's a fact that Québec's scene has always provided intense and quality music. Earlier, you mentioned CRYPTOPSY, GORGUTS and KATAKLYSM. It's for sure that "Blasphemy Made Flesh", "None So Vile", "Considered Dead", "The Erosion of Sanity" and from "The Mystical Gate of Reincarnation" to "Temple of Knowledge" (don't think it's necessary to name who own each albums) will always be cult classics, but it's amazing to see that, even after 20+ years of existence, those bands are still feeding the fans with good albums one after another. I got great respect for those artists and understand that some of them had to merge their styles to something different than their "early years" to accomplish themselves as musicians.

Your drumming is ultra-crazy, complex and as groovy and fast as possible. So, the question arises, who were your influences at the start (when did you begin to play drums, by the way) and who are those drummers who still impress you with their skills nowadays? What gear (drums, cymbals, pedals, electronics) you are about to use live, in the studio or at rehearsals?

- Ha ha ha! Thanks again if you appreciate the effort. I received my first drumkit for my 15th birthday and I'm now 36 so do the math. When I first started making noises with sticks, that's really what it sounded like, my personal heroes were for sure: Mick Harris (NAPALM DEATH), Michael Smith (SUFFOCATION) and Florent Mounier (CRYPTOPSY). Damn I wanted to play like those guys! ☺ At this point, I got so many influences from many styles that it would take a dictionary to write down every name.

My gear is relatively simple and is composed of a Pearl Masters series RetroSpec with deep shells (10"x08", 12"x09", 14"x14", 16"x16", 22"x18") and a Pearl Free Floating Black Steel Snare (14"x3,5"). The cymbals are mostly Sabian HHXtreme series; 2 crashes (one bright and the other darker), 1 O-Zone crash, Hi-Hat, china, ride, Zil-Bel and 2 splashes. Founded the best suitable gear ever years ago in these DW 5002TD3 Turbo Chain-Drive Double Pedal. I also use an Alesis DM5 trigger module, but only for the recordings, because it's a cleaner sound and easier to handle while tracking so no need of this at the rehearsals or live performances.

The first time I've got in touch with the music of NERVOUS IMPULSE was due to the Quebec Extreme Metal Sampler 2016 that was given to me by its initiator, i.e. Steven Henry. As I know you played earlier along with Steven and Eric in EMPATHY DENIED. What's up with that band? Also tell me your impressions towards Steven's past formations, like NEURAXIS, IDIOPATHETICS or URBAN ALIENS.

- Éric and I have known Steven for a long time now. We started EMPATHY DENIED and put efforts in this band for a couple of years and those were great. It helped us to push the envelope on what we really wanted to do and find where we headed in music, then it's finally led us to NERVOUS IMPULSE a couple of months later after we left that band. I think the new line-up is preparing a comeback right now and we surely wish them the best of luck with this project. NEURAXIS' "Imagery" is one of my favorite Steven's effort, still spinning this album regularly.

At the end, please transform all the leftover nervous impulses of yours to the minds of the extreme metal readers of Encomium. The space is yours!

- Thanks for this Kornel, your support is much appreciated. To the fans, just know that you are welcome to visit us and say hello on whatever the platform you prefer. Feel free to drop us a line and ask any questions you may have in mind. Cheers from the NERVOUS IMPULSE's crew.

Hails Tony! What are you up to lately? Are there any special apropos behind the release of your upcoming 10" vinyl titled "War"? It will contain 2 variants of "War" on side A (Armageddon edit and live) plus the live version of "Warhead" on side B. The cover artwork is rather impressive. Who is responsible for it?

- AVÉ mate. Well right now, resting for June & July from live shows, while Mantas recovers from a major heart attack, where he actually died and had to be resuscitated. He's on the mend now and will be strong again very soon. "WAR" will be a 10-inch vinyl and we are very happy and excited with it. The A side has an alternative studio mix of the album track and the 2 songs on the B side are from the tour before the last European one we just did with SUFFOCATION, etc. "WAR" which has fast become a classic live track and "Warhead", of course, because it ties in to the history of us. I wanted to do something cool pre the next album and have a new video for "Black and Roll" being edited, which we shot onstage in Poland on the final European date, but releasing the "WAR" EP seemed right and fitting in the current world climate and also I wanted to celebrate the live shows and loyal fans that have supported us so far. The art work was based on my initial art work for the release, but of course improved and explored beyond that by the amazing Marcelo Vasco, a total artistic genius.

I am more than sure that all the metal fans worldwide acknowledged the success of your debut full-length "Ave" right at once. It was a fantastic start for VENOM INC. and a totally die-hard Heavy Metal release. How would you estimate its success from a year's perspective?

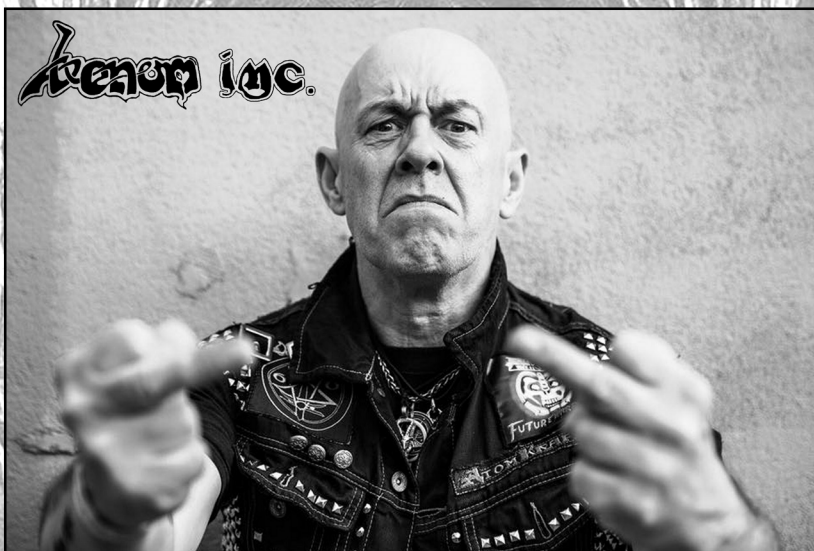
- Truly amazing... We have toured the planet from Canada and Japan to New Zealand and many places in between... countless shows and too many places to name... and everywhere has been an incredible reaction... fans singing the album tracks and demanding we play more from it. Reviews outstanding and for myself and Mantas as the composers it is very humbling and wonderful, but more so for Mantas who also took on the job of production and excelled himself in my opinion. A very proud record for us both and dedicated to the fans as a way of thanx for the year of loyalty and support. We now have reconvened and will present more from the album finally live as well as looking forward to the next.

Your current record label is Nuclear Blast, a pretty huge one for sure, which is getting bigger and bigger with every year. How do they treat VENOM INC. and what kind of deal you managed to sign with them?

- They are amazing of course and yes they grow bigger each year. They are close to my heart and some great friends there who I have know now for very long. They were one of the choices as I had approached with the last M:PIRE OF EVIL album and we missed out so we were to come back with the next album, then this happened and so to find the home for VENOM INC. was, to me, the natural conclusion and it is the best place to be for us without a doubt.

VENOM INC. is a damn active live band. How do you manage to play so many gigs per year? What kind of tour-routine you have? I know you like to swim and go to the gym before the show, but what else you do and the others to keep fit every night?

- Yes lol, it takes its toll, but can I just say that Mantas heart attack was not down to the touring, but a genetic problem that was there before yet remained unaddressed. We stay fit, try not to drink much, Mantas not at all, myself very little, it is vitally important if you are to stay sharp and on point for the live work. We try to eat healthy and find gym's where we can or carry weights and get as much good rest as possible... we are not fanatics, but when you do so many shows... you can't eat shot all the time and stay up drinking until 6am every night, then expect to be able to play for 1.5 or 2 hrs. a night at full force... The fans deserve 100% of you live and that is our focus... quite right before the show to gain focus and then delivery onstage at maximum. I live for playing, studio is ok and creatively enjoyable, but live is where you truly come to life.



I had the pleasure to interview the one and only Demolition Man, i.e. Tony Dolan of the mighty VENOM INC. His answers turned out super rad with lots of interesting facts and news, so dive in and enjoy our conversation!!!

Let's talk about your tattoos. It seems you have some kind of ritual, right? Please share with us which was your first tattoo and at what age you've got it as well as which was the latest one you inked on your skin? You do tattoos too. When did you begin tattooing and do you have some kind of official saloon?

- Ah hahahaha kind of yes... I think my first wasn't until I was late 20's early 30's actually, as I never considered it before... then I met Lal Hardy (a famous UK Tattooist) and decided I had to do one... but what? So I had the ATOMKRAFT skull from the "Future Warriors" album done on my arm and DEMOLITION above it... kind of identified me and who I was I felt... I did the cover artwork... so long before the album was actually realized that it's significance to me was and is to this day great. Then we toured with M:PIRE once and I said onstage in Portland, you guys were fucking great so tomorrow I am gonna get Portland tattooed on my body in thanx... and that as that... kind of got carried away... hahaha... by then I did have other meaningful tattoos on me, but then I just carried on when we played putting the event, venue, town or festival on my skin... lol... I have almost all of the USA on me, Europe, Australasia, Japan, etc. more missing, but more to come... My last one was in Cyprus, but was for the Turkish festival we did after the last tour... IZMIR ATTACK to salute and celebrate a sold out show in Turkey and the great organisers, crew and fantastic audience we enjoyed there, my salute to them all! I have done 2 tattoos... it was Jon Clue's fault... a superb artist in Manhattan, NYC who did my St. Vitus club arm tattoo... he told me to tattoo him and then I did a friend too... was strange, but fun... so... when you want one let me know... I'm your man... hahahaha...

You are endorsed by the Dutch guitar company called Bo-El. How many Bo-El basses you own and which is your favorite one? What kind of bass equipment you use live?

- Ah yes. They are incredible as a company and support. The people, just the best... but the bass??? WOW!!! I have 3, 2 natural wood and one purple finish... they are the BIG-Generator series all 3 of them... what can I say... not enough, they are loud, versatile, road worthy, dynamic, responsive... I mean for me? The perfect tool... but for anyone from rock, metal to Jazz I could not recommend them enough. I use a series of Boss pedals, chorus, phaser, digital delay and I over drive with a SansAmp... I have a pedal one and a rack mount... strangely enough the rack mount is better for live and the pedal better for studio for me I have found which seems odd, but there you go... I also have a Boss bass overdrive, but I kind of lack how the Big G works with the Sans so don't fix what isn't broke. The amps provided are Ampeg and a various collection of the SVT series... old to new... and cab is usually an 8x10 Ampeg... good to go... anything else is for show only... and not integral. The bass does all the work which is what is so amazing.

I suppose you've been million times asked about which are your favorite bands of all time and influences respectively, so I will better ask you to name those bands, which you've unexpectedly discovered for yourself during different tours through the years. List us your most beloved ones, please.

- Yes lol it's no secret between MOTÖRHEAD, THE DICKIES and BLACK SABBATH, I found my calling lol. OMG... so many... NERVOUSA, NERVOUSA, NERVOUSA, DESECRATOR, TANTRA, REZET, SURVIVE, THE CONVALESCENCE, BULLET BELT, SUNLORD, METALFIER... and on and on... amazing bands and so many not mentioned, apologies...

What news can you reveal us from the camps of ATOMKRAFT and M-PIRE OF EVIL? Is there time left for you to prepare any new stuff with these hordes?

- ATOMKRAFT songs ongoing, but almost completed for a release, M:PIRE OF EVIL the "Unleashed" album will be as soon as we can, but not before 2019, but is coming and the new VENOM INC. album is on its way... writing now...

I know it might be too soon to question, but do you already have some new materials written for the second LP of VENOM INC.? If so, please share with us all the details and in what direction should we expect it music-wise?

- OH lol as above mentioned... we are both writing toward the new album now, I have a ton of material as does Mantas... it will be the natural progression to "AVÉ"... same subject matter... humans... but it already feels like it will be better than "AVÉ" and exciting... we have learned so much from all the live shows too and our direction is the same... honest, real, no bullshit metal...

Thank you very much Tony for taking the time to answer all my questions. Please finish the interview the way you would wish. Last blood stained thoughts are yours.

- Ah thank you was great, great fun. Thank you all so very much for the last years and the support of our album. VENOM INC. is stronger than ever and we have so much mire coming you're gonna love, we cannot wait and will see you out there, somewhere, soon... come say hi... and be safe... AVÉ!



The wait is over! Swedish masters of eerie harmonies and dark rituals are recently entered Armageddon Recordings studio to record their new album. I've asked Defiler to update us on this topic and to talk about his musical tastes and hobbies. Needless to say, the dark Nordic rage will be spread again, just wait the release of the new TRIDENT album!!!

Hail to thee, Defiler! The second TRIDENT album is already in progress. Would you please enlighten the readers some details, like the name of the studio and the producer, album title, how many songs will be featured there?

- Greetings! Yes, after some time and a lot of hard work, we are now finally in the stage of recording the second full length TRIDENT album. We have no official producer and I can't give you a name of the album just yet, but it will feature at least 8 tracks and is recorded with the help of our old friend Anders Backelin over at Armageddon Recordings.

Will it organically continue the musical direction of the "Shadows" EP or you are going to widen the borders in some ways? Who wrote the music for the new long play and respectively the lyrics too? Which themes will be touched this time?

- We aim to create something new and exciting with an evolved sense of the technical, and still touch the magnificent twisted roots of the Black Metal genre. Writing and getting the album together is a team effort, but the music is mostly written by "Reaper", with the contributions of drums written and played by "Svart", lead guitar and solos by "Ulv" and the lyrics that are written by me. Themes of the album will take you on a black magic journey, with stops in historical ancient times and strange astral realms beyond death.

Since the beginning there were a few line-up changes. Can you please list the actual line-up of TRIDENT? Also in case some members are active in other bands/projects, please name us those as well.

- The current line-up of TRIDENT is as follows:
Guitar (Rhythm): "Reaper"
Ex. DECAMERON, DISSECTION, SOULREAPER to name a few. Currently not active in other projects.
Drums: "Svart" (Previously known as "Goat")
Ex. DEATH TYRANT, NOX AUREA, THE COLD EXISTENCE. Currently not active in other projects.
Lyrics: "Defiler"
Not active in other projects.

Guitar (Lead): "Ulv"

Involved in multiple musical projects and teaching music as a school principal. Currently active guitarist in bands FEJD and LANCER.

Bass: "Hravn"

Current frontman of the band RIMFROST.

The "Shadows" EP was released by War Anthem Records in 2015. Will they going to release the 2nd TRIDENT full-length too or you've got some other options lately?

- I cannot comment this with more detail at the moment.

The band plays mainly in Scandinavia, why is it so? Will you plan an extensive European tour for the upcoming release? Where can we see you playing live for the next time?

- It is the bands goal to reach stages worldwide, with numerous practical obstacles to seize, the necessary creative process of writing this monster has swallowed all other priorities. Some plans for coming tours and live appearances next year have been made, none of which I can reveal in detail at the moment.

You've made a great video clip for "Shadows" in cooperation with Kalle Johansson. He directed, produced & edited it. Should we expect a new video clip shortly? If so, for which song will it be and will you work with Backstage Productions again?

- Thank you. Yes, we will release a video to a song from this coming album. Kalle Johansson at Backstage Productions made a fantastic job with "Shadows", so hopefully we will be working with him in the near future.

The Swedish Death/Black Metal movement is pretty influential and huge with lots of remarkable pioneers of the genre itself. Please tell us in short about the atmosphere that reigns nowadays there. Which are your personal favorites and why.

- I find it hard to keep track of everything new in the genre. With some exceptions I feel the golden era has passed, and I still end up listening to the classics.

However, Sweden does contribute with some excellent variety in the sound of Black/Death

Metal music, with lesser known bands and well renowned bands like MARDUK, DARK FUNERAL and WATAIN. All of which have a place in my daily listening.

Could you name us some of your favorite albums of all time? And also which bands motivated/influenced you to start singing in a Death/Black Metal band like TRIDENT?

- In my childhood I listened to a lot of experimental and classical music, as well as Rock and Heavy Metal like BLUE OYSTER CULT, JETHRO TULL, JUDAS PRIEST, DIO and BLACK SABBATH. Later on as a teenager I discovered heavier music, and with age I was drawn more and more into darker themes. Discovering various Black, Death, Speed and Thrash Metal bands pretty much all at the same time.

One group that still finds its way into my weekly playlists and speaks to me the same now as when I was younger is JUDAS PRIEST. With albums "Painkiller", "Stained Class" and "Sad Wings of Destiny" being my personal favorites. "Storm of the Light's Bane" with DISSECTION, "Under the Sign of the Black Mark" with BATHORY, "Satanica" and "Demigod" by BEHEMOTH, are among some of the truly important albums that made me yearn to fall into the world of Blackened Death Metal.

Do you have any favorite movies/books? Tell us a little bit about your hobbies.

- I like all kinds of movies, mostly drawn to horror, war and dystopian themes here as well as with music...

In books I prefer something practical, but I sometimes put on projects of studying religion and philosophy.

I play a lot of video games, but what I do to truly relax is to journey out into the woods away from civilization and find peace.

Thank you, Defiler, for taking the time to answer my questions. The final aftermath of thoughts is yours.

- No problem, hope you got what you needed.

The new album will be ready later this year and we'll announce more of the progress very soon, so keep yourself updated.

“Apocalyptic” is your recent long play and I must admit it is damn good. Definitely my favorite TURBOCHARGED release so far. Dark, sounding totally underground and maximally true to the Swedish Death Metal heritage. Plus, let’s not forget the black humor filled lyrics. Musically I would say it is a flawless mixture between such cult hordes as SODOM, NIHILIST, DISMEMBER, ENTOMBED and MOTÖRHEAD with some punky attitude. By the way, how would you describe and define the music of TURBOCHARGED played on “Apocalyptic”?

- I don’t know how to label this album more than that it’s what we sounded like while writing this album. We don’t plan to go in any direction from album to album, we just let our creative flow lead us to wherever we end up basically, but of course there is a basic recipe in the bottom of it all.

All three of us has a past in Swedish more or less Death Metal so of course it reflects in our mutual efforts but it’s in no way a deliberate choice to sound typically something else than just TURBOCHARGED. We do have low tuning and somewhat a classic HM2-sound and that is deliberate though, simply because we like the brutality of the style and we feel that it fits our riffing pretty good.

Many has called our stuff “swedeath” and we might as well roll with it, we probably are a very swedeath-based unit after all.

If you look at all the classic Swedish Death Metal bands they also had a lot of D-beats and other semi-punk/semi-metal details that come naturally for us and I reckon it’s all, because we were all spawned out of the heritage of bands like MOTÖRHEAD, VENOM and SODOM and it’s just one of those things that fall into place without even trying.

Let’s just use our own label “Deathpunk Metal” to describe the album, we don’t hide the fact that we are not reinventing the wheel here.

“Apocalyptic” was released on both vinyl and CD formats. I have the white vinyl version, which is simply astonishing. You did separate graphic designs for both versions that is absolutely great as for me. Was it natural to go for 2 layout concepts from the start? The cover artwork by All Things Rotten from Croatia is killer as well. Will you continue to work with them in the future?

- Actually, the original idea was the black (CD) version, but when I was sitting here at my desktop I accidentally inverted the background and made the black into white and when the shock had worn off I realized it looked cool and I decided to make both versions to show to the other guys.

We couldn’t really decide so I think it was our label-boss who came up with the idea to make the LP white and the CD black. If there will ever be a reissue of this album we will swap the colours and have the CD white and the LP black but the risk of us ever selling out something is pretty slim, ha ha.

All Things Rotten came into the picture through a personal friendship with the guy behind the artwork and we are strongly considering asking him for more artwork indeed, one must always strive for the best result and he is a killer artist who knows what you want as a metal band.

You’ve been cooperated with plenty of record labels, but Go Fuck Yourself Productions is the one releasing your full-lengths since 2015. How did you hook up with them? Tell us more about this covenant and your friendship with Pascal.

- We’ve been friends with Pascal for quite some time now and when we were on tour in 2014 we stopped at his place one night and had a few drinks.

When we left Germany for the next gig in Italy we started talking in the car about what to do when the tour was over and we realized that the best option would be to find a label closer than the Mexican one we were on at the time and in the back of our minds we remembered that Pascal had some sort of distro/label thing going on.

When we got back home we contacted him to ask if he was interested in releasing our next album and he said yes.

He is our label boss and still the same good friend as before so we are really happy as long as he still wants us to be in his stable of bands, we see no reason on our behalf to change this in any way

In support of “Apocalyptic” you’ve done 3 video clips, to the songs “Alpha Blasphemer”, “Angelcripple” and “Religious and Infected”. Very professional execution I would say. How long you’ve been into doing video editing and shooting? What kind of video editing & shooting equipment you own right now? Tell us more about the functioning of Obscure Underground Productions and the works you’ve done for other bands and labels up to now.

- Yes, out of these three videos only one was really planned, the “Alpha Blasphemer” video was actually well prepared and had some planning behind it while the other two videos were accidental at times when I for some reason had the camera with me to the rehearsal place.

There are more plans for videos, but time is not in our favor right now with summer creeping up on us with family duties and such so we’re not as fast in this department as I had hoped for.

I am still learning this whole “Hollywood” thing so I am eager to do multiple projects at once, but have to await the right time for us all to find the time, I’m afraid.

It might be a good thing too, if we released videos in the speed I would like we would be

wearing out our friends out there with our ugly faces and shitty music, ha ha!

My current setup for shooting is a Canon 70D DSLR camera with a few simple lenses and a ton of gadgets that I have bought cheap from China in the last two years or so, ranging from a shoulder rig to an external monitor and some other helpful toys but I still have lots and lots of stuff to buy before I am settled for proper productions.

My economy is always the problem so I have to plan it right and therefore it takes the time it needs for me to build my dream rig. This is simply a hobby with a bigger vision so it has to start low and work itself up for now.

I use Adobe Premiere Pro and After Effects at the moment to edit and add the final touches, but I have done most of the old stuff in Sony Vegas before getting one foot into the Adobe system.

I have been working with Photoshop for about 20 years before this, both as a hobby and through a place of work, but I didn’t quite get the hang of the rest of the Adobe suite until recently.

Obscure Underground Productions is merely a collection of all the things I fool around with for now, but I decided to brand my stuff with this name now so I might already have a name that people recognizes if I ever get it up and running as a proper phenomenon.

The other bands that I have been doing stuff for are close friends who asked me and I needed the practice, it hasn’t been a business deal so far, and I have done it because I like the bands.

BULDOZING BASTARD, WAN, BULLET-SIZE and TERMINAL VOID are the bands I can recall right now and they are all worth checking out if anyone reading this is interested in what my friends are doing with their lives, just do a search on YouTube and you will find it all.

I have a few other plans with cool bands coming up, but we’ll keep that a secret for now since there are no dates set yet, just mark my words that there will be havoc and brutality coming at you!

I know it might be too early to ask, but do you already have some new materials written for the forthcoming album or maybe split releases? If so, what should we expect music-wise there?

- We have recorded an EP that is made for a special reason, but the details about this will be revealed when we have a way to go about it, it was an idea that grew on us and it was the first thing we did once our booked gigs of the year were over and we had free hands to write new stuff.

We also have almost half an album finished that we are rehearsing at the moment, but we still have to decide what comes next and what ends up on the next album of course, we have to make sure it blow “Apocalyptic” out of the water so it’s a delicate process to make the biggest possible impact.

The songs so far are what you can expect after our previous albums, they’re fast, aggressive and deliver blasphemy with no compromise. If you have looked into our discography you already know that we tend to become more extreme for every album and I think this material is no exception.

How was your trip to Italy? Share your impressions from the “Apocalyptic Stench” tour. Where do you plan to conquer live in the very near future? Do you play live a lot in Sweden? What are your favorite places/countries to spread the Scandinavian darkness?

- As always when we come to Italy it was great to meet up with the guys from



VIOLENTOR and to share the road once again, we are family!

The gigs were cool and the crowds welcomed us with open arms, it was simply a fucking blast and we were sad when we had to go back home to all the daily duties so soon.

Next up for us, which is actually the only booking we know as I write this, is to play at the No Compromise Metal Fest in Belgium in the end of September. We decided to not chase tours and gigs this year to make place and time for writing the next album so this booking kinda fell into our hands by pure luck.

We don't play much at all in Sweden, we have played more in eastern Europe than here actually, it's all about connections and who really relates to your efforts as a band. No one is a prophet in their own country, as they say, and we didn't do much to convince the Swedish scene that we are worth the attention I guess. We have our circle of friends and it takes us to cool places far away, that's how things turned out and we are happy with it.

We did play in Stockholm pretty often in recent years, but that was probably more because we were easy to work with us being a band that draws a crowd.

Our fave places to play must be Denmark, Italy, Bulgaria and Romania, mostly because we have so many friends there that we know there will be a great party.

Where do you get the inspiration to write such straightforward or let's say fist-into-the-face lyrics? What kind of books/magazines you like to read the most and which are the ones that make you simply vomit from?

- I don't know really, I just enjoy very harsh and offensive stuff so I just go with my inner flow. I'm not a violent or very offensive guy who turns into a problem among people unless I am pushed into becoming the problem, but I do have extreme views and I get it out through playing and belching it out in our songs.

Only an idiot would risk tours and album releases by getting locked up and have to pay damages to churches, right? My lyrics are more like a vision of how the world would be a better place if religion was wiped from the face of the

earth, but we all know that this is so farfetched that it most likely never will happen, but that shouldn't stop me from at least mentioning it, right?

I have to admit that I don't read much, I simply don't have the patience to sit down and put my nose into a book without thinking of all the riffs and video ideas I could have thought of instead. I do watch a lot of movies and clips online though, so I am not a total caveman, I just have different forums feeding me the knowledge, ideas and inspiration.

What I vomit from is simply the mainstream media in all shapes and forms, it's all a hidden agenda to keep us stupid and unaware of what is going on in the world. Everyone has a purpose with everything they proclaim and they want us to be sheep dancing to the shepherd's voice.

What kind of music/bands you like to listen to lately? Can you pick us at least 10, but 20 would be even better, releases that were inspirational to you or just influenced you in an essential way? The same goes for cover artworks. Please name us 5 or 10 that impressed you somehow and did an impact.

- I listen to the same stuff as I always listened to really, the old bands are always unmatched and you only add new bands that come along and make an impression, right? The classics that shaped me are many but to mention a few: VENOM "Welcome to Hell", SODOM "Persecution Mania", MOTÖRHEAD "Ace of Spades", EXODUS "Bonded by Blood", THOR "Only the Strong", RAVEN "Rock Until You Drop", DESTRUCTION "Infernal Overkill", MAYHEM "De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas", WHIPLASH "Power and Pain", MORBID ANGEL "Altars of Madness", WARFARE "Total Warfare", MERCILESS "The Awakening", KREATOR "Pleasure to Kill"

And there are tons more, but I won't namedrop into eternity now, however in recent years there are many bands that really deserves the attention for reinventing their own influences into something rather deadly, bands like: VIOLENTOR, INFEST, SLAUGHTERBATH, BONE, DREADFUL FATE, PILE OF EXCREMENTS, CHAINSAW (Greece), etc., etc., etc.

These bands are from the same generation of



dedicated bands as ourselves and the struggle continues, therefor we all need a scene that cares so make sure to check them out and give them your support, folks!

Aside from the band what should we know about Freddie Fister (drummer) and Old Nick (guitarist). What type of daily job they have and which kind of hobbies they follow? List us your hobbies as well.

- This is so far the hardest question here, ha ha! We are just three flabby guys playing the devil's music so it's hard to know what is interesting enough to know about us. We all have different jobs: I help elders in their homes with their daily routines, Freddie molds concrete and Nick is in the demolishing industry. We all have kids and do the laundry, cook dinners and all the boring household chores as everyone else in our age. For hobbies I don't know really, we have the band and I think that occupies time enough to not leave room for much else.

Last apocalyptic words are yours.

- Thanks for the interest, buddy! I hope these answers shed light on some things that weren't already obvious about us and I hope we'll meet as many readers as possible along the road in coming years, we are NOT going away and we are hungry for more! Keep your eyes and ears open for the new album planned to be out in early 2019 and hopefully some more videos until then! Cheers!!!





The following is an up to date interview with guitarist/mastermind, Štefan Tokár, of the Slovakian Death Metal combo BRUTE. If you like Death Metal to be technical, melodic and brutal at the same time then go and check their releases right away!!!

First of all, let me congratulate you with the vinyl release of "Henchmen". It had a very special & strictly limited run, why was it so?

- Greetings. Thank you for your congratulation and for your interest. If we are talking about a vinyl release, the costs are higher. That is why the LP release was strictly limited by demand. The initiative has come from our publisher Juraj from Slovak Metal Army (currently Immortal Souls Productions).

Your new label is Slovak Metal Army. They're a pretty young label, but totally dedicated to the underground and its spheres. Tell us more about your cooperation with SMA. When did you meet Juraj Hariň of ISP/SMA for the first time?

- With Juraj we are really good friends. Thanks to this, BRUTE has perfect possibilities within the Slovakian scene. We know each other for two years. We've planned to release "Henchmen" album in Indonesia, but instead of that our final decision was SMA. Now it turned out to be the right decision.

The drum parts for your 2 latest albums were recorded by session drummer, Jirka Zajic of AHUMADO GRANUJO, HEAVING EARTH, INGROWING, etc. He is from Czech Republic. Is it so hard to find a good drummer in Slovakia?

- Lack of top quality drummers, especially in the east part of Slovakia. It requires sustainability and will to play. Jirka helped us a lot to show what does it mean underground.

BRUTE was established in 1998 and naturally it had a couple of member changes through the years. Please introduce to us the current line-up of the band. Also let us know if any of the members have active bands or ongoing projects.

- Currently the longest band member (6 years), except me, is the bass player Radoslav. He is also helping out other bands like ALMA PERSONA, ORTOMEN and OBLITERATE. He had started to play in an actually inactive band called EXTINCTOR. With our singer Dominik we are also collaborating in our side project PAIN PURIFICATION. Boris as a second guitarist joined us last year. He is also active in the band DISCONSOLATE. Also, we have finally found drummer Marek. Our new singer Dominik has joined us a few months ago. The drummer and the singer had never

performed neither played in Death Metal band before.

You play live quite a lot, however as I noticed those performances are limited territorially to Slovakia and Czech Republic. Why? Where could we see/catch BRUTE playing live in the very near future? In September you will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the band with a special show. What will you prepare for that particular show setlist-wise? I mean, will you dig into the past and excavate some tunes from your very first demo?

- Due to the line-up changes, our current live shows ratio has decreased. Finally, we have a live performing drummer, a new singer and a second guitarist. Lately we have been focusing on practicing in the rehearsal room. Also our work overload and the distances are allowing us to perform within Czech Republic and Slovakia. Currently we have concerts planned in Slovakia, especially the mentioned 20th anniversary. The playlist for that gig is mainly about the "Henchmen" album, but it will include songs from the first two albums too. We are not playing from the demo records live, because of the band-member changes. Unreleased demos and songs picked from all 3 albums will be located on a very special CD released for the anniversary show.

Musically you are pretty influenced by the American school of Death Metal. How do you see this? Please list us your favorite Death Metal bands of all time.

- Mostly people are comparing us pretty much to the European and the American Death Metal mix of the 90s, but in parallel also with the technical and brutal USDM and the European melodic DM. Well, I am making music on my own. I am mainly influenced by band like SUFFOCATION, MONSTROSITY, DEATH, DEICIDE, MORBID ANGEL, CANNIBAL CORPSE, CARCASS, SINISTER, DYING FETUS, DEEDS OF FLESH, DISGORGE, PYAEMIA, DISAVOWED, SEVERED SAVIOR, INVERACITY and so on. My younger colleagues are interested in bands like MARDUK, ABORTED, VOMITORY.

What kind of jobs/hobbies have the members of BRUTE? How many times per week do you rehearse? You are living in different towns of Slovakia far from each other. Where the band's main rehearsal room is located then?

- I am a welder and the only one married for almost 24 years. I have two kids. My son is 21 and my daughter is 14 years old. I am finishing my house and have BRUTE for 20 years. This is my life and there is no more time for hobbies. All of us are employed. Actually the drummer and the singer are engineers (ha-ha). For now, we have our rehearsal room in Michalovce, where the drummer has his drum kit. All band members are fully focused on BRUTE and that is why I like them as my own family. BRUTE is family.

Who is the main songwriter in the band? Do you compose songs together or separately? Who writes the lyrics and what topics are you usually touch in your texts?

- For now, I am composing the whole production on my own. After that, we are mastering it in the rehearsal room. I am sending materials to the colleagues and then the rehearsal takes place. It works.

Slovakia has a bunch of top-quality Death Metal bands. Which ones would you recommend to our readers? Name us please your personal favorites too.

- We are a small country. There are not many bands, but in our local circles there are good qualities. Some of them are playing often, some of them not that often. They are all playing own DM style: MORTALLY INFECTED, PERVERSITY, INFER, TYPHOID, MORDUM, KILLCHAIN. Those bands are comparable with the world top bands. Once again, I would like to underline, every band has its own signature of Death Metal. On top of that, there is also a couple of new promising bands.

At the end, please spread all the lattermost news from the camp of BRUTE. Final sophisticated thoughts are yours.

- On 01.09.2018 we will have a special gig in Ružomberok for our 20th anniversary. Bands invited from around the world are INFECTED CHAOS (AT), CARNAL TOMB (DE), INTEGRAL (IT), WORLD END MAN (JP), ASILENT (SG), FEEL A CURSE (SK) and SUBURBAN TERRORIST (SK). Every fan in parallel with his ticket will get a rare CD for free. The CD will contain all three unreleased demos, plus in addition, two songs from all three albums and one song from the upcoming fourth album. The initiative comes from our publisher Immortal Souls Productions on the front with Juraj Hariň.

The band premiered its debut record "Parasitic Origin" back in 2016. Since that release you had a few member changes. So who plays right now in SCHIZOGEN? Do any of the recent members play in other bands/projects? If so, please name us those.

Pablo: Right since the release of the debut album a drummer and a guitar player were replaced. At this moment our group members are: Pablo – voice, Grinder – guitar, Pavel – bass, Vadim – drums.

Some members play in other groups or have their own projects. What about me, I had to freeze all other groups for uncertain term due to trivial lack of time and with a goal to completely dedicate myself to SCHIZOGEN.

Vadim: I used to play in pretty big amount of bands, but except SCHIZOGEN there is only one project named RESOLVENTA, debut release of which is planned on early September. Its style is something between Dark Hardcore and D-beat. We are not really concerned regarding that.

You've also changed your label from Pathologically Explicit Recordings to Willowtip Records. What kind of deal they offered to you? I suppose, the second full-length should be released quite shortly, right?

Pablo: Let's begin from the end. The album will be released not quite in a short, we plan it is going to happen in the end of 2018 or at the beginning of 2019. The answer regarding label change is obvious, this is the path of growth, always heading to something bigger and better. We liked to work with Pathologically Explicit Recordings, Fernando is very good and responsible person, he helped us a lot, huge gratitude for that. With the next album we desire to reach even higher tops and it appeared that Jason (Willowtip) and some other pretty well known labels were interested in our material. So after some negotiations and specifying of all details and conditions, we signed an agreement exactly with Willowtip. We're really happy about that, because some of our idols have been and still are releasing under that label.

On your online sources I found out that TsunTsun Productions will be in charge for the sonic massacre. How and when did you hook up with them?

Pablo: TsunTsun Productions is very famous among brutal community with his qualitative sound. This is a man who has got behind his back a huge experience with really cool bands all over the world. Great advantage when working with him is the fact that everything is done remotely. He does it very quickly and literally from the first shot he hits the target regarding the sound you tell him about. So on the rights of advertisement we recommend you to address him everyone who is struggling and seeking for good and qualitative sound for reasonable money.

Besides the debut album there were 2 digital singles released in 2017. The first had SEPULTURA's "Slave New World" over brutalized and displayed in SCHIZOGEN-style, while the second one included a new cut called "Birth of the Great Mass" to be featured on your second album. Stylistically it is still Brutal Death Metal the way it should be, but with more abstract guitar melodies, ultra-complex solutions and eerie atmospheres. How do you see it? Do the rest of the new tracks will follow in such a weird or let's say experimental direction?

Pablo: As many people could have already noticed by the single "Birth of the Great Mass", the new material will be quite different from what was on the first album. It is pretty simple, the authors of music were replaced and, of course, the band is not staying on the same place, looking for something new, evolving. That's why new album is going to be more technical, darker and more interesting in its musical part. Also it will reveal a single concept by itself, a history which together with the music will immerse the listener in hopeless depths of darkness and disintegration of reality.

Vadim: Yes, right now we are really working hard on filling of songs and hope people who will listen to us will enjoy it a lot. Talking about me personally, I am not a big fan of playing "by rules" style and as a result limiting yourself. Of course, all what we love is brutal and all experiments will be based around this style. So after ultra-heavy part, do not expect a beautiful soprano. ©

SCHIZOGEN is a young, but ultra-promising Brutal Death Metal quartet, which prepares to conquer the underground community with its up and coming second album and to share their reorganized dark energies upon the yearning souls of the underworld. Pablo and Vadim were rather kind and contributed us with all the freshest news. Now you are about to perceive the birth of a great mess!!!

This year you've played quite a lot of shows and finally not only in Ukraine, but abroad as well. Tell us your impressions from the foreign gigs, countries you visited and also give us more info on where one would catch you live. Also compare your foreign live shows with the local ones. Is there any difference between them (fans-, treatment-, sound- and equipment-wise)?

Pablo: This year for the first time we have discovered Europe for ourselves if talking about live concerts. No doubts it is amazing experience and impressions, which other way you cannot get anywhere and anyhow.

First concert was in Czech Republic on every year festival NTEY DEATHEEST 18. The consist of groups and their quality were really good. Public was rejoicing with self-giving and honesty. If they liked any band then they were supporting it during the set after they bought disks, merch and saying words of gratitude.

After that there was a concert in Košice, Slovakia, not far away from Uzhgorod. It was a tour concert of such bands like VULVOBYNIA, WORMHOLE, BLADE OF HORUS and support. Everyone has played really powerful and fans gave themselves for 100%. After that was nice madness and party till late night. It is always cool to have a chat with colleagues about different questions, to listen to the opinion from more experienced musicians and in the end just to spend some time in a good company.

We made conclusion for ourselves that you have to go to Europe completely packed with stuff. I mean, the guitar player should have his own head as minimum, because all in Europe make a concert exactly like this. Each band was walking out with their own stuff. In Ukraine only bands who are well known and have earned enough can allow this for themselves, but in Europe everyone performs like this. Regarding listeners, I would not say that somewhere they are better or worse. If people like what you give them, what they see and listen to, then they will support you in any country and have outrageous fun.

Regarding organization there is something to tell about. For festivals in Ukraine, which being held for many days our bands who are still "no-name" trip for their own money, eat for their own money, live for their own cash and etc. In Europe musicians of any level are being treated more respectfully in such questions. Even if you do not get paid, you still will be fed, provided with a place where you can spend a night and other such things as well. Also I didn't notice that any musician from more famous band acted like a celebrity and you are nothing. Everybody communicate without problems or pathos and this kind of atmosphere is very inspiring.

How do you see the Ukrainian Brutal Death Metal scene in general? Is it growing and progressing or on the contrary? Feel free to recommend a few bands of that genre that one should definitely check these days.

Pablo: I would not wish to say that things are really bad, but situation is not really optimistic. I mean we got enough worthy and cool bands. But most are in anabiosis, some have fallen apart decisively, some got other problems. In fact, the bands which not only make releases, but also trip with concerts, they are less than a dozen. I'd wish our Brutal Family was growing, getting more powerful and united thanks to the strong and quality bands. I'd also wish young bands were evolving and old ones didn't give up. Also we need more thematic concerts and, of course, we need maximum support from listeners.

For me personally EZOPHAGOTHOMIA is the most favorite band of the UADM, but some hell perturbations are there and it is unknown if this band is still alive or not. But a part of their members have already created new band and it will be very interesting to check their new material out. Also I'd like to mention our friends ENDOCRANIAL, both incarnations of DATURA, and one-man band – DRIFT OF GENES.

Two years ago you've played in Uzhgorod. How did you like that event? Please share with us your memories.

Pablo: It would be enough just to watch the video from the concert. But for real, it was really cool. Sound and the organization itself. The only sad thing was the attendance. There was a really small amount of listeners and it was sorrowfully to realize, because the festival was held by you for pretty long time already and you wish such festivals get the momentum to become more popular and massive, because there are only a few metal festivals by itself.

And Uzhgorod is a very cozy and beautiful city, I like being there.

I've noticed that you really like to walk the nature, climb the hills and mountains. What kind of hobbies you and the other band members have beside playing in a Brutal Death Metal horde?

Pablo: I am a big fan of trips and just adore mountains and the nature itself. At least once per year I have to visit Carpathians with a goal to have rest from everyone and everything, to clean the brain I'd say. Also I really like to ride the bike, it also washes away the everyday routine. Actually, I do lots of other stuff, but that is not a big deal and depends on the free time I got.

Vadim: Besides the music I got big interest in football and love to play it as well, also I'm a fan of Liverpool FC. Doing my best not to miss their games. Have a walk in the nature or make a trip to mountains, I love that too, but now it is more like a dream for me. Also like to nerd in some football simulators and couple of other games. And now I feel incredible with learning the basics of sound engineering and try to dedicate to that all the free time I got outside rehearsals and other business.

Tell us a little about the lyrics of SCHIZOGEN. What themes will you touch on your forthcoming release? What inspires you lately?

Pablo: The new album will be absolutely conceptual. Me and my friend Andrey have been working on lyrics. It can be said that all the lyrics are completely his merit. From my side there was only the idea, the direction of it, and the rest he was doing as it should be by himself.

We are not going to reveal the concept for now, but from the single's name you can understand that there will be a story about some fatal force, which came to our world from worlds much ancient and strongly speaking started to appear itself in different shapes, directly affecting on our life.

Inspiration can come in absolutely spontaneous way, just watching the sky with stars or walking in the forest, something is being born after reading books, hard to say what exactly.

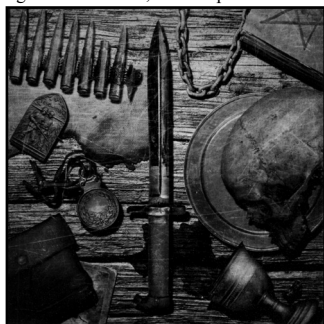
Please finish the interview with extracting the most visceral voices of yours and to be materialized in a written mode here.

Pablo: Do not be afraid to let absolute darkness in yourself, it has no end and everyone will find there his own nature.



AGE OF AGONY/WITCHCRAFT
"Split" CD 2016
 (Neverheard Distro)

It was a brilliant idea to release this special kind of split CD for the 20th anniversary show of WITCHCRAFT. Two really well-known Hungarian underground bands covering 2 songs from each other. AGE OF AGONY's part of the split consists of 2 tracks, both taken from WITCHCRAFT's latest full-length called "Hegyek felettem" (2012), they are "Fekete és hideg" and the title track, respectively. The five-piece Death Metal brigade tried their best to re-arrange these tracks without the loss of the prior atmospheres and they definitely did it in a triumphant way! The slight modifications display either with the speeded up tempos or the change of the guitar solos. Their sound also became pretty similar and cold to the original one, thus I've really enjoyed to listen to their cover versions. WITCHCRAFT's part of the split features "On the Way of Hate" song from AGE OF AGONY's 2nd long play "Follow the Way of Hate" (2008) and the song named "Brothers" taken from their 3rd album "Machinery of Hatred" (2011). Let's dive into some details. First of all, we have a totally new intro and outro composed for "On the Way of Hate", then we have that super crazy solo right after the intro, which rips the ears off.



The blasting tempos have been also raised a bit. Still the wildest and most interesting part goes to the evil vocals of Angmar, he screams out of his throat as an unleashed lunatic. Beast mode is on! "Brothers" continues in the same manner, though perhaps due to the more melodic approach of the riffs, the Black Metal fellas of WITCHCRAFT decided to turn the tempo a little down here. Not in a crucial way, just to have those harmonies come out of the humbucking pickup as clean as possible. They also changed all the double bass drumming to polka beats there plus WLR successfully enriched it with a great solo. In their interpretation both AGE OF AGONY songs became clearer sound-wise and fairly modified too. Nice split and a worthy material to invest into!
E-mail: neverhearddistro@gmail.com
Blog: neverheaddistro.blogspot.hu
Facebook: facebook.com/nhd666

AKHENATEN
"Golden Serpent God" CD 2018
 (Satanath Records/Cimmerian Shade/
 Murder Records)

On the third full-length record of AKHENATEN we can further perceive and trace the mythical narratives about ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. The Houseman brothers (one can also know them from HELLEBORUS), namely Jerred C. (all lyrics, all music) and S. Wyatt (all vocals), unearth a few really captivating topics, for example, they touch sorcery and underworld, deities and pharaohs, their habits and related traditions. They extract some earlier unavailable lore with an ecstatic precision. The musical side and arrangements connect so perfectly to the written stories that real magic happens through the entire album. The eleven chapters of the "Golden Serpent God" will lead you on a fascinating journey, into the era of the magnificent. Their songs are well-structured, kind of rather complex ones, which speak about a profound knowledge in the sphere of music composing. The core of their music

is based on the canons of Death Metal, but with unavoidable influences and elements of the middle eastern folk music. If I had to compare them to others, I would definitely pick two names: NILE and MELECHESH.



In my opinion it is kind of confluence between them, though AKHENATEN is not as brutal as NILE, mainly due to all those ultra-melodic, symphonic keyboard parts and cosmic-like samples used in a wide range there. Still I want to recommend this fantastic band from the US to all the extreme Death Metal fans worldwide!
E-mail: akhenatenmetal@gmail.com
Bandcamp: akhenatenmusic.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/akhenatenmetal

AMBIVALENCE
"Hyena's Breath" CD 2017
 (PRC Music)

This Lviv-based Death Metal group started its career in 2001 and was kept alive through all these years by Maryna, the only member left from the very beginnings. Kind of coincidence or not, but their first album "The Splinters" (2004) was the only release back then to feature a keyboard player and to contain a technical and here and there progressive-like music. After that release the band turned pretty much into more brutal spheres of the genre and released 2 albums in that key, those were "Pornomechanoid" (2006) and "Silicone Magic" (2010). Now with their newest, fourth in the row, album they kind of returned to their roots, at least for some moments, and they also added a keyboard player to the guest list for the second time, so to say. The recording line-up on "Hyena's Breath" is as follows: Maryna Shcherbakova (guitar), Armen Oganesyanyan (bass), Dmytro Pliska (vocals), Max Lobzin (guitar), Andriy Franzen (keyboards) and Erlend Sivolapov (drums). The seven songs of the actual CD feature a rather diverse musical approach. On one hand, we have complexity, progressiveness and ethereal melodies almost in every song, while preserving the heaviness of the sound itself.



On the other hand, the side of brutality has been presented in quite big amounts too, especially due to Erlend's solid, accurate and storming drumming. Dmytro's growls and screams are also notably good, but I would definitely exclude the pig squeals. One more fact that confirms their return to the roots is the re-recorded version of the title track out of their debut album, it was named here as "The Splinters MMXVI". The circa 27-minute long material was mixed & mastered by Igor Lystopad, known from FLESHGORE. The result became impressive and totally massive! I would sincerely recommend this CD to all those experimental souls out there in the Death Metal community! Check it out as soon as

you can! There's one more thing left at the end that I definitely want to stress on, and it is regarding the remarkable cover artwork and overall design, which was executed by none other than Maryna herself. Brilliant work!!! My favorite tracks are: "Thursday Massacre" and "War Is Close".
E-mail: ambivalence@mail.ru
Bandcamp: ambivalence.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/AmbivalenceUA

AMENTIA
"Scourge" CD 2017

(Satanath Records/Amputated Vein Records)
 Initially this band from Belarus was meant to stay a studio project. It was created in 2003 by bass player Alex Goron, but 3 years later it starts its live activity and since 2007 with various line-ups AMENTIA releases 3 full-lengths by the help of different underground labels. "Scourge" is their third and freshest long play in the row. Besides Alex the following members were involved in creating the seven songs of the "Scourge": Artyom Serdyuk – guitars (known mostly from DEATHBRINGER, THY DISEASE and DISLOYAL, just to name a few), Dmitry Zubov – esophagus (SUFFERER, ex-POSTHUMOUS BLASPHEMER, ex-WASTED) and Valery Zubenko – screams.



At first their music sounds like some fairly melodious Death Metal compound, but the more you dig deep into the details the more you get acquainted with elements coming from such genres as avant-garde, progressive, fusion and even industrial. The mechanized way of playing the riffs as staccato as possible with as many breaks and tempo changes as possible gives the whole material a surrealistic approach. Still the song-structuring is way modern, trendy and Deathcore-like. Have nothing against all of these, but some of the songs simply come in a practice-like manner. Yeah, they are technical and maximally complex, but less interesting to listen to. I would rather prefer "real" songs instead of ultra sophisticated diarrhea. Nevertheless, hats off before the level of musicians. It's incredible indeed. Let's mention for example "Anorexia" or "Sentence Executioner", those songs are pretty straightforward and killer as for me. The drums were precisely programmed too, but the actual sounds of the samples, especially the sound of the cymbals need to be more naturalistic in my opinion or let's say behaving at least like they were hit by a human being. I would mostly recommend checking this stuff out for all the Deathcore freaks out there and maybe to fans of DECAPITATED and PSYCROPTIC as well.
E-mail: amentia@list.ru
Bandcamp: amentia-minsk.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/amentiaelarus

AORNOS
"The Great Scorn" CD 2018
 (Symbol Of Domination/Ira Aeterna/
 The True Plague/Black Metal Records)

This chiselled Black Metal entity from Miskole (Hungary) was formed by Algras in 2014. He plays all the instruments and do the vocals on "The Great Scorn". He was the only member of AORNOS until the fall of 2017 and now with a complete line-up the band is ready to play and conquer live as well. This is Algras' third full-length effort, which consists of nine chapters and stands for the dark projection of existence.

The musical mixture he presents there was strongly influenced by cult Black Metal hordes of Norway, such names pop up into my mind first as EMPEROR, SATYRICON, DIMMU BORGIR or ARCTURUS. The atmosphere is mostly cold, almost apocalyptic and empyrean during the entire material.



The guitar passages were thought out and executed pretty well, the screeching guitar sound is given too, one would say everything is granted for a perfect record, albeit the uniqueness and the originality of ideas are somehow not presented there. Anyways it's a good release and something to listen to if you are a diehard maniac of the Norwegian Black Metal style. By the way, the graphic design of the booklet turned out to be flawless!
E-mail: adarhon@gmail.com
Bandcamp: aornos.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/aornosblackmetal

BASTARDÖS
"Bastardös" CD 2017

(GrimmDistribution/Morbid Skull Records)
 In the year of 2009 in the land of Buenos Aires (Argentina) a trio called BASTARDÖS was born. It releases two demos before recording the same-titled debut album in 2015. It was so well-received by the underground community that 2 years later it was re-released by GrimmDistribution in co-alliance with Morbid Skull Records. The 10 songs these 3 bastards perform are about the old-school vibe of Thrash Metal, which was reigning triumphantly at the end of the so-called golden 80s. Their main musical influence is coming from Brazil, yes I am talking about SEPULTURA. They learned and feel SEPULTURA's early albums so well that some of their songs could easily get a place on one of the untimely records by the mighty Brazilians too. Despite this tiny fact,



the Argentinian thrashers do everything properly and sound awesome, the way it has to be. Pure Thrash Metal is what you'll get there, but I would definitely advise them to try injecting something of their own on their next release. Until then, all the fans of Thrash Metal are encouraged to enjoy their debut record and don't forget to bang your heads on!
Facebook: facebook.com/thrash.bastardos

BESTIALORD
"Law Of The Burning" CD 2018
 (Symbol Of Domination/Cimmerian Shade)

BESTIALORD was formed by Mark Anderson (guitars/vocals) and Chris Johnson (drums) in October 2016 and a year later joined by Rob Harris on bass. The band identifies their music as Occult Horror Metal. Well, this description fits perfectly their 9-song repertoire, but let me clear up that a mixture of Death & Doom Metal will await you there with classic Heavy Metal touches.

In fact, one can get a clear picture about the musical part of BESTIALORD by imaginarily blending together the following giants of metal: MORBID ANGEL, NOCTURNUS, ACHERON, CELTIC FROST,



Law of the Burning

MERCYFUL FATE, CATHEDRAL and BLACK SABBATH. Especially the first 2 bands did a big impact on them. The lyrical content was enshrouded by a Lovecraftian atmosphere, so you can surely expect the rise of the ancient ones and the completeness of the omnipotent darkness there. Now as you know, where the occult and the horror dwells, feel free to enter the menacing realm of BESTIALORD and perceive thy doom that suddenly came by. It's a perfect music for the midnight hour! Can't wait to hear the continuation!!!

E-mail: bestialord93@gmail.com

BLACKSNAKE
"Blood Of The Snake" CD 2017
 (Defense Records)

The Polish die-hard rockers of BLACK-SNAKE have finally returned with their 3rd long play. Needless to say it became masterful. Their fresh effort embraces 11 songs of quality Hard Rock music. The band lists as their main influences such grand bands as DEEP PURPLE, LED ZEPPELIN, URIAH HEPP or BLACK SABBATH and one can easily find out all those musical impacts there plus a few heavier bands' effect also perceptible in their tunes. For example, the track called "Things Have Changed" shows a definite admiration to the musical heritages of MOTÖRHEAD and CELTIC FROST. With this record the band digs even deeper into the majestic spheres of the 70s.



Especially it was great to notice the use and accompanying character of the keyboards in most of the compositions. They do really add that magic touch we always used to hear on the records of the classic Hard Rock bands in the past. The band co-worked with a huge number of guests, so the embellishment is guaranteed, but the core remained the following: Kamil Rusiecki (vocals), Maciej Więckowski (guitars, bass & backing vocals) and Sebastian Wiśniewski (drums). The arrangements throughout the entire repertoire and the overall sound production are top notch as well. I was also really fond of a couple of riffs in songs of "Circles of Hell" and "World of War" as they reminded me quite a lot MERCYFUL FATE. The album's highlight moment absolutely goes to the hit called "RNR All Day". It surprised me a lot with its female/male pair of vocals, but maximally positively. Great job! All's left to say, write to the band or to their label and order this rocking gem before it's too late! The CD was served in a digipak with a big poster including the fairy cover art, all the

lyrics and photos of the band members and partly the guests too.

E-mail: blacksnakeband@o2.pl

Facebook: facebook.com/blacksnake.fb

BLOODRAINBOW
"Upheaval" CD 2017
 (Neverheard Distro)

Ultra technical and all the way melodic Death Metal is what this Hungarian quintet propagates. These guys from Budapest put the level of their performance so high that my breath stops with every new listen. They are appallingly good at what they do.



"Upheaval" is their 3rd full-length material and I dare to say it is their best to date. It is a real monster album with amazing sound production and fiendishly skilled musicianship. I also have to emphasize that it is by far not the usual Death Metal hybrid with pile of melodies you used to get from the Scandinavian bands for example. It has musically a more profound and let's say wider perspective and not just because the guest musicians brought some really bright moments with the addition of trumpet, flute and saxophone parts there, but due to the penchant use of the neoclassical approach, which is almost everywhere. Oh, and let me mention the wonderful supplementation of the flamenco ingredients as well, which you can witness during their fabulous instrumental intro track "Born of God". Here and there one can easily draw parallels to Power Metal bands too and without a doubt that would be maximally correct towards the music of "Upheaval" indeed. The lyrics they wrote for are about different historical events from the past, though the cover art was specifically developed for the track titled as "Conquistadors". It became as huge as the music of "Upheaval" is! Enough said, order it right away!!!

E-mail: rothadamus@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/bloodrainbow

CARNAL NECROSIS
"Origins Of Malevolence" MCD 2017
 (Immortal Souls Productions)

This release marks the return of the great Slovakian underground label Immortal Souls Productions. It took 15 years for Juro to rebirth his label, but I am definitely happy about such news! Let's see what the 6 songs of CARNAL NECROSIS are about to display musically. I have to say that at first glance the whole music of the California-based quartet reminded me way too strong the SUFFOCATION kind of riffing and structuring Death Metal.



Hereby you can enjoy dozens of ultra precise and razor-sharp riffs, executed on a magnificent level and supported by steady drum parts, harsh growls and twisted bass

lines. Most of the songs, especially the first 3 tracks, were equipped with a total old-school Death Metal vibe reminiscent of the 90s Florida movement. Then we have "Infernal Species" & "Demented Torment" where the band tries to inject and mix a few different or let's say modern elements and thus the SUFFOCATION influence just fades away there. I know that it is pretty hard to emerge nowadays with something really unique and original, but still I would maximally encourage the band members to find their own way of composing and performing Death Metal. Until then fans of SUFFOCATION and CANNIBAL CORPSE can have a test and order this circa 28 minutes long old-fashioned Death Metal brutality!

E-mail: info@immortalsouls.sk

Website: www.immortalsouls.sk

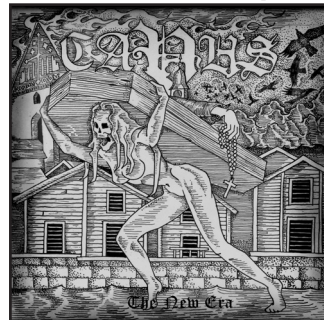
Bandcamp: carnalnecrosis-isp.bandcamp.com

Facebook: facebook.com/ImmortalSoulsProductions

CAVUS
"The New Era" CD 2018

(Satanath Records/Final Gate Records)

The second full-length chapter of the vicious Finnish daredevils has finally arrived. Ten songs of super raw, noisy and ruthless Black Metal are waiting for your consumption there. "The New Era" is definitely not about the fancy and polished sound productions that the so-called new generation of metal kids would dream for, but on the contrary, it is as chaotic and crude as possible.



These corpse-painted gents from Finland aren't here to spread you some fake love stories, they are here to bring you death, hell, hate and agony! The unstoppably crushing drum attacks, the extremely insane screams, the rasping sound of the guitars are all about the creation of the most post-apocalyptic mess ever. As a comparison or to get a closer look what musically awaits you there I would name their goat-worshipping neighbors from HORNA and IMPALED NAZARENE here. On this record CAVUS was built from the evil forces of B.P (vocals), J.K (guitars), A.R.G (bass) & T.T.T (drums). To cut it short, this is Black Metal the way it was always supposed to be, so better get your blackened hands on this masterpiece before it's too late!

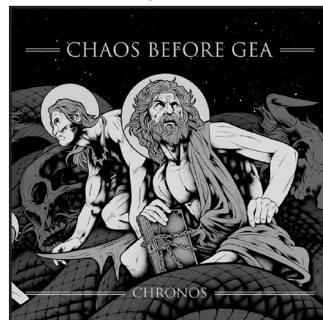
Facebook: facebook.com/CavusMusic

CHAOS BEFORE GEA
"Chronos" CD 2018

(The Braves Records)

"Chronos" is the freshest and third material by the Málaga-induced progressive quintet that completes an epic trilogy formed with their previous two albums, i.e. "Erebo" (2013) & "Khâron" (2015). The eight pieces of "Chronos" are all about the modern and hyper technical ways of metal. The musical palette is extremely varied there, be it regarding the manner of the vocals, drumming, bass or guitar parts, also too many influences to mention, nevertheless let me introduce you those ones, which the info sheet suggests for, they are MACHINE HEAD, MASTODON, GOJIRA, SYMPHONY X and LAMB OF GOD. The 38 minutes long album sounds awesomely dynamic and well-balanced. I really accept and appreciate the musicians' efforts accomplished on "Chronos", huge job for sure, but to be honest, not really

my cup of tea what they represent most of the time music-wise. However, the Death Metal initiated parts with deep growls are worth to listen to, at least I liked them.



I would primarily recommend the music of CHAOS BEFORE GEA to the fans of Deathcore and Groove Metal. Try before buy!
 E-mail: chaosbeforegea@gmail.com
 Bandcamp: chaosbeforegea.bandcamp.com
 Facebook: facebook.com/chaosbeforegea

CONCEIVED BY HATE
"Death & Beyond" CD 2016

(Satanath Records/Morbid Skull Records/Deathgasm Records)

The second album by the San Salvador-located Death/Thrash formation delivers us, especially for fans of old school, some really pleasant moments. The 9 tracks of "Death & Beyond" are combining the appropriate guide back to the glorious times of Thrash & Death Metal, the genres that ruled the earth in their essential form during the 80s and 90s. This is the first band from El Salvador that I have the pleasure to listen to and review and I have to admit I really like what they do and how they do. Pure underground music is this, which has been done with total dedication & respect to the aforementioned times and bands of the past decades. The entire material on "Death & Beyond" and even their instruments sound the way it was supposed to sound exceptionally back in the 80s and the first half of the 90s, so no polished modern plastic sounding is there. Such song titles as "This is underground", "Worship the old ways" or "Summoning the graves" plus the devilish cover artwork are proving you once again that this band's dedication is focused on the musical,



lyrical and visual heritages of the past not the present or future. I've really enjoyed listening to the old-fashioned but really up to date musical approach of CONCEIVED BY HATE and looking forward to experience their third full-length installment in the very near future. Diehard underground freaks should definitely invest into this piece of CD! I will repeat, it's worth every penny, so don't fool around, better order it right now!!!

E-mail: conceivedbyhate@gmail.com

Bandcamp: conceivedbyhate.bandcamp.com

Facebook: facebook.com/conceivedbyhate

CORTEX IMPULSE
"Once In A Lifetime" MCD 2017
 (GrimmDistribution)

Are you fond of progressive music? Well, I hope so, because this Moscow-located quartet premiers its debut material, which consists of 6 catchy songs in circa 26 minutes. The band was formed in 2015 and on this debut EP their line-up is: Viacheslav Akinshin (vocals), Pavel Kuzmin (guitars),

Roman Vinogradov (bass) & Vladislav Manshin (drums). There are 5 songs of their own plus a cover version on KING CRIMSON's "Heartbeat" song. The latter one comes in an adequate interpretation with far heavier/punchier guitar sound, groovier drum parts and it turned out to be more metal for sure, but the ethereal atmosphere of the original version wasn't captured there.



The info sheet says their kind of melodic progressive material will definitely please the fans of FATES WARNING, REDEMPTION or RUSH and that definition is true as the technical aspects of these Russians are pretty close to the beforehand mentioned ones. They are complex and sophisticated when the song needs it, but also soft and profound to dissolve the ambience. The vocal parts are rather usual and sang in the mid region, nothing special if you ask me, there's no super high-pitched voice used there, though the vocalist's attitude is decent and precise. Preferred tracks are: "Broken" and "The Last Dance".

E-mail: corteximpulse@gmail.com
 Facebook: facebook.com/cortex.impulse

DATURA
 "Spreading The Absorption" CD 2014
 (Coyote Records)

Starting with the release of "Standing Wave" in 2010 the unmerciful trio of aural brutality broadens their recording and sounding possibilities. Therefore "Spreading the Absorption" is easily their best-sounding album yet. It is full of relentless energy and dynamism. The 10 short cuts were kind of clinically precisely served and manifested in the most crushing and brutal way of the US Death Metal ever. The executors of downtuned frequencies and ripping percussive assaults were as follows: Demid (bass/vox), Antioh (guitars) & Edias (drums).



They've collected another deadly portion of extremely brutal, technical and tough as granite songs, which lasts 29 minutes in total. The razor-sharp riffs will cut through your bones with their preciosity, while the bombarding drum parts will smash up what's left. Sometimes those drum-patterns looked and sounded like as if they were kind of endurance exercises, something only the skilled can commit. The vocalizing manner remained as deep as possible, so the low frequencies are guaranteed and spread over each tune with a glory. DATURA is without a doubt one of the best Ukrainian Brutal Death Metal products. The brilliant cover art was arranged by no other than Seeming Watcher. It displays a futuristic war-like scene filled with lots of vicious creatures around a warship that is located in the middle of the drawing. The CD itself comes with a killer pit-art depiction that was supplied by a superbly designed 6-panel

digipak booklet. It's a must for every brutal underground freak on the globe! Get it immediately or absorb into nothingness!!! By the way, I really recommend catching up this band live, as they perform likewise a sonic tornado with an unrestrained power!!!

Facebook: facebook.com/daturaofficial

DATURA
 "The Amplitudes Of Pacificacion" CD 2018
 (Coyote Records)

DATURA's new album is here and it is freaking awesome! A few months ago there was a short dispute between the members regarding the future of the band and in the end a decision of having two fully functional line-ups was made. So we have 2 active units under the same logo. Pretty weird, but also cool thing, right? On this record the line-up of DATURA is: Dimas (vocals/drums), Bob (guitars) & Aleksandr (bass).



This musicianship is located in the Donetsk region, while the other active formation or let's say half successfully infects the masses from the capital of Ukraine, i.e. Kyiv. "The Amplitudes of Pacificacion" includes eight bulldozing Death Metal compositions with less than half an hour of playing time, which I assume maximally satisfying and to the point. Compared to their previous release that was "Spreading the Absorption" in 2014, this one sounds rather raw, kind of back to the roots if you ask me. But don't worry at all, we have all the ordinary DATURA elements presented and abused hereby. The tempo-changes are a little bit different, less insane one would say, but I really dig the way they turned out. Bob's brutally catchy riffs and killer grooves should be also emphasized here. He did a great job and Aleksandr gives a solid background to all of them. Earlier Dimas was playing the bass in DATURA, but from now on he plays the drums and I have to say he is totally capable of that instrument too. His vocals remained sick and generally come in a deep bear growling manner, but here and there he tried out some excellent experiments towards them, which are surely innovative and new to me. At the end I can easily conclude that the Donbass brutal syndicate struck down massively, so let's wait for the continuation from the other half, hopefully next year!!!

E-mail: info@coyoterecords.ru
 Website: www.coyoterecords.ru

DEMONIC OBEDIENCE
 "Fatalistic Uprisal Of Abhorrent Creation" CD 2018
 (Satanath Records/Sevared Records)

The evil seed of DEMONIC OBEDIENCE earlier resided in Greece and if we look at its current international line-up it is not surprising at all that Edinburgh (Scotland) was selected for the band's new headquarter. The third full-length album consists of eight blackened Death Metal cuts that were invoked by the unholy forces of Kruxator (vocals), George Ntavelas (guitars) & Mark Stormwhipper (bass). Their songs are pretty variegated and different if we look in details at the atmospheres of each one. On the one hand, we have a few compositions filled with technical almost progressive Death Metal solutions, while on the other hand there are lots of simple Black Metal riffing as well. When the trio turns into plain song-structures then we mostly have

something reminiscent to how the early INCANTATION, GRAVE and ASPHYX records sounded about. I would also have to mention here the influence of the first two albums by legendary DEATH as well. In general, we have a deal with an old-school Death Metal attitude there, which comes with a thick and well-balanced sound production,



great solos and competently programmed drum parts. It's a decent material, which most of the Death/Black fans would listen to with pleasure, even though there was nothing special or new created there!

Bandcamp: demonicoledience.bandcamp.com
 Facebook: facebook.com/demonicoledience

DEMORED
 "Sickening Dreams" CD 2018
 (Neckbreaker Records)

This German deathbrigade hails from Braunschweig and is about to finally present you their debut full-length "Sickening Dreams" consisting of 12 finely polished chapters. Prior to this they had two EPs released. The way they blend & dose their kind of Death Metal is in total respect with the pioneers of the given genre. During the circa 41 minutes long album you will listen to old-school-infected Death Metal music exclusively! After the first listen 3 genre-defining bands popped up in my mind, they are GRAVE, MORBID ANGEL and CARCASS. Of course, DEMORED has its own ideas and potential too, which are mostly lie in the creepy guitar melodies and sick vocal parts, but the aforesaid bands' albums did a big impact on their music and that is for sure. The obscurity that radiates through most of their songs is just awesome. I like it a lot!



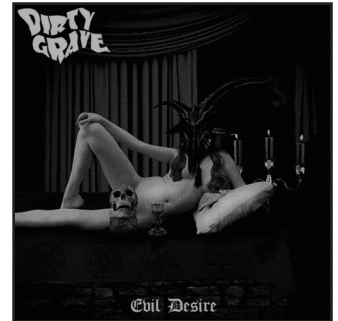
This kind of vibe is eternal and pretty typical for the mighty INCANTATION, but the guys of DEMORED feel it properly as well and they also don't try to overdo it, which fact simply makes their overall material sound the right way! There are also calm moments in their repertory, a cool and flawless thing to feature them in my opinion, those are mostly dealing with acoustic guitars and located in the three instrumental tracks. This is the kind of Death Metal album you will definitely return to listen to again! Dedicated music from dedicated people!!! Preferred tracks are: "Bodyswap", "Drenched in Dysphoria", "Sickening Dreams" and "Cease to Exist".

E-mail: demored.band@gmx.de
 Facebook: facebook.com/demoredmetal

DIRTY GRAVE
 "Evil Desire" CD 2017
 (GrimmDistribution/Todestrieb Records)

I will begin this review with a cite from the booklet: "We're not here to innovate, we're here to celebrate the Doom". Hence do not expect other. What you'll exactly get?

Well, it's traditional Doom Metal, which has been performed by fanatic passion and total dedication. The bands of admiration are PENTAGRAM, SAINT VITUS and, of course, BLACK SABBATH. But musically, in my opinion, the first 2 did a bigger impact on their 8-song set. The 41 minutes long album that is, by the way, the first full-length album of these Brazilian doomsters perfectly fits into the DNA of the aforementioned triumvirate. The technical skills of the musicians are so incredible and remarkable, I can't really explain it to you in words, it is something you have to listen first to believe.



Hats off to them! In the middle of the stuff, there was an unexpected song, which in fact is a cover song on Willie Dixon's "Evil (Is Going On)" and let me say it was a perfect choice. I also have to point out the flawless soloing work of Victor Berg, which is superb in all possible ways! He literally plays down the stars from the sky. In a word, I am eagerly looking forward to any of their future releases!!!

Bandcamp: dirtygrave.bandcamp.com
 Facebook: facebook.com/officialdirtygrave

ECLIPSE
 "Divine" CD 2016
 (More Hate Productions)

I've got this CD as a present from Igor Ignatczyk, a Belarusian friend of mine! You won't believe, but this Ukrainian band has a story started more than 20 years ago. Formed in 1995, they have released a cult demo in 1997, called "Celebration of My Death", afterwards they were silent for 10 years or so, but since 2009 they've begun to release albums frequently again. Their first full-length came in 2009 and was titled as "Grind, Suffer, Dreams". It was followed by "Triumph of the Pain" in 2011. And now their third album arrived as well. "Divine" consists of 10 professionally recorded and executed Death Metal songs, which mostly blend a brutal character due to the ultra deep growling manner of the vocalist.



The recording line-up on "Divine" was the following: Vladimir Deyev (vocals), Vitaly Nevedrov (guitars, bass) & Aleksandr Tonkoshkur (drums). The trio precisely doses the breath of death into the ears of the listener. Musically they forge some kind of combination between the styles of CANNIBAL CORPSE and MORBID ANGEL. I would really wish them to include more originality and variety. Still it's a decent record done by skilled musicians! The album was recorded, mixed & mastered at Beasts Studio, so the quality of the almost 42 minutes long material is astonishing. Fans of the aforementioned bands should check out and give a try to ECLIPSE!!!

E-mail: eclipse.ukr@gmail.com
 Website: www.morehate.com

ENDOCRANIAL

"In Presence Of Total Absence" CD 2017
(Amputated Vein Records)

Sophisticated death-bringers of ENDOCRANIAL emerged from the ever-expanding capital of Ukraine around 2011. Their first material was an EP called "Sociopathy" (2012), which was quickly followed by their debut full-length "Impact of Change" (2013). Afterwards the band faced some line-up issues, but fortunately the remaining pair Andrey Malikov (guitar) and Hennadiy Korolov (vocals) solved them perfectly by adding first the drummer extraordinary Alexey Tsyphenko, whose skillful drumming you could hear beforehand on such well-known Ukrainian Brutal Death Metal bands' materials as BREDOR, DATURA and STALINO. A bit later the final puzzle was also found in the person of Zlatoyar, who is simply a genius bass player, if you ask me. So four years after their debut long-play the quartet returns with a devastating new album that will definitely widen the borders of Brutal Death Metal and will enter its arsenal in a glorious way.



The sound production on "In Presence of Total Absence" is also heads above any of their earlier efforts. It is ultra massive, dynamically destroying and just remarkably precise. Each of their songs was structured and composed in an extremely over thought way, while the arrangements sound rather tasty and even futuristic sometime. Don't get me wrong, ENDOCRANIAL still propagates the beloved Brutal Death Metal alloy, but on the actual 8-song and circa 28 minutes long material they stepped further and decided to variegate their repertory with as many complex solutions as possible. Needless to say, they completed their mission quite successfully! It's a truly masterful job! Furthermore, to have some speciality there as well they invited guests as Christian Kühn of DEFEATED SANITY (appears in "Novus Ordo Seclorum") and Anthony Voight of GORGASM (appears in "Bishopfall"). I enjoyed listening to every inch of this enormous compact disc! And what's great about it that you can listen to it all day long, and it won't make you bored! Moreover, with every additional listening you are going to find out some new details or previously unnoticed arrangements. I am anxiously looking forward to any new material they are going to release in the future!!! I can easily say it is the best Ukrainian Death Metal album of the 2017 year!!!

E-mail: endocranialofficial@gmail.com
Bandcamp: endocranialkiev.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/Endocranial

ENOQUIAN

"Llamas De Gloria Primera" CD 2017
(Satanath Records/Morbid Skull Records)

This chaotic sounding Black Metal cohort originates from Argentina. The band itself was formed back in 2015 and this is their only release to date. Their sound production is very raw and totally unpolished. It sounds like a pure rehearsal recording that has to do with their honest and conscious dedication to the past times, where it was done exactly this way. Don't be scared, their debut CD was mixed & mastered properly, just the approach they used during the recording process of their 8 tracks was defined by pure old-school

underground spirit. If I listen to the vocal parts, I can conclude they are definitely about those blood-spitting Black Metal screams we used to call "true". Regarding the overall music of ENOQUIAN I would say differently as even if the core structures are Black Metal-ish, we can find a lot of elements coming from the Death & Thrash Metal styles, especially if we look more closely at the guitar playing. The lyrics respectively to the album title were written in Spanish. I am poor at that language, but the occult symbols and sigils in their booklet suggest me they are about anti-religious and misanthropic themes. Those who hate modern sounding records are deeply encouraged to get their hands on this wickedly underground Black Metal item.



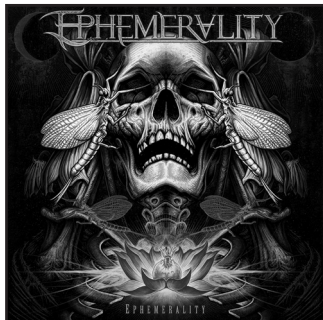
The CD comes with vinyl-style design on the topside and also includes a killer pit-art on the bottom side, while the booklet is set to 12 pages. You can listen to the entire album at: satanath.bandcamp.com/album/sat182-enoquian-llamas-de-gloria-primera-2017. Enjoy the crude sounds from the deepest depths of the underground!!!

Websites: satanath.com | morbidskullrecords.com

EPHEMERALITY

"Ephemerality" MCD 2017
(Infected Blood Records)

The story behind the arrival of this EP to me is pretty weird, one would say. I've got it from a good friend of mine by the nickname of Elf, who is working in Beijing and who decided to get a tattoo there. The tattooing artist he picked out was no other than Tiina, vocalist of EPHEMERALITY.



After an in-depth chat about Death Metal and all possible ways of it, she gave 2 discs to him, one of them is in my possession now. Let's see what's hidden in the music of this Chinese Death Metal quintet. First of all, it is their debut and only material so far, which contains of 5 ultra-melodic pieces mostly reminiscent to the musical path of ARCH ENEMY. Their twenty-six and half minutes are maximally captivating, filled by tasty guitar riffs & harmonies, lots of speedy yet epic solos, professionally executed female grunts that can make the majority of the male growlers just jealous about. The drum & bass parts are arranged with care and were laid down in a good balance with the rest of the instruments. The listener is about to receive a fine portion of highly polished Death Metal, which is definitely not so rare these days, but still I warmly recommend to check this band for fans of the Swedish Melodic Death Metal genre. Let's hope they will return with a full-length album soon, but until then listen to their debut EP at their bandcamp profile! **Bandcamp:** ephemerality.bandcamp.com **Facebook:** facebook.com/ephemerality666

EVIL NERFAL

"Bellum Est Pater Omnium" CD 2018
(GrimmDistribution/Morbid Skull Records)

The second release by this Colombian Black Metal squad brings us 10 more reasons to hate humanity. Their kind of occult,



experimental, evil music or as they call it "Satan Elite Black Metal" has elements coming from the European and South American Black Metal leagues, Death Metal movement of the 90s and classical music. As their kind of honorable recognition towards the great geniuses of the history, they've picked 2 pieces from Beethoven, one for the overture and the other one for the finale. So you'll find eight compositions of their own among those two classical ones, which are mainly about praising the dark forces and destroying all that is holy. Essentially anti-christian and anti-religious the tendency of their lyrics, but I am assured most of you knew it from the start, right? Some of their songs have been over-structured a bit and weren't played as precise as possible, and also due to the crystal clear sound production one can hear a few flaws there, but we talk about Black Metal, a style which is ideological in its prior form. The music they unleash upon the unprepared commonality is mainly fast and relentless, but it has moments which are full of epic vocal parts and fine guitar harmonies. A must for all the darkened souls of experimental and occult types of Black Metal!

E-mail: bapheker@hotmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/EvilNerfal

EXACT DIVISION

"Be Fair If You Can" CD 2017
(Nocturnus Records)

The following Ukrainian quartet hails from Kyiv and this is their debut full-length CD. Interesting fact that prior to EXACT DIVISION all its members played in EXILE, which was established in 1992, then broke up in 1994 and reunited in 2011, but around 2012 a decision to change the band's name was successfully carried out.



A year later the freshly transformed band releases independently its first material, an EP consisting of four songs, titled as "Dirt Jumper". Their next step was obvious, so welcome "Be Fair If You Can", an album featuring eleven songs accomplished in the true orthodox spirit of the Heavy Metal genre. Which means that you will experience a fair portion of twin-guitar melodies, epic solos, chunky bass lines and plain, but truly precise drum parts. Production-wise it has a top sound quality, even if the guitars' sound I would wish heavier most of the time. On the other hand, if I take a look onto the vocal parts then I have to conclude they tend more to the Thrash Metal style, which is

cool for sure. Maybe "Crusade" is the only song that has lots of clean singing included. To sum it up, if you were and/or still in love with Heavy Metal bands of the 80s, then this album will definitely bring you a good mood! **E-mail:** band@exactdivision.com **Facebook:** facebook.com/ExactDivision

EXCOMMUNICATED

"Death Devout" CD 2018

(Satanath Records/Metallic Media)

Lately some kind of strange trend emerged in the metal community to record albums featuring full of covers. Now this happened to the blackened Death Metal quintet heading from Louisiana too. Seven years after their debut album "Skeleton Key" (2011) they've decided to show their total dedication to the old-school Death Metal heroes in a form of cover versions. There are 14 songs listed on the back (though there are 16 in total), from which 11 are supreme Death Metal classics of all time that have been executed in the golden era of Death Metal by 10 influential hordes, namely BOLT THROWER, CANNIBAL CORPSE, CEMETARY, DEICIDE, GRAVE, MORBID ANGEL, MORGOTH, NAPALM DEATH, OBITUARY and PUNGENT STENCH. Plus, you'll find there 3 additional non-cover, kind of fill-in, pieces and 2 hidden covers.



The latter two are definitely not about the vibe of Death Metal, those are "Radio Hit" by ANAL CUNT and "Archangel" by SAMHAIN. Well, the overall selection in the arsenal of the so-called timeless Death Metal classics turned out to be superb, but to be honest, I love those bands, which try to cover the original versions by adding their own identities and stylistic attributes there and thus making those classics sound unique and exceptional in a fresh way. Unfortunately, I can say this only about 2 or maybe 3 songs in general. Sad, but the majority of their versions is so boring and pointless to me. What I liked: "...And Here I Die... Satisfied" from GRAVE, "Edible Autopsy" from CANNIBAL CORPSE and "Nightmare Lake" from CEMETARY. That's it! Oh, and please don't use such ugly, sampled drums in the future, because those synthetically sounding drums are completely killing the whole picture!

FERVENT HATE

"Tales Of Hate, Lust And Chaos" CD 2018
(Satanath Records/More Hate Productions)

The groovy four-piece squad from Arequipa (Peru) strikes back with their 2nd long play. "Tales of Hate, Lust and Chaos"



includes 10 chapters into the super melodic & rolling kind of Death Metal that was maximally influenced by the Swedish Death Metal sound and scene. It seems to me the

quartet started to intentionally mix up the musical heritages of such Scandinavian pioneers of Death Metal as ENTOMBED, DISMEMBER, GRAVE, DESULTORY, AT THE GATES and ILLDISPOSED. The outcome isn't bad at all, but I'd rather prefer to listen to the above mentioned bands' originals than to the countless copies of the followers. For me it just makes no sense to copy them, but it would be pretty priceless if a Peruvian Death Metal band would sound its own original way. Don't you think so? I am sure the musicians of FERVENT HATE are capable to do that, thus I wish them good luck and a bunch of original ideas for their next release!

Bandcamp: ferventate.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/ferventate

FLESHGORE
"Godless" MCD 2018
(Independent)

I have to say I was pretty focused to listen to the new FLESHGORE stuff, since its predecessor "Denial of the Scriptures" (2016) was simply flawless and in my humble opinion it is still the band's best material to date. The new "Godless" EP features 3 brand new songs plus 2 previously unreleased cover versions. Unfortunately, the new songs did not meet my expectations.



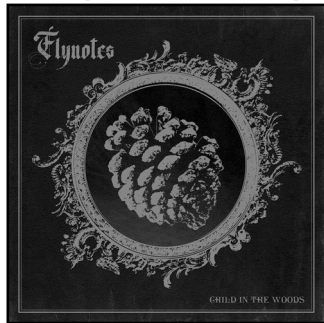
First of all, because FLESHGORE's own style seemed to finally emerge in the songs of "Denial of the Scriptures", which I was very happy about, but unfortunately they did not continue to do it here. The new tracks are good and enough technical, but I definitely feel the lack of great ideas, grooves and hooks there. Honestly I've enjoyed only the riff-structures of "Godless", though not entirely, yet that song has some potential, what I cannot say about "Forgiveness" (which generally is a late MORBID ANGEL plagiarism) and "Lord of the Swine" (where they've hit the worst collection of uninteresting riffs). Sorry, but these two seems rather faceless to me, despite the good sound quality. Recently the trio has undergone a minor change, thus Ed Litvyakov (of DATURA), whose name should sound familiar to the extreme and brutal Death/Grind freaks worldwide, occupied the throne behind the drum kit and did an excellent job, as usual. He played drums on the brand new ones, while his colleague Lev Kurgansky (of EZOPHAGOTHOMIA) crushed the skins in the cover songs: "Immortal Rites" from MORBID ANGEL and "Despoilment of Rotting Flesh" from INTERNAL BLEEDING. Both classics got an awesome interpretation! Besides the aforementioned drummers, longtime member Igor Lystopad makes sure to torn the sickest guitar chords apart and Ruslan Drozd is the one, who is responsible for the low-frequencies and guttural pressures. The 5-track compact disc has been packed into a tasty digipak with a pure-evil-motivated cover artwork designed by Recrean Azaza!

E-mail: igor@fleshgore.com
Bandcamp: fleshgore.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/FleshgoreOfficial

FLYNOTES
"Child In The Woods" CD 2018
(Independent)

FLYNOTES is an instrumental triumvirate from St. Petersburg (Russia)

and "Child in the Woods" is their third full-length album already. Each of the eight compositions included there is an integral part of a mesmerizing journey that reflects the musicians' inner visions about the nature and life itself. Different moods (or in their case songs) tell different stories, but somehow I felt common for the entire album the presence of sadness and despair.



How different those moods are? Let me list all the song titles for that purpose: "Dark Floyd", "Wolf", "Green Rodeo", "Witch", "Flower Machine", "Marble/Antichrist", "Harvest Time" and "Child in the Woods". The deep emotional flows, which they frequently try to inject into their repertory mostly appear in the form of cyclic patterns. Due to that cyclicity their music gets a hypnotizing character. There's also a bunch of creepy sounds and samples used in there to amplify the already horror-like parts. The band defines their style as Instrumental Rock, well it is indeed instrumental, but the genres of Doom Metal and Post-Rock would fit rather good to their stuff as well. On this record the band is as follows: Roman Komarov (guitars, keyboards), Iliia Rytov (bass) & Natasha Bogulyan (drums). Their CD lasts over 40 minutes and comes with a tasty digipak packaging.

E-mail: flynotes@mail.ru
Bandcamp: flynotes.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/Flynotes

GARHELENTH
"About Pessimistic Elements & Rebirth Of Tragedy" CD 2017
(Satanath Records/The Eastern Front)

GARHELENTH is a philosophically attached Black Metal duo that aims to support and spread the hate, the pessimism, the darkness, the nature & the morality in their lyrics. The pessimists behind this unholy alliance are Hilnorgoth (composer, guitars, vocals, lyrics, ideas) and Sagroth (backing vocals, guitars in some places). Their music is absolutely grim and raw. It features all the trademarks of the Norwegian Black Metal syndicate. Their set of songs was limited to seven, but trust me if I say each of their tracks is interesting and variegated enough. The album lasts only 29 minutes.



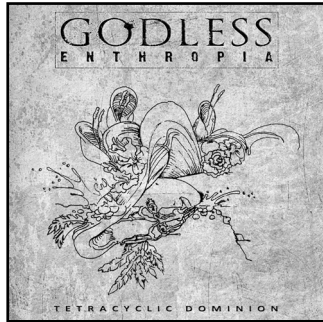
However, I felt totally comfortable with this fact as the information the duet squeezed in there is just enormous. The info sheet says it is recommended for fans of GORGOROTH, MAYHEM, DARKTHRONE, BATHORY, IMMORTAL, BURZUM, NARGAROTH, ENDSTILLE, LEVIATHAN, HELLSAW and ARCKANUM. Well, I maximally agree with that! As a curious fact at the end, let me add you here that the band is currently located in Armenia, but their country of origin was Iran and the intermediate one was

Georgia for a short while. OK, get this pure essence of true and evil Black Metal right away, right now or be cursed forever!!!

E-mail: garhelenth@gmail.com
Bandcamp: garhelenth.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/Garhelenth

GODLESS ENTHROPIA
"Tetracyclic Dominion" CD 2018
(Symbol Of Domination/Hecatombe Records)

Italians from GODLESS ENTHROPIA define their music as Hybrid Death Metal. Indeed, the material collected on their 14-song debut album is a mix of classic Death Metal along with elements coming from avant-garde, fusion and progressive music. To all this you should add a modern sound-production plus a little Deathcore vibe and the musical formula of GODLESS ENTHROPIA seems complete. Their lyrical themes have been inspired by psychology, linguistics and chemistry. Not the usual Death Metal topics, right? Well, those lyrics are fine to me, but I really can't say the same regarding their songs, which I found super boring and what's more the album lasts almost 60 minutes. I hear the talent and professionalism of the five musicians there, but what's up with the originality and creativity? In lack of those 2 ingredients their music sounds just like a big uncontrolled mess full of meaningless guitar, bass & drum parts.



OK, there are patterns, which I can easily compare to GORGUTS, DEATH, CYNIC, DECAPITATED and MESHUGGAH, but even those are so weak in general that I'll definitely not going to give a listen to their stuff again. I really hope the future will add some genuineness to their music!

E-mail: tetracyclic.dominion@gmail.com
Bandcamp: godlessentropia.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/GodlessEntropia

HAIIDUK
"Exomancer" CD 2018
(Independent)

Earlier I already had the chance to listen to the debut material of Luka Milojica's solo-project HAIIDUK. It was the "Plagueswept" demo from 2010. Since that demo Luka (all instruments & vocals) managed to record and release 3 more stuff, all of them are full-lengths, namely "Spellbook" in 2012, "Demonicon" in 2015 and the actual album called "Exomancer" this year. The new album includes 10 well-structured Black/Death Metal songs with a lot better sounding production than ever before.



Luka focuses to create cyclically repeating patterns with the addition of the coldest guitar harmonies possible thus giving a hypnotizing character to the whole material. At some point I found his new tracks rather sad and

monotonous, but maybe the main idea was to produce exactly such kind of music. I've also noticed the strange kinda unfinished or cut endings in all the compositions that worked maximally good for IMMORTAL's "Battles in the North" album for example, but for the "Exomancer" songs I felt these sharp endings to be a very bad idea. Despite these facts, it was great to witness the progress achieved in the over 30 minutes of "Exomancer". Luka placed to a new level the music of HAIIDUK and that's for sure! Behold the summoner of cosmic darkness and astral terror!

E-mail: haidukmetal@gmail.com
Bandcamp: haiduk.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/haidukmetal

HAK-ED DAMM
"Holocaust Over Dresden" CD 2017
(Satanath Records/Death Portal Studio)

The music this Québec-based Black Metal brigade plays is maximally merciless and warlike. It is also pretty close to the vibe of the MARDUK records. "Holocaust Over Dresden" is the second full-length album of the Canadians. It was accomplished by the following skilled musicians: Zokvist (vocals), Exu (guitars), Amok (guitars), Zaitsev (bass) and Silencer (drums). The 9 mind-piercing tracks of the CD are packed with ultrafast drum patterns, bloodthirsty vocals, abstract bass lines and extreme saw-like orgies of the guitars. Lyrics-wise the album is conceptual and focuses on the historical facts and horrific events of the World War II. It's a totally crushing Black Metal stuff, so don't miss this out!!! Unfortunately, after the recordings Zokvist parted ways with the band and have been replaced by Winterthrone (CARDINAL ROARK, DÉPÉRIR, ex-ENDLESS HORIZON). Currently, the team



of HAK-ED DAMM is working in full swing on the new material, so be prepared for their third arrival soon!

Bandcamp: hak-eddamm.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/hakeddammBMQC

INHIBITIONS
"La Danse Macabre" CD 2018
(Satanath Records/Ira Aeterna)

Let's start with the necessary information about this Black Metal duo from Athens (Greece), which was formerly a one-man band. It was initiated by Dimon's Night (all instruments) in 2008 and joined by CoproJunkie (vocals) the same year.



After 3 demos and a debut full-length album called "Flames of Desolation" (2016), which marked also the debut for new vocalist Pain, the infernal Greeks return with their 2nd long play. "La Danse Macabre" comprises of 10 symphony-soaked Black Metal songs that to my big surprise have been exclusively influenced by the major hordes of Scandinavia,

I would mention in the first place such bands as DIMMU BORGIR, DISSECTION, OLD MAN'S CHILD, DARK FUNERAL and SATYRICON. As a sign of their respect to the latter one they even covered the song "K.I.N.G.", which sounds OK in their interpretation, but is pretty far from the success of the original piece. As a whole their own songs are very boring and ineffective to me. I remember well the times, when Greece produced original Black Metal bands with uniqueness as for their musical approaches, it was the end of the 80s and the first half of the 90s, the appearance of the elite: ROTTING CHRIST, NECROMANTIA, VARATHRON and THOU ART LORD. I would better follow that tradition and wish they could do it for their future release!

E-mail: inhibitionsbm@hotmail.com
Bandcamp: inhibitions1.bandcamp.com

INTERNAL SUFFERING

"Chaotic Matrix" CD 2018

(Satanath Records/Rotten Roll Rex)
 "Chaotic Matrix" is the second album by Colombian sickos INTERNAL SUFFERING originally released in 2002.



Now revisited and reissued for the second time by Russian Satanath Records in collaboration with Rotten Roll Rex from Germany. The current edition consists of a fully revamped layout design (8-page booklet with lyrics), completely remastered material extended by four exclusive bonus tracks. Fans of Slamming Brutal Death Metal will agree that this album still kicks major asses and kind of a timeless release for the Brutal Death Metal community. The eleven songs of "Chaotic Matrix" plus the four bonuses will please without exception all the brutal freaks worldwide. This is when brutality pairs perfectly with sonic speed and relentless energy. If you are listening with pleasure to the early materials of SUFFOCATION, INTERNAL BLEEDING, PYREXIA, DYING FETUS, KATAKLYSM, DEVOURMENT, ORIGIN, DEHUMANIZED and BRODEQUIN, then this stuff won't disappoint you and that's for sure!!! Guttural bulldozer-like madness guaranteed!!!

INTERNAL SUFFERING

"Choronzonic Force Domination" CD 2018

(Satanath Records/Rotten Roll Rex)
 Here comes another rerelease from Colombia's most known Brutal Death Metal combo, i.e. INTERNAL SUFFERING. The band's third full-length album "Choronzonic



Force Domination", which was originally issued in 2004 by Displeased Records, has been successfully excavated and repacked. The updated version includes 4 bonus tracks

and a redesigned booklet. The 9 album tracks sound supermassive and meaty, definitely less chaotic as its predecessors, I am sure it is due to Erik Rutan's proficiency. He was in charge for producing, engineering, mixing and mastering this beast. I assume it as a coincidence, but a few guitar riffs and even the manner of the vocalist Fabio are really reminiscent of the stuff HATE ETERNAL used to do. As a whole "Choronzonic Force Domination" sounds less insane or crude than "Chaotic Matrix", but it is still about the beloved slamming brutality, just with a clearer sound production! I would say their music on this album became more technical and professional. Who said Brutal Death Metal bands can't evolve. Well, the Colombian elite cartel continues marching on!!!

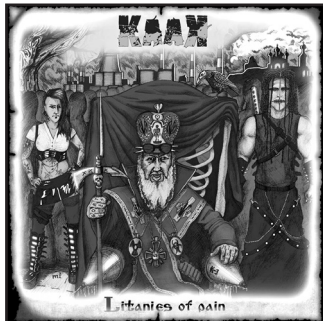
E-mail: internalsuffering333@gmail.com
Bandcamp: internalsuffering.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/InternalSuffering

KAAK

"Litanies Of Pain" MCD 2017

(GrimmDistribution/RUMF Productions/Kras Metal FM/OR)

The latest EP by this extreme industrial metal act from Vienna (Austria) consists of 5 new tracks, a cover and 4 alternate remixes. So in total there are 10 songs in circa 52 minutes. The four Russian immigrants spice well the ripping riffs with explosive and gut-wrenching music. Their lyrics are provocative, violent and aggressive. They define it as: "A call to violence or a new philosophy of higher equilibrium". Well, I am not a fan of electronic music at all, but these Russians do really know how to make a great and domineering mix between the metal grooves and industrial techno. The members of KAAK are: Filin (vocals/lyrics), Zhopa (guitars/music/backing vocals), Adrian (bass) and Mix_errr (DJ). The cover song is "Реанимация" or as they transcribed it to English "Resuscitation" by Russian Punk Rock band ГРАЖДАНСКАЯ ОБОРОНА.



Their version became maximally electrified and industrialized. The four remixes afterwards contain even more techno samples and synthetics coming from the cyber world. So the electric funeral is really about to begin, sir!

E-mail: mix_errr@mail.ru
Facebook: facebook.com/kaakband

LAVA INVOCATOR

"Mörk" CD 2017

(Satanath Records/More Hate Productions)

Grim and frostbitten Black Metal is what to pretend to play this totally new Ukrainian horde. Well, it does not worked for them at all. The band was formed in 2017 by 2 members of the Dnipro-based DEF/LIGHT, namely Ingvaar (guitar/vocals) and Silent (bass). The booklet says Yggr is the drummer, but I am afraid not on this record, as the whole drum sound is too electronic, plastic and unbelievably badly programmed. The seven songs of their debut album are about to show their dedication to the Scandinavian type of Black Metal, which is strongly appreciable, but somehow it was very difficult to listen to the many stolen riffs there. If you ask me, it's a cliché at maximum level. The faster parts are stolen from DARK FUNERAL, whilst the slow marching ones are from the Norwegians: MAYHEM, DARKTHRONE

and ULVER. To me their attempts sound so weak and pointless in general that I would easily compare them music-wise to some Brazilian soap opera. Sorry folks,



but it sucks in majority. Let's hope they can come up with something better on their next release. Anyone into Black Metal, I would advise first to give a multiple spin for this album. You can listen to "Mörk" in its entirety at: satanath.bandcamp.com/album/sat168-lava-invocator-m-rk-2017.

Facebook: facebook.com/lavainvocator

MANIPULATION

"The Future Of Immortality" CD 2017

(GrimmDistribution)

The following is the re-release of MANIPULATION's debut album from 2007. The eight songs of "The Future of Immortality" have been carefully remixed and re-mastered by drummer Kret, plus enhanced by new vocal parts of Kret, the current vocalist of the band. Thus the final result is just astonishing. As one can conclude this Polish Death Metal quintet has been strongly influenced from its very start by the ever-growing success of the Deathcore subgenre. So that vibe is there. Most of the time it's about a technically played compound that pairs with monumental guitar melodies, rapid-fire patterns of the drums and precisely worked out vocal lines. But in turn, the rest of the time, they simply go nuts, it's like when berserkers from the ancient Norse reincarnate into their bodies & souls, and believe me those moments are freaking awesome. The extremeness of Death Metal and the twisted experimentalism of the future are definitely there, so do not expect some plain or primitive music there! The impact of their domestic legend, which is VADER, could be heard in tracks such as "Confession" and "Dispensing of Existence", but that is totally fine if you ask me. As a whole it is a great material!!!



By the way, this re-release comes with new artworks and a nicely designed booklet.

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

MORIBUNDO

"Raiz Amarga" CD 2017

(Satanath Records/More Hate Productions)

This Spanish Doom/Death Metal brigade was formed in 2014 and this is their debut release. The four lengthy tracks of "Raiz Amarga" were created by Evilead (all instruments), Luis Miguel Merino (vocals) and Mortvs Vÿrr (lyrics). Their 36 minutes long material was pretty decently composed and arranged in the best traditions and canons of the aforesaid genres. If I had to cut it short, I would say that a well-thought combination

of despair and grief radiates all over in their songs. You know, this overall feel of sadness is extremely unavoidable for the true interpretation of a style such as Doom Metal. The beautiful piano, violin & acoustic guitar passages of Evilead make sure to dose the tunes the right way. The balance of these elements, by the way, was just incredibly well used in the first two songs, "Vida" and "Antitesis". Regarding the vocal parts I have to emphasize the deep growling manner of Luis, which adds an additional volume and massiveness to the repertory of "Raiz Amarga". The musical landscapes they touch are quite relaxing and abstract at some point, the way they should really be. But on the other hand, we have some fast blast beats there too, which fragmentally appear in the last two tracks: "Suicidio Ilustrado" and "Luz (Ciego Color)". It was a little bit odd to notice them there, albeit they were definitely nicely incorporated into. If you want to listen to a precisely armored Doom/Death Metal album, then I definitely recommend you to check this debut disc of MORIBUNDO!!!



E-mail: moribundo2014@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/MoribundoMetal

MOULDERED

"Chronology Of A Rotten Mind" CD 2017

(Satanath Records/More Hate Productions/Butcher Entertainment)

Are you into slamming Death Metal? Well, I really hope so, 'cause the following nearly 21 minutes long material has an adequate portion of slam and groove elements incorporated. And to my surprise this fine gore-filled kickshaw comes from Colombia. 2013 marks the birth of this 5-piece Death Metal horde and before this actual release the band managed to record a 3-song demo in 2016. Those demo tracks were successfully adapted and featured on "Chronology of a Rotten Mind" plus expanded with 5 newer tunes. At first sight their songs sound pretty much like a slowed down CANNIBAL CORPSE stuff, but with more groove and DYING FETUS-like slam parts. But after a few listens one can easily notice we have something more going on there. Just listen to those tricky bass lines for example. Really masterful execution and all the guitar solos are also worth ones to listen to. Then we have a bunch of ultra heavy razing-like riffs accompanied by extremely sick growls.



MOULDERED's debut album is all the way about the old-school times and interpretation of Death Metal. You won't find there any widely and/or commonly used modern garbage elements of the 21st century. It's definitely about gloominess not fanciness. So watch out! The overall sound production is fat and massive the way

it should be. Really recommended stuff, moreover it comes with the right cover artwork! This CD was released by a cooperation of 3 underground labels, thus you have multiple options to order it.
Facebook: facebook.com/MoulderedOfficial

MØR
“Смыта” CD-R 2018
 (Independent)

This four-piece Stoner/Sludge Metal unit from Tambov (Russia) was established in 2013. From the very start the aim of the musicians was to combine the darkness of BLACK SABBATH, the unrestrained power of RED FANG and the melodies of MASTODON in their music. So their 9-song debut album supports the aforementioned consistency and it also makes sure to bleed your ears out as fast as possible. Their riff's sound massive and enough punchy, something we get used to hear on the Hardcore records. Plus, they've got a great, balanced sonic production, which means by default that nobody can stop them crushing, while their 34 minutes long repertory lasts.



Dynamic, groovy, guitar-centric music is it with powerful singalongs. You won't discover any super original things or never before heard musical solutions in their repertory, but the flow will definitely catch you over there. Go, visit their bandcamp profile and give a listen to their current stuff and their materials from the past!

Bandcamp: morcult.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/morcult

NADIR
“The Sixth Extinction” CD 2017
 (GrimmDistribution/NGC Prod.)

I've been familiar with the previous materials of this Hungarian Deathcore brigade quite well, so I can calmly conclude that “The Sixth Extinction” continues where it was left earlier and progresses further to the next stage of the quintet's musical expression. There are nine phases to perceive in over 33 minutes. The abstraction plays a big role in their songs, because while you listen to their repertory it allows you to think on a conscious level and to peacefully relax at the same time. The guitar players also make sure to treat you with some ultra-heavy (bulldozer-like guitar parts that were widely used by such heavy-weight bands as BOLT THROWER, CROWBAR, MERAUDER or GOREFEST for example)



and super slow yet chunky riffs, which by the way were meticulously mesmerized by a decent dose of harmonies and melodies (reminiscent to AT THE GATES in some ways), so in the end you will get a nicely balanced sonic production. If you prefer to listen to a quality Doom/Death Metal stuff

with grooves and catchiness provided, then check NADIR's latest long play, as it was definitely created for you!

Website: www.nadir-official.com
Bandcamp: nadirhun.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/Nadirhungary

NECROPSY DEFECAATION
“Promo” CD-R 2017
 (Independent)

Another worthy brutal act emerged from the lands of Ukraine. This trio propagates non-stop bulldozer-like Brutal Death Metal in the slamming way! Massive juicy riffs, precise drumming and sick growls are the ingredients of NECROPSY DEFECAATION.



Their line-up on this 3-track promo was: Arthur Denyshchuk (vocals), Bogdan Girchuk (guitars, bass) & Eduard Litvyakov (drums). The latter musician is known damn-well from DATURA. His skills and endurance during the long blasting drum parts are simply masterful! Just listen to the opening track called “Condemned to death through anal tortures”. It storms brutally and unstopably until the end of the song! The sonic massacre continues likewise in their 2nd tune, called “Flesh gore pieces on ritual cannibalistic altars”, which partly reminded me the beloved DEVOURMENT style, especially in the middle of the track, where the slowdowns and nailing double-basses occur. The promo ends with “Feasting of the unborn womb essence”. That one is about heavy and bulldozing guitar parts laid upon technically over brutalized drumming with gloriously decomposed grunts and a few pig snorts. I would say it's a really good start, thus eagerly looking forward to the continuation and hopefully next time they will gladden us with a full-length release! The promo sounds superbly, so fans of brutal music will definitely appraise it!

E-mail: bogdan.girchuk.99@mail.ru
Facebook: facebook.com/NecropsyDefecationUADM

NERVOUS IMPULSE
“10th Anniversary Promo” 3” CD-R 2017
 (Independent)

This is a 3-track and 6 minutes long blast from the sickest Montréal-based quintet – NERVOUS IMPULSE! These guys just put together some of the most brutal and craziest shit ever done in the Death/Grind genre! Canada was always famous by their super original and kind of insane bands, so here we have another good example to prove that Canadians are musically sick to the maximum, of course, in the most positive sense of the words!



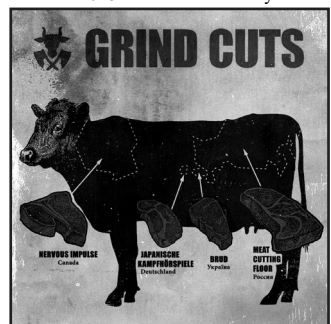
So the following 3 short cuts were placed onto this promo to celebrate the band's 10th anniversary and to show how should sound something really sick and brutal

Death/Grind stuff at the speed of light! The first track, “Mouth Breather”, was taken from the 4-way split with JAPANISCHE KAMPFHÖRSPIELE, MEAT CUTTING FLOOR & BRUD. This one is about some serious non-stop gravity-blasting hell and unearthly vocal parts reminiscent pretty much to Sylvain Houde's manner, but even further developed. Early CRYPTOPSY/KATAKLYSM madness so to say, but with nervous insanity and awesome precision! It has also a slamming-like ultra dynamical part that will shake your bones in a perfect way. Definitely my favorite track! It follows “Air Burst”, a short massacre-like sonic lunacy that was extracted from the 3-way split with RUBUFASO MUKUFO & EPICRISE. That one is way too sick, but with damn good grooves at the end of it! The last piece of the promo displays a little bit calmer, if I can say it so at all, song-structuring and pace in total, but again with bulldozer-like drum parts and very sly riffs. It is called “Act Your Age” and comes from the split with KANDAR. After listening to this promo perpetually 10 times in a row I maximally crave to listen to more NERVOUS IMPULSE in the future and eagerly waiting their 3rd long play to be released! Warmly recommended stuff!!!

E-mail: nervousimpulse@hotmail.com
Bandcamp: nervousimpulsegrind.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/NervousImpulseGrind

NERVOUS IMPULSE/MEAT CUTTING FLOOR/JAPANISCHE KAMPFHÖRSPIELE/BRUD
“Grind Cuts” CD 2018

(More Hate Productions/Darknagar Records)
 Hereby I would report you that the split session of 2018 has been successfully started.



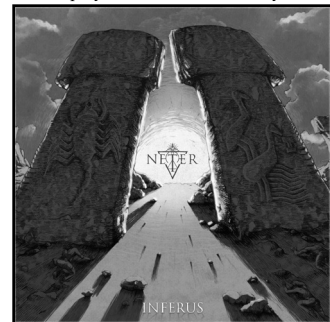
The given split represents an ultimate aural bashing of thy ears by four rather extreme gangs extracted from the sickest depths of the underground. Firstly, Canada's unmatched Death/Grind stormtroopers unleash their portion of groove-dependent brutality upon us. “Mouth Breather” is such an awesome tune and it kills from the start till the end. It blends a totally mind-blowing mix of orgiastic riffs, hysterical screams/growls and super-fast drumming with often-used gravity blasts. “The Beer Demon” continues without giving you a single chance to survive. After being torn to shreds in its first half, the pace of guitar riffs slowly turns down and the song ends in quite a strange or let's say chaotic manner. The third piece is “Circling the Drain”, which most of the time is about the crazy techniques, but features a few really cool stop-and-go riffs too. Hammering the brains out well plus ending by a riff-massif reminiscent to DEVOURMENT. Slamming at its best! “Allergic to All Cities” follows it. That song-title is just awesome the same way as the musical parts of it. If you want madness, you'll get it! Their repertoire ends with the bulldozer-like tunes of “More Hate” and as I suppose this is their kind of dedication towards the Russian label itself. Frenetic song, no doubt! And the party goes on with five real short cuts presented by Russia's MEAT CUTTING FLOOR. The quartet pays attention to have as many grooves and fun-oriented flicks as possible, whilst proudly wandering in the valleys of Gore & Grind. Fans of COCK AND BALL TORTURE are warmly

encouraged to listen to their part of the split. Position three on this CD was conquered by JAPANISCHE KAMPFHÖRSPIELE. Germany's unrepeatably writers of combat radio dramas have victoriously returned with 6 freshly-recorded versions of some of their best old-school classics. Their method of integrating elements of Thrash Metal, Death Metal and Punk into Grindcore seems really effective. Especially if one does it such professionally as they do! The flow and destructive combination of energy and dynamism during their songs are vital and at the same time lethal as well. At some parts I've had felt the definite influence of the MACABRE/SEPULTURA pair. Freaking awesome stuff to be honest, which worth every penny! Do you ever had the chance to listen to Ukraine's BRUD? Well, the recently reunited grind-perverts demonstrate their newest and best songs to date. The seven gore-infested pieces are all about to smash your face as fast as they can. From catchy grooves to ultra-deep pig snorts you can find almost everything there. The palette is quite variegated so to say and it is always hard to come up with something outstanding within this genre, but these Ukrainians know how to put together the most preferable parts. The 23 compositions of this 4-way split and the fair number of cyclical plays proved me easily about the success of this collaboration.

NETER
“Inferus” CD 2018

(Satanath Records/Cimmerian Shade/Murder Records/Black Plague Records)

The stout sounding 3rd album of NETER includes 10 killer cuts into a rather riff-centric and groovy substance of Death Metal. The Spanish quartet with such members as Manuel Gestoso (vocals & guitars), Manuel Sánchez (guitars), Andrés Rosales (bass) & Luis Ruiz (drums) knows well how should a monumental Death Metal album look and sound like. Their musical ingredients or let's say influences are mainly coming from the Polish grounds, names of BEHEMOTH, VADER & DECAPITATED should be mentioned in the first instance here, but the Swedish Death Metal movement was also influential on them. The into-your-face punch of the songs and the stunning dynamism are pretty tireless through their entire, more precisely forty-six and a half minutes long, material. The unrestrained energy of the wicked ones has been executed and displayed in an absolute way there.



This is the kind of Death Metal, where the forces of dark unite triumphantly! Warmly recommended stuff!!!

E-mail: neterofficial@gmail.com
Bandcamp: neter.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/neterofficial

NOCRUL/SKULLTHRONE
“Khorne/Demo III” CD 2017
 (Neverheard Distro)

The post-apocalyptic Black Metal duo of NOCRUL opens the split with 8 songs out of their debut album “Khorne”. In fact, this material has seen the dark of the day at first digitally in October of 2016, then in February of 2017 a cassette release followed by Neverheard Distro and now “Khorne” reached its materialization on CD as well. As you get used to earlier all the music was

composed and all the instruments were played by Khurul. His musical & technical abilities are quite good. The sort of Black Metal he assembled for the material of "Khorne" is mainly meditative. It



represents different soundscapes beginning from ritualistic musical solutions through abstract orchestrations to the excessively grim atmospheres of the beloved Northern hordes. The vocal parts brought by Noctis are pretty bloodthirsty, the way the true Black Metal dictates, and filled with lyrics based on Warhammer 40K. It was way interesting to immerse into their 34-minute repertory, especially I liked the song called "Khornate Daemons". In addition to this a special SUMMONING cover has been also included there and titled as "Hail to the Songs of Lugburz". The second half of the split was hired by SKULLTHRONE



and their third demo. The London-assigned quintet plays a rather dirty and true to the past kind of Black Metal that on the one hand was great to notice, but on the other hand we all know this approach is becoming less and less common today. The devilship on "Demo III" was as follows: Khurul (vocals), R (guitar), W (guitar & vocals), Nebulla (bass) and Anaal (drums). The unholy decoction of the pentacle devotees builds upon 7 storm-evoked Black Metal compositions, which will definitely send you to hell once you've listened to them! So be prepared for an ultimate portion of the underground black arts and don't hesitate to order hereby your special 25 minutes long journey to decay!

NORDLAND

"European Paganism" CD 2017

(Satanath Records/More Hate Productions)

This is already the fourth long play by NORDLAND, a one-man Black Metal horde, which hails from North East England.



"European Paganism" divides into three parts. The twenty seven and half minutes long "The Mountain" opens the album. This song is by far the most varied and versatile on the CD. You can find there almost everything that made the Black Metal genre

great. I mean all the traditional components and even a big dose of ambientish atmosphere. The generally calmly acting riffs weren't bothered even with the here and there appearing blast-beat parts. Vorh (all instruments & vocals) precisely structured this song and if I had to go into details then I would say he excellently spices some kind of ENSLAVED, SATYRICON, IMMORTAL blend with the atmospheric vibe of HYPOCRISY. The second tune lasts almost 9 minutes and it has the title of "A Burning of Idols". Musically, it comes with the same Nordic key as its predecessor; the feel of SATYRICON is pretty evident there. The lyrics are filled with passion to paganism and hate to christianity. The album ends with the epic "Rites at Dawn". It mostly builds upon marching middle tempos with rather harsh vocalizing, although some blasts are also presented there. Still it's a pretty calm song. As a whole this album is amazing and I only can recommend it for checking out! You can listen to it and the whole back catalogue of NORDLAND at: nordland.bandcamp.com!!!

NORDWITCH

"Mork Profeti" CD 2016

(Satanath Records/Darzamaducius Records)

This Ukrainian band was formed in 2015 from the ashes of CRYSTAL NIGHT. Musically the quintet follows what they initiated with their previous band, though excluding the presence of the keyboard player and thus giving less space for that instrument too. They've decided to change their image maximally, be it regarding the lyrics or the visuals. So it was time to swap the band's name respectively.



NORDWITCH represents a way darker musical approach than it was used to back in the CRYSTAL NIGHT days. As their debut album's title suggests the band deepens into the Nordic mythology and not lyrics-wise only, but music-wise as well. The 8 well-composed piece of "Mork Profeti" displays some kind of twist between the musical heritages of DIMMU BORGIR and ARCH ENEMY. The first one comes mainly when we have a deal with guitar riffs and grandiose arrangements, while the second band's name pops-up in almost all the vocal parts of the 38 minutes and 19 seconds long CD. It is kind of very well stolen Angela Gossow-like manner, if you ask me. The informative musical part on "Mork Profeti" was supplied by lead guitarist Maksym Vityuk, who's a really skilled and talented 6-string shredder. The rest of the musicians are used to have a backing role most of the times. The band was even lazy to record the drums live, so you can taste some programmed drum-patterns on the album, which in fact sound pretty good, but still they aren't live at all. We'll see if they try to fix that deficiency on their second album. Fans of Melodic Black/Death Metal should take a try with. By the way, Japanese Spiritual Beast has re-released the album in 2017 with one bonus track titled "Darknet Storm".

PÁNICO AL MIEDO

"Formador" CD 2018

(Cimmerian Shade Recordings/United By Chaos Records/Symbol Of Domination)

Formed in the year of 2013 and hailing from Catalonia the Death/Thrash Metal

quartet named as PÁNICO AL MIEDO (that literally means "panic to fear") unleashes its fresh stuff upon the metal fans of the globe, which is actually their first full-length album. These Catalans put a very strong effort into the creative and executive processes of the 13 songs of "Formador".



Let me just point out a few valuable facts herewith. The album was produced & mixed at Trident Studios by Juan Urteaga (known from his whacking works with such pioneers of Thrash Metal as EXODUS, TESTAMENT or HEATHEN, just to name a few), then we have Jens Bogren who was liable for the mastering plus Edward J. Repka, the creator of the masterful yet ominous cover artwork, and to round off this already unbeatable fulfillment some guest solos were played by 2 ex-members of DEATH, namely James Murphy and Bobby Koelble. Huge achievements, right? Well, definitely, though besides these great names and enticing facts the majority of the songs are simply boring and lacking of originality. Don't get me wrong everything is way professional and fancy on "Formador", but let me ask here, where are the real songs, the real ideas, the memorable melodies and riffs, which I can recall and I can crave to play again and again. Unfortunately, this release is just another good and professionally sounding record in the row that won't attract too many metalheads and that is for sure. Still fans of EXODUS, SEPULTURA, TESTAMENT and DEATH can make a try with the songs of "Formador". Let's hope the second album will feature more own and genuine ideas!

E-mail: panicoalmiedo@gmail.com

Bandcamp: panicoalmiedo.bandcamp.com

Facebook: facebook.com/panicoalmiedo

PÄNZER

"Fatal Command" CD 2017

(Nuclear Blast Records)

After the successful debut "Send Them All to Hell" (2014) the German PÄNZER strikes back with their second long play,



the capably titled and graphically designed "Fatal Command". Compared to their debut the new album sounds even more canorous to me or maybe the right term would be hymnal, filled with beautiful twin guitar harmonies and chants that are simply soul shaking ("We Can Not Be Silenced" and "I'll Bring You The Night" would be good examples for that). The album also includes a huge portion of fascinating solos, played with 100% competent spirit and vibe. The whole album radiates some kind of feel that is about "how good were those 80s, so let's pay a tribute and create something of our own with a totally sincere heart and respect to those golden times of the past". Sure, one can hear or find

similarities to such genre-defining bands as JUDAS PRIEST, IRON MAIDEN or ACCEPT, but PÄNZER's aim is to have fun playing the classic Heavy Metal style the way they envision it! OK, we have plenty of specific elements coming directly from Thrash Metal and Speed Metal, but those ingredients are simply inevitable in our case due to the musicianship, which has been expanded I suppose in sake of getting more massive 6-string expressions both live and in the studio. The all-star lineup of "Fatal Command" incorporates the following experienced and tested with time musicians: Schmier (from DESTRUCTION and HEADHUNTER) – vocals & bass, V.O. (from GURD, POLTERGEIST and PULVER) – guitars & backing vocals, Pontus (from HAMMERFALL) – lead guitars & backing vocals, Stefan (ex-ACCEPT, ex-RUNNING WILD, ex-U.D.O. and dozens of other bands) – drums, percussion & backing vocals. During the 12 songs and almost an hour of playing time we can confront a really great variety of musical solutions, which mostly will guide us back to the good old 80s, still with the freshness of the 21st century! The equation for the musical essence of PÄNZER looks pretty simple and it can be described this way: diehard music done by diehard musicians for diehard fans. "Fatal Command" as its predecessor was recorded at Little Creek Studio and has been mixed & mastered by V.O. himself, needless to say the overall result became remarkably massive and juicy! The lyrical content is on a kind of rather personal level I would say and it deals exclusively with social themes and issues that have to do with all of us lately. Quite educational reading to be honest! So while listening to the album I would just recommend you to pay attention to these lyrics too. As a bonus track we have an apposite cover version of SAXON's classic "Wheels of Steel" out of their 2nd album. Brilliant remake! The digipak CD has a flawless design and comes with a cool poster featuring the awesome politically-motivated cover art of Gyula Havancsák on one side, while on the other side we have the band painted and presented live in action. All is left to say, order this Heavy Metal gem right now or get afflicted by the curse of the PÄNZER!!!

Facebook: facebook.com/TheGermanPanzer

POKERFACE

"Game On" CD 2017

(M & O Music)

The second full-length album by Russian POKERFACE consists of 10 simple, but great Thrash Metal tracks. The opener song "The Bone Reaper" assured me right at once that this band's music is not about fancy or modern sell-out propaganda. The quintet passionately focuses on the German Thrash Metal heritage; especially I would compare their musical approach to the latest releases of HOLY MOSES and SODOM.



These two bands had a major impact on POKERFACE's repertory. Vocally Lady Owl's manner is also pretty close to Sabina's way of screaming/growling, though there are a few songs where her vocals fragmentally turn into some rather Heavy Metal-like singing, for example in tracks like "The Bone Reaper", "Creepy Guests", "Bow! Run! Scream!" and "Game On". The bringers of the thrash-bounded riff orgies

and evokers of splendid solos known as Xen Ritter & Whitevad did an excellent job on the forty minutes long album, while the rhythm section (Doctor on drums & DedMoroz on bass) provided an ultra solid ground for all their stringed fantasies. The entire stuff sounds massive and punchy, the way it should be! The catchiest and most memorable songs in my opinion are "The Fatal Scythe", "Straight Flush" & "Cry. Pray. Die..!". I would warmly recommend them to write any new material in such direction! That would be a total success! There are also two more things I would ask the band members to pay attention in the future. The first goes to the lyrics in general, which are mostly look like a collection of words and has nothing to say at all, kind of childish nonsense to me. The second advice would go towards the pronunciation of the lyrics, because most of the time they are just horrible. In spite of these facts I really enjoyed listening to the songs of "Game On" and looking forward to the progress of POKERFACE on their future releases!

E-mail: info@pokerfacegroup.com
Bandcamp: pokerfaceus.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/pfacegroup

POMSTA
"Wild Lands" CD 2017
 (Nocturnus Records)

This Ukrainian Groove Metal band always reminded me a bit of PANTERA, but as I assume it was the musicians' intention from the start. Nevertheless, what I hold in my hands now is their second album. The 10 compositions of "Wild Lands" display 10 massive into your face slaps that will make your ears bleed red.



The aggression and anger are sonically perceptible throughout the 40 minutes long disc. All of their songs were constructed and arranged maximally ably. In addition to the already mentioned PANTERA influence I can surely add SLAYER as well and some newfangled MACHINE HEAD vibe too. Anyways, we have a really mature musical creation that was a conscious result of the following experienced musicians: Sergiy Nechytailo (vocals), Igor Nastenka (guitars), Roman Zhabdysnyi (bass) & Max Kononenko (drums). The latter member recently left the fold, but I am sure his replacement will be found shortly. I've seen them playing live once a few years ago and have to admit they are more than capable to spread these extreme tunes on stage! So if you are a fan of groovy metal stuff feel free to search for this band online!

E-mail: ludabulavka@ukr.net
Facebook: facebook.com/pomstaband

REACTOR
"The Funnel" CD 2017
 (Nocturnus Records)

REACTOR is definitely one of the oldest metal bands out of Vinnytsia. They've started as a Thrash Metal band in 1988, then skipped to Death Metal for a while and since 2000 their music turned into some freaky industrial experimentalism. In fact, this material was released independently by the band in 2015, but thanks to Nocturnus Records we have it factory pressed onto quality CDs. On this record the band is: V. Zorin (guitar), A. Lartsin (bass, vocals, keys) and O. Chesnokov (drums). The trio supernaturally captures futuristic,

computerized sounds and visions from the outer dimensions. The whole album radiates some kind of space-motivated weirdness and oddity of sounds, which I found quite sedative to be honest. The mechanized way of their musical expressions is also something preeminent.



I really not used to listen to such things, but the surrealistic art visions of the musicians are simply remarkable. As a good example, I can mention the album's last song "Space World", which in my opinion can easily be even in the repertory of Jean Michel Jarre. This is an attracting stuff for sure, so fans of industrial and experimental music should check REACTOR's albums at least at their bandcamp profile!!!

Bandcamp: reactor1.bandcamp.com

RUBUFASO MUKUFO/NERVOUS
IMPULSE/EPICRISE
"Atomic Grind!" CD 2017

(More Hate Productions/Darknagar Records)

Two Russian underground labels joined forces to release this robust 3-way split. Moreover I have to avow that the selection of the corresponding hordes was carefully applied likewise. The CD starts with eleven tracks of the Czech grind-fame RUBUFASO MUKUFO. Those tracks were released in May as a part of their comeback EP called "Violent Show" and it was respectfully presented in a digital format at their bandcamp profile. The slightly modified line-up of RUBUFASO MUKUFO strikes back with Bilos (MALIGNANT TUMOUR) on vocals. Their 10-minute set blasts away pretty fast. The intense, ultra insane and quite short grindcore pieces come in a perfect association with the elements of d-beat & crust. Flawless stuff for sure! My favorites are: "I Want to Puke", "The Great Insanity" and the over brutalized yet accelerated cover of MALIGNANT TUMOUR's "Fuck off Nazi Bastards".



Oh, these Canadian grind-guys seem to be super productive, unstoppable and filled with fury for the next decade. How can they pair with so ease the brutality and speed in such a devastating way? Well, the five cuts of this split are definitely a sick combination or invention of five precisely coordinated minds and a good lesson on how to play Death/Grind the most sophisticated way. Inhuman musical lunacy is this in circa 11 minutes. I would call them extreme underground sophists of the 21st century! Whilst "Air Burst" is a track that was known for me already from their "10th Anniversary Promo" and believe me it kicked serious asses there. So it is not necessary to convince you at all about the powerfulness and unrestrained brutality of the other four compositions. They're just

simply destroying and head smashing! Really looking forward to their second split coming earlier than you would ever expect! The third and (un)expected band of the split is EPICRISE. Well, after 4 years of break, the leading grindcore product of Ukraine seems to reactivate their rows. The following 7 songs are a clever collection of unreleased stuff, but still not the new material we all craving for. So you can enjoy four songs off from the "Dead Sea" demo (2008) plus 3 cover versions on such grind monsters as DEAD INFECTION, GROSSMEMBER and CEREBRAL TURBULENCY. The old stuff obviously rules, but let's see what the future brings for these Ukrainian grinders!!! Until then you are more than encouraged to put your hands on this killer 3-way split!!!

РУИНЫ ВЕЧНОСТИ
"Шепот Забытых Холмов" CD 2017
 (GrimmDistribution/Murder Records)

This euphonious Doom/Death Metal septet is coming from the city of Krasnoyarsk (Russia). They are presenting their debut material, which has been divided into 8 well-written and arranged pieces. The artful music over the 39 minutes of the disc gets a really sophisticated and symphony-oriented character, though elements of other extreme subgenres of metal are also represented there.



The lyrics are written in Russian language and like the whole record itself are dedicated to the unnamed army. The info sheet says that the overall sound is reminiscent to CRADLE OF FILTH's "Midian" album and to the revived sound production of SEPTICFLESH. Well, I agree that the material of these Russians sound rather good, but I really don't see any connections to the aforementioned bands. Let me just conclude, we have a deal with a high-quality stuff, which was executed by proficient musicians. If you like the metal meets classic music pairing, then have a listen to the entire album at GrimmDistribution's bandcamp profile: grimmdistribution.bandcamp.com/album/016gd-2017. Enjoy!!!

RUSSIAN DEATH METAL
"Vol. 5" CD 2018
 (Darknagar Records)

The Russian Death Metal scene is pretty huge and its diversity is also impressive. The fifth volume features 18 tracks with over 77 minutes of playing time. THE MUTILATOR starts the CD. Their song "Decent Elimination" reminded me the twist between CANNIBAL CORPSE and HATE ETERNAL. Nice opener for sure! The second cut comes from ДЮМ МЯСНИКА and it was titled "Auschwitz". The trio from Moscow plays the straightforward kind of Death Metal with the inclusion of groovy guitar riffs. CONTRABANDIST continues the deathly massacre and "Fat Fitness" is their tune that has a fair portion of elements coming from the Thrash Metal genre. The fourth track was being called "Little Fucker Factor". What a funny title, right? Its vibe is strange, almost experimental and those deep pig snorts are just priceless there. It was composed by BRAINTEASERS, a family duo. CAIN WILL RISE's "Born in Sand" is the next piece. It features a pompous and majestic atmosphere, which I felt similar to the BEHEMOTH/DIMMU BORGIR pair. Position number six was given to EMBODIED DECEPTION. The

triple performs "Playing with Your Mind". It is a catchy, marching song filled by an awesomely melodic solo at the end. Seventh band is CORVUS LIVES AGAIN. Utterly sinister, blackened Death Metal is what they display us in "Shial (One of Us)". It follows "Пропок" by THE FACELESS HUNTER, a Death/Doom opus that was backed by lots of sympho-oriented keyboard lines.



Afterwards we can enter the putrid layers of gore along with the "Съеден на Сахалине" song of ГНИЮЩИЙ МЯСОУБ. The 10th on the CD are technical death-merchants from UNPLEXIETY. The Trey from Saint-Petersburg initiates us into their complex musical world entitled "Extreme Reality". If you like CANNIBAL CORPSE, then you'll definitely praise the riffs and vocals in MARBLE CARRION's "Vitoria". RAGE OF KALI is the twelfth band and their "Where Clusters Stand Divided" is another great technical song. It was enriched with some really fast kick drum patterns, deep growls and shredding guitar parts. The pair of POGHOST proceeds further and represents us "The Dictator", which is a maximally old-school Death Metal tune. I would compare their music to the early materials of BOLT THROWER, IMMOLATION and INCANTATION. Song number 14 is served by TEODOLIT and it has been named "Blood Soaked Revenge". Well-storming Death Metal hymn is it! It is continued by Belgorod's screaming death maniacs 602 and their fresh cut called "Топоры". Right after them the atmosphere turns to symphonic with the help of ЗМЕЙ И РАДУГА. "Ищущий" is the song of the quartet, which seeks for the melodies from beyond. "The Last Word" follows it from THE NAMELESS. It's the 17th track and is about some cool singalongs and the groovy sides of Death Metal. The CD ends with "The Storm is Coming", a melodic progressive piece by BRIDGE TO INFINITY. It was pretty reminiscent to what the Gothenburg bands started in the beginning of the 90s. As a whole it was rather interesting to discover what actually happens in the underground spheres of the Russians.
E-mail: darknagar@mail.ru
Website: www.darknagar.ru
Bandcamp: darknagar.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/darknagar

SAMSARA
"When The Soul Leaves The Body" CD 2017
 (Slovak Metal Army)

Slovak Metal Army (SMA) was founded in 2016 with the aim to support Slovakian Metal bands exclusively. This is their 9th release, which represents SAMSARA and their debut album called "When the Soul Leaves the Body". The album includes 6 long pieces into Funeral Doom Metal with a playing time of 55 and half minutes. As it is used to be for such a genre their songs are full of sadness and grief. The ultra slow and almost contemplative motives will bring different moods to the listener depending on their spiritual state and way of relaxing. Have to admit that sometimes I found not too proper the Funeral Doom Metal definition for their music. Okay their songs are long and filled enough with desperation, but their elements and passages are just usual Doom Metal ingredients to me. I mean there's nothing SKEPTICISM-like in their music for example. Nevertheless, the four members of SAMSARA did a decent full-length album

with an appropriate sound quality. Especially, I enjoyed listening to the gloomy grunts and death growls of Tibor. They are as deep as the Mariana trench is. I would also like to point out the nice and balanced use of the synthetic samples, which perfectly harmonize with the low-tuned guitars and bass. In my opinion, fans of such bands as EVOKEN, ESOTERIC or MY DYING BRIDE should invest into this release. Feel free to listen to SAMSARA's debut at: samsara-sma.bandcamp.com



E-mail: info@slovakmetalarmy.sk
Website: www.slovakmetalarmy.sk
Bandcamp: slovakmetalarmy.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/slovakmetalarmy

SERPENTINE CREATION
"Incest" MCD 2016

(Metal Masala)

The following is a very strange 4-song EP by the Bulgarian Black Metal division SERPENTINE CREATION. Why is it so? Well, first of all, because there are 2 songs taken from the band's second full-length album "The Fiery Winds of Armageddon" (2015), which have been modified, of course, but let me tell you, if the main part contains a remix and an instrumental version from the back catalogue the effect isn't as impressive and makes you think they're out of new ideas, right? Secondly, the other 2 tracks are cover versions: "Funeral, Swords & Souls" is an OLD MAN'S CHILD cut from the debut album "Born of the Flickering" (1996) and "The Wolfpack" is a SATYRICON hit from "The Age of Nero" (2008). In total we have 16 minutes of music there plus a video clip of the title track "Incest". That tune,



by the way, has a strong industrial touch filled with lots of synthetic samples. What I liked the most is "God is Crying", which is the instrumental version of "The Tears of God" song. It sounds awesome! Both cover versions are OK, but still their level of execution & interpretation lacks the original beauty and charm. Now, you know why I feel so odd regarding this EP release! Only the diehard fans of this formation should order this stuff!!!

E-mail: serpentinecreation@abv.bg
Bandcamp: serpentinecreation.bandcamp.com

SEVEN PAINFUL
"Entrophy Of Soul" CD 2017
 (Slovak Metal Army)

The debut album by this Slovakian metal brigade caused some really weird and divided effects to me. Let's see in details, why is it so. First of all, we have a deal with a super mottled music in the 10 songs of "Entrophy of Soul". For example, the first 2 tracks start in an undoubted key of Melodic Death Metal. Names of ARCH ENEMY and

AT THE GATES popped into my mind first, but there's a definite NEVERMORE touch in them as well. And I mean this not only riff-wise, but regarding the clean vocal parts too. Then the third composition is like a Heavy Metalized tune with lots of crazy solos, which still comes the NEVERMORE way, but with less Death Metal elements. Afterwards we have "Rise of the Daemon". It starts like some old CARCASS song and turns into blasting for a short with keys on the background. That track displays some progressive vibe, especially in the middle of it. The title track, which is the fifth in the row, returns to the beloved ARCH ENEMY/ NEVERMORE mood with variegated vocal lines and classical music oriented soloing work. The band positioning its style as progressive Death/Thrash Metal, which is partly true for sure, but the overall feel to me is like the songs of "Entrophy of Soul" were collected from different bands or composed by musicians who were into different musical genres respectively. Well, maybe it was the real aim to achieve such a weird musical alloy, in this case, the mission was successfully completed. Apart from instrumental sides, I sometimes feel that the singing is pretty forced or overcoming its role like in the song called "The Maze".



Plus too many effects are on vocals in my opinion. But aside from that, I am looking forward to listen to the second album of SEVEN PAINFUL. To sum it up, "Entrophy of Soul" is an experimental material brought to you by four highly-experienced musicians! You can take a full listen to it at: sevenpainful-sma.bandcamp.com

E-mail: info@slovakmetalarmy.sk
Website: www.slovakmetalarmy.sk
Bandcamp: slovakmetalarmy.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/slovakmetalarmy

SIN OF GOD
"Aenigmata" CD 2016

(Satanath Records/Murdher Records)

"Aenigmata" is the second long play by this Hungarian Death Metal entity and believe me it became fairly huge. Since their debut album "Limbus", released in 2012, the band went through some line-up refreshments. The core, that is László Páll (guitar) and Balázs Botyánszki (drums), was complemented by new members such as guitarist Zoltán Borka, bassist Csaba Sándor and M.Z. aka Lupus Canis on vocals.



These five hell boys know really well how to compose an essence of darkness and death, whilst keeping it from song to song as monumental as possible. "Aenigmata" is an occult piece of blackened Death Metal art consisting of nine extremely well polished chapters. It was supported by a sound-production that is evil and crystal clear at the same time, so you won't be

disappointed by any means. SIN OF GOD's music is pretty fast, palatial and sophisticated; however it has been pretty well influenced by BEHEMOTH and NILE in my opinion. Still the band has a lot to display on their 2nd opus. Their vocalist's manner, especially when he growls deep, reminded me quite a lot the style of Ross Dolan from IMMOLATION. He also brought a great portion of rather obscure and misanthropic themes to add "Aenigmata" a sinister lyrical approach. The 12 pages of the booklet were also filled with different occult sigils and symbols to ensure the anti-religious nature of the band. You can taste this hellish material at: sinofgod.bandcamp.com along with the band's previous works. Enjoy the merciless ride!!! The preferred tracks of mine are: "Loss Leads into Impiety", "Altered States of Chaos" & "The Human Worm".

E-mail: sinofgodband@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/sinofgodhu

SIROLL!
"Doble O Res" CD-R 2018
 (Independent)

This is my first meet with the extreme crossover quintet from Catalonia. The band was formed in 2008 and has released 2 full-lengths and an EP so far. On the third long play the Spanish conquistadors show 11 hate-fueled songs, which were served in a very modern way. I would define their music as Deathcore, as it has plenty of elements coming from the styles of Death Metal and Metalcore. But on the other hand, we have the influences of Groove Metal, Hardcore and Thrash Metal there as well. In three words their music is powerful, melodious and angry.



The info sheet recommends their music for fans of SERPENTINE DOMINION, CANNIBAL CORPSE, LAMB OF GOD, DIMENSION ZERO, PARKWAY DRIVE, SOZIEDAD ALKOHOLIKA, PANTERA, HATEBRED & SEPULTURA. Most of the aforementioned bands did a definite impact on them, so you already have a picture of what to expect on "Dobles O Res". The over 32-minute album was carefully recorded, mixed and mastered. So the result is supersonically destroying!

E-mail: siroll.metal@gmail.com
Bandcamp: siroll.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/sirollmetal

SKJULT
"Progenies Ov Light" CD 2018

(Satanath Records/Black Metal Propaganda Deutschland)

SKJULT from Cuba was formed in 2015 by Conspirator (all instruments & vocals). A year later in 2016 comes the debut record called "Within the Flesh" and now here it is, the awaited new beast. It gathers eight extremely aggressive Black Metal opuses. The boreal influence is more than evident over the circa 42 minutes of the "Progenies ov Light". Atmosphere-wise it can be compared to the classic materials of DARK FUNERAL, IMMORTAL, URGEHAL, FUNERAL MIST and THE ABYSS, just to name a few. The guitars' sound is very harsh and ice-cold, the drums are roaring in a rather dynamic way plus they have been precisely dosed & arranged, the bass plays a background role, while the screeching vocal parts just piercing right

to the bone. The lyrical content is dark and satanic or as one can read in the booklet: "All lyrics were written in a complete state of misanthropy and for the greater glory of the mighty Lucifer". The occult summoning of the demonic spawn has been completed, he's arrived and is already knocking at your backdoor. You've been warned!!!

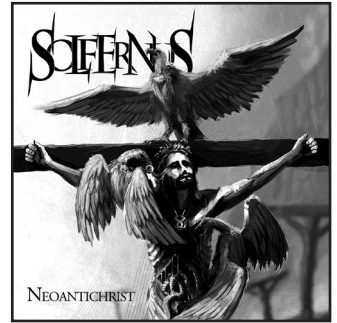


E-mail: skjult.kuba@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/skjultkuba

SOLFERNUS
"Neoantichrist" CD 2017

(Satanath Records/Murdher Records)

It is the second full-length album by this Czech Black Metal band coming from the city of Brno. It was formed back in 2002 by members known beforehand from such well-known Czech ensembles as ROOT, HYPNOS, ASGARD, ENTRAILS and INNER FEAR just to name you some. On this record the line-up of SOLFERNUS consists of Khaablus (vocals), Igor (guitar, vocals, keyboards & effects), Parambucha (bass) and Paul Dread (drums). It can be truly heard from the first notes that we have proficient and time-tested musicians on board. The 10 songs of "Neoantichrist" represent an ultimate essence of blackened arts transcribed into music. Moreover this already infernal sonic alloy has been reinforced by a huge blasphemous lyrical approach that adds the whole material a darker concept. The sound production is maximally polished and comes in a crystal clear way. "Neoantichrist" belongs to the sort of very enjoyable and flawless materials, but somehow I feel the lack of real originality



and charisma there. Nevertheless, I would highlight the stunning acoustic guitar parts featured in "Ignis - Dominion", "My Aurorae" and "Stone in a River". I also have to mention "Mistresserpent", my favorite tune, which was armed by ghastly guitar and keyboard parts. If you are fond of melodic Black Metal with a Nordic touch, then the music of SOLFERNUS is what you really searching for!

E-mail: igorhubik@hotmail.com
Bandzone: bandzone.cz/solfernus

STALINO
"Conflict" MCD 2010
 (Eclectic Productions)

STALINO was formed in 2009 by three ex-members of BREDOR, namely Alexey Tsyphenko (drums), Yulik Fomenko (bass) & Vadim Bugaev (guitars). The outfit from Donetsk was joined by vocalist Eugene Grachyov and in such line-up they've recorded their debut 5-song EP. It lasts 20 minutes and features an utterly polished, but still pretty aggressive and brutal Death Metal mixture. It is a proud continuation of what

they've started back in the time with BREDOR. Their musical consistency is definitely based on the well-known US formula of brutality and complexity, what's more it was executed in the best traditions of the New York school, thus the names of SUFFOCATION,



PYREXIA, INTERNAL BLEEDING or DEHUMANIZED involuntarily pop up to my mind while listening to their stuff. Still this band has his own potential, his own visions and the way of crafting superb tunes with maximum precision. Colorful drum patterns, sick guttural vocals, technical riff-orgies and sophisticated bass parts are awaiting you there with an excellent sound production provided by Beasts Studio. Warmly recommended to all the brutal Death Metal fanatics worldwide!
E-mail: eclectic69@ukr.net
Website: eclectic.net.ua
Facebook: facebook.com/ECLECTICprods

STALINO
 "Seven Voices" CD 2013
 (Coyote Records)

After the great debut EP here comes its follow-up, the band's first full-length album. "Seven Voices" is a huge step ahead into the more brutal and elaborated spheres of Death Metal. Maybe it is mainly due to the use of an 8-string guitar there or to the changes of the guitar player and vocalist respectively, but those 9 recent compositions are definitely about the more atrocious feel and interpretation. So besides the versed rhythm-section – Alexey on drums and Yulick on bass – there are 2 new members to welcome and they are Ivan Losovsky (guitars) and Ruslan "Motona" (vocals).



I can easily note that with their addition the STALINO sound become tougher and more brutal at the same time. The complex, brain-melting structures are widely presented everywhere, though somehow I feel the lack of the really memorable riffs and melodies there. This album is totally dedicated to brutality, which isn't bad at all, but at the end of their 33 minutes long CD my mind feels a bit tired and slightly destroyed. Well, maybe that was the preliminary intention of the musicians, in such case they've managed it maximally! The preferred songs of mine are "The Head Cut off in Dreams" and "Buried in Abortion". Unfortunately, the band is on hold now, but hopefully they will return with a 2nd long play shortly!

SURVIVAL IS SUICIDE
 "Retrovolution" CD 2018
 (Independent)

Pretty strange musical mix is what this Spanish experimental duet brings forth on their second full-length disc. I would call it futuristic, technical yet fairly overbrutalized Death Metal, which has deep elements

of progressive and ambient as well. The surrounding sound production for the seven featured compositions has been masterfully balanced and precisely executed. It is beautiful and captivating at the same time and while you listening to it you feel yourself in a kind of cosmic harmony or equilibrium of the soul and mind. Their repertory has lots of extreme parts too, especially the blasting drum parts make you feel this way, though I found them relaxing somehow in the overall context. SURVIVAL IS SUICIDE was formed in 2007 by Zaratozom (vocals, bass & bass synth) and Epojé (drums).



Don't know why, but most of the time I felt a strong Tom Angelripper influence on the bass sound and parts there, SODOM's old classic "Obsessed by Cruelty" pops up frequently in my brain. Well, the cover letter says regarding their music that it is recommended for fans of MORBID ANGEL, PESTILENCE, ARCTURUS, LIMBONIC ART, AKERCOCKE, SEPULTURA and VANGELIS. Not sure about all these mentioned ones, but can definitely assure you that "Retrovolution" is a great Death Metal album with lots of weird and cool stuff! Experiments above all so to speak!
Facebook: facebook.com/SurvivalisSuicide

SVRM
 "SVRM" CD-R 2018
 (Trismus Records)

Serhiy Tkachenko aka C. (all instruments and vocals) is the sole musical creator and founding member of SVRM. He is also known from his major contribution to such projects as ЗАВОДЬ, LIFE IS HELL, TRUMNA, NECROTIC TRUST and MALENCONTRE. Being originated from Kharkiv one can easily guess, which style was used herewith for the aural expression of thoughts and emotions. Ergo: Black Metal. Since 2015 quite a few releases were made by C., to be exact 3 demos and 4 EPs.



Thus as an extraction from the past and as a good example of how SVRM's sound and ideas changed over the past 2 years Trismus Records releases this comprehensive disc consisting of 14 songs. To get the right description regarding the songs included I would recommend you first to imagine the coldness and grimness of the winter wind isolated into the rawest feasible form of Black Metal and secondly to spice that compound up with as many emotional & atmospheric elements as possible. It's melodic, it's harsh and noisy the way it was defined back in the golden times of the genre. So no fancy sounds at all, just pure darkness and visions about death and despair. In a word, it is when the right attitude meets the right sound production. The only thing which makes this release less valuable and attractive is the non-factory

pressed CD, as what we have here is a cheap burnt CD-R with a color print on it (kind of stupid tendency lately, I can't understand the point of it). But apart from that it is a good release and a good chance to get the majority of the SVRM releases on a single disc. The 4-panel digipack was minimally designed and it was also limited to 50 physical copies. So hurry to order your copy in time!

SVRM
 "Ліхві вітри стогнуть без упину" CD-R 2018
 (Trismus Records)

OK, this is the brand new and finally full-length release of the Kharkiv-based one-man Black Metal plague. The new stuff contains 6 well-constructed songs with 25 minutes of playing time. The presented gloomscapes by C. (all instruments/vocals) became even colder and harsher as before. As a whole it gives a depressive atmosphere that filled by the unending hate and anger towards the humankind. The vocal parts are totally sinister, most of the screams are done from the soul, which is really seldom these days. The material has relaxing parts as well, like the first song, which in fact is an intro and when C. turns his screaming vocals off and just mysteriously pronounces the lyrics on the acoustical guitar lines or when he simply stops in the middle of the song to inject acoustic guitars in an instrumental-mode, believe or not, but most of those calm breaks come in a pretty unexpected way.



The rest of the material sounds kind of full speed ahead Black Metal storm. The design for SVRM's debut long play was executed alike it was done for the compilation album released earlier this year by the same Trismus Records. That means totally minimalist shaping with a color cover art (representing the grief by the couple sitting at the cemetery), track listing and most of the lyrics included. That's it, enjoy!
Bandcamp: svrm.bandcamp.com

THE METAL MUSIC GLOBALLIANCE COMPILATION
 "Vol. 3" CD 2018
 (Music GlobAlliance)

This is a really nice and helpful compilation initiated by our Slovakian neighbors located in the city of Košice.



Its third installment consists of 18 bands from 12 countries and lets you to enjoy different musical genres across the almost 80 minutes long disc. Its cover case design is also something to look for, but let's focus now on the musical variety of the participants instead. The CD starts with "Their Feelings" by Slovakian Power Metal quintet RAVENCLAW. That song was previously featured on their EP called "Presage" (2016). Ultra melodic piece is it, which just flows

well and comes with pretty high-pitched vocals and precisely orchestrated keyboard tunes. Female-fronted UNSEELIE from France continues the symphonic vibe and presents us "Prometheus' Pain" from their debut album "Urban Fantasy" (2014). The euphonic way of vocals' performance is very impressing and is the key to their music, whilst the fragmentally used synthetic effects and motifs give a futuristic touch in overall. The third band is BLACK SWEET from Japan. The quartet demonstrates us a song from their debut full-length "Time to Depart" (2017), which titled "Masquerade". It was executed in the beloved old-school Heavy Metal way. The riffs are catchy and quite groovy there. Fans of HELLOWEEN will definitely like their approach! Germans from VANISH follow them with a heavy yet guitar-centric cut taken from their latest effort "The Insanity Abstract" (2017), namely "Follow". Don't know why, maybe due to the vocal parts, but it reminded me NEVERMORE. Good Power Metal song is it with huge dynamism! CROSSBONES from Albania are the next. In "Gjallë" they display a rather experimental combination of Heavy & Thrash Metal, which sounds quite ethereal to me. The strange fact about them is that while the band was established in 1996, the given track comes from their second full-length album "WWIII" (2017) to date. Song number six was submitted by Macedonian Progressive Thrashers – SCATTERED. Weird thing, but this quartet was also heavily influenced by the aforementioned NEVERMORE, even more and better than VANISH. The music they try to reflect us in "Bring the Golden Crosses" is fairly technical, tuneful and polished. Therefore, if you are fond of such approach, then definitely check their latest "Extrospection" (2016) album in its entirety. The music of Hungarian MOON OF SOUL changed quite a lot since their debut demos. "Brothers of Sky" out of their "Világtéremtő" EP (2017) represents some kind of interesting riff-alloy between such monster and unfortunately passed away guitarists as Randy Rhoads and Dimebag Darrell. In some ways their composition has a meditative character, especially because of the cyclically reappearing guitar themes and the clean hypnotizing manner of the vocalist. The second German band on this compilation is named BLESSED BY RHENUS and the track "The End of Silence", which is taken from their same-titled debut long play released back in 2017, was mostly filled by modern elements coming from such subgenres of metal as Deathcore or Metalcore for example, but definitely not limited to, as they eagerly use ingredients of the progressive music too. Young Slovakian rockers of FROM THE SIX keep spreading a melodic kind of metal-induced cast in their tune called "Stay Dreamy". I would say they even touch the borders of Glam Rock. The tenth song hails you from the city of Haskovo (Bulgaria), where the Occult Metal dealers of GHOST WARFARE dwell. They bring you "BRS", a song from their 3rd disc: "Dusk Reloaded" (2016), which was reasonably influenced by gothic, punk and grunge stuffs. HARDHOLZ from Germany was formed in 1984 (!), so their music can't be other than old-school, right? Indeed, what we are hearing during "Herzinfarkt" is Heavy Metal at its best, accomplished by dedicated metal spirit! Position twelve is reserved for SIMERIA. It seems French bands like to be fronted by a female singer behind the microphone stand. The song "Guardians" these Symphonic Metal addicts get acquainted us with hereby is the well-refreshed and modified version of the track called "Song of the Guardians" out of their debut EP "Crashed", issued in 2011. Nice, melodic and profoundly-executed music it is, where the magniloquent keyboard patterns shouldn't be missed. It is followed by the new single "A Moment Before I Die" by CELTIC HILLS. The Italian bards come up with a soft ballad-like song that rolls in a

pleasant way having lots of acoustic guitars included in. Did you ever hear Progressive Metal music accompanied by charming flute parts before? Well, the strangely denominated band ENTROPIA UTOPIA have them in a gentle amount. These Greeks do a perfect job in "Even My Home", a composition brought from their debut material "The Flourishing of Thesis and Antithesis" (2014). The next song by the Chicago-based formation RIOTOUS INDIGNATION proceeds in with a well-known bass drum section of CARCASS' "Corporal Jigsoe Quandary", which afterwards turns into a brilliant Hardcore/Crossover piece. "This World" is the first song on "The Violent Musicae" EP (2016) and it is a damn good choice to have it here. TOMORROW'S EVE is the fourth German band on this CD. The quintet shows their masterful technics and proficiency in the fields of progressivity by demonstrating with the greatest ease their brand-new track "Bread and Circuses" extracted from the 5th full-length record of the sophisticated Teutonic unit. The seventeenth song "Orient Express" is served by BLACK DIAMOND from Slovenia. The sort of Heavy Metal they are playing and focusing on has lots of oriental elements & arrangements, which prove the right title of the song as well. The CD ends by the sounds of "Run Away". The Hard Rock the(se) Slovakian ELDERS play are pretty calm and thoughtful. However, here and there the voice of their female singer seems out of tune. In total I really enjoyed to spin over and over the songs of this third volume and I believe it's a very good promotional disc!

E-mail: info@musicgloballiance.com
Website: www.musicgloballiance.com
Facebook: facebook.com/musicgloballiance

THE SARCOPHAGUS

"Beyond This World's Illusion" CD 2017 (Satanath Records/Death Portal Studio/Fila Sophiae/Sphera Noctis Records)

DISSECTION started a whole new era with the special lyrical content initiated on their flawless "REINKAQS" album, their kind of chaosophic approach and the MLO teachings about the anti-cosmic theories influenced a pile of nowadays functioning Black & Death Metal bands all over the world. Turkish Black Metal formation named as THE SACROPHAGUS isn't an exception. "Beyond This World's Illusion" combines 9 melodic BM tunes equipped by the afore-cited lyrical clothing. The album begins with a NAGLFAR-like song called "Reign of Chaos". It blasts pretty well and has lots of tempo changes. The atmosphere is also Nordic all the way there.



"Ain Sof" continues it with a MAYHEM-influenced riff that turns after a while into breaks that were generally known from the earlier mentioned milestone album of DISSECTION. In the middle of the song we have a pretty eerie moment that came unexpectedly I would say. The third song is "Dymadiel". That one is full of tricky rhythm changes and attacking double bass patterns, but as a whole it reminded me pretty much ABSU, even vocals-wise. "The Profanity Rites" is the next that consists of really plain riffs, something that SATYRICON loves to use with maximum care. The fifth track is titled "Sapremia of Earthly Creatures". It is more abstract and keyboard-oriented than its predecessors, drawing landscapes

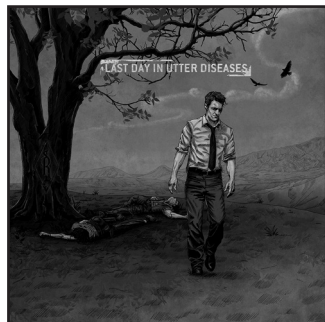
around the music whilst giving the listener a relaxing radiation. "Triumphant Divine Terror" follows it with a good portion of balanced blast beats, emotional guitar melodies and screams from the world beyond. "Armoured Death" is a song that raging on most of the time and builds upon some cool catchy riffs with marching double-basses. Towards the end of the album we have songs that are mainly about meditative mood, like the "Flaming Key to Divine Wisdom" is. "Apocalyptic Beast" was selected to end the disc. Another calmly infiltrating song it is. Metered speeds and melodious chains of guitars are the characteristics of it. I enjoyed very much listening to this Turkish band and would recommend their 46 minutes album, which by the way sounds fantastic, to the fans of Melodic Black Metal in particular. The booklet was aptly designed featuring mainly the motives of the astounding front cover artwork painted by Paolo Girardi.

Facebook: facebook.com/thesarcophagust

THE SULLEN ROUTE

"Last Day In Utter Diseases" CD 2018 (GrimmDistribution)

THE SULLEN ROUTE is a Russian four-piece Death/Doom Metal ensemble that has been procreated in the year of 2008. "Last Day in Utter Diseases" is their third full-length album that was originally released in 2016, but recently GrimmDistribution from Ukraine found it worth to be re-issued.



What you'll get during the circa 49-minute long disc is the exact reflection of musicians' mood and view about how they see the materialization of melancholia and despair in their own compositions. However, the core of their music is Deathcore, it is modern and trendy. Definitely not the way the orthodox fan gets used to perceive the combination of Death- & Doom Metal elements as a whole. The band mentions the following artists as influential ones on their repertory: GHOST BRIGADE, EYES OF FIRE, ISIS, EVOKEN, MORGION, DISBELIEF, MOURNING BELOVETH, ALICE IN CHAINS, ENDLESS BLUE, KATATONIA & PORTISHEAD. Well, there are nine songs in total, but somehow I wasn't impressed by any, so now it is your turn to listen and to judge the music of these Russians!

E-mail: thesullenroute@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/thesullenroute

TRIDENT

"Shadows" MCD 2015

(War Anthem Records)

The Swedish masters of eerie harmonies and dark rituals are back with their second aural bane, which is an EP consisting of 4 songs. It took around 5 years for the renewed line-up to bring this stuff out, but believe me it was pretty worth of the wait. The band's debut album "World Destruction" (2010) was strong, but somehow I felt less attractive and inspiring the whole musical concept included there. Fortunately, can't say the same regarding the material of "Shadows", as it appears to be maximally bewitching and astonishing. It blends the best moments of Johan "Reaper" Norman transposed from his past heritage (I have to stress on here the following famous hordes: SATANIZED, DECAMERON, DISSECTION and SOUL-REAPER) and being extrapolated to a newer, yet darker dimension. All the actual

musical formulas and visions of TRIDENT are arranged in an exceptional way. Maybe the member changes are the real answer to this success, but whatever happened to them, it made the music of TRIDENT better.



The line-up on "Shadows" combines the Nordic forces of Defiler (vocals), Ulv (guitar), Reaper (guitar), Beast (bass) and Goat (drums). The EP's 22 minutes are about a cold arcane atmosphere that has to do with plenty of ultra-melodic guitar harmonies, harsh screams and constantly changing drum motifs. All this you should imagine in an extreme form, where Black Metal and Death Metal meet and unite. The songs of the EP are as follows: "Aftermath", "Dark Nordic Rage", "Shadows" and "Thy Kingdom". The only thing I honestly disliked about the digipak CD version I have is connected to the graphics in general. Don't know how they appeared at the vinyl version, but here we have them very dark, almost in uninterpretable way. Nevertheless, merciless sonic assault is it, thus avidly waiting and looking forward to listen to the 2nd full-length album by TRIDENT!

E-mail: tridentofficial@hotmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/Trident666official

TYAKRAH

"Wintergedanken" CD 2017

(Satanath Records/Slaughterhouse Records)

Let's have some frosty thoughts about winter along with the German Black Metal duo of TYAKRAH. Their debut release counts 7 songs that have a total playing time of 37:24. The members are enigmatically named as J.R. (vocals, drums, lyrics) and I.XII (guitars, synths, bass). The soundscapes they've managed to achieve are all about the coldness of the winter ambience. They've elegantly crystallized the winter nature in sounds and enwrapped it with the grimmest atmospheres possible. The keyboard parts here and there worn an ethereal character, thus those moments are something really astonishing to listen to and experience. The guitar harmonies are pretty relaxing most of the time even if the drums storm with fast blast-beats or double-bass assaults over them. By the way, you can find there lots of folk vibe as well as parts reminiscent to depressive Black Metal bands. The booklet was filled by the noteworthy paintings of Thomas Moran. I've counted 9 in total.



Each of his work was superbly-designed with a well-thought-out idea. This release is pretty good for meditation, so I would definitely recommend it for fans of ambient, but I am sure that fans of orthodox Black Metal will like it as well.

E-mail: tyakrah@gmail.com

Bandcamp: tyakrah.bandcamp.com

Facebook: facebook.com/tyakrah

UERBEROS

"Tormented By Faith" CD 2017

(Immortal Souls Productions)

Another cool ISP release! This time the debut album by Polish death-dealers UERBEROS! This four-piece entity is about to destroy all that is holy. Crushing Death Metal at its best! Fast blasting drum parts spiced up with sinister guitar harmonies and misanthropic vocals are what one can taste through the 39 minutes of "Tormented by Faith". The dark energy and the dynamism are almost mind-blowing in every song, kind of artillery gunfire that keeps your attention always on! Their sonic approach is merciless and as evil as possible. Respectively the sound production is also about wickedness.



Even the melodies, which we have in quite a big amount over here, are enough ominous and constantly spreading the plague. The musical alloy of UERBEROS is pretty similar to their colleagues from BEHEMOTH, though I've noticed some SINISTER parallels there as well. Moreover, they do have the skills and balls to propagate their kind of blasphemous Death Metal raid in a glorious way. All is left to say, anxiously waiting for the continuation and really hope to see them playing live nearby too. Preferred tracks are: "Destroy the Enemy", "To Be Seen and Heard", "My Lord, My Father" and "Respect for Death". Don't waste your time, better visit UERBEROS' bandcamp profile and listen to the entire album there: uerberos.bandcamp.com

E-mail: info@immortalsouls.sk

Website: www.immortalsouls.sk

VERTHEBRAL

"Regeneration" CD 2017

(Satanath Records/More Hate Productions/Final Gate Records)

This young Death Metal band and their debut album come from another exotic country as for me, which is Paraguay. Let's start with some background info.



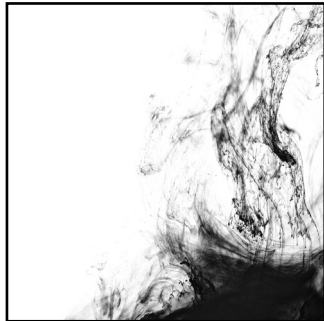
VERTHEBRAL has been established in 2013, but as a precursor to "Regeneration" the quartet unleashes a self-released EP in 2015 consisting of 5 songs and named as "Adultery of Soul". Since then the band's line-up is unchanged and combines from the relentless forces of Christian Rojas (bass & vocals), Daniel Larroza (guitar), Alberto Flores (guitar) and Gabriel Galeano (drums). The album sets in with a short but mysterious intro, where some keys and lots of shooting can be heard. It follows "Place of Death" a typical Death Metal cut executed in the best traditions of the 90s. It has all the trademarks that mostly the Florida DM movement used with a great enthusiasm.

So the other compositions continue to rip and blaspheme your ears in that discerning formula. I kinda felt myself as a time traveler during over forty minutes. Even the sound production has the same vibes as the bands of the golden Death Metal era were used to have. These guys from Ciudad del Este know really well how to make their songs sound and crush the old-school way! If you were growing up listening to such cult bands as DEICIDE, MONSTROSITY, OBITUARY, DEATH or CANCER, then don't hesitate to take a listen to the songs of "Regeneration". Recommended for all the true Death Metal die-hards around this rotten globe!!!

E-mail: verthebralband@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/VerthebralOfficial

VIDRES A LA SANG
"Set De Sang" CD-R 2018
 (Blood Fire Death/Discos Macarras/
 Hecatombe Records)

I've got this great promo stuff from Blood Fire Death. It features the 4th album by the Spanish Black/Death Metal quartette VIDRES A LA SANG. The 7 tracks of "Set De Sang" are displaying a pretty technical, vocal-oriented and avant-garde mixture that can be easily called progressive. Their songs are rather about emotions expressed by melodies & harmonies then blasting out the shit from the drums. So if you are expecting to hear a typical Black Metal cliché storming with the speed of the light, sorry you are definitely at the wrong place. The four musicians – Eloi Boucherie (guitar/vocals), Albert Martí (lead guitar), Marcos García (bass) & Jordi Farré (drums) – create real music attached by catchy song-structures and celestial atmospheres. I would compare their 50-minute long stuff to a cold, ambient-like wandering in the unrestricted dimensions of Black and Death Metal. The texts written and sung in Catalan make them unique, while the adapted classical poems raise them high and give them the deserved respect.



If I had to compare their music to any bands from the elite, then I would surely name EMPEROR or even DISSECTION as good examples for what they've done & accomplished on "Set De Sang". It's a must and a warmly recommended Black/Death Metal album to explore!!!

Bandcamp: vidresalasang.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/vidresalasang

VOMITILE
"Pure Eternal Hate" CD 2018
 (Satanath Records/Hecatombe Records)

This is the first time I bumped into a Death Metal band from Cyprus. "Pure Eternal Hate" is already the band's third full-length album and they've been decomposing around us since 2007. Well, on this almost 37-minute long record the Cypriot quartet performs 10 extremely well-constructed songs. They are all about a Thrash-influenced Death Metal mix, which was supported by a perfect sound production respectively. Have to remark, musically they didn't surprise me at all, because their formula is too simple, just blend SLAYER with GRAVE in a figurative way and you'll get the music of VOMITILE. Don't get me wrong, it's a professional band with a professional sounding release, but I don't really get the point what's good in copying others? I mean where is the serious "let's try to be at least a

little bit original" attitude and effort there, I am sorry, but I don't see this in their music.



So right now I have kind of divided opinion about their future perspectives. I am just hoping they will start adding and creating something of their own on their fourth long play, because really good songs demand more creativeness and catchiness.

E-mail: vomitile@hotmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/vomitile

WITCHCRAFT
"Hegyek Felettem" CD 2012
 (Neverheard Distro)

Hungary's one of the oldest and still functioning Black Metal band was founded in 1996. Since their first demo "On the Path of Fogs", which I've got personally from WLR around 1999 if I am not mistaken, I keep my eyes on them. The current CD is their 3rd full-length album to date. Through all these years their dedication to the musical stance and ideology of the 2nd generation of Black Metal bands remained untouched. That's a very respectable fact if you ask me.



The eight songs presented here wholly focus on the initial crudity and commitment to the genre. The rasping sound of the guitars, the endlessly monotonous drum beats, the polite backing role of the bass and the hoarse vocals will all assure you that this band won't be affected by the so-called modern styles and tendencies of the 21st century. In their music they prefer coldness and simplicity above all. This is absolutely straightforward and old-school-to-the-core Black Metal played in the only way possible. If you like the early materials of the following genre-defining pairs as HELLHAMMER and CELTIC FROST or BATHORY and DARKTHRONE then you will most likely need to excavate the full discography of this Hungarian horde right at once. Also interesting fact that for the first time in the band's career the lyrics were fully written and performed in Hungarian language. The 33 minutes long CD was supplied with an ultra-gloomy 6-panel booklet. It's a must, so search for it and buy or be eternally damned!

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

WRATHRONE
"Reflections Of Torment" CD 2018
 (Satanath Records/The Void Records)

I waited for the continuation to the band's debut album "Born Beneath" (2016) very much. The Finnish musicians did a good job on the 10 songs of "Reflections of Torment", but as a whole it became less interesting as their debut record. "Bloodline" and "Dead Inside Me" are the songs I would definitely pick from the new stuff out, kind of unique tracks to me. The majority of

the compositions have been influenced either by the ultimate kings of the Swedish Death Metal like NIHILIST, ENTOMBED, DISMEMBER, GRAVE, DESULTORY or the US gore-barons AUTOPSY. Then there is a piece called "Bloodshroud", which is a cut with a massive BOLT THROWER touch and feel. I don't blame them for being done their repertory so variegated, but too many



bands to name when it goes to their "own" music in general. So I really wish them to find their unmatched approach and sound in the very near future. Let's hope they will do it for their third album. Death Metal is a style that has the best options to experiment, to create uniqueness and to widen the borders even further and beyond! So don't be a lazy ass, please!!!

E-mail: wrathrone@gmail.com
Bandcamp: wrathrone.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/Wrathrone

INCORPOREA
"To Exorcize The Sun" 7" EP 2018
 (Vertebrae)

This Spanish Black Metal duet was established in 2006, released a 3-song demo called "Tongue of the Moribund" in 2008 and now they are back with a 2-song EP. The twelve minutes of this seven inch are specifically about the relaxing types of music.



"Carved in Paroxysmal Void" starts the EP with icy Nordic riffs and unheard screams of the undead. The 7 minutes long piece has lots of mood changes, which mostly radiate some kind of deep depression and despair, even lengthy parts of acoustics included there to calm down for a while. It is a pretty well-built and arranged song if you ask me. On the other side we have "Frigid Caress of Ivy" a more melody-oriented tune with lots of acoustic parts again, but with all the melancholy left. The actual duo, which is D. Bloodless (guitars, bass & vocals) and Damastor (drums), knows very well how to create cold yet desperate atmospheres within the frames of the Black Metal genre. Darkly recommended stuff!!!

E-mail: tongueofthemoribund@gmail.com
Bandcamp: incorporea.bandcamp.com

NECROPHOBIC
"Pesta" 7" EP 2017
 (Century Media Records)

I deeply guess this EP was meant to be kind of teaser before the long-awaited full-length album. Three years passed since the release of "Womb of Lilithu", so the time is more than right for unleashing the new record, isn't it? The 7" contains a brand new track called "Pesta" (Side A) and a re-recorded demo song, namely "Slow Asphyxiation" (Side B). "Pesta" starts with a typical NECROPHOBIC hint that is about

mysterious acoustic passages, which slowly turn into the ordinary melodies of black & death. Structure-wise this composition reminded me pretty much the "Death to All" era that has to do maximally with the return of the shredding pair: Sebastian Ramstedt and Johan Bergeback. Glad they are back! Sebastian wrote the music of "Pesta", while Alex served the lyrics to it. Can't say they did something jaw dropping there, however it's a decent and solid NECROPHOBIC cut accompanied by dark & monumental elements we get used to hear on each of their records. But what impressed me the most in "Pesta" is the sinister yet shamanic speech in the middle of the song and the afterwards coming solo, executed in the indistinguishable Ramstedt style! That was pure evil to me! It was also great to notice the comeback of Anders Stokirk to the necro-unit. His vocals on "The Nocturnal Silence" (1993) were always kind of extraordinary to me, the same way as the music of that whole record. So I have to say it was twice as good to listen to the excavated version of "Slow Asphyxiation" with his death growl. It was modified a bit, such as Joakim added some double basses to the 2nd riff and the intro riff was smoothly slowed down at its ending too. Have to admit its solo also became awesome and refreshed way modestly, while right before it Anders injected some



tricky background grunts. Kind of pretty clever modifications! Fredrik Folkare was responsible for mixing and mastering, thus no complaints at all, it sounds the way it should! This piece of 7" vinyl was limited to 1000 copies and pressed onto 4 colors (black, silver, white and clear), so hurry up and get yours until it's too late. You can still buy "Pesta" directly at the band's online shop: shop.necrophobic.net!

ROCK HARD
Issue #41, 2017

Juraj Hariš of SMA gave me this issue of the Slovakian Rock Hard magazine in Banská-Bystrica at the VITAL REMAINS show (23.08.2017). This is, without any doubt, a top quality full-color magazine! Format is A4, number of pages are 68. I am not an expert in the Slovakian language, but it was quite easy to read and understand for me all the interviews/reviews there. The featured interviews are as follows: SATYRICON, BLIND GUARDIAN, CELLAR DARING, DECAPITATED, ICED EARTH, RAGE, MYRKUR, BLISS OF FLESH, ORIGIN, PRISTINE, MUNICIPAL WASTE, GLOOM, DECREPIT BIRTH, DEAD LORD, MASTERPLAN, DARK MINISTRY, SILVER DUST, EDGUY, THE HAUNTED, GODS FORSAKEN, HESPERION, TANJA, ZONE, EXIT EDEN, DAGOBA, DAWN OF DISEASE and ALTER BRIDGE. Pretty tough reading, isn't it? You will definitely need some hours to go through them and to read off all the reviews, which were carefully packed into 12 pages. I also really liked the A3 poster features. This time there were 4 cool posters included with such bands as ACCEPT, PARADISE LOST, THE HAUNTED and DAGOBA. You can also get an insight to the latest release news and tour/gig schedules in forms of ads located on 13 pages. Pretty informative one, so don't hesitate to order this magazine if you are friends with Slovakian language!

E-mail: info@metallage.sk
Web Site: www.rockhard.sk

AYNSOPHAR

“Abysmal Secrets Of Unknown” MC 2017
(Neverheard Distro)

Barbara Teleki from Debrecen (Hungary) gave birth to this project in 2016. She decided to come up with something of her own, but similar to the works of Chuck Schuldiner. The 4 songs of her debut release are indeed analogous content-wise to the riffs Chuck used to play back in the times of DEATH and CONTROL DENIED. However, the lack of real riffs and real songs make rather hard to count this stuff as something worth to the legacy of Evil Chuck. Don't get me wrong, I really appreciate the efforts made by Barbara on this EP, as she handles quite good the guitar, but after I've listened to her 4 compositions I've concluded at once that I won't going to give them another listen. One would ask why? Well, first of all, because mostly what I feel is the chaotic mass of riffs that were put one after the other without a conscious way of thinking. Secondly, the drum programming is simply terrible to me. I really can't help if somebody don't wish to count the beats properly, especially it goes when clever breaks/runs or 16th notes bass drum patterns occur. Sometimes the simpler is the better. Barbara played all the guitars and bass parts (except for the first song) and did the drum programming, while the guest musicians took over the duties of the vocalist and the bassist. The limited edition cassette comes with a hand-numbered slipcase and pro-printed cover. **Bandcamp:** aynsophar.bandcamp.com **Facebook:** facebook.com/aynsophar

DISSORTED
“I” MC 2017

(P-18 Records)

Lately it has become a big fashion and tendency to jump into the retro Thrash Metal movement to get an immediate fame and to pose like a kid with this newly created toy without even having a proper release. These so-called “sellout & poser” bands will exist for just a few years until they totally fade out due to the lack of originality and own ideas. Fortunately, in case of DISSORTED the situation is completely different and maximally bright, because this German quintet pays major attention to compose as catchy and memorable songs as possible.



Their tracks radiate or let's better say indicate a fairly wide range of excellent ideas that weren't just simply generated, but were arranged and executed with the utmost care and proficiency. This thrash-brigade perfectly knows how to achieve a massive, well-balanced and outstanding material at the same time. As for their musical influences, I should definitely mention such pioneers of Thrash Metal as EXODUS, MEGADETH or TANKARD here. Still they are totally capable to incorporate these impacts into something of their own and to come up with healthy and noteworthy riffs and song-structures. I am just surprised how dynamic their compositions are. Everything's worked

out so precisely there, especially I loved to listen to the greatness of the solos, which aren't only melodic or classical oriented, but at some parts have the vibe of an ethereal beauty. Global awesomeness in a word! The 5 songs of their debut EP were recorded back in 2014 plus released and spread by the band independently, while this actual cassette release was hand-numbered and limited to 50 copies. So you better hurry on to catch your copy in time!

E-mail: info@dissorted.de

Facebook: facebook.com/Dissorted

HAMVAK

“Hamvak” MC 2017

(Neverheard Distro/Fekete Terror Productions)

The first demo of HAMVAK contains 3 ultra-harsh Black/Death Metal songs. D its sole member makes sure to provide you a hellish portion of somber yet dissonant riffs, which mostly come in a quite primitive way.



Still this option finely guarantees the quest to the dominions of uncompromising musical brutality and sheer fierceness. HAMVAK was formed in 2015 and as D interprets it is the ideological continuation of his former Black Metal entity named as SOLUS. But we can call it as further transformation to the new level of ascending darkness as well. The lyrical themes and graphical motives are all loaded with heathen ingredients, such as ancestral legends, superstitions, rituals and sorcery. The music itself has a commitment to the canons of Heathen Black Metal too, just listen to the intro of the opening track called “Altars of Thousand Plagues”. The down-tuned guitar sound brings an additional stout to the songs of “I”, while the drum parts mostly come in a monotonous and almost hypnotic way. The only fancy riff or let's say GORGUTS-influenced one is located at the beginning of the second composition that was titled as “Chants of the Primordial Pantheons”. The songs are rather long as each of them lasts more than 6 minutes and 30 seconds. The relevant cover artwork and layout design was processed by Anvil Kvlt. If you are into Heathen Black/Death Metal bands then check this obscure stuff at the links below!

Bandcamp: hamvak.bandcamp.com

Facebook: facebook.com/hamvak

NEMERE

“Vérmező” MC 2017

(Neverheard Distro)

Let's start with the band name as it has a pretty interesting meaning and story as well. “Nemere” is a dry and very grim mountain-valley wind prevailing in the eastern part of Transylvania. It blows from the direction of the “Nemere” mountain. It's also a Hungarian first name launched in the 19th century, used rarely these days. The band itself was founded in 2007. This is their debut album, but there were 2 demos released prior to it. Their line-up was constant since the beginning and features V.ZS. on vocals, V.T. on guitar, V.Á. on bass and G.J. on drums. The music they propagate is straight

Black Metal with lyrics about paganism, battles, ancestors and landscapes. The 9 pieces of “Vérmező” (it means bloodfield) have been carefully prepared, recorded and last but not least, immortalized on tapes by Neverheard Distro. Their tunes sound pretty raw, but all the way heartfelt. The quartet does not diversify a lot song-structure-wise, there's mainly a minimum number of riffs installed per song, which are usually plain, but the tempos they dictate are fast and at times they storm- and sound-like the so-called grim wind in the cold winter days. All the lyrics were written in Hungarian language and the topics touched are really interesting, especially if you want to know more about the ancient Hungarian culture and life of the ancestors. You can listen to their great debut as well as to their past demos at the bandcamp link below. Maximally recommended!!!

Bandcamp: nemere.bandcamp.com

Facebook: facebook.com/nemereband

TÜR BÖWITCH

“Napalm To Posers” MC 2018

(Neverheard Distro)

Do you like partying music? Well, this band definitely knows how to have fun during their 11-song repertory and what's more they send curse to posers too, which is a great fact, don't you think? While their attitude is totally Punk-like the music they perform is rather Metal. I would say it mostly contains elements of Thrash Metal as for the riffing style they proudly use, but the vibe of the Punk and Rock'n'Roll styles are also there. The five speedscum bastards from Hungary don't give a shit about the quality.



Their material sounds raw and messy, kinda rehearsal-like if you ask me, but it's pretty enjoyable and sends you back to the golden 80s, which fact I do really like about them. They also don't stress on originality at all. Their music is straight, blackened and full of booze. Song titles like “Budapest 666”, “Steamcuts”, “Fuck All Tribute Bands”, “Rottenkiller 62” or “Narkonaut” will ensure you these guys have a good taste and feeling of black humor as well. I bet you wanna read some exact comparisons regarding their music, to cut this short I would tell you if you're going to cross MOTÖRHEAD with SLAYER you'll might get the perfect formula for TÜR BÖWITCH! At the end of this killer cassette release they've included a turbo-desecrated cover version of ALICE COOPER's “Poison” track, titled as “Poser (Malice Puker)”, ahaha... I really can't laugh enough, but this stuff rules supreme! Good job for sure and can't wait to listen to more from these Hungarian alcohol-fueled freaks!!!

Bandcamp: turbowitch666.bandcamp.com

Facebook: facebook.com/turbowitch666

WRATHRONE

“Born Beneath” MC 2017

(P-18 Records)

Welcome the special tape release of WRATHRONE's debut album unleashed

a few months ago by Hungarian P-18 Records upon the wanton humankind. Note that “Born Beneath” was originally issued on CDs by Inverse Records in the beginning of 2016. The professionally designed cassette comes with a high-quality color j-card including all the lyrics and recording info.



The 8 tracks of their long play are all about a cold Nordic mixture filled with the catchiest melodies and the heaviest riffs possible. So the sonic devastation is more than given and can be easily described as some kind of well-thought alloy between the early AMORPHIS materials and the brutality of TORTURE KILLER. However, maybe due to the pretty distorted and placed in the foreground bass guitar sound as a whole it reminded me quite a few times KRABATHOR's “Orthodox” album. Well, definitely interesting music to listen to and as you might already have guessed this finely tuned Death Metal machinery hails from the land of the thousand lakes. By the way, this Finnish quintet plays rather actively live and spreads both their name and music to the masses, so the worldwide breakthrough is already near I would say. Let's see what the future will bring for them and hopefully their second full-length is coming shortly around as well. Suomi Death Metal at its best!

Bandcamp: wrathrone.bandcamp.com

Facebook: facebook.com/Wrathrone

ZVIJER

“Vječnost Truleži” MC 2017

(Iron County Records)

Now I know that there is a place in the Balkans where hell triumphantly dwells. That place is called Banja Luka and it is the largest city and capital of the Republika Srpska, also the second largest city in Bosnia and Herzegovina. ZVIJER emerged from the evil soils and cursed ashes of Banja Luka in the year of 2013 with one aim to spread the blackest feasible sonic plague to the inhabitants of this rotten earth. Now as the dark circle has finally been complete this truly barbarian Black Metal unit is ready to represent their first full-length album, which features eight possible ways of dissolving of the human souls. Frenzied and totally rough music in the true spirit of the 90's BM bands is what you are going to experience there. Performed precisely and recorded professionally, but still with a production that is maximally loyal towards this charismatic style's initiators. Regarding their lyrics, I can say and conclude easily from the song titles and graphical imageries that those are filled in with misanthropy, scorn and endless hatred to the humankind. If you ask me, such kind of anti-human and anti-religious lyrical approaches plus the constant longing for death are totally evident and simplistically the inevitable parts of ZVIJER's harsh repertory. So the wild beast has been loosed upon this world, let's wait for its second coming!

Bandcamp: zvijer.bandcamp.com

Facebook: facebook.com/zvijer.316

Welcome the king of fire himself, i.e. Ashmedi of MELECHESH, he has spoken in short about the band's recent tours, progress of the new album and his living experiences in different countries amongst other interesting things. So dive in and be ready to foresee what the emissary of the Anunnaki had to say hereabout!!!

Hi Ashmedi! You've recently finished a 2-week summer tour with BELPHEGOR. How did you like it personally? Which place(s) kept your attention the most, be it due to the fans or simply because of the sightseeing of the given city? Tell us your impressions.

- Well, the tour was good, we were not sure what to expect as after all it is not really a touring season. Well, we have toured the same cities countless times, so yeah what matters is the show and how the crowd react. But it also has to do with weather. When I was in that last tour for example, went hanging out in London and Rome. One gig was in Switzerland; it was a very picturesque village on the mountain looked like post card hah.

"Enki" was out in 2015, so it is reasonable to ask you regarding the new MELECHESH stuff. How many songs you've prepared for it yet and when can we expect the new material to be unleashed? Lyrically what will be the new album's direction?

- Making albums is not quite easy, it is very psychological. I write pretty much everything, so that takes times. And the endless touring, which in a way steals from writing time, aside the festivals in the last three years we did around 7 tours. Lyrics will be according to the MELECHESH world and themes. From Sumerian, Mesopotamian myths to occult and the human cosmic connection.

After one and half year of production the epic graphic novel titled as "Emissary of the Anunnaki: The Tale of the Fire King" finally sees the light of the day. How was it to see yourself as a drawn character and protagonist of the novel itself? Can you tell us in brief about the comic book and its interactive part?

- Well, MELECHESH is my work, I create it. The comic book graphic novel is opposite; I am the subject. A company thought of doing this, I said OK. I kept an eye on it, gave some tips, but it is their work. It basically a high quality comic book, with both soft carton and hard book cover versions. It has a sort of biography of me and how I started the band, then blends with the fantastical aspects of our lyrical themes mixed with a novel or story line

written by the comic book company crew. It is now officially out, but the hard release announcements are in the next few weeks.

Recently Vic Records from the Netherlands reissued your debut album "As Jerusalem Burns... Al'Intisar" including the remastered versions of your demo (1995) and 7" EP (1996) as bonus materials. How it feels to have it available again? The cover art was rearranged, massively modified and repainted as well. Could you please comment about this?

- We own the rights to this album and it is always getting out of print. Some people wanted it, so Vic Records contacted us. I gave them a limited license. Yes, a friend of mine repainted the cover as oil on wood, so we used this version as something extra. Night of the Vinyl Dead Records did the LP, but it is sold out, so Vic might also do the LP again.

Great to see the return of Moloch, I mean four-wise as a live musician too. He did a great job during the summer tour. Why was he away from touring and replaced by different session guitar players? I assume, he is still a permanent member of MELECHESH, right?

- Moloch is a friend and family member, he is a professor of political science and philosophy in Norway, where he is married and has a kid (I am the god father of his son), he is not active in MELECHESH, but will contribute a solo or riff when possible. We were in search for a live session guy, so he was free, we said why not, it is a summer tour and it's short, it worked out.

Since 2016 you are endorsed by ESP V series guitars, more precisely by E-II V-II STD models. How do you like these guitars? What are the advantages of them compared to the Fernandes and Jackson guitars you've been using earlier?

- Look a Ferrari and Lamborghini are both amazing cars. E-II V by ESP is insanely good guitar like the Jackson KV2T. All high-end, top of the line wood, craftsmanship, sound.

You've just finished laying down guest vocals for one song to the upcoming ROTTING CHRIST album in Athens. Great news for sure! How many

times you've been to Greece? Can you share with us some of the most memorable moments of yours being there and visiting your mates in ROTTING CHRIST? Which Greek metal bands are your most beloved ones?

- ROTTING CHRIST are good friends, we did a 5 week USA tour together in the past. Sakis sang on "Enki", he suggested me to do Arabic singing on their upcoming album. I wrote the lyrics and flew to Athens. Fotis ex-SEPTIC FLESH drummer picked from airport, Sakis met us at a restaurant, we all had dinner. Next day I went to ROTTING CHRIST studio and laid the vocals. Always a pleasure.

These days you are living in Germany. How's the life there compared to the Netherlands and to your hometown Jerusalem? Why did you move from the Netherlands? Do you often visit Jerusalem? How's the situation on the metal front there?

- I was shuttling between Germany and Jerusalem a lot. I'm a Dutch citizen and have good memories of there, but it was less fitting to my lifestyle, which I found Germany more fitting among other countries. Jerusalem is great, great weather very cosmopolitan, there is a rock and metal scene obviously.

Since "The Epigenesis" (2010) album you are in alliance with Nuclear Blast Records. They are definitely one of the biggest metal labels actually. How do they treat MELECHESH and what kind of deal you've signed with them (I mean for how many albums)?

- After the last tour I went to the Nuclear Blast office to discuss new album. I told them how it seems to be going, we talked things over, looked at the budget, etc. All seems good.

Please finish the interview by revealing us the forthcoming plans of MELECHESH. Last secret words are yours.

- I am composing. I have a lot of songs on guitar by now. Need to sort them out and begin making preproduction demos. Best regards and see you all on the road again.

Website: www.melechesh.com

Facebook: facebook.com/melechesh



GIGABASTARDS

The following is a super informative and interesting interview with a good friend of mine, Alexander "Wurm" Erhardt (drums, bass, vocals) of GIGABASTARDS. He talked about the fresh album "V:EX" and also went into details regarding his other activities and the underground life of Toronto. Enjoy every bit of this great conversation!

GIGABASTARDS is an extreme grindcore/noisecore unit comprised of two entities from Belgium and Canada. Tell us about the start, the first releases of this noise-carriage as well as how this distant alliance was meant to work and succeed?

- GIGABASTARDS was formed by Johan and myself almost two years ago. I have known about Johan and his various extreme music projects since the Bloodbucket Productions "Buckets of Blood Vol.1" compilation, when he submitted his HXP (Hybrid Xenomorph Predator) track for the comp and I have been following his music since then. The truth is that I was really intoxicated one night and was listening to old school grindcore and lamenting that there is nobody in my city that wants to do this style of music. So I drunkenly sent Johan a message asking if he would make some noise if I sent him drum tracks. He agreed, so the next day I recorded 3 tracks of drums and sent it to him, a little while later I got his parts and GIGABASTARDS was born!

Your newest release is called "V:EX" and it contains 47 songs in over 31 minutes. Reveal the readers all the necessary information about it, like the musical and lyrical contents, what have influenced you to write such material, etc.

- "V:EX" is our most ambitious release to date. It is a unique grindcore/noisecore concept album based on the deadliest nerve agent mankind has ever created. VX. The title is a play on words seeing as the album is angry and extreme from start to finish. The lyrics deal with the history, creation and use of chemical/biological weapons throughout mankind's existence with some not so pleasant observations of current world affairs. It is an uncomfortable, extreme album, an ugly reflection of man's continuous desire to destroy itself.

So far it is available online in a digital form, but you have plans to release it as a deluxe CD version through your label Bloodbucket Productions in early 2019 and it will also include your very first EP as a bonus. What are your expectations as for the selling of the physical CDs? I mean, lately the new generation is pretty lame and not too supportive. How do you see this situation for example in your region?

- For me, the expectation is nil. The music industry has vastly changed and most of the new generation does not buy music in physical format, they do download albums to their mobile phones using services like Apple Music and Spotify. There is however a small demand from the old school for a physical copy of the music and this release is for anyone who appreciates having an actual CD/cassette/vinyl of music they like.

You are also active in AMMO (Heavy Metal) and KRYPT OV NEKROS (Occult Ritualistic Soundscapes). What should we know about these bands?

- AMMO is a 4-piece heavy metal/speed metal band from Toronto. We have an 80's influenced sound which is funny to me considering I am the only one in the band that was alive then. We are about to release our first EP, which should be out early next year. We also have plans to record a full-length and tour in 2019.

KRYPT OV NEKROS is the sound equivalent of shapeless darkness. This is a project that contains no musical qualities (aside from the odd droning bass) and is more a channeling of my darkness, hatred and occult mysticism. I have been told numerous times that KON would be the perfect soundscape for a horror movie. Currently working on a new release, which should be out before the end of this year or beginning of 2019.



You annually organize Bloodbucket Metalfest in Toronto. Which bands are you going to treat for the next year? Do you have any bands of your dream that you definitely want to feature there?

- Bloodbucket Metalfest has been going for 13 years, I have decided to take a couple of years off from doing the fest to focus on other things. The main goal of the fest is to unite the spectrum of heavy metal under one banner thus giving the fest variety. There are many many bands I would love to have play the fest, dream bands for me would be DARKTHRONE, MYSTICUM, PESTILENCE, GLORIOR BELLI, DEAD INFECTION, DHG, DEVOURMENT, MORTICIAN, RAZOR and most of all CASTRUM!!!

How's the metal life over there? Which gigs/bands you've visited for the last time? Any cool festivals/concerts ahead? Also tell the readers the most significant concerts of your life?

- Metal life is good here in Canada, we have many bands and we (especially Toronto and Montreal) get almost every tour come through our city. The downside to that is that because we get everything the local scene (Toronto only) gets ignored and there is not a lot of scene mixing (black, death, grind, heavy metal) happening. Montreal is a different story though. This year I attended 3 festivals here, Earslaughter Fest (grindcore/death), Quebec Deathfest (death/black/grind) and Messe De Morts (black metal), all of which took place in Montreal. The biggest fest in Canada is Heavy MTL, you guessed it, in Montreal.

The most significant concerts of my life were: KISS 1979, METALLICA/METAL CHURCH 1986, SLAYER/MOTÖRHEAD/OVERKILL 1988, D.R.I./KREATOR/HOLY TERROR 1988, DEATH/DEVASTATION 1990, MORBID ANGEL/ENTOMBED 1991, NAPALM DEATH/CARCASS/CATHEDRAL 1992, KING DIAMOND 2016, MYSTICUM 2018 just to name a few. Of course, there have been tons of killer local shows that are significant too. I will say though that the 3 fests I went to this year were easily the best shows I have seen in a long time; the band rosters were incredible. I want to go some fests in Europe soon too or better yet play them!

Would you be so kind to speak us a little bit about the underground scene of Toronto. Any interesting newcomers or time-tested bands we should definitely check out and listen to?

- The Toronto scene has (RAZOR, SACRIFICE, PILEDRIIVER, even RUSH) and still does breed some killer bands. As I mentioned before, there is not enough genre mixing in my opinion, so we have

several mini-scenes within the city thus none of them are totally supported by the whole. Toronto is spoiled, superficial and very fickle, so you really have to have determination and thick skin to survive as a band.

As for current bands that I can recommend... for black metal fans check out PANZERFAUST and NUCLEAR HAMMER... for death metal fans check out ADVERSARIAL, DISGUST, G.O.D., GRAVITATIONAL DISTORTION and HUMAN COMPOST... for grind fans check out BLEEDING OUT, TOMB MOLD and, of course, GIGABASTARDS... for heavy metal fans check out AXXION, SKULL FIST and AMMO.

You are capable of playing on different kind of musical instruments (drums, guitar, bass). Which was the first you scored and when? Also please list us what kind of guitars, basses and drum sets you own. Name us your favorite one.

- My first instrument was a guitar that my mother bought for me in Calgary, Alberta when we were travelling across Canada when I was 5 years old. My mother told me that I wanted to trade the guitar for a spider-man on a string toy, but she didn't let me and I am glad, she took me to see KISS later that year! I still have the pieces of that guitar today! In my guitar arsenal I have a B.C. Rich Ironbird, B.C. Rich Warlock, Jackson Strat, Jackson Warrior and Goya Acoustic. My favorite axe to play is the Jackson Strat, my favorite body shape is the B.C. Rich Ironbird. All my guitars are 6 strings and drop tuned to B, except for one, which is used for various tunings. As for basses I have a Tobias 4-string and a Fender 5-string and for drums I have a vintage 1980's Pearl Export Series 5-piece that is chrome and after the latest GIGABASTARDS album is in desperate need of new skins, haha.

Can't neglect the question. Why did you decide to split up HORDE OF WORMS? What was the main reason for doing so and do you see any possibility for its reunion?

- Ah, this dreaded question. Well, to be honest, it wasn't really a decision that came easy and it boiled down to various external forces that caused the dissolution. Without getting into the gory details I will say that between work, wife and sharing a drummer with ADVERSARIAL it became a struggle to be the only one trying to coordinate everyone and everything so that the band could move forward. It truly is a shame we never recorded the last record we wrote, because it was killer!!! As for a reunion, at this point in time it's not likely to happen. I even considered getting fresh blood in, but it would not be the same.

For anyone interested you can download all HORDE OF WORMS albums here hordeofworms.bandcamp.com (email to order is: bloodbucketproductions@hotmail.com) and Bloodbucket Productions has a couple of copies of the second and third release if you want an actual CD!!!

All that being said, I am working on new music, which could be considered and evolution of worms... you have been warned!!!

Transfer the last necrotic words and giga wishes of yours to the readers of Encomium. Thank you!

- Thanks to you and Encomium for your support of GIGABASTARDS, Bloodbucket and the worldwide metal scene!!! Stay proud, stay metal!!! Check out the following links for more info!!!

gigabastards.bandcamp.com | [facebook.com/gigabastards](https://www.facebook.com/gigabastards)
kryptovnekros.bandcamp.com | [facebook.com/kryptovnekros](https://www.facebook.com/kryptovnekros)
ammo.bandcamp.com | [facebook.com/AmmoMetal](https://www.facebook.com/AmmoMetal)
[facebook.com/bloodbucketproductions](https://www.facebook.com/bloodbucketproductions)
[youtube.com/bloodbucket666](https://www.youtube.com/bloodbucket666)

ANÜS has a definitely fresh-sounding name to all the goregrind freaks worldwide, but I am sure from now on we will hear a lot about this awesome Swedish goregrinding combo. I've had the chance to speak with vocalist Johan Bergström aka Anus Kristus. He told us literally everything about the band, so go on, read his awesome answers and dive into the rectal depths of the constipation conspiracy!!!

ANÜS has been formed in 2016 and the same year published the material of "The Constipation Conspiracy". How did the extreme underground freaks and media react to your debut full-length? Which, by the way, was released on CD this year via the Russian record label called More Hate Productions. How this cooperation came about?

- Hey man, hope all is well with you!

Actually ANÜS was formed slightly before, in summer of 2015 I think – it is all sort of a blur, because of beers, haha! It was really crazy to be honest, nobody knew what to expect – it just sort of exploded into a bigger thing than we imagined. We got booked to the small, but great Antitrend festival in Czech Republic and right away it felt like we were at home. They really welcomed us and showed us an awesome time. They even invited us back every year since our birth as a band! A while later we came in contact with this really great dude I'm happy to call my friend nowadays, Yan Chamberland from the awesome band NERVOUS IMPULSE. After just talking about grind and sending each other music he connected us with More Hate, which turned out to be the best thing that could happen for us. Alex of More Hate and Yan of NERVOUS IMPULSE are easily some of the best and easiest dudes you can work with I have to say.

Since all of you have got a nice nickname in ANÜS, please tell the readers more details about the members from the sewers of Lund (Sweden). Also reveal us, whose idea was to form this brilliant grind unit, call it this way and to spread your sonic sickness through the beloved genre of goregrind?

- Haha, well, the members of this band are from other bands, but not only in death metal and grind – it is basically a bunch of friends getting a bit too drunk and having the possibility of recording music by themselves. The idea originated from the drummer and guitarist who had this idea of making some basic goregrind and they had some very drunk song ideas recorded and then asked me if I wanted to do the vocals. Being a big goregrind fan I said yes of course, and so it sort of began for real. We figured that we wanted to take heavy parts of slam and put them together with fast parts and the party parts of goregrind and see if they fit together. The name ANÜS was actually just there from the get-go, it is easy music and needs an easy name that fits the genre. And also apparently there were no bands called

ANÜS that we could find of, so we kept it, haha.

I know that you are also doing sick vocals for some other great Swedish hordes as DERANGED, VISCERAL BLEEDING, RESONANCE CASCADE and PANDEMONIUM, for example. Will there be any new stuff recorded by the aforementioned bands in the very near future? If so, can you go into details and share the latest news from those camps?

- Oh, man, cheers! Thanks, it means a lot to hear. Especially coming from a great vocalist as yourself! I definitely recommend the readers to check your band CASTRUM out, it is fucking great!

And well, to give a short update on some of the bands here I can say – DERANGED is working on new material right now as it happens. If all goes according to plan, we will record in early spring and I think release is somewhere in late summer/early autumn? Not totally sure about timing though, but it is coming! VISCERAL BLEEDING is sort of hard to update on, because there is actually not much to say to be honest, the camp is quite still since the last couple of years, but it is still brewing, so it is not over yet. RESONANCE CASCADE – wow man, you really did your homework, cool! RxCx camp is always busy in some way, most of the time we write stuff as we all have multiple bands to play in so we are in constant writing mode. We just re-recorded our first effort and got it mixed and mastered just now so it will be released in one way or the other in a while I believe. PANDEMONIUM is about to release a new CD for the first time in 10 years I think it is and everything is completed with it. The release got postponed until early 2019 if I'm not mistaken and we all wait to see what will come from this. We played one gig this summer and got booked for one gig in Czech Republic summer of 2019 so something is stirring in the dark depths. It is definitely going to be interesting to see what comes from the abyss.

ANÜS has already played a few live shows and if I am not mistaken all the appearances were at Antitrend festival in the Czech Republic. Am I right? Tell us your impressions about those Czech invasions and also where can we expect to play ANÜS live in 2019.

- Yeah I think so, no wait – all except one, which was in a small, but cool club in Jihlava, also in Czech Republic. The invasions of Czech Republic always

end up being amazing. We are drunk from when we leave Sweden till we land at home again. It is really packed with drunk sightseeing, birthday parties, grindcore and goregrind of all kinds.

ANÜS has gotten offers to play multiple places during 2019, but so far the booked things are Grabbenacht Festival in Germany, cool goregrind and brutal death festival and, of course, Antitrend again. As it happens we are looking into booking some more shows so if you have an idea where we could play we would love to hear about it!

As for a gig with ANÜS, what you can expect is a complete brutal goregrinding slampt together with the audience – it is all about playing brutal music for good people. Energetic, sometimes chaotic, hopefully funny and still tight as a band. We actually do take the stuff we do seriously, we don't want to sound like we just picked up our instruments – everyone deserves a good and tight show from the band.

As it is seen in your live videos (or band shots), you are using different animal masks, which is a fun thing for sure and also common for the bands of the given genre, so to speak. But did you select them with a theatrical purpose or just to hide your faces and identities respectively?

- Mostly this is a theatrical gimmick, so to speak, but then we realized that it is quite nice to not always be connected to an anus, haha. Sort of hard for me though, because my mask doesn't really let me sing in it, so I have to pull it up and show my face. So I am busted in that regards. But that's why we just leave the identities of the band outside. I guess for us it is more fun to see the reaction, we are not superknown or rockstars or anything like this. We are the same people as the audience and we enjoy having a good time. We all know that sooner or later everyone is gonna know who is who in this band. I guess to us it mostly just comes down to having a fun time with everything in every aspect. Come and drink beers with us and you will understand who we are.

You've just premiered a digital single from your upcoming 3-way split CD together with NERVOUS IMPULSE (Canada) and UNSU (France). I have to admit that song is extremely killer! So this split, which has the great title of "The Daily Grind", will be out in January 2019 by More Hate Productions. Can you please talk a little bit about your new tracks, their lyrical contents, influences, etc.?





Where do you recorded them and how many tracks of yours will be featured there?

- Cool to hear bro, we really appreciate your kind words!

First I have to say that it was really an honour to work with NERVOUS IMPULSE and UNSU on this split. Already it sounds like it will be one hell of a motherfucker and we are very happy with how it turned out and to hear you like it actually makes the brutal hangover worth it, haha. They are good people and they make great music!

We have six songs in total – five new songs and one song that is almost a complete remake of a demo song we did called “Assylum”. Also we made our part with sort of a concept with a story that goes through out the songs. Good thing about that shitty idea is no one will ever understand this, because the titles are not connected and you won’t hear anything similar to a concept idea. We mostly made the concept idea for ourselves as a joke about concept albums.

In regards to the lyrical theme and influences I would have to say extremely bad humour and jokes about shit is our main source of inspiration. Coming up with songtitles is a great beer drinking game, by the way! We actually are very fortunate of having the possibility of recording and mixing/mastering our own songs so it eases every part of our process. It makes everything so smooth, because we can start a recording session in like 10-20 minutes of preparations, so as a band we are very fortunate with this.

How the underground scene of Lund looks like actually? I will tell you honestly, you are the first band I know coming from that city. I know it is located in the south of Sweden and is pretty close to Malmö. I’ve been familiar with the underground movement of the latter place, but Lund is still really new to me. So if there are cool bands, festivals, labels, magazines, etcetera,

which the readers of Encomium should definitely check out, please list them here.

- Cool you checked it out though! It’s a small university city, which doesn’t offer much outside the university, to be honest. Well, it depends on what you seek I guess. See this part of Sweden as a whole is mostly home to old school death metal bands, newer bands that play that kinds of style and then some deathcore, grindcore and very very few goregrind bands. I could probably name just 3 goregrind bands from the south of Sweden. Might be more, but I’m not sure if they are active or actually exist on a level higher than computer drums, weed and a distorted guitar. Important note – this is not exclusive to Lund, this is basically like this in south of Sweden. Metal is not that very big here – we have a good size group of people though who supports the shows and most of them play in multiple bands. However in Lund – it is more or less completely dead. Not much of a scene or a movement, there are some bands here, but none of us play live here and not many of us hang out. As far as I know Lund is not host to any metal labels, zines or festivals. But on the upside there is a new wave of metal heads coming up from the young people now so hopefully someone stays in the underground giving it new blood. Most of the things down here happens in Malmö and it is so close, so we just go there instead. Sad, but true, unfortunately.

What kind of music you like to listen to with pleasure lately? Please name us some of your all-time favorites from the domains of death, thrash, gore and grind.

- Oh, this list can be really long, haha. I enjoy discovering new stuff I haven’t heard before, so I can get stuck on some band for quite some time to understand their music, but I can just as easily just go through multiple bands in an hour. As for my general music taste I really like when I get challenged in

some way – for example technical music can really get me going. My friends know me more for listening to massive amounts of grindcore and goregrind. But if I were to list a bunch of bands that really joined the ranks over a long time I would go with: PUTRIDITY, BRODEQUIN, THE DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN, DEATHSPELL OMEGA, SPAWN OF POSSESSION, NASUM, FEASTEM, ROTTEN SOUND, JIG-AI, SPASM, MALIGNANCY, LAST DAYS OF HUMANITY, WORMROT, ANAAL NATHRAKH and PIGSTY. But then again there is so much stuff I listen too, so I would probably also list stuff like NORDJEVEL, DARK FUNERAL, CEPHALIC CARNAGE, LITHURIA, MAVETH, NUCLEAR MONSTROSITY, GUTALAX, SPACE HAMSTER, MUCOPUS, MINCING FURY AND GUTTURAL CLAMOUR OF QUEER DECAY, CRANIOTOMY, CARNALIZED, VOMITOUS, EARDELETH, PYRAMIDO, SERRABULHO, MARA and CATTLE DECAPITATION. So it seems like I’m in a strange phase, where every kind of extreme music actually works for me and I am not used to that. Mostly goregrind and grindcore has been my cup of beer.

OK, we are at the end of our conversation. In case I’ve missed to cover some important things about ANÜS, but you want to share it with the readers, feel free to add them right here. Last words of constipation are yours.

- Actually we are just stoked about being asked to do this interview and we hope to see everyone somewhere sometime to grab a beer with us and slam some newly pooped goregrind. We truly appreciate this. You will definitely hear more news very soon, keep an eye out on our facebook page if you wanna. We are in constant constipation, so aggressive yet slamming music is to be made at a steady pace. A big cheers and bottoms up everyone! I finish with the great words of BRUTAL TRUTH singer “Yeah, I’m enjoying the party, I’m just trying to find it!”.



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OFFICIAL WEBSITE
WWW.SATANATH.COM

E-MAIL
SATANATH@MAIL.RU

CELL PHONE
+7(925) 456-88-82