

EXTREMISM

Extreme Underground 'zine

Issue #8, September 2022



**AGE OF AGONY, ARISE FROM WORMS, BENEATH THE VOID, CASTRATOR, DEVOUROR
DRUID LORD, EPITOME, GRAVECRUSHER, HEAVING EARTH, HEGEMONE, IN APHELION
PESSIMIST, POLTERGEIST, PULMONARY FIBROSIS, SCARS OF ATROPHY
SELF GOD, SHED THE SKIN, SYMBTOMY, TANKARD, XENTRIX**

Introduction

It's unbelievable how things go from bad to worse. When the quarantine period imperceptibly turns into war from one day to the next and the outspoken hatred for the invaders soars high. The stress increases, the war continues, but despite this, life goes on... And after a gap of one year, here is the new number. In this issue I've focused more on interviews rather than on reviews. Nevertheless, I think it turned out to be diverse, but you, the reader, will decide that... As usual I am very grateful to all the interviewed persons/bands and labels/distros who sent in their materials for reviews. Thank you very much for being here, supporting and believing in what I do even in these super hard times. This is the way, the only way or the brutal way! All that remains is to wish a pleasant reading to those who get their hands on this number and its contents. Hopefully the next issue will be out in 2023, but time shall tell us... and that's for sure! Until then take care!!!

In memory of Juraj Hariň (5.05.1973 – 2.07.2021). May you rest in peace.



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Led by Sebastian Ramstedt, In Aphelion released their debut album in March. Their music turned out to be very diverse and extremely intriguing in some ways, so I've had to ask Sebastian a few questions. As always, his answers are expressive and honest, thus I wish you a good reading hereby.

Hail to thee Sebastian! In Aphelion is a brand new band of yours. Could you please enlighten us with some historical facts regarding the formation of the band and list the current members?

- In Aphelion was formed in May 2020 when the pandemic first struck the world. I saw that I had an opportunity to do something special with all the time I had at hand as we could not hit the roads. So I started to work on ideas that would never fit within the concept of Necrophobic. At first I was not sure if it was going to be metal at all, but as the songs grew I twisted them into the black metal formula. The band consists of Marco Prij – drums, Johan Bergeback – rhythm guitar, Dennis Holm – bass and myself on vocals and lead guitar. But at first the band started as a solo project and I had no intentions of forming a band. That came after most of the songs were written.

Style-wise it was defined as black metal with elements of NWOBHM and thrash metal, but to be honest the whole sound world of In Aphelion is pretty close to Necrophobic if you ask me. How do you see it? What are the main differences in your opinion?

- It's close to Necrophobic, because it is my melodies and I write almost all music for both bands. Necrophobic would never do songs like "Draugr", "This Night Seems Endless" or "Luciferian Age". There are parts of "Sorrow, Fire & Hate" and "The Origin" that could have been Necrophobic riffs though. But if you analyze Necrophobic and In Aphelion side by side from looking at arrangements, tempos, technical level, lyrics and harmonies you will see that In Aphelion's songs could never be performed by Necrophobic. But from an outside perspective you might narrow down the analysis to "fast, evil songs with a lot of melody". Then I understand what you mean. It's a bit like non-metal heads not being able to separate Napalm Death from Cannibal Corpse. But the difference to those with insight is vast. In Necrophobic we have a foundation in death metal that In Aphelion doesn't. In Aphelion is not about doing "brutal" music. It is not my aim at all. I want to tell my stories with no bars held. That means incorporating much more elements than darkness and evil. That's why there are a lot of "heavy metal" elements in the music. It accepts a much wider range of atmospheres that would not fit within the concept of death or black metal. Necrophobic has an extremely limited concept and In Aphelion is the opposite. You will know exactly what the next Necrophobic album will sound like, but In Aphelion might take you in a direction you did not see coming.

Your debut album is called "Moribund". It was released March 11th, 2022 by Edged Circle Productions. Your alliance with the Norwegian label started with the release of the first single "Draugr" in

2021. What should we know about your pact with them? How are the sales of "Moribund" going? Are you satisfied with the feedback so far?

- In Aphelion has so far sold all copies of everything within weeks. Our demos, shirts, EPs and albums sold out immediately. It's not a big number of records printed of course as we are still an underground act. But the interest in the band has been long beyond our expectations. Edged Circle was the perfect label for us as Stian who runs it is in this business for the right reasons. He is a true metalhead and a record collector with a long dedication to the scene. I think he did a fantastic job getting our album and EP just as we wanted it.

The album was released in so many different physical formats. What's personally your favorite one and why?

- Nothing really beats a black vinyl. But I guess times are changing and the collectors like to have options in format and colors to choose from. But I am very pleased with the gatefold cover and the printed inner sleeves that most labels don't do any more. Usually there are just generic bags and a lyric sheet. But we wanted this done right. So it is a great looking album in the end if you ask me.

What are the lyrics of In Aphelion about? Where do you get the inspiration for your lyrical content?

- The lyrics are very important in this band. Sometimes it just starts with words or a line that comes to life in my mind. But the lyrics are always connected to me personally as a writer. I don't write about "cool" made up things. I want the lyrics to reflect me as a singer and a storyteller. It gives the music another level. It makes you believe in what you hear when there are not just horror stories about death and darkness. A song like "This Night Seems Endless" is extremely personal about the long nights fighting anxiety and depression. A song like "Requiem" is about accepting my near ones dying and "Sorrow, Fire & Hate" is about aging and going your own way no matter how much hate you get on the way. I think there are absolutely no old school "satanic" lyrics on the album at all.

You've already played live. How was it? What was the fans' reaction? Where will you conquer next?

- We have made one gig so far and will enter the stage again in a couple of weeks. We had a great time and the audience was fantastic. The response was fantastic, although it was a very small club. But these places get very intense and it was perfect to do the first gig here in Stockholm where most of the members live. We will play more next year, but this band is really more about releasing albums than being a live act. I started this, because I have a drive that cannot be stilled within my other projects/bands. I am already working on the next album.

You've just premiered a new video clip for the song called "Sorrow, Fire & Hate". This video is based on live footage taken from your first live show and this video is already the third one in support of the "Moribund" album. You're rather productive. Do you plan some more visual surprises for this year?

- Yeah we got so many clips sent to us by our nearest friends in the scene. Looking through them I saw the opportunity to make a video that could give those who weren't there a taste of what In Aphelion is live. It became a quite cool and honest old school clip. There will probably not be more visuals this year, but I like doing those videos, so in the future and on the next album there will be more. But so far we made 2 lyric videos, 3 official videos and a bunch of guitar play-throughs, so we have been very busy.

Let's talk a bit about the cover artwork of "Moribund". Am I seeing your wife there holding the ripped apart head of yours? Please correct me if I've mistaken. What message lies in it?

- I worked with photos and art created by myself. My wife is in some parts of the cover, but it is put together from multiple photos and drawings. What you see is Urd who is one of the "norns" weaving our destiny beneath the well under the Yggdrasil tree. So it is really a concept taken from Norse mythology. It's a quite direct cover and not too mystical. I wanted heavy metal aesthetics rather than very magical and esoteric concepts. There are a lot of bands relying on Gnosticism, Kliffoth and concepts like that, but I wanted something else as I am not really practicing the dark arts anymore.

What releases from the overwhelmed metal market got your attention lately? Did you buy any new releases or you better focus on the sought-after old gems?

- I bought an album with the Swedish black metal band Serpenta the other day. Fantastic album! But normally I do not listen to black or death metal at all. I have my heart in the old hard rock and heavy metal from the 70's and 80's. It takes a really good black metal band to get my attention. Right now I am collecting heavy metal from the year of 1984 and I am also trying to get a complete KISS collection with all extras, like the paper gun in "Love Gun". I buy a lot of albums, but rarely any new ones. There is so much good music left from the old days that I have not had time to dissect yet.

Well, that's all for now. Please send your moribund words to the readers and unfold the future plans of In Aphelion.

- Thanks for the interview! Hopefully we will see you all on the roads soon!

Facebook: facebook.com/inaphelion

Instagram: instagram.com/in_aphelion_band



The Hungarian war brigade of death, namely Age of Agony, is marching confidently towards victory, as evidenced by their soon-to-be-released EP. I've questioned bass player Krisztián Lóth, who transferred to us all the latest news. Behold the story of the "Raven Black"!!!

Hails! "Raven Black" is the title of your forthcoming material, which is going to be a 5-song EP. Is there an exact release date set for it already? What can the fans expect from your new songs?

- Greetings! Unfortunately, we don't know anything about the exact release date. The disc factory promised us to deliver it in early July, but we haven't heard from them since then.

The music on the new EP is the continuation of the style of our last LP "For the Forgotten" with some new elements. But no need to worry, there are no big changes. ☺

Your reliable partner in crime, Terranis Productions will bring it to the masses. What formats and quantities do they plan to press?

- Our friend Tamás offered us immediately to release the EP, 300 copies exactly.

Have to admit, I am pretty impressed by the cover artwork of "Raven Black". It was accomplished by Grafit és Hamu. What's the connection between the cover and the lyrics? Could you please go into details regarding the lyrical content of the EP? By the way, who wrote the lyrics and what was influential on you?

- I have followed the work of Grafit és Hamu for a long time now, I just didn't have the opportunity to give him some work! ☺ He did an incredible job with the cover art, it's the perfect art to go with the concept of Hungarian medieval history. The title "Raven Black" is a reference to the Black Army of king Matthias Corvinus, they are depicted on the cover in full armor. The title song "Raven Black" was originally released on our 4th LP "Death Metal Artillery", since then we wrote the follow-up to it (Corvinus), so the spine of the EP is about the "Raven-King". The opening song "Regicide" is about the betrayal and murder of king Sámuel Aba, the "Battle of Kings" tells the story of the Knight King's (I. László) victory in the battle at Mogoród and last but not least, "Invasion" is a memento for the battle of I. András against the invading German army at the Vértes mountain.

Everybody who follows the band knows that our songs are inspired by Hungarian military history. The lyrics are written by our good friend Csaba Kámán, you can say that he is the sixth member of the band.

We talk with him about our ideas for new songs, which period, which events and because he is also a great history fan, after some time, he sends us the English lyrics.

Is the new EP a kind of precursor to your 6th full-length album? Do you have the songs written and ready for it or is it too early to speak about it?

- Yes, this means that there will be a sixth LP. It's almost complete, musically and the lyrics also, sadly our drummer Zoltán Schönberger quit the band (and also being a musician). We haven't found a replacement yet, so now we are looking for a drummer. That delays the release of the LP.

Since the release of "For the Forgotten" album in 2016 you've faced two member changes. Please introduce the new members to the readers. Where have they played in the past and do they have other active bands currently?

- Our founding drummer Balázs Kovács and our long time guitar player Lajos Nagy quit the band for personal reasons. Neither of them plays music anymore. Meanwhile Péter Kéméndi took the place of Gábor Ferencz, who played guitar on the last album. There was a bit of chaos for a while... Zoltán Schönberger, who played in Sear Bliss for a long time, became our drummer in 2017, sadly the Nunslaughter concert on August 16th will be his last gig with the band. Gábor Ferencz returned, and the slot of the rhythm guitarist was filled by my son, Bence Tóth. He was the evident choice for the position. Because of his age, this is his first band.

Due to your warlike lyrics and the nature of your music I would say you are very similar to the mighty Bolt Thrower. What do you think about this parallel?

- I'm glad you think so and I'm honored that you compare us to the band that was the greatest inspiration for me.

In 2016 there was a really special split released by Neverheard Distro, where you covered two songs of Witchcraft and they vice versa covered two songs of yours. Whose idea was it? Talk to us a bit about your friendship with Witchcraft.

- I don't remember exactly whose idea it was. I don't know if it was Balázs Kovács, our former drummer, Angmar the singer of Witchcraft or Balázs Káger

(Neverheard Distro), I think they don't know either, but it was a good idea!

It's an old friendship, we played together a couple times, followed by heavy drinking. You can't end up sober after you meet these guys!

Actually all the band members reside in Zalaegerszeg? How is the underground life over there? Could you please mention other great death metal bands from your region?

- No, only the singer Kálmán Pápai is from Zalaegerszeg, Gábor Ferencz is from Kőrmend, our drummer Zoltán Schönberger comes from Vasvár, me and my son, we live in Zalalövő.

Unfortunately, the underground scene here is not really strong. Monastery revived not so long ago, they play death metal, there are also Fanatic Attack, who play thrash metal. On the black metal front, there are Sear Bliss from Szombathely and Feretrum from Nagykanizsa. Sorry if I left somebody out...

As I see, there are two killer gigs ahead for the band, namely the Lowland festival and the Nunslaughter show. What kind of live program do you prepare for these underground rituals?

- By the time I'm writing this, we are after the gig at Lowland Fest. It was a great festival, but I wouldn't say it was really enjoyable for us. We began to play at 17:30 during a heatwave (41.5 Celsius), it was a brutal experience.

I waited for years for Nunslaughter to play live here in Hungary again. We played with them twice live, so I'm really glad that the honour is ours again.

It gets harder every time to make a setlist. There are a lot of songs from the last 27 years and we are writing new ones until this day. We will play 4 songs from the new EP and 6-8 "classic" songs at the gig in Budapest.

Any forgotten thoughts for the end? Please finish the interview by sending your regards to the readers of Encomium.

- I would like to thank you for taking an interest in our band and I hope that things will resolve soon in Ukraine, so we can meet on stage someday!

I think we talked about everything important that happened lately.

Greetings and thanks to the readers of Encomium, who were interested in our band and read the interview!

Are you ready for the unmerciful death metal attack by New York's Castrator? Well, I really hope so, because these relentless females are about to dominate the underground masses pretty soon. My questions were answered by their drummer – Carolina Pérez. Now move onto the interview itself and read all the important details about their fresh creation!!!



Photo by Stephanie Gentry

Hello there! Your long anticipated debut album “Defiled in Oblivion” will be unleashed by Dark Descent Records on the 29th of July, 2022. How do you feel about it? Please tell the readers what they should expect musically from this release.

- We're extremely excited about this release, it took seven years to make and we are in very good hands! What you should expect is a good record that will bring you back in time to the good old school days.

You've already premiered online two videos off of the album, namely “Tyrant's Verdict” and “Inquisition Sins”. Both videos are great and serve a very good promotion for the band. Where did you shoot them? Talk a bit about their creation and the process of filming.

- Thank you, we are glad you like them. Carolina, our drummer did all three videos with the help of some friends. For “Tyrant's Verdict” we got all together in Ohio and used the same room Immolation used to record their latest videos with the help of Stephanie Gentry, who is a great photographer, we were able to use different cameras and light and the result was great!

For “Dawa of Yousafzai”, she made the lyric video and for “Inquisition Sins” the band wanted to do a full band play through so every member recorded at home and sent the videos to her and she put it all together.

As I've understood from the video clip to the “Inquisition Sins” song and all the other song titles of the album, your lyrical topics are dealing with the medieval history of Europe (holy inquisition, witch hunts, trials, etc.) and different kind of tortures. Who was in charge of writing the lyrics? What kind of books have influenced you?

- The lyrics for the album are all different, there are two period pieces, which are “Voices of Evirato” and “Inquisition Sins”. The rest of the lyrics are more current events. There is not one book or movie that inspired us per say. When we pick a subject we

investigate and then start the writing process. The lyrics are all written by Carolina and Robin.

The cover art was created by Jon Zig and as usual it became pretty sick. What kind of meaning lies there? By the way, he also re-designed your logo, right? What was wrong with the old one?

- He did. We wanted to create a dismal world that was kind of a hell or another planet and we wanted some sort of Deity that was deformed and he came out with the artwork, and we loved it.

We wanted a fresh look for the logo, we were tired of the old one plus we had a brand new line-up, so we wanted everything to be fresh.

Your debut album was recorded at Long Island's Full Force Studio by the supervision of Joe Cincotta. You've been cooperating with Joe since the demo “No Victim” (2014). How was it to work with him on the songs of “Defiled in Oblivion”? Any special or funny stories from your stay in his studio? Apropos, how long did it take for you to complete all the recordings for “Defiled in Oblivion”?

- For this album, only the drums were recorded there, the guitars and bass were recorded in Florida at Feral Cat Studio with Dan Gonzalez and the vocals were recorded in Pittsburg with Jordan Miller.

The whole thing was mixed and mastered by Jarrett Pritchard.

Some of your songs feature guest musicians, like Daniel Gonzalez, Kenny Andrews and Moyses Kolesne. How did you manage to involve these super classy musicians?

- Dan Gonzalez is a dear friend of both Robin and Carolina. When we were struggling to put the record out, he offered to help produce the album and we were very happy to say yes and he did an amazing job, Kenny and Moyses are also very good friends of Robin.

Castrator was formed in 2013 and went through some member changes. So what does the current

line-up of the band look like? Please introduce to the readers each member of Castrator and all the active bands/projects they are involved in?

Our current line-up is: Robin Mazen (bass) also in Gruesome and Derketa, Carolina Perez (drums) also in Hypoxia, Clarissa Badini (vocals) also in Vicious Blade, Kimberly Orellana (guitars) ex-Harlequin.

Do you plan to play some live shows in support of “Defiled in Oblivion”? Is there a release party coming up soon?

- Yes! Shows will be announced soon.

Thanks to Dark Descent Records your new album will be released in 3 physical formats (LP, CD & MC). How did you hook up with them? Did you sign a multiple album deal?

- Yes, we are stoked about that, we got the contact through Alex Bouks from Ruinous and Immolation.

As of now we only have a one album deal.

Let's talk a little bit about your musical tastes. I mean, what bands and releases are the most beloved ones and why? What was the last record you bought?

- Everyone in the band has different musical taste, but we all agree on a few bands, like the classics! You know, Venom, Judas Priest, Black Sabbath, Deicide, Cannibal Corpse, Morbid Angel, Immolation, etc.

The last record I bought was Misery Index “Complete Control”.

Please unfold any future plans of Castrator for the end. Last defiled words are yours.

- We are planning on touring extensively and hopefully release another album in the next couple of years. We will need the support of the fans to be able to do it though, so we hope to see everyone at the shows and if you can buy our merch we will really appreciate it!

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HEGEMONE



Blackened post metallers from Poland, i.e. Hegemone will be delivering their new album in September. From what I heard already it is going to be their heaviest and most unique stuff to date. Therefore, I've had to address a few questions to the band. Answers by Kacper Jachimowicz (guitar) and Jakub Witkowski (bass/vocals).

Hello Kacper! In July Brucia Records from Italy announced the signing of Hegemone. How do you feel about it personally? What are your expectations towards the label like?

Kacper: Hi! We have been looking for a home for our new album, and we wanted to release it on a label that isn't strictly focused on metal music. Brucia Records have many releases, and many of them are hard to name "metal albums". I think artists in our new label are exploring different genres more than traditional metal. Also both us and guys from Brucia like, let me say "syncretic" and "open-minded" approach to making music, and I think this is the "thing" that can make us and Brucia a well-oiled machine.

Your third full-length album is named "Voyance" and it will be officially released by Brucia Records on September 15, 2022. What kind of musical alloy will be waiting for the fans of Hegemone there? By the way, where do you get the inspiration to write such melancholic, dark and monumental music?

Kacper: "Writing about music is like dancing about architecture" you know. As a great shortcut, I can only say that "Voyance" is more aggressive and heavier than "We disappear". Of course, we didn't stop writing depressive songs. The form has changed a bit, but still, it is not that far from our previous albums. Of course, it is my opinion, haha.

Inspiration goes from everywhere I think. The more time you spend digging into your thoughts, the more melancholy you can pull out to the surface. For example, last year I moved out of our band's home city. So every week I'm traveling two hours by train for rehearsal and back. So ask me, how would I be able to create not-melancholic music, if I'm spending many hours staring through the train window for example in autumn or winter? Every one of us has something like this.

The new album was recorded at MAQ Records & Sore Sounds by Kim Teglund. How was it to work with Kim? Tell us your impressions, please.

Kacper: Actually, it was our second time in MAQ

and the second time with Kim. He was working with us also when we were recording "We disappear". So for us, it was much easier to work with them for the second time. The difference is, that in the recording session for "We disappear" he was responsible only for album recording. This time he took care of everything – from recording to the final touch. So the sound of "Voyance" is completely his child.

Context-wise, what topics did you cover in the seven songs of "Voyance"? Who wrote the lyrics? How do they connect with the artwork of the album?

Jakub: Context or let us say the concept for lyrics came after creating a few first songs. We did not think about this album as a "concept album", but all songs have a similar theme musically and in lyrics. We like to place our music in some places in the world, so "Voyance" is in some desert of the middle east. We thought that this place has a strong religious background, so we decided to include this theme in the lyrics. Of course, we do not want to propagate any religious ideas, we focused on the role of religions or atheism in people's lives. So we ask questions: Has god created us, or do we create god as a religion to avoid the fear of death? If god created us does it mean that our fate is known and can be predicted by some kind of clairvoyant (Voyance)? Most of the lyrics I wrote with help from other bandmates. The artwork fits 100% with a concept, it was created after explaining to the graphic artist what the album is about.

Is there in plan to shoot a video clip for any of the songs of "Voyance", like you did for "Raising Barrows" out of the "We Disappear" album? If so, which song will it be applied for and when can we expect it?

Kacper: For now, there won't be any video. We are thinking about making a series of "live in the studio" with songs from "Voyance". But time will tell.

You've recently played at MetalDays festival in Tolmin, Slovenia. How was your stay there? What were the metal fans' reaction to your show? Apropos, how many songs in total did you play there?

Kacper: We were positively surprised by the num-

ber of people before the stage. In my opinion, the gig was quite aggressive and physically exacting for us (we haven't played any gig for almost a year for some private reasons). We played five tracks there – two of them were from "Voyance". Only thing was that we have been playing in the daytime, which was kind of a challenge, 'cause till MetalDays, all our gigs were at nighttime.

Jakub: For me, it was like a dream came true, but now I want more, haha. In terms of song amount, I had a funny situation. Someone from the audience asked for our setlist, but because we played only 5 songs (our songs are long) we don't create setlists, it is easy to remember what song is next. So I just gave her my guitar pick instead.

Have you any more gigs booked in support of "Voyance"? Will you plan a release party for it?

Kacper: Yes – the release party announcement will be soon I think. Of course, it will be in Poznań. We are also planning a polish tour with "Voyance", but it is too early to reveal more details.

You are from Poznań. How's the metal life over there? I mean, do you have a lot of noticeable metal bands, stores and venues there? What would you recommend to visit in Poznań for a foreign tourist?

Kacper: As I said before, I have moved from Poznań to another city, 'cause for me, it is a tiring city to live in. For tourists, I would recommend seeing the cathedral district and maybe the old market. And... that's all! If someone is interested in seeing traffic jams or everlasting roadworks – then the city is worth seeing! But still, it has a nice working metal scene, good promoters, and some very decent clubs. Also, there is the oldest squat in Poland, where they are making metal, hc, and punk shows. Time-to-time you can see really good underground bands from all over Europe there.

Please share your last hegemonies for the end. The space is yours...

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I have no doubt about it that Shed The Skin from Cleveland, Ohio is bringing you their most profound and variegated release under the moniker of "Thaumogenesis". To get more information on this superior death metal masterpiece I've contacted Ash Thomas (vocals/guitar). He explained not just how they work together, rehearse and prepare for the live shows, but mentioned good news regarding the upcoming Estuary album too. Enjoy our talk!!!

Hails Ash! The latest album by Shed The Skin is called "Thaumogenesis". To me, it's a well-balanced combination between the US and European kinds of old-school death metal. It has the somberness of the first camp and the catchy melodies of the second one. How do you see it? What are the reactions to it so far?

- It's a culmination of the extreme metal that has shaped us all personally & musically over the past 30-35+ years. Matt Sorg is the main songwriter for this band, but we collectively have a kind of unspoken motto "pay homage, but never steal or blatantly emulate". The goal is to write killer death metal songs. As a band we all feel this is our best record so far & the response from outside sources seems to be the same. I personally do not pay attention to reviews these days, but talking with people one on one, "this is the best one" is the consensus.

It's your fourth album in the row and as we get used to it was released by Hells Headbangers Records. Do they plan to issue "Thaumogenesis" on vinyl too? Tell us in short what kind of deal you've inked with them.

- HHR is a very easy label to work with & they've been onboard with releasing STS albums since day 1. We have a verbal agreement that has lasted 7-8 years. We & the HHR guys have all known each other for so long that a mutual trust is there. Yes, "Thaumogenesis" will have a vinyl release. It's in production, but as most people know, vinyl production is massively delayed & it's taking 12-18 months to turn a release currently. I'm estimating either a late 2022 release for the vinyl or even early 2023.

There was a Surgikill/Shed The Skin split 7" coming out on Blasphemous Art Records. Is "Sounds of the Anguished Dead" out already? If so, please share with us all the details about this cooperation.

- Yes, it is out now. It was an easy deal & Antonio at Blasphemous Art is a great dude. Billy Nocera from Surgikill/Razorback Records got things in motion with the deal just prior to Covid hitting & then things kind of went into a crawl due to the situation of the world. Despite the drawn out process, it came out killer in the end & was worth the wait. We in STS had been sitting on the re-recording of the Blood Of Christ (Cleveland, OH) tune "Shed the Skin" (the song for which we are named) since 2018. And, we in Surgikill had 1 leftover song that was always intended for a split 7" release. We ended up busting out a 2nd short

tune after the deal was in motion just to make the most out of the time allotted for a 7" release. Cover art was done by Rok from Sadistik Exekution & it comes with a poster! It's a sick 7" release & is available now!

Shed The Skin is a band recurring with a new full-length album every two years. How do you manage this? I mean, all the members are involved in multiple bands/projects, but the four of you still find the spare time and ideas to release new stuff and continue further on.

- We are able to do this, because all the members are leaders & driving forces in our other projects. We know what needs to be done & what it takes to be productive & we don't fuck around. We have a formula that has been in place since we released the first self-titled 7". That's how we keep in consistent & in motion.

As I see you do not play live frequently. Why is it so? What is a Shed The Skin live show like? What the fans should expect on your live shows and do you plan to visit Europe in the near future?

- Playing live on a regular basis does not work well with our respective busy schedules. So, we choose to keep the gigs at a minimum. Usually, we'll do a few around the release of a new record & then a few more spattered throughout the year. This keeps it fun for us. When we do play live, we put on the best performance possible to pummel the audience with our death metal.

Visiting Europe would be great of course, but we haven't been offered a solid opportunity to do so as of yet.

Since 2020 you've been involved on drums in a heavy/power metal band – Apaugasma. Talk us a bit about this formation (line-up, releases, possible live shows and future plans).

- This was a 1 off project... at least for my part. I had tracked some drums years ago for my friend Brian Day who I played with in The Vladimirs. We're talking 10+ years ago if not more. He got around to completing the songs at his leisure & releasing them on CD in 2020. It's a handful of songs plus a Saxon cover. Definitely not an active band. I'm not sure what Brian's plans are for future stuff. The CD might be it.

There were also plans for the recording & release of the third Estuary album. I mean, you have been rehearsing the new songs for it, also recruited a full line-up for the live shows and even played a few gigs in 2021. So what news can

you tell us from that camp?

- Yes, the slow-motion Estuary entity... hahaha. The music for the album is completed & tracked. I'm talking about leads & everything. Just waiting for Zdenka to track her vocals then it will mix & master. Artwork for the album is secured too... just waiting...

How often and how long do you rehearse with Shed The Skin and where your rehearsal place is located?

- We rarely rehearse. We typically get together the day before a gig or a lot of times the day of the gig. We all do our homework before meeting up & that's how we pull it off. We'll work out any kinks during 1 or 2 play throughs & that's pretty much it. Being prepared individually is the crucial factor. Most rehearsals take place in Columbus, OH at Kyle's house & sometimes we rehearse in Cleveland, OH if we have a show up there. Kyle's is usually the go to place, because his location is center ground between myself in Cincinnati, OH & Matt & Ed in Cleveland, OH.

Your first two albums included cover versions, like "Innermost Sanctuary" by Blood Of Christ and "Remonstrating the Preserver" by Hetsheads. Do you play these or other covers live as well? Which song(s)/band(s) would you cover next?

- "Innermost..." is a partial Blood Of Christ cover. Basically, the music was an unfinished BOC song that was almost a Decrepit song too, but the lyrics are new minus the title itself. We've played that song live a few times, but it hasn't been in the set since 2018. We've never played the Hetsheads song live, but it would be fun to do. Not many people are familiar with that tune, but Matt & I have always loved it. I thought it was really cool when Matt said he wanted to do it. As far as other covers go, we play 3 Venom tunes that we were going to play at a prefest back in June, but it didn't end up happening due to timing & some other planning falling through.

OK, that was it. Shed your last words to the readers.

- Our new album "Thaumogenesis" is available now through Hells Headbangers Records! Vinyl to follow. All our previous records are also available, including the split 7" with Surgikill. Go to www.hellsheadbangers.com for details.

Thank you Kornel for the interview & opportunity! It's always great to hear from you!!! DEATH FUCKING METAL HAILS!!!



Technical death metal and ethereal soundscape dealers from Hungary – Beneath The Void – liberated a totally mind blowing debut album in the middle of the last year. I forwarded my questions to their guitar player Ákos Ölt, who quickly sent back his answers. Now it's your turn to revise our talk-over!

Hello Ákos! 2021 marks the official start for Beneath The Void, although we all know it was only a transformation of your previous band with its members that was Kill With Hate. Tell us a bit about this transformation and the main differences between the two.

- Hello Cornelius, and hello to the readers as well!

About the transformation: We wanted to change the name basically from the beginning. Kill With Hate sounded too unserious and from the first EP ("Evolution of the Beast", 2010), we thought about changing the name before every release. Before "...Into Oblivion", we felt that the lyrical themes and some aspects of the music have gone so far from the early Kill With Hate days, that we just cannot release this album under the same name.

Lyrics are handled by our bassist/vocalist Patrik Pornói since our second EP ("Grief", 2015), which is kind of a transitional fossil between KWH and BTV. He started writing much more personal, introspective themes, which carried over to the new album, but now they have a spacey backdrop. The music is just natural evolution over the years, also the influence of Attila Kovács, who is a metal veteran in the Hungarian metal scene.

Your debut album is called "...Into Oblivion" and it was issued by Metal.hu on June 11th, 2021. They've released the stuff in CD, LP and MC formats. How did you hook up with Metal.hu and what are the selling numbers from a year's perspective? Personally, which format do you like the most and why?

- Tamás Forray, chief of the label, is a longtime friend of our singer Krisztián Gyémánt and also Attila Kovács. We've managed to do a much more personal deal that we could with other labels.

I can't tell you exact figures, but CDs and LPs are around 100 each (out of 300 and 200 respectively), MCs are probably around 10, lol.

My favorite format is the MC, the idea to release the music on tapes too was mine. I saw how big of a comeback vinyl made, I thought the same about the cassettes, but it's apparently not the case!

I grew up with cassettes in the 90s and early 2000s, I have a uniquely nostalgic feeling towards them, that I never had with vinyl and CD.

Nowadays, when I want to support a local or touring band, I still prefer the MC, they're way more convenient, and also very durable. You just put it in

the side pockets on your cargo pants, and you can still go to the mosh pit!

Musically I feel a strong Cryptopsy influence in most of the songs. How do you see it?

- Perfect observation! Me and our drummer Bence Turcsák are huge Cryptopsy fans! The other huge influence from the beginning was Origin. I think the speed of the drums and the sweep picked arpeggios make it obvious, lol!

The cover artwork became simply fantastic. How does it connect to the lyrics? As I've understood you've started to deal with futuristic, sci-fi and horror-incited themes. What books or movies have inspired you during the writing process of "...Into Oblivion"?

- The album cover reflects on the cosmic horror aspect. I can't tell much about how the lyrics came to be, but some of the inspirations are definitely the sci-fi horrors of the 80s and 90s, such as Event Horizon, and also the cosmic horror of Lovecraft.

You have made a video clip for the song called "By the Seventh", which was filmed, directed and edited by Máté "Bobby" Blazsöcsics, who in large part is responsible for the lyrical content of "...Into Oblivion" too. Tell us a bit about your ties with Máté. Is he the hidden 6th member or "weapon" of the band?

- I wouldn't call him a 6th member (on the one hand, because 6th and 7th is already taken already by our merch girl/manager Szandra and our sound guy Zoli), but ever since Patrik has become our bassist, he's been close to the band. They're childhood friends with Patrik, their history goes far back. He directed in our first video to "The Beast Within" in 2012, he also helped with the live recording of "Fuck Humans" in 2015. It was just natural and convenient to ask him for help once again for this album.

Since July 2021 you have played with a new guitar player, namely Tibor Szokán, who replaced Attila Kovács. What should we know about him? Is he playing in other bands/projects as well?

- I actually met him in late 2015, because he started working at the same place I did! Later it turned out that he also played the guitar, a big fan of many of the same bands I am. He started out playing with the band Fire Conspiracy, later he joined the band Symmetry of the Void. That band broke up around the time we were searching for a replacement for Attila, so right

nothing serious besides BTV.

You have already played a series of gigs in support of "...Into Oblivion". How do the metal fans like your new stuff? Where do you play next? Any gigs abroad?

- On February 26th we had our official album debut party where we played the entire record for the first time. The show was sold out, and we had a very warm welcome from the crowd. Thankfully the show was recorded by a professional crew from multiple camera angles. We've been planning to release it sometime at the end of the year, but editing it will be a hassle, lol!

By the time this interview comes out we will have played as a support for my favorite local band Akela in Barba Negra, then we plan to play on the A38 ship and in Dürer Kert early next year.

No exact plans to go on tour yet, but the will is there. We did a self-organized tour before, but while it was a pretty great experience, we want something more serious this time.

Your drummer, Bence Turcsák, was responsible for mixing and mastering "...Into Oblivion". He did a great job! What other materials has he mixed and/or mastered so far?

- He definitely did! What started out as a preproduction demo, slowly turned into the sound you can hear today on the record. So far other stuff he did was demos of certain bands I cannot name. He rents out rehearsal places as a living, so he meets a lot of bands.

I am sure, you are already having some new stuff written, right? Where will you go musically for your next release? When do you plan to record your next stuff?

- There are a lot of riffs here and there and a couple of songs I could call finished, but there's a really long road ahead. Musically we'll lean in more towards the spacey atmosphere. No exact plans on how and when we record the next album, we will start out with the same preproduction demo method as before, but at the end, we'll see if we want a professional studio and get the mixing out of our hands. As to when we'll record it, given the long gap between the two albums we put out so far the most optimistic date is probably late 2023/early 2024.

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer my questions. Last future visions are yours...

- I have nothing else to add, thank you for the thorough interview!

The following is an interview with Devouror from Singapore. Let me tell you right away that these Asian blasphemers are really aware of how to raise hell in their upcoming album, so be prepared for a wicked death metal devastation!!! The answerer was Shyaithan (guitar). Enjoy his diabolic transference!!!



Devouror's debut album "Diabolos Brigade" is going to be issued by Listenable Records on September 30th, 2022. It will feature 10 relentless yet blasphemous pieces in a raw blackened death metal manner. Where do you get the inspiration to create such evil tunes? I personally feel a cross between the music of Possessed and Krisiun.

-Thanks a lot, I think given the fact that I am also the creator and songwriter for Impiety for 32 years now with 9 full albums plus few EPs, you can say I'm experienced in the art of songwriting. Not forgetting the number of world tours and concerts under my belt. With Devouror I wanted to create something primitive by concept, but played skillfully well. It has to be challenging, solid and powerful, or else I would not even think to put out something!

What is the general message behind the lyrics of "Diabolos Brigade"? I am especially interested in the lyrics of "Mantra Kali Kunt" as it differs quite a lot from the other songs, both musically and lyrically.

- General message is the stereotypical Antichristian warfare, devil worship, blasphemy, art of death/dying, demonic rituals, etc. Stuff we grew up with in the late 80s-early 90s mindset when it came to black/death metal. But you are right with "Mantra Kali Kunt", lyrically it involves hypocritical worship and also absolute destruction of the fabled Goddess. We had a female friend aide in the chants and I think it turned out well.

The cover artwork became super wicked and hellish. Who created it? Why did he use the Budapest Parliament for the background building?

- Background symbolizes the Vatican City in burning glory. Impiety and I visited Vatican City back in 2017. The heart of the Christian Empire, which breeds evil within the shadows. Read the history to understand more. The title "Diabolos Brigade" is symbolic to the crucifixion of messiahs, bringing hell and fury to the doorstep of Christendom.

Listenable Records will be releasing "Diabolos Brigade" in different formats (vinyl, cassette, compact disc and digital). The CDs will come with a promo poster and a postcard, but the limited vinyl edition will be available with the "Antichrist" bottle opener. That's pretty sick! Whose idea was it? By the way, how did you manage to sign to Listenable Records?

- Sick ideas are often in the minds of great men, are

they not? Ha. Laurent Merle, boss of Listenable, came up with that brilliant idea. I have known Laurent for close to 30 years now, since he was editor for Peardrop Magazine and also S.D.U. fanzine. All these fanzines were from '91 onwards. I was already in contact with him then, but only now, we finally work together. Laurent has always been supportive of Impiety and he loved the Devouror "Slay for Satan" EP, which finally let us to sign an album deal last year. And then we also signed the mighty Impiety for a new album in 2023. So the feeling is great, that I've known him for so long as a friend, and he's been a fan of all my works that we are finally working together. Better late than never I guess? Ha.

Your new album features an over-brutalized version of Possessed's "Death Metal" classic. Moreover, it was maximally adapted to Devouror's style, which is great. Will you play it live and have the Possessed guys heard it yet?

- I am in constant contact with Jeff and the other guys from Possessed. So they are good friends, we finally met when they played Thailand in 2014, 8 years ago. I think I have not let them hear the track yet. As a surprise I guess, the album will be out soon and then I will send them the tracks and also physical formats. Yeah needless to say since high school late 80s I was first bleeding my ears to "Seven Churches" and "Beyond the Gates"! Such inspiration bestowed upon me by Possessed and inspired me to play the devil's metal!

Your stage look combines spikes, chains, leather, vicious masks, bombshells and corpse paint among other blasphemous things. Impressive visual ingredients for sure. How do the fans treat you live and what a live Devouror show is like? Usually how many songs do you play live?

- We first played in April 2019 before COVID as a debut show in Malaysia. The fans are always hungry for violence and appreciate us for who we are. We are Devouror and present the sickest bestial death metal to our legions. I think we played 8 songs only during that first show, but just like Impiety we can play 10-14 songs for over an hour. It all depends. But the upcoming tours for Devouror we will play 12 songs at least! We have the new album now so it's not an issue.

You are from Singapore. How does the death/black metal scene look over there? Please recommend to us a few killer bands and releases.

- Yes since 86/87 - Singapore bands like False Melissa, Nuctemeron, Stukas, Dread, Abhorer, Profancer, Demisor emerged. We have a long and proud history when it comes to underground death and thrash metal. Early German speed/thrash/death metal had a really huge inspiration here, not to mention NWOBHM and heavy metal, which sparked everything off. As I recall it was easy getting albums from Venom, Celtic Frost, Bathory, Kreator, Destruction, Sodom, etc. back then from the stores. So needless to say, from those sparks - the fire and love for extreme metal grew with the emergence of the Singapore Metal underground - fanzines and bands, etc. Everyone was writing letters back in the day, trading tapes was really a daily ritual. And people were sending back your stamps when you needed them to. Bands I would recommend would be Infernal Execrator, Battlestorm, Demisor, Rudra, Nafarat, Vrykolakas and Deus Ex Machina to mention a few that have 2 albums or more.

Devouror's members are involved in a lot of other bands & projects as well. Could you please introduce to the readers every band member in detail and his active bands?

- Devouror was formed November 2018 in Singapore, by myself - guitars. Antichristo - vocals (from Infernal Execrator), Asura - guitars (from and founder of Deus Ex Machina), Cryptor - bass (ex-founding member of Demisor) and lastly Dizaxter on drums (from Impiety/The Furor/Depravity). It's really hard to find committed musicians here in tiny Singapore and these good mates were the best I've known and readily available to wage war with me. After Devouror put out the "Slay for Satan" EP in 2019, Hades from Battlestorm replaced vocalist Antichristo who could no longer have time to commit to us.

Do you plan to bring the bestial deathcult warfare to Europe as well? If so, please tell us when and where the Europeans can expect you over here.

- Yes, first Devouror will kick off an Asian tour later this 2022 and see if we can do a tour in Europe spring 2023. We don't push for it, only if there are good promoters, we will do one!

Last necrotic statements are yours. Please finish the interview the Devouror way.

- Get the new "Diabolos Brigade" and play it at full volume!! Thanks Encomium, visit Asian Hell when you have time. Our rich history, culture and heritage of these lands reign supreme! 666!!!

Photo by Douglas Kellner



Scars of Atrophy is the logical continuation of the once reformed Atrophy, but you have to imagine it with a heavier, more powerful sound production and a rather bone crushing alloy of thrash metal. I've asked Tim Kelly (drums) about their fantastic new EP and plans for the near future. Read his answers below and stay tuned for more speed thrashing madness from this Tucson-based quintet!!!

Hey there Tim! Scars of Atrophy just debuted with an excellent 4-song EP called "Nations Divide". Please tell us more about this release, like where you recorded it, who produced it and what the lyrics are about.

- The EP "Nations Divide" was recorded by John Gianni at his studio in Phoenix. The 4 songs on the EP were originally written for the 3rd Atrophy album. We had been trying to release these songs for quite a while, but just could not get our former Atrophy singer to work with us. The songs and lyrics are all in the same vein as Atrophy thrash. Now with our new vocalist it takes our music to the next level. To me it feels like Atrophy in 2022. A little heavier, faster and darker.

The lyrics do have a general theme. We are basically wading through the pond of fabrication to try to figure out what is real. Our lyrics aim to answer these questions and our goal is to pass on the transparency to our listeners. Decadence, indulgence, entitlement, etc. Can we move forward???

Would you please describe to the readers the current lineup of Scars of Atrophy. Are any of the members involved in other active bands or projects?

- The current lineup of Scars of Atrophy are: Tim Kelly – drums, Scott Heller – bass, Bobby Stein – guitar, David Ruiz – guitar, Mike Niggl – vocals.

Scott, Bob and myself were all in the reformation of Atrophy. Bob has been in the band since 2016 and Scott joined in 2019. We have played many festivals and toured Europe just before everything shutdown. Mike Niggl joined the band when our

former singer left the band. I thought it best to rename the band out of respect to the original Atrophy players and to also move forward with a little heavier sound.

Musically you seem to follow in the well-established style of Atrophy's "Socialized Hate" and "Violent by Nature" albums, though in a slightly heavier form, especially if one takes a close listen to the into-your-face kind of vocal parts by Mike. How do you see it?

- Yes I love thrash and speed metal, it's in my blood. I feel our music will always sound a bit like Atrophy, because it's the way we write.

Bob and Scott were huge Atrophy fans and followed us back in the late 80's so they got it. Bob was in a band called Cadaverous Quartet, Scott played with Invictus, Dave is a member of Prelude to Ruin and Mike was in a band called Motive.

Mike's vocals are ferocious. He is so eager to work on songs and is a killer front man. Just seeing him warm up is awesome. I've never heard such low sounds come out of a human being. First time I heard him doing it, I was like damn we need to record his warmup, haha.

As I know, you've been ready with 10 new songs for the 3rd Atrophy album (and the online premiered "Riptide" was one of them). So why did you record only 4 tracks for your debut material then? I mean, are those songs about to disappear in the sinker due to the current situation or there's still a small chance to hear them on the next Scars of Atrophy material?

- Yes we released "Riptide" (a song Bob and I

wrote in 2018) in 2019 I believe. Just wanted to get something out to the fans. It was supposed to be a recording to write vocals to. Just a \$300-dollar live recording. We decided to just throw it out there as a precursor to the album. We just released an EP of 4 songs to help us sign a deal to record the rest of the album. We have received a few offers, but are waiting now that we have signed with Extreme Management Group, Inc. Should have a full album out in 2023. Hopefully we will start the recording process in September. The other 6 or 7 songs we have will definitely be on the new album. We love the music we have written over the last few years along with the new stuff we are doing.

In support of the EP, you've also aired two video clips online, the chosen songs were "Cross Contamination" and "DSM-6". Who was in charge of filming/editing/directing these videos?

- The videos we made were filmed by Doug Kellner and Fred Wellman. Great friends of the band and edited by myself. We found a great location for the "Cross Contamination" video and the "DSM-6" video was just done at our rehearsal studio. Our next release will be much more professional.

Can't neglect the super rad cover artwork by Gabriel T. Byrne. It aptly combines the past with the present. Who came up with the cover idea and what meaning lies there?

- Gabe is an awesome artist and really captured our vision. We gave him our ideas and he really pumped life into the artwork. We definitely have our ideas of what it means. You have the patient

(his mask is hanging on the wall), the doctor (entering the room), a bandana soaked in the current evils we face in the world. However, like our songs, it is open to interpretation and we invite our listeners to put their meaning to it.

You have already played some live shows.

How was the fans' reaction and what Atrophy classics did you play along with the songs of "Nations Divide"? When and where are you going to play next?

- We have had a great reaction to the live shows. Atrophy fans really approve, which is a great thing. They all say it sounds heavier and new, but still that Atrophy feel. Which is exactly what I was hoping for. Mike's vocals just give it that updated heaviness. Rick Skowron our old Atrophy guitarist, always comes out to the shows and says it is killer. We are going to push him to record some solos with us in the future, as we are still very close friends. As far as Atrophy songs, we do "Violent by Nature", "Puppies and Friends", "Beer Bong", "Socialized Hate", "Urban Decay" and "Product of the Past". We are focusing more on the new material, but really do love playing the old stuff. Honestly I would love to play the "Socialized Hate" album in its entirety one day live.

We are playing in Tucson at The Edge July 22nd, Phoenix August 12th at the 44 in Glendale and August 27th in Wisconsin at the Dimestock Festival. Good things are coming and we can't wait to get out on the road again.

"Nations Divide" was released independently.

How's the selling going? How many CDs were pressed in total? Are there any label interests

as of yet? Do you plan to re-release "Nations Divide" through other labels in the near future?

- CDs are selling well. Just made about 500 to start. We will see how the new management helps us promote and get the word out. I'm very happy with the way it turned out. Sounds great!

We may re-release it through a label, just need to wait and see what happens. We need all our fans to help spread the word. Better things to come for sure. I'm very excited about the future.

The band really gets along well, we are all great friends who like to spend time together playing and talking music. Which is a great thing. A great connection between band members is such an important thing. Working together and trusting one another is the key.

You have recently announced a partnership with Extreme Management Group, Inc. What should we know about this alliance?

- EMG is definitely a great management company and a great move on our part. Joel Spielman is our manager and he has done so much for us, creating new opportunities. EMG has our back and they really have work with us. Really not a bad word to say and we really look forward to the future we are creating together.

Tell us a bit about your drum setup. What kind of drums, cymbals, pedals and other accessories do you use playing live, in the studio or at your rehearsal room?

- My drum setup is an early 1980's Tama Superstar kit. 8", 10", 12", 13", 14", 15" toms and 18" floor tom, two 24" bass drums. Cymbals: 14" Zildjian A Thin Crash, 15" Zildjian A Medium

Crash, 16" Zildjian K Dark Crash, 18" Zildjian K Dark Crash, 20" Zildjian A China Boy, Zildjian Mega Bell Ride 22". Two sets of hi-hats. On the left Zildjian 14", on the right Paiste 15". The rack is Gibraltar. My pedals are Pearl Eliminator Demon Drive.

At the end, please feel free to reveal Scars of Atrophy's plans for the 2022-2023 years. The space is yours...

- Our plans for the future are to release the full length album, write more songs and get out on the road. Hopefully more festivals will invite us to play. A US tour will be in the works and coming back to Europe is a must.

One thing I want to express is that we are not up against Atrophy. Atrophy dissolved when the singer left the band and I decided to change the name out of respect and to let the original Atrophy stand for itself.

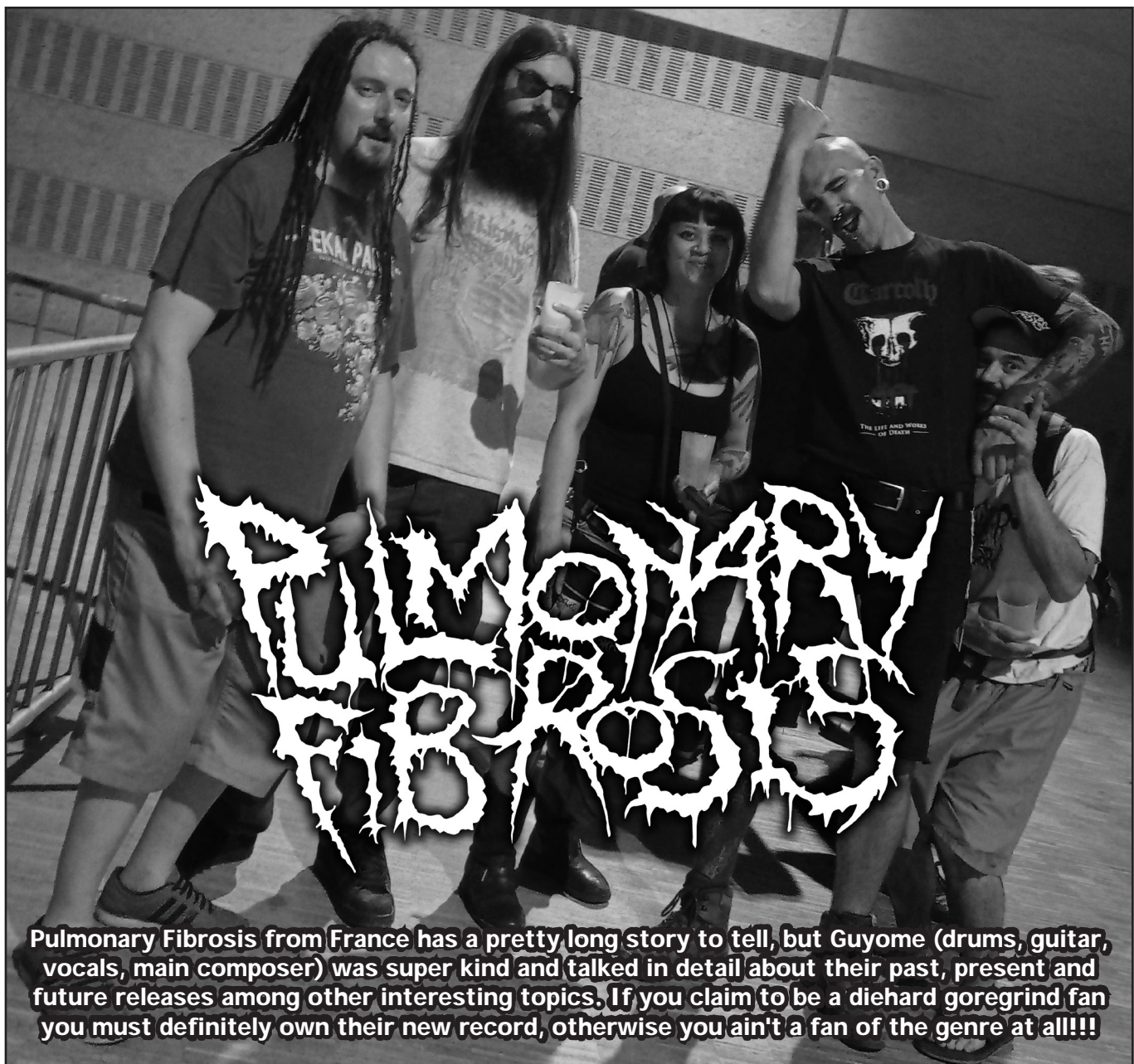
Those first two albums "Socialized Hate" and "Violent by Nature" mean the world to me. I was so excited about releasing the 3rd album, but it just did not workout. I never quit Atrophy and I can say I am the only member of Atrophy to play every single Atrophy show and on every single Atrophy recording. No one else in the band can say that. I loved Atrophy and can honestly say these songs are from that vein.

Scars of Atrophy will give you exactly what you want, speed, thrash with choruses, great lyrics and undeniable devotion to this genre of metal. We hope you will help us spread the word!

Love and Peace to all.

Tim





Pulmonary Fibrosis from France has a pretty long story to tell, but Guyome (drums, guitar, vocals, main composer) was super kind and talked in detail about their past, present and future releases among other interesting topics. If you claim to be a diehard goregrind fan you must definitely own their new record, otherwise you ain't a fan of the genre at all!!!

Hi Guyome! Your new album “Pulmonologists” is the fourth full-length in the row. It consists of 17 goregrind pieces and it sounds super sick. What’s the secret of Pulmonary Fibrosis’ anti-musical pathological formula? How’s the fans’ and the media’s reaction so far?

- Hi Kornel, thanx for your kind words man. Well, we’ve got mostly positive feedback, but some told us the production was too clean, haha. We recorded as usual at The Cripple Room studio that I own and run for a few years, then Jack (Bombnation, Mesrine) mixed and mastered it. Secrets?? Well, hehe, we just like to write songs that we like to play, I almost wrote everything as usual, Yanosh our ex-guitarist wrote the last song and Pierre (Vomi Noir, Blue Holocaust) wrote one too. I really think that’s probably our best album, I mean I really think there are only good songs, with good riffs. As I told you, we write music to make it sick, but also to have fun playing them live and sharing with people during concerts.

“Pulmonologists” was spread to the masses by Japanese label Obliteration Records on CDs and by Portuguese Larvae Records on cassettes. How many copies were pressed from both formats and what can you say about the selling so far?

- We have known Naru for a few years now, Obliteration Records has known for decades and I grew up listening to his records. I always wanted to release something on his label, he released our 4-way split CD with Embryopathia, Sulsa and Vulgaroyal Bloodhill to promote our Japanese tour in 2015 and

that was really sick. But for our 4th album we wanted Obliteration and Naru agreed, that was perfect. I don’t know how many copies Naru pressed, but we are almost sold out from our side. For the tape version I asked another old friend, Pedro of Larvae Records and bassist for Holocausto Canibal, Grunt. He did a great job on the last Rot album, so we decided to ask him and then the tapes went out and they look really great, as well I don’t know how many copies were pressed, but if everything goes fast, no problem to press more I suppose. Last but not least, the LP version is at the factory and will be pressed soon, that will be released by the French label Sleeping Church Records, they also play in a doom band called Presumption and we used to share the stage together with my doom band The Bottle Doom Lazy Band, so they asked us if we were interested in releasing something on their label and here we go.

The cover artwork was designed by Luisma of Haemorrhage. It turned out simply fantastic. Was it fully his idea to visualize/materialize it this way or you gave him strict conception sketches?

- As usual, Luisma was the man behind the sick artwork, he’s the 5th PxFx member, well a part of the Pulmonologists for sure, as we have few more members now, haha. Well, I have drawn a sketch and sent it to him, but he came back to me and said it wasn’t working, so he drew the actual artwork. My sketch didn’t match at all, I mean Luisma tried, but it didn’t work, so he had this idea and explained to me, man, look at the artworks from “Interstitial...”

till “Pulmonologists” and they all follow each other, just logical. He also found the name of the album, as we used to have long titles, he said ok why not a short one like... Pulmonologists... then here it is.

This year you also managed to issue two more split CDs and a 73-song compilation CD. Tell us in brief about these releases please.

- Well, you know we are still working on many releases, some are planned for years and delayed, but step by step they’re all seeing the light of the day. Our split CD with Gangrene Discharge just came out and that was one of the easiest release ever done, Bobby is the best to deal with, in a week everything was done and that’s a real pleasure to make a record on Regurgitated Stoma Stew Productions, he’s a sick dude doing sick releases. Right before we’ve got our 3-way split CD with G.O.D. and Gourmet released by Sonic Bath Records, Grindfather Productions and Death by Digital, we recorded the instruments in Barcelona and the vocals in my studio, that was pretty fun and the bands on this split are old friends and really sick bands. The last release is our 3-way split CD with Oxidised Razor and Bowel Evacuation released by Diablos Records in Mexico, intros were DIY made by Samantha and they sound pretty sick. About the compilation, that’s the 2nd volume of our discography, it still included raw materials, but less than the first volume as we used an 8-track minidisc. The 3rd volume is on the way, that is still the period before our first album “Organ Maggots”. I also should tell you about the awesome one side 12” we released

on Marc's great label Meltaaargh!!!! Records. It was mixed and mastered by Alex of Bowel Leakage at the Gravestone studios in Belorussia and the result is really sick. We also appeared on a Mexican compilation called "Short music for freak people" and it was released on Scum Records by our old friend Bixler.

I am sure, you have a few more split releases planned for this year, right? Could you reveal to us some details, like involved bands, number of tracks and where are you going to record your stuff for those splits?

- Hehe, yeah you're right, we have songs that we've recorded 2 years ago and waited to be released, but bands disappeared as the labels, so we finally found new ones and it should be out soon. I have recorded a session with only me on everything during the first months of the pandemic, the idea came from El Kaso Urkijo guys, then more than 1 year was gone and nothing. A French friend living in Barcelona was supposed to release it, but due to personal trouble he wasn't able to make it and we were waiting even longer. So we finally found a new label, I can't tell it right now, and then this split will be finally out and we are very proud to share it with that sick band, it will be Bisturi from Spain, one of the sickest bands ever and great guys. Next will surely be a split CD with our Brazilian friends and legend Neuro-Visceral Exhumation, it will be another sick release. We are also working on a tribute album, we'll pay tribute to bands we love, who influenced us and we hope to make it release for our 25th anniversary in 2023. As usual it will be recorded at The Cripple Room, the new version of the studio is on the way, but probably not functional this year.

Since 1998 you've faced a few member changes. So what does the current line-up of Pulmonary Fibrosis look like? Do you play live a lot lately? Where will you be crushing next time?

- Yeah, in almost 25 years we had few members and line-up changes, but all members are friends playing together and having fun, that's the way. The official and actual line-up is Samantha on guitar; Simon & Adrien on vocals, Reno on bass and I

on drums/guitar/vocals. Recently Wlad (Pendrak, Brainwashed, Faxx) joined us on a few shows and he'll probably do more when it will be possible, he's like a session guitarist I guess, but he's an old friend and the last shows together were great. We officially stopped to play live shows like everyone in march 2020, but we didn't really stop, we played far less than usual of course, but we had great shows in squats and parties in France, Spain and Switzerland. Then this year we played the first official show at the Anthems of Steel fest and a mini tour in Switzerland, Slovenia, Slovakia and Hungary followed last June. Wlad joined us on guitar and we were a 3-piece line-up, because Sam & Reno couldn't come. Next shows will be in Spain next week with the full line-up, then Bordeaux in France on 27th August in homage to Fred, our last guitarist/singer, who passed away in 2018. Then at the end of September and the first 3 weekends of October we'll be busy playing shows in France, Belgium and Scandinavia, we'll announce them soon.

You are located in Yzeures-sur-Creuse. It is one of the oldest towns in Touraine. How is the underground scene there? Do you have a lot going on there? I mean the number of concerts, bands, music stores, etc.

- That's a very small town with around 1500 inhabitants, but that's the town of my parents, well they live around 5 kms from there, since few years I'm located around 20 kms from that town, that's where I also run my recording studio, I'm driving from the first big town, that's in the middle of nowhere. There is no scene, we are the only extreme band, there were bars in the past, but there was no show, just an old town event. Like 15 years ago we played a small open air fest in that town, there were rock bands too, then they started a fest where around 3000 people were coming, but that's all about shitty electro and r'n'b shitty music. They used to have rock bands and mostly pop music, I worked as a technician on stage, but stopped. The only music stores where in Châtellerault, 26 kms driving and I went there almost every Saturday, I visited mostly a small one with 2nd hand gear and bought the first PxFx snare, Pearl piccolo steel shell, that I still use

in Embryopathia and few cymbals.

You've been to Kyiv (Ukraine) in 2009. I am not sure if you've been to us more often, but if so, could you please share your thoughts and memories about those trips of the past?

- You're right, we played in Kyiv in 2009 with PxFx & our other band Baptized In Vaginal Liquid. We started the tour in Banská Bystrica in Slovakia, then drove to Kyiv and toured Russia for a week. One of the craziest tours we did, that was only a one-week tour, but so intense because I drove all day with my van and played 2 sets each night, that was crazy, but I will do it again if I could, hehe. Well, I guess every band who played Ukraine must have only great times and fun, I remember Kyiv was so silent even with the traffic, the extreme opposite of Paris, which is the worst city I went too. Man, I really would like to be back in Ukraine and play shows, we were invited to play when we came back to Russia in 2019, but it unfortunately didn't happen. We just hope to visit that country again someday and hope for better days.

Besides Pulmonary Fibrosis you have plenty of other bands & projects, e.g. Baptized In Vaginal Liquid, Corporal Abuse, Embryopathia, Malade Blague, Rotten, The Bottle Doom Lazy Band, etc. Which one of them will be releasing some new stuff soon?

- Yep, lots of projects, but I have mostly had 3 active bands and it is still the fact. Baptized started to record the album... I don't remember when, it's been years now, but everyone left and I was alone, so I gave up, we spent so much time on this, songs were pretty technical, but members were lazy and more into the party. Malade Blague was an international harshnoise project, there is only one digital record on Torn To Pieces blog and that's it, dead. Corporal Abuse is my 2nd band I started in 2001 as a noisecore project, I wrote few songs that appeared on PxFx releases and then it turned into harshnoise in the vein of Merzbow, Gore Beyond Necropsy and Napalmed, I just released the 2nd album on Cataleptic Remains Productions, it's called "Space Control" and it's available as a nice digipak with a running time of 70 minute. The artwork was made by a Spanish friend called Joao aka JfKollages, Samantha is playing drums and other noise stuff on it too, we really had fun recording it and the result is really cool. I also play guitar in Rotten, which is an old school death metal band we started maybe around 2015, there is a demo CD/tape released by Bleed Records and we are working on the 2nd one. The line-up is made of old friends and bandmate, Cyril on drums (Trepator and ex-Deep Vein, death metal), Djé on bass (the boss, ex-Deep Vein), Ben on vocals (The Bottle Doom Lazy Band, Synosys, etc.) and I on guitar. The Bottle Doom Lazy Band yeah, what a name haha, we have been playing together since 18 years I guess and we are probably one of the oldest French doom bands, influenced by Black Sabbath, Saint Vitus, Candlemass, Pentagram, Cathedral. The 4th album is ready to be recorded, fingers crossed, but we should start to record soon and play more shows I hope. About Embryopathia only Seb and I left, but Adrien should get back soon I hope, by the way we have recorded the album, I recorded the drums, most of the guitars and all vocals, Seb did the bass and few tracks on guitar, then probably record backing vocals asap, we have found a label and that will be announced soon.

Thank you for the interview! Please cough out your final pulmonary words for the end.

- Well, thank a lot for the interview & support. I really wish you all the best in this hard time, everyone in Ukraine and wish to be back to visit you all, cheers.



If you crave for more HM-2 driven death metal in the old school way, then definitely make sure to listen to the demos by Symbtomy. Big thanks to Duzl and Dejvy for the detailed answers!!!

Hello! To start with let's talk about the formation of Symbtomy and the current members. Why this name, what does it symbolize for you and why did you choose the Swedish sound by default?

Duzl: Hi Kornel, first of all, thank you so much for featuring Symbtomy in your zine, we really appreciate it! And now let's go to your questions... The current line-up of the band is Dejvy (guitar – main brain and composer, Sectesy, ex-Despise), Duzl (bass), Jaroslav Šantrůček (guitar, ex-Despise, ex-Heaving Earth, ex-Imperial Foeticide), Martin Horčic (vocals, Trahir) and Zdeněk (drums). As for the name, it is nothing complicated, it is a combination of two important words for Dejvy, Symbolic (the festival he organizes) and Sectesy (his second band). Dejvy likes symbolism and this was the first thing that came to his mind, we tried other names of course, but nothing was better than Symbtomy. As far as sound is concerned, that's a question for Dejvy...

Dejvy: I've always wanted to bring my musical ideas to life with the legendary Boss HM-2. It's a terrible box, but that's what I love about it. Since the beginning of my musical journey, I've gone in the complete opposite direction of the HM-2 sound. I tried to find a clean, yet brutal sound using VHT, Mesa Boogie, ENGL or Peavey. With Despise and then with Sectesy I settled on the VHT Valvulator GP3/VHT Two Fifty Two + 2 x Mesa Boogie RoadReady. Perfect for death metal, which I alternate with ENGL Fireball 100/Marshall 1960A. However, I was tempted to try something new – a different kind of music composition... yet staying with old school death metal. All of us at the age of 45 grew up on records like "Like an Everflowing..." or "Left

Hand...", that's just the way it is and it's stuck with us. So when I decided to form a new band thanks to Duzl, it was clear from the beginning that we would go back 30 years to Sweden and everything that goes with it. Sure, the way we perceive music and songwriting has changed over the years – but we don't plan to make any calculations. We play what we love and it will always stay that way.

You have two killer demos on your account. Both were issued on cassettes and there was also a CD release featuring both demos. Could you please talk about them? I mean, which labels were involved, how many copies were pressed, are they still available in physical formats and about the reaction of the fans and the media so far.

Dejvy: My plan was to go through the natural evolution that bands went through in the 90's. I experienced that time – my first bands also released demos on cassettes at first. It was amazing how we enjoyed every reaction that came in the classic written form, i.e. a letter in the mailbox. I wanted to revive that time – of course everything could be released on CD right away, but I didn't want that. The only thing I wanted was for the tapes to be available both in America and Europe, and thanks to the fact that we were approached by the Frozen Screams Imprint label (USA) and we approached my friend Juraj from Immortal Souls Productions it happened. Everyone released their own edition, which was sold out almost immediately. The second demo I released myself on my label Souls of Underworld Records (unfortunately Juraj passed away last year) and we are currently waiting for the release on Frozen Screams Imprint, which should be out this autumn. However, we were

contacted daily by fans who don't own a cassette player saying that the demos should be released on CD as well, so I asked Sectesy publisher Peter from Metal Age to produce a couple of CDs – the great thing is that these CDs are almost sold out as well. We'd like to release both demos on LP and then we'll just concentrate on releasing the debut CD, which we'd like to start working on as soon as the festival season is over.

Both of your demos featured well-known guest musicians, like Rick Rozz, John Walker, Max Otero, Jonny Pettersson, Johan Jansson and Ralf Hauber. Was it hard to involve them? Any special stories there?

Duzl: It may be surprising, but it was absolutely simple, I got contacts, wrote a message to the guests we chose, described to them our plans and vision, sent them our material and they all agreed, communication was then easy and the guests did a great job and we are very grateful for that. I guess there's not any special story behind it. Only that John Walker (Cancer) was supposed to be on the first demo, but due to strict restrictions at the time of the COVID in Madrid, he was not able to get into the studio, so we had to wait and he became the guest on the second demo.

You've already played two times live and your third show is about to happen at the Back to the Symbolic festival on 26-27th of August, 2022. Would you please share your memories & impressions from the first two gigs and what kind of set you plan to play at the third?

Dejvy: Originally we didn't want to play with Symbtomy live at all. I'm quite busy with Sectesy, but with the coming of new band-mates recently we



opened this question again and agreed to play sometimes. So far, this has happened 2 times only at the Symbolic event organized by us. Last year at its small version and this year at its bigger version. Now we are going to perform again at the smaller "Back to the Symbolic". We're still in the process of getting together musically, because we haven't rehearsed together for a long time, on top of that everything is complicated by the distances between our homes + other musical activities we have, but it can all be overcome and we can play a really brutal show. Our set so far consists only of old songs that can be heard on both demos. Hopefully soon we will present the new songs live as well. I already have three songs written for the upcoming MCD, so I expect that this winter or next spring at the latest we will expand our playlist with something new.

You are residing in the UK, but the rest of the members are in the Czech Republic. How do you solve the rehearsals, especially when a live gig is about to happen?

Duzl: It's not easy, that's true. But there are a lot of international bands that have it the same way, isn't it?! I fly to the Czech Republic quite often, so we try to plan a rehearsal every time I am there and usually it is really intensive all-day or even two-day rehearsals. When I'm not in the Czech Republic, the guys meet together for a rehearsal without me. As you mentioned the third show is still to come... so I'm practicing at home, because I can't make the rehearsal before this show at the moment, but the guys will meet before for sure. And then we will focus on the new material.

Could you please talk about your involvement in Symbolic Open Air Festival, Souls of Underworld Records, Metalegion Magazine, Deadly Storm 'zine and Soulgrinder 'zine? When did you start to work/write for them?

Duzl: Damn Kornel, this is going to be long, but I'll try to keep it short, haha... Well, Deadly Storm zine was founded by Jakub Asphyx and me after we contributed some time to Fobia zine, but we didn't like how it works there, so we decided to start our own zine (I think it was sometime in 2015), Jakub is the main redactor and reviewer and I take care of the English version of the web, so most of the translations and I also write interviews myself. Then on the basis of my interviews for Deadly Storm I was contacted (in 2019) by owner of Metalegion - Ricardo Azavedo and he offered me the cooperation and a year later same story happened by Paul from Soulgrinder zine, where I also started to contribute, it's nice to see my own interviews not only in inter-

net form where they soon "fall into oblivion", but in physical printed paper form. I am a mags/zines collector myself, so this makes me very happy, I think that as a redactor of your own zine you know this very well. As for the festival, I met Dejvy (in 2019) and he was looking for someone who knows the death metal scene and could help him with booking foreign bands for Symbolic Open Air. So I started as a booking manager there, but nowadays I do everything from booking, promotion, accounting, communication... to beer tapping, hahaha. Dejvy fulfilled my dream and founded a band (Symbtomy) for me, and his dream was to start a label that would archive music recordings of the "Czechoslovak" scene that never came out on CD, but only on cassette in the 90's. So I helped him fulfill this dream and found him a company that presses CDs in limited editions of 100 pcs. And then Souls of Underworld Records was founded. I am basically the "grey eminence" of the label haha, I take care of the social media, bandcamp, promotion and communicate with world, I handle foreign orders, trading and I put music into production, so I am in touch with the factory, etc. and Dejvy is in charge of the Czech and Slovak market and preparing all visual and musical materials for production and communicates with the bands we release... simply "face of the label". Hopefully I have somehow included all the activities you asked in my answer... and we have some other new stuff and activities planned... but let's talk about that some other time, because it's still in the "discussion phase" at the moment.

Can't neglect the awesome graphics by Jakub N. Rusek. Did he or you come up with these great cover ideas? Is the cover of "Demo #2" featuring you, the band members, illustrated as zombies?

Dejvy: Yes, the cover of our second demo shows the line-up that recorded the second demo, including guest vocalist Martin (Sectes) and drummer Štěpán (Poppy Seed Grinder, ex-Despise). I'm really glad you like this idea of mine. I love 70's zombie movies, I'm a really fanatical fan of 70's zombie, cannibal or giallo movies. On the second to last CD Sectes, I was playing with the idea of incorporating the people involved in its creation into the cover and something incredible was created... same with the graphics of our t-shirts (Sectes and Symbtomy) or most of the Symbolic visuals. I can promise that the cover of our upcoming MCD Symbtomy will again feature the band in some way. I love to come up with graphics that my friend Jakub will then breathe life into. He is great to work with - so much that I haven't approached anyone else for my projects for years. Actually, Jakub

is kind of my Derek Riggs. I want to keep it that way forever, because I don't know anyone who could not only render my visions so precisely, but who wouldn't think I'm completely crazy, because of those visions.

Your next release is going to be "Demo #3" or you are already thinking about the debut album of Symbtomy?

Duzl: It's possible... and then "Demo #4" and "Demo #5", hahaha. No, we plan to go into the studio in the autumn and record five songs and release a MCD. So it looks like our fans will have to wait a bit longer for a full-length album. But we also plan to do it, of course. But I can reveal that each song will be again enriched with special guest vocals and there will definitely not be any unknown names, but they remain secret for now.

You've visited quite a few awesome festivals this year. Personally, which one you liked the most and what bands impressed you live?

Duzl: It's true that I visit quite a lot of festivals every year, but this year will probably be unforgettable due to the last edition of Netherlands Deathfest, where after many years I could see Dismember, which is one of my top bands, and then another great bands played there like Sacramentum, Unanimated, Autopsy or Obliteration, etc. ... also it's always a meeting with friends that I see once a year only there. So such a great line-up, great atmosphere, relaxation, just amazing. Another highlight for me is Symbolic, because seeing Candlemass in such an intimate atmosphere was something absolutely incredible and I don't think it will ever happen again.

Last symbolic words are yours. Please finish the interview by sending your regards to all the diehard death metal maniacs of the underworld.

Duzl: Thanks again for this interview and great questions, Kornel! I would like to thank you for your work on the Ukraine scene despite the hard times you are facing now in your country! And of course we greet all the fans and supporters... go to concerts of your favorite bands, don't be afraid to discover new bands, buy their merchandise and spread their music, these days it's needed more than ever...! Take care Kornel and I hope to see you soon play at Symbolic with your band!

Dejvy: Thanks for the interesting questions. I'm always very pleased to see that the interviewer has taken the time to research a band before sending them questions. I have a lot of respect for people like you who keep the scene alive and give it the power to grow and be strong. I really thank you and I'll look forward to maybe meeting you at a show over a pint of good beer.

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AGRESSOR

"Satan's Sodomy Of Death" CD 2020 (GrimmDistribution/La Cripta Metal Shop)

This CD includes all the early demos by the French gods of deaththrash, i.e. Agressor. Originally this compilation was released by La Cripta Metal Shop in 2018. The current re-release was issued in cooperation with GrimmDistribution and the aforementioned La Cripta Metal Shop in 2020. It has a massive 20-page booklet with lots of photos, early history and a pit-art CD. A collector's item so to say. The 58-minute compact disc starts with the very first demo "The Merciless Onslaught" from 1986. Its 3 songs ("Bloodfeast", "Lucifer's Spell", "666") were accomplished in Kreator's style, so the purest kind of euro thrash metal will await you there. It is followed by the "Satan's Sodomy" demo from 1987. Its four songs plus intro are displaying better material in terms of originality and sound quality. It is still performed within the strict borders of thrash metal, but with plenty of its own ideas, which will give you an early picture about the formation of Agressor's style. The songs are "Satan's Sodomy (Intro)/Brainstorm", "Uncontrolled Desire", "Black Church" and "It's Pandemonium". Next demo is "Mixed Rehearsal" from 1988. Around this demo we can start to speak about the unique musical approach of Agressor, though it seems Kreator will always be very influential on their music.



The 4 tracks of this rehearsal demo are "Bloody Corpse", "Elemental Decay", "Dark Power" & "Neverending Destiny". During these songs we can already feel the coming of the death metal influences. The sound production is ultra-raw, but still enjoyable in my opinion. The disc ends with the 3 songs of "Orbital Distortion" demo from 1989. As you might notice, there's only one new song on this demo, namely "Paralytic Disease". Pretty fast-paced death/thrash metal cut it is. The other two old tracks "Bloody Corpse" and "Elemental Decay" were re-recorded with the same attitude, so you'll experience them in a more brutal and fast way. This demo is pretty awesome! A must for any Agressor fans out there, but I would also recommend listening to these demos for fans of Kreator, Massacra, Loudblast and Mercyless!!!

ANCIENT SETTLERS

"Our Last Eclipse" CD-R 2022 (Crusader Records)

Ancient Settlers is an international death metal band consisting of six members: Antony Hämäläinen (vocals), Carlos Chiesa-Estomba (lead guitar), Emmy Reyes (rhythm guitar), Miguel Herrera (bass), René González (synths/keyboards) and Hermán Riera (drums). It was formed in 2020. After the 4-song "Autumnus" EP (2021) and a couple of singles the sextet is finally ready to demonstrate their first full-length record – "Our Last Eclipse: The Settlers Saga Pt. 1" – that was issued by Crusader Records on the 1st of April, 2022. The album is almost 54 minutes long. It has 10 superb songs accomplished in the Gothenburg-style. Thus while you listen to them you would definitely perceive the influences of At The Gates, Dark Tranquillity or In Flames. But let me honestly tell you their kind of melodic death metal is not just about the aforementioned influences, because it has elements of prog rock, power metal and modern metalcore too. Plus, the use of synthesizers added some ethereal mood to the whole stuff, which personally I liked

the most. Their riffs are pretty melodious, groovy and massive sounding the way they should be for such a genre. The vocalizing manner of Antony is very much executed in the vein of Johan Liiva (ex-Arch Enemy), but



that's alright I guess. The material was mixed and mastered by Fredrik Nordström, so no complains at all. Well, it's a quite promising debut album that has to be checked by fans of melodic and atmospheric death metal!!!

BEAST WITHIN THE SOUND

"Resistance" CD 2020 (Slovak Metal Army)

The Czech quintet called Beast Within the Sound is active since 2009. "Resistance" is their newest and third long play to date. The music they perform is some kind of intense groovy thrash metal with elements of deathcore and metalcore. It can be also characterized as a well-balanced combination between the musical arsenals of Slayer, Exodus, Testament and At the Gates. However, you have to imagine the over 38 minutes long repertory with a modern sound production and respectively vocal parts. I would personally reduce these latter elements to zero or at least minimize them, then the overall result would be more attractive and maximally into-your-face one.



Nevertheless, their songs are good enough and very enjoyable. Let's believe they will be going to add some genuineness to their next record! On "Resistance" the band is: Filip Škobis (vocals), Julián Lamas (guitars), Jan Peš (guitars), Jakub Prokop (bass) & Jirka Zajíc (drums). The limited edition CD release has been supported by the awesome cover artwork of Daniela Neumanová, a tasty 12-page booklet including all the lyrics and a laconic slipcase. Nice release!!!

CONSTIPATION/NECROTOMB

"Fucking Morbid Splitting" CD 2020 (Immortal Souls Productions)

Constipation from Slovakia opens this split CD with 11 songs into a pretty funny and partying kind of grindcore and death metal alloy. This project was formed back in 1999, but split up rather shortly afterwards. At the time, they've had on their account only one live show plus a rehearsal tape. Well, but twenty years later the decision was made to reform it, so here they are again and conquering. The Constipation team combines the black humorous forces of Fetus (vocals), Dodi (guitars, bass & vocals), Necronymous (drums, guitars, bass on "Ein kilogramm" & backing vocals on "Migréna") and two special guests, namely Janka (female vocals on "Migréna") and Samo (bass on "Migréna" & "Cisársky rez"). Their over 15 minutes long stuff sounds sick, disgusting yet terrific. If you prefer porn, gore and other sick

forms of grind, then you'll surely have to check Constipation!!! The other band of the split is also coming from Slovakia. It is Necrotomb, a one-man horror, gore death/grind project by Jánec Lovás (all instruments and vocals). Musically, it was totally inspired by Mortician. So you can expect some ultra-fast grinding blasts spiced up by chainsaw guitar sound and hell of a deep growling vocalizing manner. The whole musical conception is targeted to shit your pants as fast as possible. It was created most likely not for weak-minded pussies, so bear that in mind!!!



This monster CD has been attached with a laconic booklet (four pages in total), where all the necessary info is included about both Slovakian projects. Hurry up to get in time your copy from the mighty Immortal Souls Productions!!!

DEAD CARNAGE

"From Hell For Hate" CD 2020 (Immortal Souls Productions)

"From Hell For Hate" is the second full-length album by Dead Carnage. The Czech death metal quintet firmly delivers to us eight songs of their old-school brand plus a cover of Hierophant. Their riffs are pretty simple in general, one would admit nothing new or intriguing can be found there, but still the tandem of guitar players managed to pack them with quite a lot of dynamism and crude energy. To this you have to add a solid rhythm section and the sullen voice of Bendik. At times they reminded me the vibe of Death's "Leprosy", Morgoth's first two EPs and Cancer's "Death Shall Rise", of course, you have to extract the originality from their material. Despite the lack of uniqueness, I can warmly recommend Dead Carnage to those who music-wise successfully stuck in the past and sincerely admire the death metal movement of late 80s and early 90s. This stuff has been written for you! Personally I wish them to focus on creating more memorable and catchy tunes in the future! The nearly 35 minutes long CD comes along with an 8-page booklet that has all the lyrics included there.

DOMINION OF SUFFERING

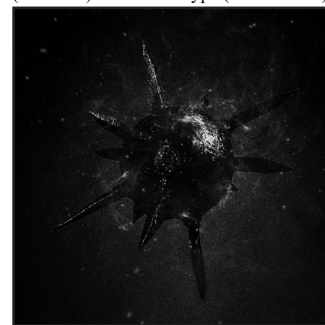
"The Birth Of Hateful Existence" CD 2020 (Slovak Metal Army)

Dominion of Suffering started its existence in 2008 as a nameless project. Its first release was the "Served to the Worms" demo in 2011. Then it was followed by a long hiatus and finally in 2020 their debut album "The Birth of Hateful Existence" is arrived. The 5-song release displays a hateful black metal approach in nearly 27 minutes.



If you ask me, music-wise this is a totally average stuff. I mean, this is the kind of record that never gets a second spin. Lame and boring. On this record the members are:

Quasar (vocals), Dr. Channard (guitars), Odia (guitars) and Neptun (drums). The material was recorded in Martin Barla Studio (Slovakia) and Osa Crypt (Switzerland).



It sounds pretty decent, by the way. This formerly Slovakian formation now partly relocated to Switzerland. Is it for the better, I don't know yet, but let's see what their second album will be like. Until then, only fans of Dominion of Suffering are encouraged to have this CD. It was also released on cassettes by Hexencape Productions and Davao Hellbangers Productions, plus on 12" vinyls by the band's label Necroeucliarist Productions. That's all.

DYING GROTESQUE

"Sunflower Tide" CD-R 2021 (Surrogate Rec.)

"Sunflower Tide" is the debut album of Dying Grotesque from Ukraine. It was originally premiered in 2020 in digital format. In 2021 thanks to Surrogate Rec. the album got a physical, burnt CD-R version as well. There are 8 songs on the disc with half an hour playing time. The death metal the band performs there is rather primitive and it has been strongly influenced by the Swedish scene. For me it's pretty hard even to listen to their songs as everything sounds totally cliché there. Don't get me wrong the album was recorded and performed on a good level, but there are no "real" ideas, "real" riffs or "real" songs there, just stealing. The prize for the most boring death metal album of the 21st century is definitely going to them.



Tasteless and faceless material it is. I really do hope they will finally start thinking and creating better stuff in the future. The CD-R comes in a jewel case with a pro-printed full-color 12-page booklet. Don't know how many pieces were pressed in total, but there are a few copies left on Surrogate Rec.'s bandcamp page. Dying Grotesque on this record was in the following line-up: Silvan (vocals, lead guitar), Andron (rhythm guitar) and Nordwind (drums, drymba).

FROZEN WREATH

"Memento Mori" CD 2021 (Filosofem Records)

Frozen Wreath is a collaboration of two Hungarian musicians, namely Roland Neubauer (Vrag, WitcheR) and Zoltán Szele (De Profundis). They've formed it and debuted with the single "Ősz" in 2020. Their second single "Halott ígér" came early 2021. The duo plays atmospheric black metal and lyrics-wise focuses on the finality of the human life. "Memento Mori" is their first full-length album, which consists of eight well-structured songs and lasts nearly 43 minutes. Zoltán (all instruments) did a really good job orchestrating the modest yet very

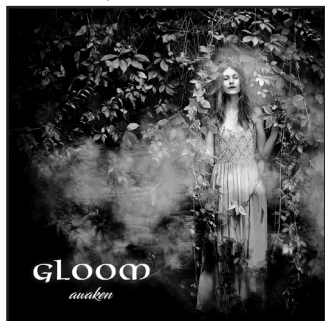
epic keyboard passages along with the grim-sounding, but rather melodic guitar parts. The rhythm sections are decent as well. Musically their kind of black metal reminded me very much the early phases of Cradle of Filth and the Scandinavian hordes, although you have to imagine it with the involvement of lots of folklore elements. Moreover, the classics of the Hungarian literature have been also paired and transferred to the lyrics of Roland. A good example for that is the inclusion of the poem by József Attila in "Halott igéret",



spoken by Zoltán Latinovits. The vocalizing manner of Roland is pretty varied too, as you can hear there not just the typical harsh black metalish screams, but deep deathlike grunts and clean vocals too, which most of the time appear in dual mode. In the 6-page booklet there are lyrics in both Hungarian and English languages, which is a great idea. And to all this you have to add the apt cover artwork by Olga Kann and the cool band logo by Christophe Szpajdel. Kind of ace debut album, if you ask me, so let's keep our attention on Frozen Wreath in the future!!!

GLOOM
"Awaken" CD 2020
 (Slovak Metal Army)

Slovakian gothic rockers' third full-length album "Awaken" consists of nine beautiful compositions. The playing time of the CD is over 44 minutes. Their stuff is purely based on the well-known canons of the genre. Soft music, spiced with female vocals, lyrics about love, pain, etc. The four members of Gloom – Martin Pazdera (vocals), Igor Tinák (guitars), Miroslav Maľcovský (bass) & Radoslav Priputen (drums) – are maximally capable of writing nice gothic tunes, which production-wise sound decently as well. It's very relaxing to listen to their repertoire, which reminded me a cross between the music of Type O Negative and Sentenced. From the latter one they even borrowed a song "Bleed in My Arms", of course, it was kindly adapted to the style of Gloom. If you're searching for some good-sounding atmospheric gothic metal albums, feel free to check "Awaken"



along with the band's other two releases, "Nostalgia" (2006) and "Catharsis" (2017). Preferred tracks are "Broken", "Hollow" and "Noose" (just listen to that great solo there).

GODNOISE
"Hardgodnoisecore" CD 2020
 (Slovak Metal Army)

Slovakian hardcore dudes of Godnoise are around us since 2004. "Hardgodnoisecore" is their fourth full-length record to date. The eleven-track CD was prepared in the best traditions of the so-called old-school HC veterans, so what you'll get is a

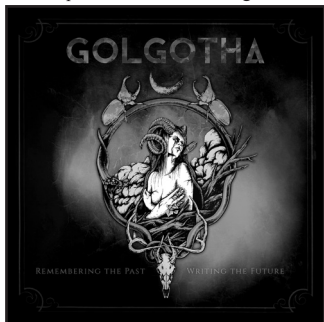
straight into your face hardcore punch. It's fast, dynamic, groovy and ultra-banging! If you were growing up with Agnostic Front, Madball or Minor Threat, then you will love the over 25 minutes long stuff by Godnoise.



The members behind this massive record are as follows: Duco (vocals), Adam (guitar), Šit'o (bass) & Iwiak (drums). Their lyrics are written in Slovakian, but content-wise they're about the same themes/problems as their veteran colleagues used to write about. Their sound rips hard and their stuff storms. Kind of dedicated material, which HC fans all over the world will going to praise at first listen. Their music will make you move, headbang and go crazy. The energy is just at the highest possible level there. It's Slovakian hardcore at its best!!! So better keep your eyes peeled on these fellas as their fifth album is around the corner!!!

GOLGOTHA
"Remembering The Past/Writing The Future" CD-R 2021
 (Xtreem Music)

Golgotha is a legendary Spanish doom metal band formed in 1992. They have a demo, 2 promos, 4 EPs, 4 full-length albums,



a live album plus a split live release on their account. "Remembering the Past/Writing the Future" as the title suggests has both new and old songs. To be precise, there's only one new track "Don't Waste Your Life" included there. It reflects on the future of the band and the musical path they're going to pursue. The song itself has all the typical ingredients of the genre, even though the clean male vocals most of the time come in a gothic manner. Despite this little fact, it's a well-composed vibey tune. Then we have four old tracks re-recorded, re-arranged and kind of revamped. They are "Helpless" (taken from the "Arise" EP, originally released in 2008), "I Am Lost" (taken from the "New Life" album, originally released in 2005 by Electric Chair Music), "Elemental Changes" (from the same titled album, originally released in 1998 by Repulse Records) and "Lonely" (taken from the "Melancholy" album, originally released in 1995 by Repulse Records). The line-up on the EP is as follows: Amón López (vocals), Vicente Payá (guitars), Samuel Morales (guitars), Andrew Spinoso (bass) & Tomeu Crespi (drums). The five doomsters did an excellent job on these five cuts that last circa 34 minutes. By the way, there are 3 extra unlisted songs on the disc, they are the orchestral versions of "Don't Waste Your Life", "I Am Lost" and "Helpless". I am sure, the diehard fans of Golgotha will appreciate these special takes. Kind of collector's item is this in my sincere opinion, still anyone into doom metal can give a spin to this EP!!!
Bandcamp: golgotha.bandcamp.com

GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG
"Neuschwabenland" CD 2020
 (Slovak Metal Army)

This South Moravian quartet from Brno is awesomely forging the American and Teutonic thrash metal arsenals along with their own. "Neuschwabenland" is their second album with 9 songs and 33 minutes of thrashing time. Let me tell you that Grinsen (vocals/bass), Brummbär (guitar), Teufel (guitar) and Wunderpepi (drums) are very good at what they do. The Slayer meets Sodom mix is just super killer there.



And while you listening to their fubsy head-banging short cuts you will be unwittingly find yourself in a time machine, which will return you to the end of the eighties, kind of journey to the past, even if it's short enough, but who cares. Their lyrics are written in Czech and German languages and dealing with World War II. The sound production is perfect thanks to Davos studio. And if my infos are correct, the quartet already started to record their third album in the same studio. Until it gets finished you better have a few listens to the incredible songs of "Neuschwabenland" and order your physical copy from the band. It's a warmly recommended release to all the diehard thrash maniacs worldwide! By the way, the booklet design also turned out flawless! So buy or die!!!

HARAKIRI FOR THE SKY
"Mære" DCD 2021
 (AOP Records)

This Austrian band's name is circulating quite a lot in the media lately. So let's see, why is it so. "Mære" is their fifth longplay.



It has ten songs and it comes on two discs. The music they play is post black metal. The two main members of the band are M.S. (guitar, bass, songwriting) and J.J. (vocals, lyrics). On this record they've been joined by Kerim "Krimh" Lechner (Septicflesh) on drums, Neige from Alcest (additional vocals on "Sing for the Damage We've Done") and the anonymous voice of the Portuguese black metal band Gaerea on the song "Silver Needle // Golden Dawn". I am not an expert of this post black metal movement, but I have to note the music they've recorded for "Mære" is pretty depressing, melancholic and even surrealistic. The sound production is huge and atmospheric, there's really nothing to complain about. Their songs are rather lengthy as they like to make repeating cycles of their riffs very much. The first CD has 5 tracks with a 44-minute playing time, whilst the second CD with the same amount of songs indicates 40 and a half minutes. What I've found out that their stuff is quite good for background music, it's relaxed and at times even meditative. At this point,

I really don't know how their songs work at a live show, but hopefully their fans are digging them live as well. It's without any doubts a professional release, but damn I still don't understand why the hype is so big around Harakiri for the Sky.

HEX
"Behold The Unlighted" CD 2022
 (Vertebrae/Negre planY/Hecatombe Records)

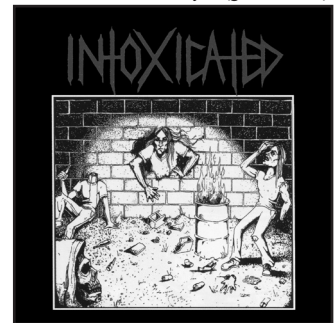
The new Hex material comes in the form of a 3-song EP with a circa 21 minutes length. The Basque quintet from the city of Bilbao continues to spread their well-crafted death/doom metal darkness upon the condemned humankind. Being around for ten years and having released two albums and a demo so far this Spanish unit is undoubtedly forging together their best songs on "Behold The Unlighted". The EP opens with the peaceful and relaxing piano tones of "As Darkness Descend Upon You" to bring forth afterwards the dynamic and ultra-heavy riffing in the vein of the mighty Bolt Thrower. This tune rips so hard, especially when the twin vocal assaults (the combination of clean voices and deep growls) enter and create the most epic part of the song. It is followed by the mid-paced and rather double-bass-oriented track called "Impending Doom Towards Darkness", where the Bolt Thrower worship is even more outlined. Solid song for sure. The EP ends with the lengthiest eight-minute hymn titled as "...and Thus Spoke Darkness".



Another dose of melancholic epicness awaits you there with the appropriate inclusion of airy acoustic guitar parts and vocal parts shouting from the back. As a whole this stuff sounds perfect to me. I've really enjoyed the mix, the balance of the instruments and the way the panorama turned out there. This is quality music I would warmly recommend to check out for all the fans of Bolt Thrower, Paradise Lost and My Dying Bride! And by the way, "Behold The Unlighted" was created by the dark forces of J. (vocals), Adolfo WB (guitars, cover artwork), Jon Ander (guitars), M. Akerburu (bass) and Rober (drums).

INTOXICATED
"Walled" CD 2020
 (Immortal Souls Productions)

"Walled" is the latest release by the Florida-based thrash metal trio called Intoxicated. The band was formed in 1992 and prior to this 6-song EP they've issued a demo in 1996 and a full-length album in 1997. The band members – Erik Payne (guitar/vocals),



Gregg Roberts (bass/backing vocals) & Mike Radford (drums) – are rather skilled and their technical level is also notable. If I had to describe their songs by comparing them

to other well-known bands in the business, then I would definitely pick Obituary and Sadus in the first place. Even the nature of the vocal parts is very reminiscent to John Tardy's style. Furthermore, I wouldn't say they play thrash metal of the purest form, because there's plenty of death metal ingredients in their repertory. But for a band coming from the mecca of death metal it is an obvious influence, isn't it? All in all, I've really enjoyed listening to their old-school cuts. The vibe is there plus the sound production is appropriate. Let's hope the continuation will be even more powerful and back to the roots. The tasty CD version of the "Walled" EP was released by Immortal Souls Productions from Slovakia, so hurry up to get your copy in time!!!

MEAN MESSIAH
"Divine Technology" CD 2020
 (Slovak Metal Army)

Czech Republic's progressive metal industrialists have finally returned with their second full-length album. The aptly titled "Divine Technology" contains seven incredibly crushing post-apocalyptic cuts in the vein of Fear Factory, Divine Heresy, Devin Townsend and Strapping Young Lad.



Their kind of futuristic, mechanized and soundtrack-soaked mix has been masterfully composed and arranged. So you're going to listen to a meticulously polished or let's better say quantized material, which sounds really awesome and has that so-called massive punch in it as well. The involved members are Dan Friml (vocals/guitars), David Gabriel (bass) and Jiří Willander (drums). They did a great job with all the songs of "Divine Technology", but me especially liked "The Beast" with its storming double bass patterns and catchy guitar grooves plus "Thorn", due to its Divine Heresy manner in general. The circa 40-minute disc comes with a flawlessly-designed twelve-page booklet and a killer slipcase. Fans of the above mentioned bands should definitely check Mean Messiah!!! By the way, "Divine Technology" was recently pressed onto vinyls, so make your choice in time and enjoy your own copy afterwards!!!

METATOR
"Akocedakor" CD-R 2019
 (Self-released)

Metator is a Spanish brutal death/grind trio formed in 2015, which existed between 1998-2015 under the name of Akocedakor.



After two demos, "Metatron" in 2016 and "Philosophic Death Metal" in 2018, the band finally records its debut full-length and releases it on its own in 2019. "Akocedakor" collects 13 tracks of furious and brutally devastating death metal that besides

Krisiun, Brodequin and Cryptopsy was also strongly influenced by 1349, Enthroned and Belphegor. Kind of strange musical mixtures for sure, but believe or not, in their case these combinations work really good and almost in a seamless way. As a perfect example, I would recommend you to listen to the atmospheric "I la foscior lil va cobrir els ulls". It has awesome guitar melodies, but also relentless drumming brutality and let's not forget the bloodthirsty growls, they are sick almost all the way. The bulldozing attitude of the trio, namely Ructator Kavernas (vocals/bass), Monkey Monolith (guitars) and Matraka (drums), is just brilliant. They crush throughout the forty-two minutes of the record and only stop by or let's say slow down for some short intros and interludes. The speed is insane and the sonic pressure is destructive. And the icing on the cake is the brutal cover version of Motörhead's classic "Bomber" song at the end of the disc. Enough said, buy or die!!!

MIEA
"Chaos And Perfections" CD 2020
 (Slovak Metal Army)

Miea is an experimental rock band from Prague (Czech Republic). It was formed in 2017. "Chaos and Perfections" is their second album to date. The seven songs there are built of very soft and atmospheric musical patterns. And as the band emphasizes: "We play wide scale of music that contributes all emotions from our perspective". Indeed, they operate with lots of different musical elements, be it progressive, stoner or whatever else, you will be going to find them on their 37-minute CD.



Miea has four members in its ranks, namely Miki Hank (vocals/guitar), Dominik Lenart (guitar), Kamil Oravec (bass) & Šimon Kdýr (drums). The lyrical side of "Chaos and Perfections" is personal, it deals with the self-isolation within their own thoughts, it is about the nature of mankind and the world around us. Music-wise we get a maximally emotional album from the quartet. Their music is so peaceful and airy that for example their longest, exactly 10 minutes, song "Comfort of Nothing" I could easily imagine for a soundtrack of a documentary film dealing with nature or some kind of wandering in nature. The CD comes with a nice 16-page booklet including all the lyrics, lots of photos and the awesome covert artwork by Lina Kusaite.

NOCTURNAL OBEISANCE
"Temný Rituál Hněvu" CD 2020
 (Slovak Metal Army)

This grim and frostbitten Czech black metal horde was founded in 2018. Their debut album was recorded, mixed & mastered in the Davos studio during 2019 and thanks to Slovak Metal Army it was released in CD formats in the beginning of 2020. Nocturnal Obeisance on this record is: Erik "Thorn" (vocals), Marek "Grut" (guitar), Luboš "Darkriser" (guitar), Libor "King" (bass) and Martin "Jouzyš" (drums). The black metal they play is totally plain and average. There's really nothing to remember or emphasize from the ten songs and nearly 37 minutes of "Temný Rituál Hněvu". Sometimes I just wondering how the hell such bands can still exist in the 21st century. Well, if you like effortless, narrow-minded, lame and 666% boring black metal music, then Nocturnal Obeisance won't disappoint you. They were created for your taste! At least, let me hope in

the deepest depths of my subconsciousness, they are going to change their musical ideas for the next release in a way I would start



respect them for what they do! Until then only the diehard Nocturnal Obeisance fans should buy this CD!

ORIGIN OF INFINITY
"The Last Day On Earth" CD 2020
 (Slovak Metal Army)

Origin of Infinity was established in the year of 2017. Two years later the trio recorded their debut album "The Last Day On Earth" in Hellsound Studio, which first was published digitally in December of 2019, but a year later it was out on both CD and vinyl formats.



The progressive metallers from Děčín (Czech Republic) packed their debut release with 12 pieces of the most profound musical experimentalism. Their sort of progressive alloy sounds way modern to me, since it combines elements of all the newbie styles, which I am not fond of at all. Nevertheless, the over 26 minutes stuff has a very punchy sound production with downtuned guitars and all the clichés of the 21st century. The trio on this record is Vladimír Novák (guitars/bass/piano), Miroslav Kočegura (drums) and Tomáš Hospodka (guest vocals). Sorry guys, but I have to say your music is very boring. Hopefully, they are going to create more interesting music in the future, so herewith I wish them good luck in the so-called search of originality!

ÓSSERP
"Els Nous Cants De La Sibila" CD-R 2022
 (Blood Fire Death)

Catalonian grinders of death Ósserp are ready to lash out the unsuspecting herd of underground freaks with their third full-length portion of post-apocalyptic aural visions. The new studio album is collecting

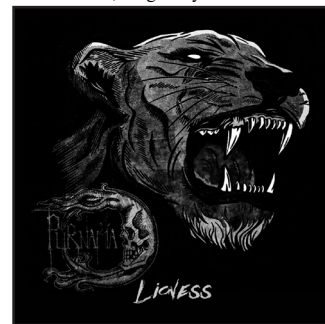


nine masterfully arranged pieces that are about to smash your consciousness and leave your soul empty afterwards. The Barcelona-based quintet's music is not that super straightforward kind of death/grind, it is rather experimental and focusing on

getting the maximum epicness out of their tunes instead. So when I name Behemoth as an example, you already know what to expect there, right? They sound modern and operate with all the possible streams of modernism within the extreme music of the 21st century. On this record Ósserp is: Vali (vocals), Xavier (vocals), Dani (guitar), Benjamin (bass) and Alex (drums). They are pretty experienced musicians, so you are definitely going to enjoy their circa 43 minutes of explosive yet monumental black/death/grind madness. This cardboard promo has a simple cover, but the original one is absolutely stunning as it was painted by none other than Paolo Girardi. All I can say is that it's a very pro material with a sort of ethereal futuristic touch and I really enjoyed listening to the following tracks: "Tot Crema", "L'Home en el Laberint" & "Lluna Negra". Keep your eyes on them in the future as they will be going to impress you more and more!!!

PURNAMA
"Lioness" CD 2020
 (Slovak Metal Army)

Actually, this is a re-release of Purnama's debut album, originally issued in 2017.



"Lioness" consists of seven powerful compositions, which display a killer hybrid between the elements of melodic death metal and deathcore. The recording line-up on this album was Jakub Viták (vocals/guitar), Václav Vaníček (guitar), Jarda Bejr (bass) and Petr Liebich (drums). The Czech quartet debuted rather well and managed to plant the seeds of success for their second album "Flame of Rebellion" (2020). Yet "Lioness" is about to offer a broad variety of extreme musical solutions with its over 34 minutes playing time. So you are going to face lots of hammer blasts, epic guitar passages and quite evil vocal parts there. All this you have to imagine with a flawless sound production. The 8 pages of the booklet include all the necessary infos, like the lyrics, some band photos and a couple of live shots. Thanks to Slovak Metal Army this re-release became simply great!!! Preferred tracks are: "War for Home" and "No Evil No Gods".

SARMAT
"RS-28" CD 2021
 (Self-released)

Sarmat from Poland was founded in 2018 and "RS-28" is their heavy-weight debut release. The recording musicians are the following: Łukasz Kobusiński (vocals), Daniel Szymanowicz (guitars/bass/keyboards), Krzysztof Kopceński (guitars) and Krzysztof



Klingbein (session drums). The quartet managed to record a menacing alloy of death/black metal in the spirit of Behemoth, Marduk and Belphegor. The eight musical parts of the

CD will bring you to the savage warfields and leave a devastating mark in the souls of the weak. Their lyrical and graphical contents are filled with fear, weapons and destruction. This type of music kind of storms with the speed of the light, stops or slows down just for a few seconds to continue onward the aural havoc. The 33 and a half minutes long disc sounds totally killer, but we all know that Polish extreme metal bands are maximally aware of this ruse. They just can't fail at that point. So what you're going to get from Sarmat is the pure essence of the unmerciful brutality. The band already added two new members to their fold, namely Paweł Korneluk on bass and Krzysztof Szalkowski on drums, so from now on they are a five-piece war unit.

SCABBARD
"V Říši Zla" CD 2020
 (Slovak Metal Army)

Scabbard is a pretty old death metal band hailing from the Czech Republic. Being established in the year of 1992 they've managed to release 3 demos, 2 splits and 2 long plays until 2000. Then it was followed by a 6-year pause and since 2016 they are active again. If you ask me "V říši zla" is a totally badass comeback album. On this record the band returned to lyrics written in their native language as it was used for their very first demo titled "Soudný den".



By the way, the actual lyrical content is quite explicit, a well-aimed strike so to say, so be prepared. The death metal trio performs in maximally straightforward and true to their roots. Dear metal-hearted ladies and gentlemen this is pure old-school death metal the Czech way!!! So if you're into Krabathor, then you will dig the new songs of Scabbard likewise!!! The album was recorded, mixed & mastered at famous Shaark studio, thus you can expect a balanced punchy production. The CD lasts over 35 minutes and will most likely blow your mind in the right direction. The musicians in charge are Alex (bass/vocals), Tomáš (guitar/vocals) and Dan (drums). Highly recommended stuff for all the members of the deaththrash community!!!

SHAARK
"Deathonation" CD 2020
 (Slovak Metal Army)

After a reasonably long hiatus, the Czech masters of thrash metal have finally returned. Their brand new record "Deathonation" consists of 10 ass-kicking songs,



which will be going to please all the true thrashers worldwide. It's their 5th album up to now and believe or not, but it is a real trendkiller, a hard punch into the face of all the wannabe posers. The music itself is a

perfect combination between the US and the European kinds of thrash metal. Sounds massive and crush the way it has to. Let me remind you Shaark was formed in 1991, thus no need to question the skills of the musicians behind it. They did a perfect job on "Deathonation" and they are as follows: Peroon666 (vocals), Alex Nejezchleba (guitars), Bája (bass) and Zdeněk Pradlovský (drums). At the end of the CD as a bonus you can listen to the thrash metal adaptation of Deep Purple's classic "Speed King". Awesome interpretation and that's for sure!!! Shaark is finally back and it was definitely worth waiting for!!! So go and get this circa 42 minutes long masterpiece right away!!!

SOLAR SYSTEM
"Synchronicita" CD 2020
 (Slovak Metal Army)

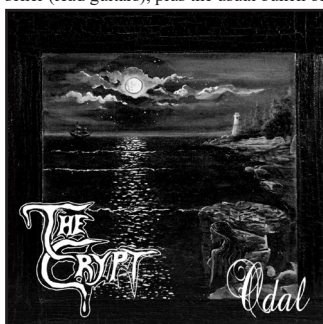
Solar System from the Czech Republic returns with its sophomore full-length album called "Synchronicita". The band was established in 2010 and prior to this material they've released 2 demos and the debut album "Atlantis" in 2015. The 11 songs of "Synchronicita" are written in the neoclassical way of power and heavy metal.



So expect a big dose of sheer epicness full of mind-blowing guitar solos, heroic vocal parts, pummeling drum patterns and stout bass lines. Their stuff sounds powerful and their melodies are pretty catchy. There are four neoclassical warriors in the ranks of Solar System, i.e. Oto Gajdoš (vocals), Petr Štrauch (guitars), Martin Vaněk (bass) and Jan Gajdoš (drums). Oto sings in Czech, so it adds some kind of special flavor to their repertoire. Anyway, if you like virtuoso guitar parts in the style of Yngwie Malmsteen then you have to get to know the 50 minutes of "Synchronicita" too. The packaging of the CD is nice, so feel free to order it directly from the band at any of the following links.

THE CRYPT
"Odal" CD-R 2019
 (Self-released)

Nate has sent me this older material of The Crypt too. "Odal" is from 2019 and it's their second full-length album. On this record the members – Skyler Champeau (vocals), Nate Yuggoth (bass/acoustic guitars/backing vocals), Adam Haste (lead guitars/backing vocals/keyboards) and Aaron Fischer (lead guitars), plus the usual bunch of

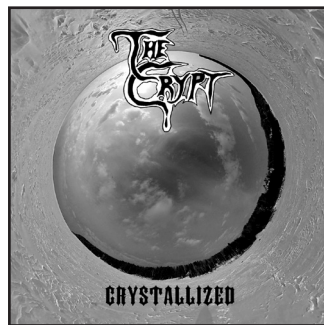


guest musicians – are about to guide you into the spheres of classical heavy metal, in particular the earliest forms of it. They kind of successfully reached the epic feelings extracted from the 80's hard rock, heavy and doom metal bands. What's more, the overall sound production is also very close

and reminiscent of the pioneers of the before mentioned genres. So the 8 songs and the over 59 minutes of "Odal" are going to surprise almost everybody, especially the ones who've started to listen to and like The Crypt, because of their blackened thrash/death metal debut material. Anyway, I think the fans of Candlemass, Mercy, Memento Mori, Merciful Fate, Trouble or The Obsessed will respect this album in one or another way! This is pure past-praising metal music with maximally darkened lyrical content! Preferred tracks are: "The Lost Magics", "I Turn My Back" and "Under Black Sails".

THE CRYPT
"Crystallized" CD-R 2020
 (Self-released)

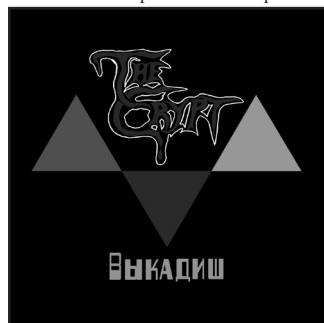
The Crypt is a Fish Creek-located obscure metal band that started its career in 1998, though before (more precisely between 1995-1998) it was known as Cryptic. With Cryptic they've released 2 demos, but shortly afterwards changed the band's name to The Crypt. The given single was released in 2020, titled as "Crystallized", is nothing but a 13 minutes long experimental song. This lengthy atmospheric track combines almost everything from heavy and thrash to death and black through psychedelic and progressive metal. The lyrical content of The Crypt has been fixed from the very start and is dedicated to the ancient ones.



This excellent song was recorded by Nate Yuggoth (vocals/bass), Adam Haste (lead guitars), Andrew DiCesare (session lead guitars) and Frank Schilperoord (session drums). It sounds rather good and proportional to be honest thanks to Daniel Pavlov from Belarus, who was in charge of mixing & mastering. Believe it or not, but at the beginning of the song (somewhere around 2:37 until 4:00) I've found some cool parts reminiscent of Possessed's timeless "Death Metal" hymn. I am not sure if this great single is still available in physical format, but you can listen to it at The Crypt's bandcamp profile. Hail the ancient ones!!!

THE CRYPT
"Выкадиш" CD-R 2021
 (Self-released)

The 2021 release of The Crypt is a full-length one. It unites 13 songs in almost 47 minutes. Compared to all the previous

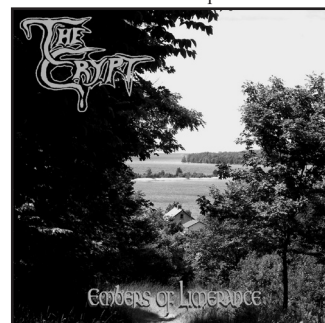


materials this stuff is definitely the most experimental one in the band's career. Moving maximally away from the well proven metal sound and giving space for the elements of electronic music have turned the songs of "Выкадиш" to some sort of post-apocalyptic industrial darkwave synthesis. On this release the core of The Crypt is: Nate Yuggoth (bass, vocals, vocorder, rhythm

guitars, programming), Dan Smrz (drums, keyboards, programming) and David Smrz (programming, sound effects). This trio was supported by a big number of guest musicians, like Adam Haste, Sam Lozoff & Lukas Kubelka on lead guitars, MP & vH+ on keyboards or Mike Browning of Nocturnus AD on theremin, just to name a few. While the musical factor mutated a lot, the lyrical content remained unchanged, it is still about the ancient ones. To be honest, the new musical direction of The Crypt is not my cup of tea at all, but let's the fans of the band judge them for such an unexpected move. The disc comes with a laconically designed 6-page booklet including three thematic artworks by Klea Kotollaku, Kirsten Logerquist & Nate Yuggoth, a band photo and all the mandatory credits. Order this over programmed ritualistic piece of electronic art at the links below!!!

THE CRYPT
"Embers Of Limerance" CD-R 2022
 (Self-released)

"Embers of Limerance" is the fourth long play record by The Crypt. Unlike any other releases by the band it is entirely acoustic. Its 41 minutes and 10 musical chapters will provide you with a super relaxed vibe. Instruments-wise, besides the acoustic guitars, the rather big musicianship of The Crypt (I've counted 13 people in total) also used piano, flute, organ, rubab, bass and different kinds of percussion there.



The male and female vocal parts are as varied as their choice of instruments there, for example you would even hear some throat singing in the song titled "When at Last the Light Goes Out". In general, it is about a great acoustic mix between classical and Latin music. From the latter one I would especially mention the inclusion of tropical elements. To cut it short, this album is just perfect for resting and having a quality chilling time. What's more, you can spin it more than once in a row as their acoustic program doesn't get boring even after the third time of listening. But after this stuff I am totally clueless, where will the musicians of The Crypt go on their upcoming album music-wise. I say let us be surprised!!!

VORACITY
"Shrunken Heads Vertigo" CD 2018
 (Ungodly Ruins Productions)

This CD was handed to me personally by Yura, the guitar player of Voracity, when he visited Uzhhorod in 2020 as a session bass player for Blood Expectoration. The Rivne-located trio was formed in 2011 and prior to this album they put out an EP, a split and two promos. So let's dissect their debut release in detail. "Shrunken Heads Vertigo" includes 9 songs of quality slamming brutal death metal. It's fairly technical, super groovy (as it should be) and supported by a huge sound. Voracity on this record is: Alex (vocals), Yura (guitars) & Vlad (drums). Their debut album lasts over 26 minutes. After the short, but long-titled intro "Voluptuous Ceremony upon the Afflicted One" we bump into the heavy-weight title track "Shrunken Heads Vertigo" that is simply brain-crushing, a sonic orgy of brutality. It follows "Cannonball Decapitation", a typical Dying Fetus-influenced tune. Have to admit, this US BDM brigade along with slam masters Devourment have impacted the most of

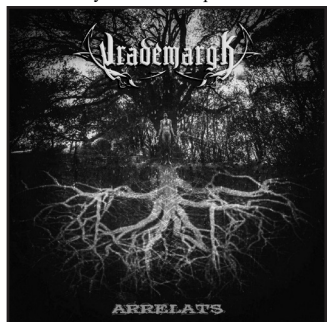
Voracity's musical direction. I guess that's fine, right? I mean this kind of genre isn't too varied, the emphasis is on the groove of the riffs, dynamism of the drum patterns and the utterly brutal death grunts. They have it all and bring them in giant doses, thus their formula is more than valid. Besides the killer title track my other favorites are "Strangulate the Disgrunted" and "Decimate the Lowlife".



Man, this debut material is so sick, simply hats off! There have been two CD versions released, one with the cover art of Mottla (as seen here) and the other one comes with the art of Recrean Azaza. Let me tell you, both covers are sick! Currently the band is working on new stuff and they have a new drummer, Bogdan from Necropsy Defecation and Statist. Can't wait to check out some more slamming death metal madness from these Ukrainian sickos!!!

VRADEMARGK "Arrelats" CD-R 2021 (Self-released)

"Arrelats" is the fourth album by Vrademargk from Terrassa, Catalonia. On this record the four-piece brigade – Jordi Urbano (vocals), Rafael Ruiz (guitars), Germán Padierna (bass) & Manel Rodríguez (drums) – brings their creativity to a higher level. The musicality and riff-structuring of their new songs are really impressive. Besides the rather tranquil opening instrumental tune "Lividesa" you're going to perceive six outstanding tracks performed in the best traditions of melodic death metal. Most of the time the name of At The Gates pops up in my mind, but let me assure you right away that this quartet has a big potential and delivers lots of unique moments during their 35 and a half minutes repertoire. Their music is quite dark, it's fairly epic (in the vein of Behemoth), but also intriguing if we take a look at the Catalan lyrical content and the way it has been presented to us.



Their homie, Eloi Boucherie from Vidres A La Sang, was responsible for recording & mixing the album, which sound-wise turned out freaking cool. My personal favorites of "Arrelats" are "Estignes sobre cendres", "L'art de morir" and "Eudaimonia". What else? Just surf to any of the links below, listen to the music of Vrademargk and keep your eyes wide open for their future releases!!!

VRAG "Harcom" CD 2021 (Filosofem Records)

Built up on the primeval musical and ideological sources of the Scandinavian black metal scene Vrag from Hungary is ready to deliver us their 3rd full-length record "Harcom". The five compositions produced by the sole member of the band, Vrag (all instruments and vocals), lyrics-

wise are dealing with the coldness, solitude and misanthropic sides of the human soul. And frankly speaking this particular kind of attitude and inner vibe is characterizing the entire music of "Harcom" as well. It's purely saturnine, filled with hatred, anger and disgust towards the humankind. The guitar riffs and melodies aren't complex at all, on the contrary, they're very simple and basic, the way they should be for this type of music. Thus creating a rather monotone,



sort of background atmosphere on which the misanthropic lyrics were appropriately laid down. By the way, all the lyrics are written and sung in Hungarian, but you can find the English translations to them in the booklet. These very long yet mostly mid-pace-oriented, marching-like songs have been forged in the best traditions of such notorious black metal hordes as Burzum and Nargaroth. The CD is lasting over 45 minutes and sounding damn good, so don't hesitate to order your copy in time!!!

Bandcamp: vraghungary.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/vraghun

PAŘÁT Issue #96, 2020

Pařát is an all the way professional magazine from the Czech Republic. To be honest, I've ordered this issue, because of the super awesome mega posters of Destruction and Krabathor. Of course, there's a lot more



interesting inside and if you somewhat understand the Czech language you are going to enjoy its content a lot. Featured interviews and articles are about: Fernanda Lira (Crypta, ex-Nervosa), Masturbace, Necrophobic, Hypnos, Explosicum, Hellbomb, Tuatha de Danann, Pigsty, Marche Funèbre, Surgical Dissection, Stalker, MetalGate, Jarda Haž (Jig-Ai, Perfecitizen, ex-Alienation Mental), Zdeněk Pradlovský (Shaark, Alvarez, ex-Master), Sleszy Rider Records, Disavowed, Dark Tranquillity, Lik, Incinerate, Poltergeist, Vit "Burák" Bureš (Jig-Ai, Destructive Explosion of Anal Garland, ex-Ahumado Granujo), Joe Henley (Revilement, Dharmia, Stench of Lust), Lethian Dreams, Heathen and Shattered Hope. As you see, there's really quite a lot to read about and don't forget the review section, which is packed this time with 45 reviews. All this comes on 60 pages with an A4 format, full-color print, 4 mega posters and a compilation CD of Masturbace, titled as "The Way Through the Labyrinth 1993-1994". This is definitely a great number with great content!!!

Facebook: facebook.com/ParatMagazine

SCREAMING SKULL Issue #13, 2020

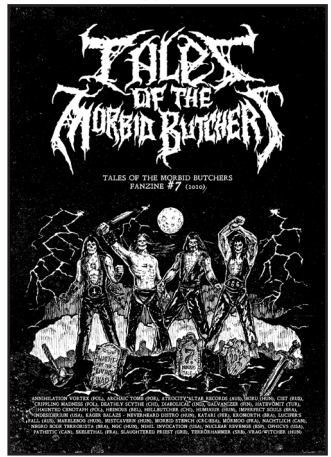
The thirteenth issue of Screaming Skull with their intriguing motto "more than metal fanzine" is about to offer seven interviews, namely Evil Invaders (the thrash/speed metal dealers of Belgium), ANTiSEEN (the oldie but goodie punk rock from US), On Thorns I Lay (the Greek gothic rockers), Maleficivm (the disbanded legend of Netherland's doom/death metal scene), Horse London (the UK hard rock classic from the past), Billy Rankin (ex-Nazareth) and Moonspell (the gothic doomsters from Portugal). These interviews are long, kind of in-depth ones with lots of cool info. So were great to read them through. The number of reviews in this issue is forty, while the total amount of A5 format pages is 56. It's fully written in Russian, has some mistakes here and there, mainly in the bandnames. Print quality- and design-wise it's average, but for an underground publication it's more than fine. This number comes with an editorial foreword and I think you can still order it at the bottom links. Go ahead and support this Ukrainian b/w 'zine!!!

SCREAMING SKULL Issue #14, 2021

The latest number of this cool sounding underground 'zine from Zaporizhzhia has just landed in my hands. It's an A5 format b/w edition with laser print quality, which quality-wise mostly depends on the image drum and the quantity of the toner left in the cartridge. In this issue you will be finding 38 pages filled with five interviews and 38 reviews. Not a big amount of information there, but it's decently done. So you can read therein great chats with Aliceissleeping (a London based rock band), Goatfather (a four-piece heavy stoner band born in Lyon, France), Killing (followers of old school thrash metal from east Jutland, Denmark), Suidakra (Germany's melodeath folkers) and ZOOU (the torchbearers for Japanese hardcore punk). The reviews are cool to read as well, as they are honest and most of the time rather detailed. But in turn, the absence of indicating their formats (physical or digital) is a bit confusing to me, especially in this damn digitalized world. The entire content comes in Russian language. From the minuses: plain design, no editor's foreword at all and lots of mistakes or typos there. In total I found interesting this number and can warmly recommend it for the underground maniacs and 'zine collectors likewise!!!

TALES OF THE MORBID BUTCHERS Issue #7, 2020

Thanks to Attila I've got the 7th number of the Tales of the Morbid Butchers fanzine as well. With its 220 pages this one is definitely the biggest beast of 'zines I

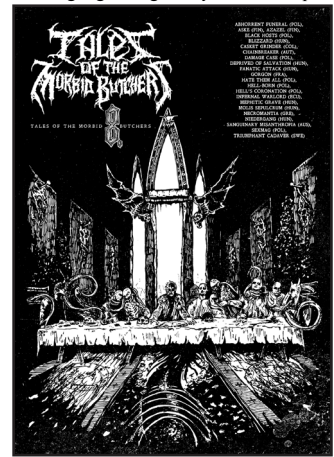


have ever held in my hands. One kind of a monster! The four impure writers of the Hungarian underground managed to collect an enormous content for this issue. Let's see the interviews first. You can read chats with Annihilation Vortex, Archaic Tomb, Atrocities Altar, Boru, Cist, Crippling Madness, Deathly Scythe, Diabolical, Galvanizer, Hatevömit, Haunted Cenotaph, Heinous,

Hellbutcher, Humugur, Imperfect Souls, Indesiderium, Katari, Kromorth, Lucifer's Fall, Lux Nigrum, Marblebrog, Misticavern, Morbid Stench, Mörmoo, Nächtlich, Negro Bode Terrorista, Neverheard Distro, NGC Prod, Nihil Invocation, Nuclear Revenge, Ophicvs, Pathetic, Skelethal, Slaughtered Priest, Terrörhammer and Vrag/Witcher. Impressive amount for sure. Next are the reviews and the articles. We can read them about vinyls, CDs, tapes, fanzines, books, concerts and festivals. Their number, if I have not mistaken, is 350 (!!!). And let me tell you, I was having great fun reading those humor-spiced writings, even if too many indecent words were applied by the quartet, he-he... Nevertheless, they do pretty well their job plus the quality of the printing is on a super high level. This A4 publication is written in Hungarian language. Oh, and I really liked the front and back cover arts by Anvil Kvlt. On the front we have the four editors depicted in Manowar's "Fighting the World" way, just everything is more rotten there, about death and zombies, aha-ha-ha-ha... While on the back we have Pokolgép's classic "Pokoli színház" album cover turned to an evil black and white graphics. This number is sick to the core! You've been warned!!!!

TALES OF THE MORBID BUTCHERS Issue #8, 2022

The new issue, which is the 8th in the row, from the Hungarian Tales of the Morbid Butchers fanzine delivers us a huge and maximally filthy content of underground read on its 144 pages. The A4 format edition comes with a superior print quality, though design-wise I found it a little bit chaotic here and there, kind of executed in the 80s DIY manner. Personally I like when the reading starts with an editor's foreword about the current number and the things concerned, so to have four lengthy forewords at once kind of impressed me positively. The four editors (Dr. A. Size, sorger and Sz.) packed this number with the following interviews: Abhorrent Funeral, Aske, Azazel, Black Hosts, Blizzard, Casket Grinder, Chainbreaker, Damage Case, Deprived of Salvation, Fanatic Attack, Gorgon, Hate Them All, Hell-Born, Hell's Coronation, Infernal Warlord, Mephitic Grave, Molis Sepulcrum, Necromantia, Niedergang, Sanguinary Misanthropy,



Sexmag and Triumphant Cadaver. Then we have a page with an article about Tormentor's 2020 show in Tatabánya, a short writing on Gorgon's first gig in Switzerland, plus the usual bunch of vinyl/tape/CD/'zine reviews. Well, I've counted 179 reviews in total. Pretty good job for sure. Have to add most of the reviews were written with a good sense of "black" humor and in some obscene way, of course. By the way, this year they're celebrating the 10th anniversary of the fanzine and have in plans to release a second number around December. Already looking forward and hereby wish them good luck to make it even more unforgettable, not like there's any problems with the current one, aha-ha-ha... Oh, I've almost forgot to mention an important fact, this 'zine is fully written in Hungarian language, so only language experts or the chosen ones should order it!!!



The third aural strike from Heaving Earth is already upon us and infecting well, thus I felt the urge to get as more facts as possible on their nearly 50 minutes long creation. Guitarist Tomáš Halama responded to my questions and explained how this dark yet uncompromising death metal material was born.

“Darkness of God” is the brand new album by Heaving Earth. What is the response to it like so far? How’s the album selling?

- Most of the feedback so far is really good. Seems that many people appreciate the way we are progressing. Of course with a slight change in direction you won’t please everyone, but that’s not our aim. We know what we are doing and will keep doing things our way. I don’t know any numbers at the moment, but I guess we are doing pretty good considering we are not backed by any major or bigger record label.

For the recordings of “Darkness of God” you have recruited a guest drummer from Italy, namely Giulio Galati. How did you hook up with Giulio? Who will be sitting on the drum chair at the next Heaving Earth live shows?

- We were in contact over social sites. I was looking for a specific kind of drummer, the one who would be able to play extreme blast beats and also any kind of grooves/anti-grooves that we are capable of coming up with. Heaving Earth live shows are still an unsolved problem. I can’t tell you more at the moment, maybe we will know more in a few weeks.

Your line-up has pretty much changed since the beginning. Could you please introduce the current members to the readers?

- Ok, I’m the only one original/core member at the moment. Martin Meyer joined us on lead guitar in the fall of 2014/2015 and did with us all shows until summer 2017 and “Denouncing the Holy Throne” line-up breakup. Marek Štembera took over vocal duties (he also plays guitar in Brutally Deceased and Somniate), bass was handled by Tomáš Ledvina, an excellent musician I’ve met in my daily job, but his ties to the death metal scene are very vague.

Vocals, guitars and bass parts were recorded at Davos Studio during 2020-2021. How was it to work there this time? Why did it take so long for you to complete this album?

- Well, most of the time we’re talking about we were not that much functional as a band. All those recording sessions were separate entries. Anyway working at the Davos studio is mostly a fun time, but guitar sessions were kind of an exhausting experience thanks to a time schedule. But what needs to be done, needs to be done.

Lavadome Productions, a domestic label, was in charge of releasing the new stuff on CDs. How many copies were pressed in total? They have also issued your previous album “Denouncing the Holy Throne” in 2015. So please tell us more about your alliance and what kind of deal you’ve signed with them.

- Nothing signed on paper really, we have known each other with Jan for some years so we don’t need to codify/signify any kind of deals. First batch of CDs were pressed in a number of 500 copies, hopefully vinyls will follow soon... No other news besides that. We got some other offers and hints of interest, mostly from strictly death metal labels, in the recent years, which is pleasing, but so far I don’t see a reason for a change.

You took your band name from a Morbid Angel song that was the opener on their awesome “Formulas Fatal to the Flesh” album from 1998. Whose idea was to choose it? List us please all the influences that affected Heaving Earth in one or another way since the very beginnings.

- To choose Heaving Earth as a band name was a collective decision of the first band line-up. It’s a cool song by a great band, sounds good and can be interpreted in many ways. At the very beginning we were influenced mostly by 90’s US death metal, no groovy/core stuff – either brutal/technical or heavy and dark as hell bands. I think you and your readers can guess some names. In recent years I’m focusing much more on our visions and not on what others do or did.

What is the lyrical content of “Darkness of God” about? Who wrote the lyrics and what was the main inspiration for them?

- Some of our lyrics are dealing with topics like gradual transformation of faith and hope into hopelessness, abandonment and misery. You can see that being happening, so it’s mostly a thing of an observation rather than some detailed study. I wrote some lyrics, our new vocalist Marek wrote some as well. Besides that, you can see many attempts to elevate religious beliefs above civil law and justice, and it only got worse this year with orthodox church, ex-

KGB freaks playing a shameful part, but I’d hate to go political. You probably know what I mean.

What’s the tune on your “Darkness of God” album? What kind of gear do you use for your live assaults, in the studio and at your rehearsal place?

- Tuning is in standard C. We used to play Mesa Boogie, Engl and Peavey amps live, nothing out of ordinary, same amps in the rehearsal room. In the studio we had been experimenting with SansAmp technology (“Denouncing the Holy Throne”) and Axe FX 2 (I guess), but “Darkness of God” record is a combination of a Peavey 6505+ and Marshall 900. Seems that most producers do not trust or value profilers much.

You are from Prague. How’s the death metal scene over there? Could you please recommend to the readers some cool death metal bands from the Czech Republic?

- I always fear this question. My perception is that not only Czech, but the whole scene is just getting older and older, so new bands are usually new projects of 40 plus years old musicians with past bands roster longer than your moms shopping list. So what I can tell – new Godless Truth and Cuttered Flesh records were released by Transcending Obscurity Records, lovers of a tech death should check Supreme Conception’s EP (project of our guitarist Martin Meyer and former singer Michal “Sepp” Kusák). Besides that, you can check more black/death metal bands like Depths Above, Somniate, Mallephyr or Altars Ablaze. I’m sure that some new retro death/doom metal bands are doing just fine, but it’s really not my bottle of beer, so I can’t recommend it to anybody.

Last visions and darkened thoughts are yours. Please finish the interview by adding all the news you think might be interesting for our readers. Thank you!

- Thank you for your time and dedication. We’re gonna start rehearsing some new weird stuff that I wrote in the meantime soon. Fingers crossed and inverted – we would like to play some live shows, but I can’t promise anything at the moment. Especially in the fucked up times like this. So many dark and depressing events are going on right now. Stay strong!

If you are in an endless search for a sophisticated mixture of death and doom metal, stop searching right now and better tune in to the spectral music of Druid Lord. I've asked Pete Slate (guitar) regarding their recent releases and live activity. Enjoy our talk!

Greetings to you, Pete! Druid Lord's third long play has been released on 21st of January, 2022. How are the album's sales going? What are the reactions of the fans and the press so far?

- Greeting! The album "Relics of the Dead" is doing very well. We have CDs, tapes, all types of shirts and hoodies. Most of the reviews have been very good. The fans are really into this album. The overall songs are more varied from our last album. A good mix of slower doom with fast death metal parts. We incorporated and mixed both styles and the press/fans have been totally into our style of writing on this album. The over package with the artwork/layout came out sick!

It was issued by Hells Headbangers Records on CD and cassette formats. You've been working with them since the release of your second album "Grotesque Offerings" (2018). How do they treat Druid Lord? What kind of deal have you signed with them?

- Yes CD/tapes for now. Vinyl LP will be out in October or early November from what I understand. They treat us well. No complaints. Very easy to communicate and work with. We do one album at a time so there is no long-term contract. Hells Headbangers did our last album and our new album "Relics..." It's a professional working relationship and so far, the arrangements are working as planned.

The music you play is a sort of utterly ethereal mixture of doom and death metal that was literally extracted from the beginning of the 90s. How do you manage to get such a vibe lately? Talk to us a bit about your influences please.

- We all come from a death metal background with our previous bands. Playing fast has always been in our blood. I've been into doom metal for years listening to early bands like Cirith Ungol, Hellhammer, Celtic Frost, Winter, Sabbath and tons of others. Our death metal influences have been bands like early Possessed, Necrovore, Autopsy, Carnage and a lot of the early 90's bands. We just write music that feels natural to us. We don't want to play just slow or just play fast. Druid Lord combines both elements into our own style. The songs must flow together to create that eerie feeling.

What topics are involved in the lyrics of "Relics of the Dead"? Who wrote the lyrics?

- Tony Blakk wrote most of the lyrics on the album. I wrote one or two. Mostly horror related type lyrics taking inspiration from 70's/80's b-horror type movies/slasher movies too.

As I see all your materials have been recorded at Blakk Magik Studios, which is the home recording studio of your vocalist/bassist - Tony Blakk. Does Tony's skills and studio are the secret weapon to your bewitching old-timer sound?

- Tony has a great studio to record and get our parts down. This time we recorded our drums/vocals/bass and guitar leads there at Blakk Magik. I recorded my rhythms at my home, Dan Lowndes from Resonance Studios did re-amping and mixing for us. The album was mastered by Greg Chandler at Priority Recording Studios. It was a combined effort for our new album. We recorded our first album "Hymns for the Wicked" and a lot of our older EPs at Tony's studio.

What should we know about the special cassette release of your "Druid Death Cult" 7" (2012) and "Baron Blood" 7" (2013) EPs by Gurgling Gore? They also pressed some killer long sleeve shirts of "Druid Death Cult" with the original artwork from Mark Riddick. What's the limitation for that item and who designed it for the shirts?

- Gurgling Gore made us an offer to put out both those EPs on limited cassette format. We kept all the artwork original. Mark Riddick did the "Druid Death Cult" EP art and Eric Rot did the "Baron Blood" EP artwork. There are two different versions of the tapes. Some are blue and the others are clear/red. They look incredible. There is a double-sided slipcase with artwork on both sides. Gurgling Gore wanted to do a special shirt with the "Druid Death Cult" artwork, red/orange colors. I think the shirts were very limited, maybe 40 if I remember correctly. The tapes are still available so check out Gurgling Gore before they sell out.

Your freshest release is a split 7" with Japanese deathdoomsters Anatomia. It was issued by Me Saco un Ojo Records from England and pressed onto black and white vinyls. How many copies of each were pressed? What's the story behind "Beyond Putrefaction"?

- Don't quote me on this, but maybe 400 black

and 100 white. Honestly, I can't remember, but Me Saco did a killer job. Again, we used Mark Riddick for a front/back wrap around cover. The layout on the inside has the total old school vibe. We wrote "Beyond Putrefaction" at the end of writing songs for "Relics...". We decided not to use it for the "Relics..." album as the songs were too long. We worked out a deal with our good friends in Anatomia to do a split EP. They were totally down. I really like their track "Horrid Fate". We play "Beyond Putrefaction" in our live set. The split will also be released on cassette with Gurgling Gore here in the US and Gutless Asia.

In 2021 Tony and Elden joined the mighty Massacre as live musicians. Have you attended any Massacre show lately? How was it? By the way, what's your opinion about their recent "Mythos" EP?

- Yes, Elden and Tony are live musicians for Massacre. I went to their first show last November 2021. It was cool. Obviously, they are my friends and I wanted to support them. BTW, I was asked to contribute a guitar solo on the Massacre "Resurgence" album for the track "Fate of the Elder Gods". It came out killer. I've heard a track from "Mythos" and it's good. Has the OSDM feel.

Your next live ceremony will be at The Haven in Orlando on August 12th. Please tell us how a regular Druid Lord show looks like? I mean, what should the fans expect from your atmosphere- and visuals-wise? How long is your set in general?

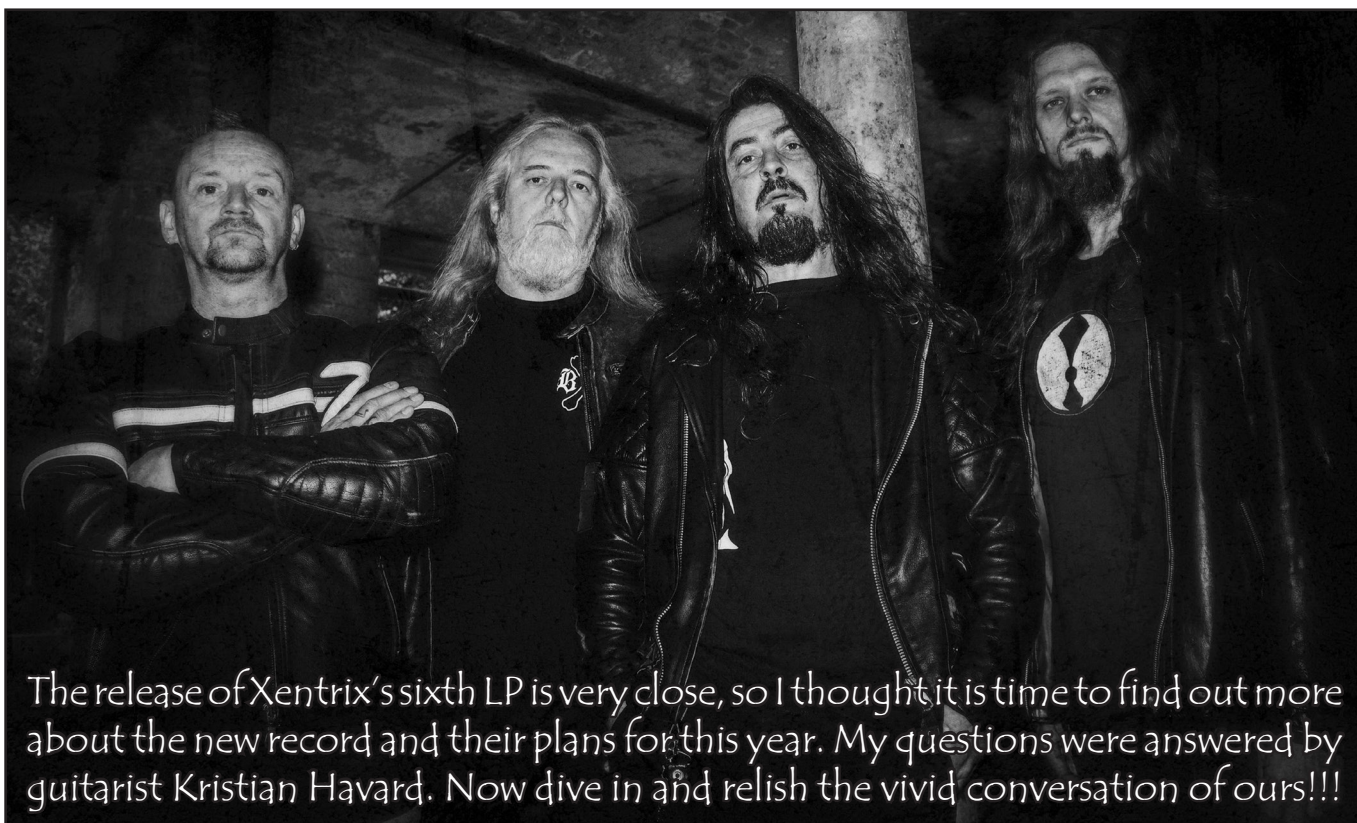
- Unfortunately, we had to pull out of that show due to an injury. I think our next show will be in October. We are working on the details now. We use some props on stage like a few old gravestones, skulls and a few things. Our sets are anywhere from 35-45 minutes depending on the show. We always like playing live. We keep the tone heavy and dark.

Any wise oracles from the druids for the end? Please finish the interview.

- Many thanks for the interview and supporting the scene.

We have merch available at: www.druidlord.com and follow us at: www.instagram.com/druidlordofficial and www.facebook.com/DruidDeathCult.





The release of Xentrix's sixth LP is very close, so I thought it is time to find out more about the new record and their plans for this year. My questions were answered by guitarist Kristian Havard. Now dive in and relish the vivid conversation of ours!!!

The forthcoming album of Xentrix is called "Seven Words". It will be issued on the 4th of November, 2022 by Listenable Records. What should the diehard fans of the band expect musically from the 10 new songs of yours? Will they differ somewhat from the songs of the "Bury the Pain" album or continue it organically?

- "Seven Words" feels like a natural progression from "Bury the Pain". I think that the people who liked that album will love this one. Musically it has some of the same ingredients, but it feels like we've grown together as a band and I think you can hear that on this record. We're also really lucky to once again have Andy Sneap behind the mixing desk for us, he really knows how to make us sound crushing. Personally, I think this is the best sounding Xentrix album, but then I always think that when we do any new recording.

The new album will feature a cover version of Alice Cooper's "Billion Dollar Babies" song. Whose idea was to cover it? Why did you choose exactly this song from his arsenal? Any special stories behind it?

- It was actually my idea to do the Alice Cooper track. I saw him live in 1986 and he blew my mind, the show was like nothing I'd ever experienced before and Alice was such an amazing frontman, you couldn't take your eyes off him. I wasn't a huge fan at the time but the theatrics totally drew me in and made me go home and listen to his music. I remember they had these giant balloons filled with "Billion Dollar Baby" dollar bill notes that they rolled into the crowd and people popped them and got showered with the dollar bills, it was so cool.

We always like to do a cover on our albums and we try to make it "our own version" rather than sounding like the original, so this is Xentrix doing Alice... it's not that true to the original, but I hope we didn't murder it.

Could you please unfold to the readers what topics are involved in the lyrics of the "Seven Words" album? Who wrote them and what has been influential on you while writing them?

- For this record our singer Jay Walsh wrote most of the lyrics. He wanted to take a bigger role in the writing of the words this time and seeing as he's the one that sings them, that was fine with me. This album has songs about greed, war, misinformation, rage to name but a few. Most of this record was written during lockdown in the UK, which probably influenced our viewpoint on a few topics. The song "Seven Words"

is about being driven far past your limit of patience with someone or something then deciding on impulse to break the situation definitively, for better or worse, regardless of absolutely anything that decision might bring. "Altar of Nothing" is a candid thankyou to all who think that they bless, aid and teach us all with their shrine-like minds of priceless knowledge and wise counsel. Where would we be without them?

The cover artwork was once again done by Dan Goldsworthy. He did an excellent job with it. Its vibe is pretty warlike and post-apocalyptic. How does it connect to the lyrical content and is there any metaphorical meaning behind it?

- Dan is amazing and we're so glad we found him and now he's our go to artwork guy. The song "Seven Words" has a revolution theme to the lyrics so we wanted something that would portray that in the artwork. I spoke to Dan and sent him some ideas I had, which were kind of along the lines of a French revolution painting, but I wanted to include our guy from "For Whose Advantage?" to make it sit stylistically with the other records.

Your line-up seems constant since 2017. How many times per week do you have rehearsals? Do you spend a lot of time together? I mean when you're not on tour or playing festivals? Do you still keep in contact with the former members of the band?

- We're always on WhatsApp, sending each other jokes and pictures, we all enjoy our time together, it's never just going through the motions. When we found Jay, one of the biggest things was that we all got on and had fun together, otherwise it's too much like hard work. Jay lives 3 hours drive from the rest of us, so we rehearse with him when we need to, but the rest of us get together once a week, just to keep the chops up.

In support of "Seven Words" you will visit Europe in November. On that tour you'll be joined by thrash metal pioneers Vio-lence, Whiplash and Artillery. Please share with us more details on the MTV Headbanger's Ball Tour 2022. What kind of set list can we expect from you on those tour dates? Do you prepare some special stage visuals & effects for that run?

- We're really honored to be playing on that bill of legendary thrash acts, it's going to be a great tour. We haven't been told set lengths yet, but it will include songs from "Shattered Existence" and "For Whose Advantage?" as well as the new ones.

Two years ago there were two digital compilations spread online, namely "The Roadrunner Albums" and "Questions". Can you please talk a bit about their content and what were the purposes of these digital releases?

- Actually I haven't got anything to say about those, because they had nothing to do with us. They are just playlists that the publishing company (Warners) just put out there one day, we knew nothing about them beforehand.

Music on Vinyl took a good care of your first three records. How do you like those limited edition colored vinyl reissues/represses personally? Do they come with the original sound or all of them have been remastered?

- Again, we didn't know about those releases beforehand, but the people at Music on Vinyl are nice guys and they did a great job. I actually got an email from Mark Palmer (ex-Roadrunner now at Nuclear Blast) asking me had I seen the Amazon preorder for "For Whose Advantage?" on blue vinyl? I was quite surprised and after ordering two for myself I emailed the guys at MOV and they responded and sent us the first four copies. The audio won't be remastered, but it probably has been limited for the vinyl pressing.

You've recently visited Hellfest Open Air Festival. Please tell us your impressions. Don't you plan to release some kind of live footage in the very near future?

- Hellfest was great, but it was super hot! It was 39 degrees! We're from the North West of England, we can't cope when it goes over 15 degrees. It's an amazing festival that is really well run and everyone behind the scenes was really nice and easy going, which is what we like. We got to watch a bit of Sepultura from side stage, they were brutal, Eloy Casagrande is a beast!

At the end, please hail all the Xentrix fans in Ukraine. Hopefully we can see you playing live over here at a peaceful time.

- We hail all the people from Ukraine, not just the Xentrix fans. We can't imagine what millions of families are going through, as a husband, father and grandfather my heart goes out to every one there, I hope things will change soon. It would be amazing to get to play there, fingers crossed.

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POLISH GRINDCORE VETERANS FROM EPITOME ARE AROUND US AND SPREADING THEIR PATHOLOGICAL FORMULA FOR THREE DECADES NOW. ON THIS SPECIAL OCCASION AND OF COURSE ABOUT THE RELEASE OF THEIR UPCOMING ALBUM I'VE ASKED THEIR NEW VOCALIST DYVAN. READ THE CONSEQUENCES BELOW!!!

Hi Dyvan! Epitome is about to release its long-anticipated new album "ROtend" in September. Why did it take so long to finish this album? How do you feel about the new songs personally?

- Hello Kornel, hello dear readers ☺. Generally speaking, the time it took to create the album was about 4 years, as you know, I joined the line-up earlier this year, so most of the details that contribute to this state of affairs are unfamiliar to me. Not only because I am not interested in what the relationship between the previous line-up was like, but above all, because since the decision to join the ranks of Epitome, I had a lot of things that had to be dealt with. First of all, listen to the material, read the texts written by Omar Zamorano Martinez, Mariusz Zawadzki (Halucynogen, ex-Mysteria), interpret these texts, write the missing texts, prepare for recording (which was not easy, taking into account the lack of the room rehearsals, etc.), besides, I had to start learning old hits in connection with the planned concerts, by the way I took over the "social media" of the band. Adding to these regular rehearsals and working on new material with the SARS team (greetings gentlemen!), it turned out that this time is basically not enough, but I made it!

As for the second part of the question, personally, this material is very good for me, the very fact that the vocal parts are arranged very quickly and intuitively proves that I found myself very well in this material. I think many people interested in the band will be satisfied.

You've already premiered three songs off of the new album online. Frankly speaking I found your sound formula pretty clean this time, kind of more into death metal than grindcore. How do you see it? Where did you record the

material for "ROtend"? Who was producing, mixing and mastering it?

- That's right, we planned to promote the album with two tracks, but due to the fact that the time to the scheduled premiere was quite long, we decided to reveal the third track, by the way, we decided that we would like to have a "less static" image for it ☺. So for the performance this lyric video is done by Gosia (Angelbeloved, privately my wife). Each of us liked the idea and the performance, for which, of course, I would like to thank Gosia on behalf of the band ☺. Referring to your feelings regarding the sound, I do not fully agree with you, I believe that there is a balance between the content of death metal and grindcore on this material. After all, grindcore is a much broader concept than death metal, in my opinion, there is more creative freedom in it, thanks to which you can include and interpret many more musical concepts in this music, which in the world of classic death metal can often be perceived as unsatisfactory, maybe spoiling the whole picture of a given material. Just relax and drift away into this world of sounds ☺. The recording of the instrumentation for this material was made at home, which of course gives the comfort of unlimited time that can be spent on recording. The vocal recording sessions are a bit different matter, because I recorded my parts in Paweł Leniart's studio, Kiszka recorded his parts at Hybrid Studios in Portsmouth, the guest vocals for the song "A Modern Lobotomy (A Perilous Confession)" was made by very much nice man Sebastian "Sirius" Syroczyński (Gnida, Thy Disease, Sutener) (greetings of course!) in his own home studio. Mixing and mastering was done by our guitarist Misiek.

What was the actual recording line-up of Epitome? Please share the list of guest musicians too.

- The material was registered in the following line-up: Misiek, Kiszka and me. The drums are made by Surowy. As I mentioned in the answer to the previous question, guest vocals were recorded by Sirius.

"ROtend" will be released by Deformathing Production on the 9th of September, 2022. What physical formats are they going to press for "ROtend"?

- At the moment, only the CD format will be available, producing vinyl records in these times is a very breakneck challenge, so there are no vinyls today, but we hope that in the near future the situation will normalize enough to make it possible. Of course, there will be T-shirts that you can buy only at a concert or from a publisher as a bundle with the album.

This year the band will celebrate its 30th anniversary and for that occasion there will be two special shows arranged, one in your hometown in Rzeszów on the release day of "ROtend", while the second one in Strážske (Slovakia) a day after. What kind of pathological program are you preparing for those gigs? I mean, any special songs or guests on the list? By the way, in what line-up are you going to play there?

- Surely there will be no revolution in the band's stage image known for years ☺. As for the setlist, you will be able to hear the whole range of the band's discography and 7 songs from the new album. I will not reveal the titles ☺. At this point, we should also mention the musicians who will support us on stage – Martin (Realms of Chaos – guitar) and Dan Jaworski (Toughness/Conveyor – drums).

The cover of "ROTend" comes in the usual Epitome way, I mean it is simple and it is sick. Who designed it? Any symbolic meaning behind it? What's the lyrical substance of "ROTend" about? Who wrote the lyrics?

- The author of the photo used on the cover is Klaudyna Hady (thank you!), and the author of the entire artwork for the album is Paweł Ozon (XXV The Sign). Let me mention that we are very pleased with the results!

Let's talk about the death/grind scene of Rzeszów & Przemyśl. How do they look now? Are there any new bands around, who's left from the oldies?

- There is quite a lot going on in the Rzeszów stage recently, there are a few young prospective bands, not necessarily from the world of grind-core. Certainly, the most recognizable death metal band should be mentioned - Atropine (as far as I know, they have finished recording another full album), Egzekucja (very promising new project), Halucynogen, Haunted Cenotaph, Excidium, Banisher, Bagno, Into Dark, Pandrador, Khrognar...
...And of course, SARS ☺.

You've launched the cooperation with Deformeathing Production in 2015. That year they've re-released "TheoROTical" album on CDs and the first two demos "Autoe'ROT'icism/Engulf the Decrepitude" on CD/LP/MC versions. Tell us more details on these re-releases please. Are they still available?

- As far as I know, these materials are still available for purchase. Re-releases were made due to the interest in old materials, which were not in circulation for a long time. You can hit these materials while they are still there, then it will only be eBay ☺.

Do you follow the extreme musical trends lately? I mean, did any newcomer catch your attention, what was the last record you bought?

- As long as I have time, I am interested in something ☺. However, there are more bands from outside the mainstream on my menu. It's not always metal, but it's more a conversation over a beer ☺.

What kind of future do you foresee for Epitome? Please ROTend the interview by transferring your last words to the Ukrainian grind-core community.

- At the moment we do not have very precise plans yet, but our organizational manager Kiszka is constantly doing something in many directions, even for the next year. As soon as we can share certain information, we will definitely do it, just follow our profile on the largest social networking site, I do not have to do ads for this site ☺.

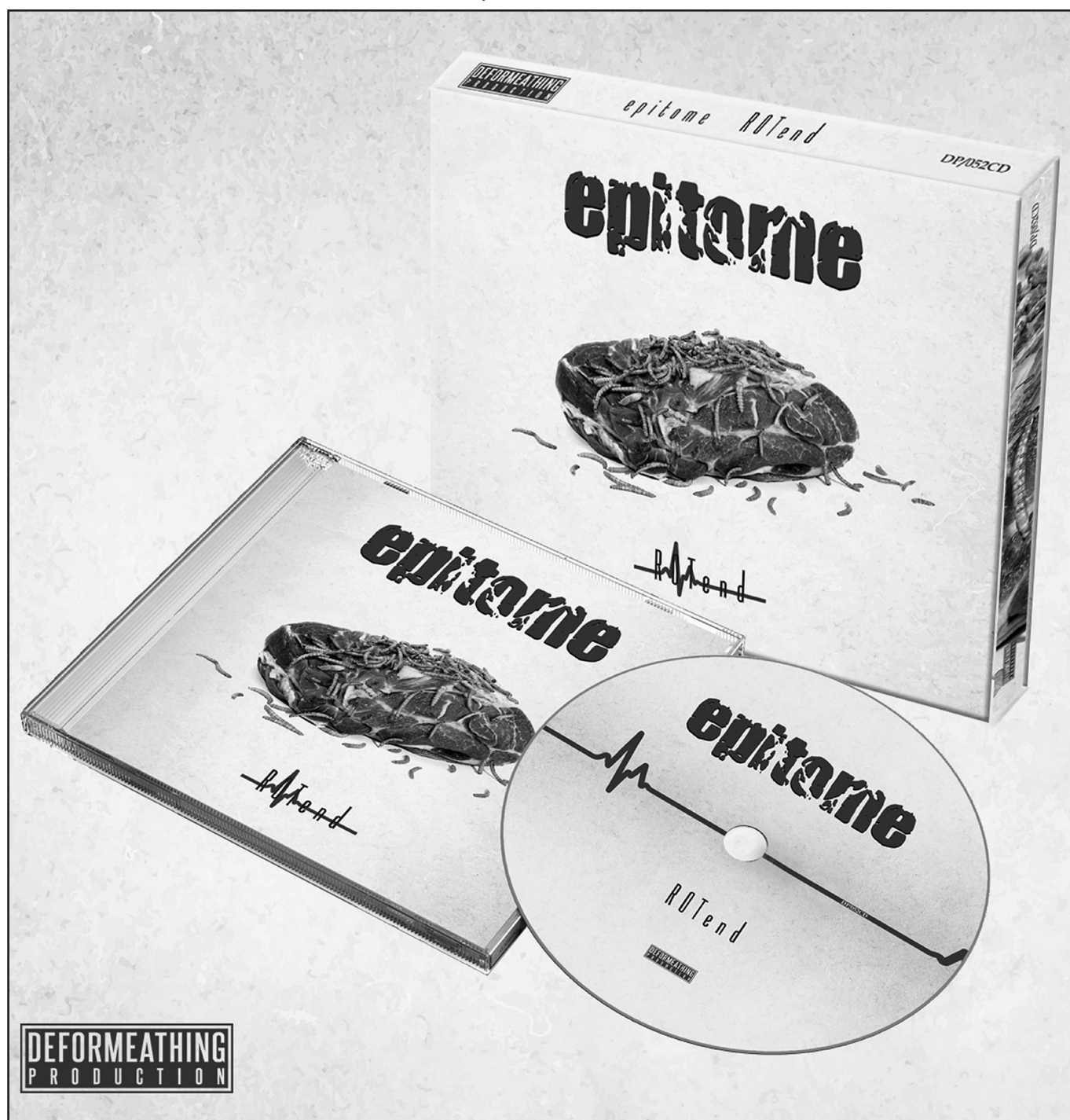
Dear Ukrainian colleagues, we know that you are very tough people, we know that you will cope with today's reality, who if not you? ☺ Without going into politics, the war itself, I wish you a return to normal existence as soon as possible. And also so that we can soon meet in front of the stage, on stage, at the back of the stage, with a pint of beer or whatever ☺.

Thank you Kornel for your interest in our activities and for the opportunity to do this interview ☺.

Epitome:

epitome.grindcore@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/SuperoTic

Deformeathing Production:
www.deformeathing.com



ABHORROT

"Abysmal Echoes" MC 2020

(Total D rkness Propaganda/Fistbang Records)

This Austrian death metal formation had a really long road since 2007 to finally release their debut full-length material in 2019. But after 3 demos, 2 EPs and a split the magic is happened, so in August of 2015 the infernal trio – Blackpriest (vocals & rhythm guitars), D. (lead guitars & bass) and Necrofister (drums) – recorded 8 songs for their debut album "Abysmal Echoes".



At once I have to note the ultra-confusing cave-like sound production, which is mostly due to the chaotic drumming (especially at fast parts) and possible false triggering of the snare drum. The vocal parts turned out to be super sick and necrotic as well. After listening to this nearly 38-minute long morbid manifestation by Abhorrot I come to the following conclusion: "Yes, their kind of ungodly music is definitely good to summon the ancient ones". This cassette version was released in 2020 by a cooperation of two labels from the underworld and limited to 150 copies. The cassette shell has a superior glossy gray color with professional factory prints on both of the sides and the accompanying J-card is a pro-printed one respectively. Kind of extremely abhorrent stuff for the extremely abhorrent times!!!

E-mail: abhorrot@dtchctrl.net

Bandcamp: abhorrot.bandcamp.com

Facebook: facebook.com/Abhorrot

BLACK HOSTS

"Times Of Eternal Torture" MC 2020

(Total D rkness Propaganda)

Black Hosts is a quartet from Poland that plays a totally old-school kind of speed thrash metal with lyrics about the medieval times. Their debut album "Times of Eternal Torture" was originally out in 2019, but



BLACK HOSTS

Times of Eternal Torture

TDP from Hungary thought this release deserves a decent cassette version too. Well, their decision was 100% right, because this material is just awesome in its entirety! The 10 songs of the Silesian thrashers will return

us to the middle of the 80s, more precisely to the times of the Teutonic regime. The four thrash-driven inquisitors, i.e. Lord Violator (vocals), Axemaniac (guitars), Black Vomit (bass) & Evil Eye (drums), are maximally aware of how to achieve the riff-structures, the dynamics, the vibe and even the sound-production of the golden 80s. Incredible so to say! The whole material positively radiates the glorious past and not just music- but lyrics-wise as well. Plus, the singing abilities of Lord Violator are beyond words. Hats off! I would wholeheartedly and super warmly advise this over 33 minutes masterwork by Black Hosts to every possible thrasher out there! This superb cassette release was limited to 150 copies. Hail to the pioneers of thrash & speed metal, hail to the past, thrash till death!!!

E-mail: Blackhosts666@gmail.com

Bandcamp: blackhosts.bandcamp.com

Facebook: facebook.com/BlackHosts666

BLETSIAN

"He Who Hates" MC 2019

(Total D rkness Propaganda)

"He Who Hates" is the debut demo by Bletsian from Melbourne (Australia). The 5 songs of the demo have been recorded by Unbeliever (vocals, guitars, bass) and Maelstrom (drums) between 2017 and 2019.



The over 17 minutes of chaos-inspired black/death metal hell comes in an appropriate aural way. It's dark, it's harsh and it's evil. The track list of the demo is: "Strike with Chaos", "Wrath", "Infidel", "AIO Chant" & "Hate is the Law". These demonic musical creations are the absolute essence of the warlike sonic devastation. Its members are rather experienced in raising hell and some of you might know them from such hateful underground hordes as Sanguinary Misanthropia, Decrepit Soul, DeathFuckingCunt, Wardaemonic or Ur Draugr, just to name some. This was TDP's 10th release with a limitation of 150 copies, needless to mention, it has been sold out by the time you read these words. But good news that Belgian label Warmachine Prod. released this antihuman stuff on CDs in 500 copies. Oh, and let's also add here, Bletsian managed to release its debut full-length album "Phosfyriun" in 2021. You can order it directly from the band.

E-mail: bletsianbloodcult@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/bletsian

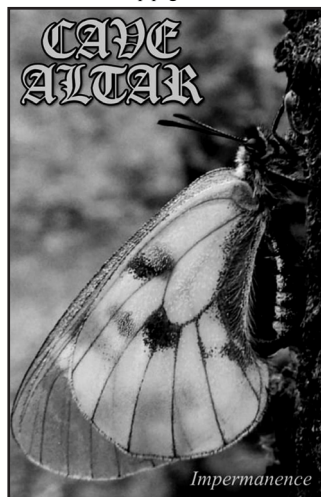
CAVE ALTAR

"Impermanence" MC 2021

(Colmorlig Creations)

Cave Altar is a newborn project by G.V. (vocals, guitars, bass) and Kryptagonist (drums), both known inter alia from the progressive black metal band Holdlajtorja. In the over five minutes long title track "Impermanence" the duo from Hungary dives into the empyrean fields of doom and death metal. It combines the best trademarks of both genres, thus the overall result is quite impressive. The song itself sounds very cool and tight to me, kind of a balanced mix between obscurity and beauty, where

the catchy guitar melodies meet the utterly deep growls. The other track is named "Soul Drift". It's a pure instrumental composition, which atmosphere-wise reminded me a bit of G.V.'s other project called Asattam. It starts with drifting ambient-like patterns in the background, but afterwards it gets intensified by the layers of cyclic melodies. Solid debut material, just a pity there's only two songs in total there. The pro-done cassette comes with a colored J-card, which features member photos, lyrics and all the necessary infos about the release. The two songs last over 8 minutes and they're repeated on both sides of the cassette. This edition was limited to 50 copies, but still you can support Cave Altar via their bandcamp page.



E-mail: asattam@protonmail.com

Bandcamp: cavealtar.bandcamp.com

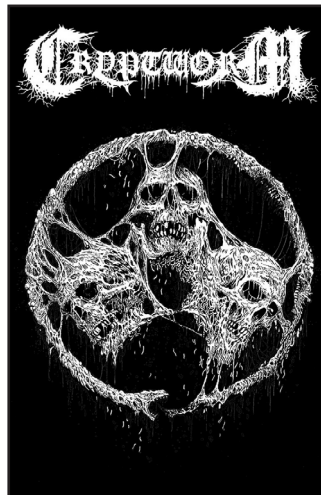
Facebook: facebook.com/cavealtar

CRYPTWORM

"Cryptworm" MC 2020

(Total D rkness Propaganda)

Cryptworm from Bristol (England) was (de)formed in 2014. It has only two members and they are Tibor Hanyi (vocals, guitars, bass) & Joe Knight (drums). This is their self-titled debut demo that initially was released on cassettes in 2017 by Goatprayer Records and re-released by Total D rkness Propaganda in 2020. The three songs of the demo are "Gruesome Death", "Cannibalized" and "Gutswamp". The 13-minute material sounds in the best traditions of the 90s US and Swedish death metal classics, I mean bands like Autopsy, Impetigo, Grave or Necrony here. It's rather dirty and chaotic, but also has the punch. To me the riff collections of Tibor are nothing else than the deep admiration to the bands above. The professionally multipled transparent cassettes come with a laconic b/w booklet, which has all the lyrics,



a band photo and the mandatory credits included. There were 150 physical copies spread in total, but you can anytime listen to the digital version of the demo online. By the way, the Cryptworm(s) have recently unleashed their first full-length monster

"Spewing Mephitic Putridity" in MC, LP & CD formats. So if you like gore obsessed death metal the old-school way, don't hesitate to buy anything from Cryptworm!!!

E-mail: cryptwormdeathmetal@gmail.com

Bandcamp: cryptworm.bandcamp.com

Facebook: facebook.com/cryptworm

DISSECTION

"I Am The Great Shadow"

BOXED SET 2021

(Darkness Shall Rise Productions)

Let me tell you at once that this 19-cassette box of Dissection is a jackpot in every possible way and Darkness Shall Rise Productions from Germany did a flawless job putting together this monster of a release. Being a longtime fan of the band and collecting everything possible from them meant to possess this special release as well. Frankly speaking I am super happy to own it as there's quite a lot of cool stuff gathered into this magic box. Besides the mentioned number of cassettes (with all the official releases & many never heard recordings)



there's a huge hardcover book with so many interesting photos from all the eras of the band that simply that book alone would win the battle. However, there's still more inside, a lot more to be honest. If you love this band you will be spoiled by the additional items for sure: a metal-pin, 3 patches, a flag, 5 posters and a handnumbered certificate. All housed in a heavy luxurious matte black canvas casewrapped box with golden hot foil stamped printing. The quality of the recordings on these tapes and everything else in this box is just top notch! To me personally the following audio materials were of big interest: "The Hall Recordings", "Rehearsal 2005", "Winternoise Pt. 1 & Pt. 2", "Reinkaos – Instrumental Rehearsal" and "Midsummer Massacre Rehearsal". Well, if you claim to be a diehard fan of Dissection you must definitely own this beautiful box! Thank you Darkness Shall Rise for releasing it and taking care about the Dissection heritage! Also have in mind that this box is limited to 1500 handnumbered copies and will never ever be re-released!

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Website: darknessshallrise.de

DYING GROTESQUE

"Creator Plan" MC 2022

(Surrogate Rec.)

Dying Grotesque from Kyiv started its career in 2018 as a one-man band. Its first release was a 4-song demo "Hunter's Daughter" the same year. It was followed by "Creator Plan" EP in 2019. So the current cassette version of the EP is no other than a re-release by Surrogate Rec. from Ukraine. Well, this special 3rd anniversary release includes the 5 songs of the EP plus a bonus track "Red Alert" from 2022. The EP songs were solely arranged and recorded by Silvan (all instruments & vocals). To be honest, he delivers to us a very simple and quite boring mixture of thrash and death metal. His kind of music is the one that usually doesn't get a second spin. The new song "Red Alert" was recorded by the current line-up, i.e. Silvan (vocals, guitars, keyboards), Gxreparty (bass) and Nordwind (drums). In that song

only the vocals remain reminiscent of death metal, as the rest of instruments and the music itself are turned to some super lame industrial effort. To me it's a maximally unworthy material, but let's the "real" fans of



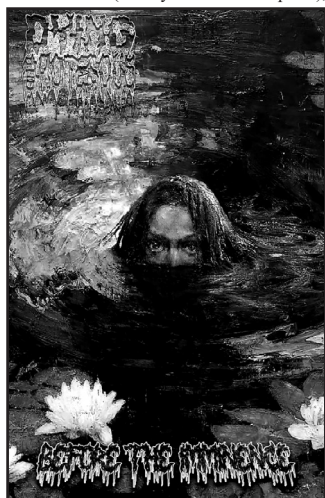
the band decide it anyway. This cassette release was strictly limited to 33 copies. Now I know why, ha-ha... Nonetheless, it comes with a pretty decent design and a bonus sticker inside the J-card.

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Bandcamp: dyinggrotesque.bandcamp.com

DYING GROTESQUE

"Before The Imminence" MC 2022 (Surrogate Rec.)

This is the second EP by these Ukrainians. On this 4-song EP the quartet – Silvan (vocals, guitar, synth), Gxreparty (guitar), Liquidator (bass) & Nordwind (drums) – continues to copy the Swedish death metal formula with the addition of inappropriate synth parts. The three songs of their own – "Imminence" (a fully instrumental piece),



"Living Ghoul" and "Kikimora" – finally show some potential, so this time you can listen to a few good riffs and find some proper song structures there. These tunes turned out decent, so let's hope this attitude will remain for their future works too. The fourth song of the EP is a Roky Erickson cover. As you might know, "Night of the Vampire" has been covered previously by Entombed in 1995 and I still think that was the best cover version yet. In the interpretation of Dying Grotesque, I feel the constant lack of power plus the vibe is just totally wrong there. They've tried, but failed. Anyway, this cassette EP is the first worthy material by them, so give it a spin!

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FORMORKET

"Live: Walk Into Nothing" MC 2020 (Fekete Terror Productions)

Formorket from Szerencs was formed in 2003 and ceased to exist in 2017. This live

material was recorded at Inner Awakening Festival IX in Budapest on the 18th of August, 2017. The 7-song live show sounds pretty decent and captures the live essence of this unholy black metal horde from Hungary. Formorket's line-up on this live recording was Saterion (guitar/vocals), B (bass) and Ga'eheln (drums). Besides their own tracks they've included two great cover versions



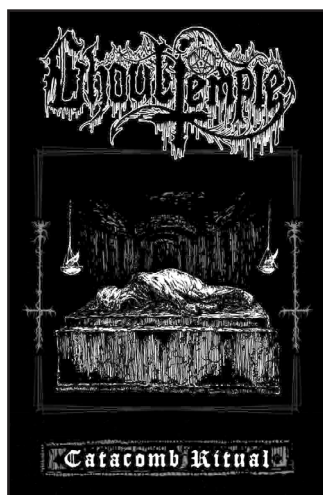
there as well, namely Craft's "Hidden Under the Skin" and Armagedda's "A World Full of Lies". Well, to be honest, the own music of Formorket is totally inspired by both the Norwegian and Swedish black metal scenes, thus this over 35 minutes stuff I would only advise for the diehard fans of the band. The fancy looking dark blue cassettes were limited to 50 copies, so hurry up to get your copy, before they are all gone... or simply walk into the nothingness of space and time...

E-mail: feketeterrorzine@gmail.com
Bandcamp: formorketofficial.bandcamp.com
Facebook: facebook.com/feketeterrorprod

GHOUL TEMPLE

"Catacomb Ritual" MC 2019 (Fekete Terror Productions)

This is Ghoul Temple's only material, released on cassettes in 2019. The Hungarian duo from Nagyatád was established in 2014. Patrik (guitars) and D (vocals, bass & guitars) present us four grumpy songs with a grim but marching-like mixture of black and death metal. However, I felt the black metal influences more predominant on "Catacomb Ritual". The music they play is like a cross between some early stuff of Hellhammer/Celtic Frost and Bolt Thrower. The sound production of the 21 minutes long repertoire is really good and quite enjoyable. The song titles are as follows: "Possession", "Catacomb Ritual", "Invocation" and "Ghoul Wrath".



The plain designed J-card comes with the flawless artwork and design by Anvil Kvlt. I am not sure if this killer tape is still available through FTP, but try to search for it, I personally found it pretty worthy!

Enough said, eagerly waiting for the next chapter by these ghouls from Hungary!!!
Blogspot: feketeterrorprod.blogspot.com

GOD'S FUNERAL/HADEZ

"Bicéfalo Culto Ancestral" MC 2019 (Total Därkness Propaganda)

Spanish doom/death warriors of God's Funeral are opening up the gates to hell on the A side. They've been around since 2016. The three songs of their own are about the absolute sadness and melancholy of the human race. The Catalan quartet,



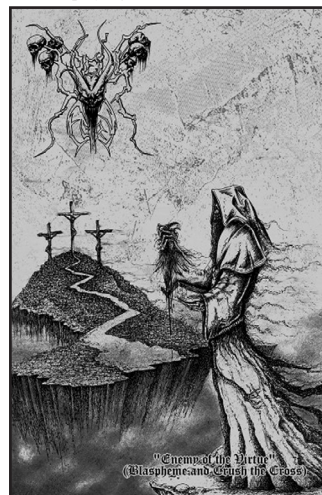
i.e. Abel (vocals/bass), Juan (guitar), Naila (guitar) & Sergi (drums), is firmly handling their instruments of doom. And despite the fact, these lengthy songs were recorded and mixed at the rehearsal, they do sound awesome! The B side features four vicious black/death metal tracks by Hadez. The Peruvian horde with the following members in its ranks Scharack (growls), Aggressor (guitar), Asmodeus (bass) & TM666 (drums) decided to re-record some songs from their past. These old songs are sounding rather rough and chaotic, but I suppose it had to be this way. Well, if you are in desperate search for a post-apocalyptic vibe for your day, stop searching, Hadez will do the best possible job for you. Sorry to write it, but this killer split has been sold out a while, so you can only browse and listen to it online. That's all folks! Apropos, there were two more cassette format releases of this split before, notably the DiscosMcCagoEnDios and the Profaner Records versions, both in 2018.

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Facebook: facebook.com/totaldarknessp

HELL FURY

"Enemy Of The Virtue" MC 2020 (Total Därkness Propaganda)

Hell Fury is an absolutely blasphemous black/death metal duo from Quito (Ecuador). It started to spread its dark wings in 2018. In August of 2019 they completed the recordings of 6 songs with 25 and half minutes playing time for their debut album



called "Enemy of the Virtue (Blasphemy and Crush the Cross)". This evil stuff was originally released on cassettes by the following underground labels: Aniquilación Satánica Productions, Father of Obscurity Distro and Kult of Bloody Rites. Nonetheless, Total Därkness Propaganda from Hungary decided to re-release it on both cassettes and CDs in March of 2020. Their cassette run was limited to 50 pieces, so it must be a sought-after item by now. The plain looking black cassette features the same program on both sides. So you can listen to this necrotic sounding antichristian ritual twice on this tape, he-he... The blackened duo, namely Infernal Warlord (vocals, guitars, bass, keyboards) and X (drums), is doing everything possible to desecrate the holy spirit, thus your darkened soul will probably find the most wanted equilibrium there... Good news, the CD version of this hellcult masterpiece is still available at TDP, so make your order in time or cry later...

E-mail: tdpropaganda666@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/totaldarknessp

MOLIS SEPULCRUM

"Left For The Worms" MC 2021 (Total Därkness Propaganda)

From the death metal elite of Szeged (Hungary) takes form the diabolical triumvirate of Molis Sepulcrum: Disemboweller (Gravecrusher, ex-Necrosodomy, ex-Goblin Gore) on vocals & bass, Alkoholizer (ex-Gravecrusher) on guitar and Winehammer on drums. Music- and sound-wise they maximally focus on the Swedish type of death metal. So you'll get a circa 23 minutes dose of downtuned chainsaw sounding riff massacre spiced up with massive grooves and death grunts of the most sombre kind. The debut mini album of the Hungarians is divided into 6 tracks. I personally liked their "back to the beginning of the 90s death metal era" repertory, even if I have to admit there's really nothing new or intriguing there. Their stuff is very well played and executed, but that's all. The pro-dubbed tape in the superior black shell comes with a superb quality b/w booklet featuring all the lyrics, recording infos and credits. The limitation of the cassettes is 150 pcs. and you can still order your copy from TDP. Thanks to Pulverised Records from Singapore this EP was also released on CDs and three different kinds of vinyls. Alright, let's see when Molis Sepulcrum will conquer next...



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

PATHETIC/PUTRID

"Devorando Carne Divina" MC 2018 (Total Därkness Propaganda)

The second cassette release of TDP is a split. On side A we have Pathetic from Canada. The trio – AJ Kovar (vocals/bass), Spencer Kraft (guitars) & Duncan Chisholm (drums) – delivers to us four chaotic death metal songs in a super raw manner. Their mixing is a little bit garage-like, but it adds

the so-beloved crypt sound to their stuff. Especially the death growls and the snare sound turned out to be loud and sick as hell. Fans of old-school death metal will love their dreadful over 20 minutes set. On side B we have four even more garage-like sounding tracks by Putrid from Peru. The unholy death metal quartet – Evil Avatar (vomits & whipping guitars), Erick Graves (infernal chords), Mad Butcher (cursed bass) & Drum Major of War (chaotic drums) – presents some sort of evilized yet blackened musick the way only South American bands can do. Their turbo Slayerish stuff is pretty annihilating, especially when all those sick blast beats enter the game. By the way, their fourth track “The Curse!” is a cover of the cult Canadian death/thrash band Slaughter.



Should I mention at all that Putrid's version has just turned super diabolic in all sense. There were 200 copies of this split successfully spread all over the world, so its current status is sold out. However, you can still buy, stream or listen to it at TDP's bandcamp profile.

PATHETIC “Rat King” MC 2020 (Total D rkness Propaganda)

Canadian Pathetic is an obscure death metal band established in 2015. As you see the Calgary-based trio wasn't in hurry with the recordings of their debut full-length album, but they finally did it and collected 10 songs for the “Rat King”. The circa 55 minutes long transparent red cassette has been divided to “rat” and “king” sides, 5 songs per each side respectively. Sound-wise they've managed to get a 100% live effect that is enough gruffly and dirty. Compared to their previous recording for the split “Devorando Carne Divina”, here on “Rat King” we have all their instruments and



vocal parts in a well-balanced, audible and proportional way. The only thing I've found a little bit odd is the big loudness difference between the two kick drums/pedals in a few songs. Anyway, this is a great apocalyptic death metal release I can only recommend for

fans of the old-school vibe. My favorite tracks are “Frozen to Death (The Starlight Tours)” and “Empty Threat”. These cool-looking cassettes were sold-out a while (as the limitation was 100 copies), but you can still order the “Rat King” on CD at TDP's bandcamp page.

SANGUINARY MISANTHROPIA “Blodison” MC 2018 (Total D rkness Propaganda)

Sanguinary Misanthropia is an Australian raw black metal horde, formed in Melbourne to spread the gnostic chaos upon the blindfolded herds of humankind.



Initially “Blodison” was released in 2016 by Aurora Australis Records on CDs, but the Hungarian new-born label called Total D rkness Propaganda decided to materialize this hellish masterpiece on cassettes as well. The professionally dubbed tape is in rad black shell added by plain stickers on both sides. The colored cover is pro-printed too. There are 8 songs in total (four per side). The 37-minute long material sounds in an ultra-harsh way and truly stands for the “warlike black metal chaos” definition. This release was limited to 200 copies and, unfortunately or fortunately, by now it has been totally sold out. You can still stream or buy its digital version online. By the way, there was a special 8-song live album issued in 2019 under the title of “Live Blood Rituals” by Sinister Essence Records. Since that time no more news from this obscure black metal entity, but hopefully they will return soon...

SEDEM MIN T STRACHU/MAL D “Split” MC 2020 (Rotova Porojnina Records)

Sedem Min t Strachu is an awful four-piece noise brigade from Slovakia. They started to play this kind of anti-music in 2012. Since that time they've managed to release too many splits. The material for the current split was recorded 10.2.2019 and it lasts 5 minutes and 33 seconds. There are no songs there, just spontaneous improvisations and chaos above all. I've checked some of their live videos and there's hell and madness



during their performances. So I am pretty sure the diehard fans of the band will love this split release too. On the other side of the cassette we have the Kyiv-based noisecore duo called Mal d. Val (bass/screams) and Anton (drums) present to us 5 minutes and 26 seconds of their unique kind of (un)controlled noise diarrhea. It was recorded on 26th of April and titled as “Absolute Complete Insanity”. This super sick split cassette release was limited to 100 copies and it is still available at the RPR bandcamp page. Only chosen ones should order this tape, others please stay away!!!

SICVLICIDIUM “Az Al mer l s L rv i” MC 2020 (Fekete Terror Productions)

The third full-length material by Siculicidium from Transylvania is a special concept album that lyrics-wise tells an insane story, a neverending journey in the tartarean world and beyond. The Harghita County located black metal unit was founded in 2003 and since 2005 was led by two permanent members, namely Pestifer (guitar/bass) & Lugosi (vocals). Their sort of netherworld concept is fully written in Hungarian language and has been spread over 44 minutes.

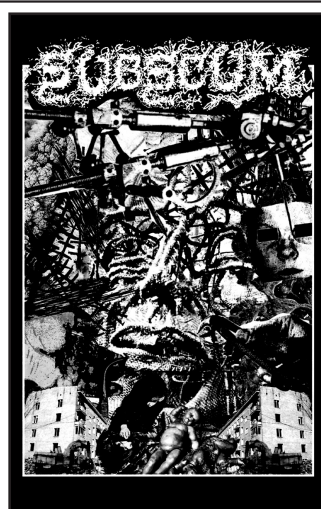


Needless to say, the 7 songs of “Az al mer l s l rv i (The larvae of the submergence)” are rather fascinating, both musically and lyrically. The type of black metal they play is monotonous, slightly melodic, at times epic and mostly mid-paced. It is rather focusing on the vibe as a whole then on the variety of riffs. Due to the monotone speech nature of Lugosi this vibe gets a hypnotizing character. The album's mixing is great and well-balanced. Fans of atmospheric black metal should invest into this stuff, which has been limited to 100 copies. The cassette's shell is white with black prints on both sides, while the extended booklet featuring all lyrics & credits is printed in black & white. The cover art was painted by Juha Vuorma, it fits well the story and looks awesome. Everything is on a high level there, so get your copy now or lament later...

Bandcamp: siculicidium.bandcamp.com

SUBSCUM “Subscum” MC 2021 (Rotova Porojnina Records)

Subscum from Kyiv is a young, but very promising grindcore quartet. It was established in 2020 by the following members: Roma (vocals), Vlad (guitar/noise), Nuri (bass) & Sirko (drums). Their self-titled EP was recorded live on the 5th of May, 2021 at Pree Tone's studio. The achieved sound production is pretty necrotic and totally cave-like, especially the vocal parts turned out to be extra sick there. The EP has 8 songs in almost 13 minutes. Their songs start and end with noises to give the effect of one long continuous song. These transitions weren't done in a flawless way, but who cares. What matters most is that Subscum debuted with killer stuff and I am eagerly looking forward to their next release! Until then, you can order this EP either from Rotova Porojnina Records or Acid Redux Productions. The first label



limited the quantity of cassettes to 48 copies, while the second one to 50 copies. Don't hesitate too long as this sort of item is selling lightning fast.

E-mail: rotoavaporojnina@gmail.com

TULSADOOM “Barbarian Steel/Storms Of The Netherworld” 2MC 2018 (Total D rkness Propaganda)

The fourth TDP release is a limited double tape box containing the first two Tulsadoom albums and 6 never before released live tracks. It was strictly limited to 200 copies and sold out by now. The first cassette has the Austrian band's debut album called “Barbarian Steel”, originally released in 2012 by Nihilistic Empire Records, plus five live tracks from 2015. The album itself



contains 11 full speed ahead heavy metal songs that were slightly blackened, but strongly infected by thrash metal. Kind of punchy, very good-sounding epic alloy is it with lyrics about Conan the Barbarian and the Hyborian age. The line-up on this record is: King Totolva (vocals), Virgin Penetrator (guitar), Hairless Torturer (guitar), Rick Thunder (bass) & Dokthar Radiovodnik (dums). On its B-side we have 5 out of the 6 above mentioned live tracks. Those live cuts have a pretty decent sound, so you can enjoy the barbaric metal force live as well. The second cassette includes the band's second full-length release “Storms of the Netherworld”, originally released in 2015 by Nihilistic Empire Records and one live track. The barbaric horde continues to evolve musically further on, so the 11 songs of their sophomore release are even more groove-oriented and hymn-like within the bestial combination of heavy & thrash metal. The members are the same, except Hairless Torturer, who has been replaced by Skullcrusher Volkov on guitar. Both cassettes come with extensive full-colored J-cards that were put together in a b/w hand numbered slipcase. A must-have for all the Tulsadoom collectors!!!

Bandcamp: tulsadoom.bandcamp.com

Hails! "Resurrection of Deathly Visions" is the second EP of yours. Please tell the readers where you are heading music- and lyrics-wise on these four tracks. Where did you record them and what was the recording line-up?

Disemboweler: Hail! We recorded the new material at Obsidian Studio with Árpád Szenti. The lyrics have become deeper and darker, we still keep the line of cryptic stench. The new line-up is: Disemboweler – guitars/bass & Blasphemy – drums/vocals.

Who did the graphics to the "Resurrection of Deathly Visions" EP? What does it symbolize?

Disemboweler: Mark Riddick created the cover art. We have always been satisfied with his work and we feel the same this time as well. With the title of the album, we refer to the silence that surrounded the band for a long time and the break out of it. The cover does not need to be overthought, just like the previous ones. This is death metal.

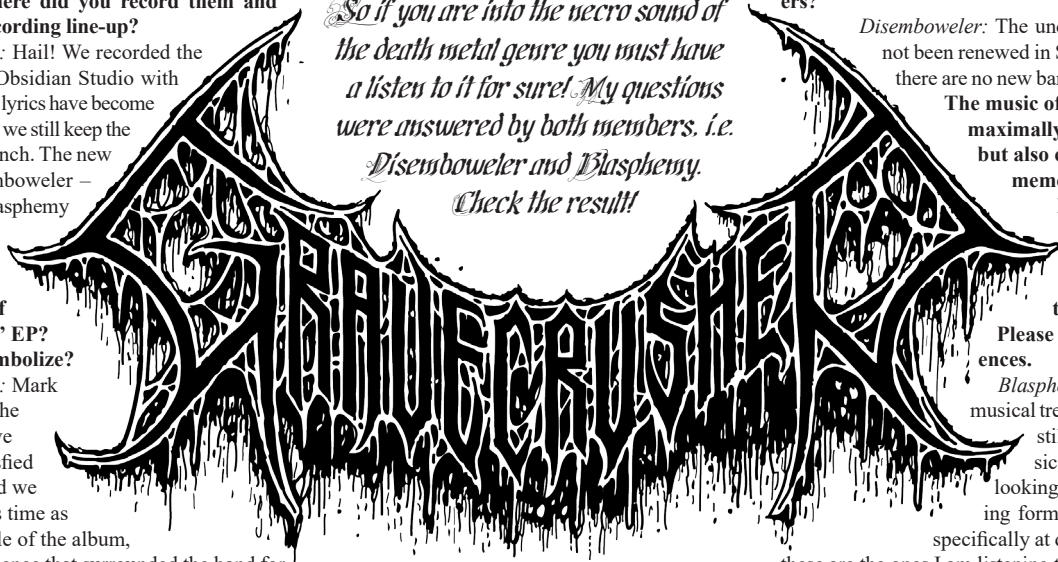
Like the first EP, it was released by Xtrem Music from Spain. How many CDs did they press in total? Should the fans expect it to be released on vinyl or cassette formats in the near future? By the way, what were the selling numbers for the "Morbidity Black Oath" EP?

Disemboweler: This material was only released in CD format. In our opinion, the publication number is unimportant. We are an underground band, we will never produce as many sales numbers as a mainstream band. It is more important that the material reaches fans and death metal fanatics. What we received from the label is all sold out. The downloading of "Morbidity Black Oath" in digital form has become a little more lively since the new material was released.

Why did it take so long to record the new stuff? Will this second EP be finally continued with the recordings of your debut full-length album? If so, please go into details.

Disemboweler: Eight songs had been ready for recording for years, but there were always some excuses

The new EP of Gravecrusher is finally here and trust me it rips the right way. So if you are into the necro sound of the death metal genre you must have a listen to it for sure! My questions were answered by both members. i.e. Disemboweler and Blasphemy. Check the result!



How's the underground movement in Szeged actually? Are there any newcomers? What bands would you recommend to check out for the readers?

Disemboweler: The underground life has not been renewed in Szeged. Basically, there are no new bands in harder style.

The music of Gravecrusher is maximally past-influenced, but also comes with really memorable hooks and killer grooves. So what kind of music do the members prefer to listen to lately?

Please list us your influences.

Blasphemy: I like a lot of musical trends and although I still listen to the classics, I am constantly looking for new and exciting formations. If we look specifically at death metal bands,

these are the ones I am listening to: old Morbid Angel, old Necrophobic, Merciless, Edge of Sanity, Mortiferum, Grave, Morgoth, Pan-Thy-Monium, etc.

Disemboweler: I couldn't emphasize just one or two bands, lately I am listening to: Asphyx, Coffins, Grave, Triumvir Foul, Bolt Thrower, Skeletal.

You have been to Ungvár once. How do you remember it and the local fans, what memories left from that trip?

Disemboweler: We played at the UzhGoreRot festival in 2016. There weren't so many people there, mostly youngsters, but they were enthusiastic and headbanging. I don't remember anything special about the trip.

Do you intend to print some merch in support of your new EP? Where can the fans find and buy them?

Disemboweler: We planned longsleeves and t-shirts, Mark Riddick has already done the designs for these products, but their production has not started yet. These items can be purchased from the band on our bandcamp page or via e-mail.

Last mortal visions are yours.

Disemboweler: Thanks for the interview! Hail to the death metal fanatics!

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that hindered the common work. With Disguster (Cryptworm, Coffinborn, Rothadás, etc.) as an ex-member and Blasphemy (Rothadás, Coffinborn, Tyrant Goatgdrakona, etc.), we have known each other for a long time, we talked a lot about this stomping around in one place situation. I was fed up with that one rehearsal in a year and then that was too many for me when no one from the band responded to the demos I made for 3 months. Blasphemy, who knew and liked Gravecrusher, offered his help with the drums if I wanted to let things go with the band. So the work I invested in would not go to waste. That's why I have come to the decision that only that person can remain a Gravecrusher member who wants to do it. We still make music together with Alkoholizer and Winehammer, but only in a band named Molis Sepulchrum. It seems they have accepted the decision,



the band will continue the work without them. Nebel took his own songs with himself. Then we waited for the lyrics for almost half a year. I trusted in Revenger, as an original member, to solve this problem, but in the end we went our separate ways due to differences in creativity. We recorded the drums last summer and I played the guitar and bass lines last October. Finally, Blasphemy wrote the lyrics in a day and he sang the vocals to the material in about 1.5 hours in April this year. Xtrem Music has been informed that there will be only 4 songs on the material, which was only released on CD. The contract is still valid for the next two LPs. We will focus on them from now on.

You've not played live for quite a while. What are your plans in this direction? Any live shows or a release party this year?

Disemboweler: The band has not been on stage since 2018. Since the band has been reduced to a duo, we are not preparing to play a show currently. We haven't rejected the idea of it, but we will be looking for session musicians definitely.



Let me introduce you to Selfgod, a fresh blackened death metal band fronted by guitarist Serge Streltsov (ex-Necrophagia, ex-Automb). His debut material is on the way, so keep your eyes wide open, but until then read the following interview to get a glimpse into the musical and lyrical sides of Selfgod!!!



Hail to thee Serge! Just a few weeks ago you formed Selfgod, which is a new black/death metal band of yours. Tell us a bit about the line-up and perspectives of this formation.

- The band will consist of just me as the only official member. In the studio I will do lead vocals, all guitars, bass and keys. Scott Fuller from Morbid Angel will once again record drums. For live I will do guitar/vocals and will hire live musicians as I have done with Automb.

The debut album of Selfgod is going to be a mix of material you had written for Necrophagia and Automb. Could you please share more details about this musical conception? How many songs in total will be recorded for Selfgod's debut record?

- Yes, I've had about 3 or 4 songs I had left from Necrophagia days that I wrote. The other 5 I wrote for Automb since the beginning of the pandemic. So yea it'll be 9 songs. The material is a mix of classic negro sound that I tried to make heavier and the Automb material is a bit different from what I've done on the last 2 records. I would say this album is going more into a death metal direction. It's a lot heavier and possibly more catchy. I even introduced a new guitar tuning on some songs.

Lyrics-wise what kind of themes will you dissect there? What inspires you lately in terms of writing?

- Lyrical themes will be mostly on Slavic Paganism and self-spirituality. It is something I wanted to do for a while now. These are the subjects I know very well. Also I want to connect to my Slavic Heritage. I feel there isn't enough of that in the extreme metal scene, everything is usually about Scandinavian paganism, Satanism or gore.

I've noticed that except for the drums you are in charge of recording all the other instruments (guitars, bass & keys) and vocals too. Hopefully it doesn't mean that Selfgod will only remain a studio project? Do you have plans to complete the line-up later on and to play live shows in the near future?

- Yes, like I said in the previous question I'm doing mostly everything, but I already put together a live line up. I just need one more piece to the puzzle. I will be performing live as soon as it is possible in my region. We already have been rehearsing.

I know it is a little bit too early to ask, but is there any label interest yet?

- There's interest from a label I worked with previously, but I'm going to look around before I

commit to anything.

Besides music, what other hobbies do you have? By the way, is there any job you do on a daily basis? If so, what kind of it?

- Honestly music is my life and it's all I do. Most musicians have other hobbies, but I don't. I like walks in nature and camping out in the summer, but that's about it. I also like working out, but I feel like that's just regular activities.

For my daily job I work as a Russian language interpreter here in the US. I've had this job for many years.

How many guitars do you own actually? Which guitars are your most beloved ones and why? Is there a particular one, which you use only for studio recordings? Oh, and at what age did you start to play guitar?

- I currently have 5. I've sold one and sent one back recently. My favorite guitars are Deans. They are the best on the market in my opinion and look very original. I've been playing them for 14 years and always had at least one in my arsenal. My favorite one would have to be a Dime Razorback V. I've had it for 13 years and it still plays like new and remained in good condition. Dean makes quality stuff! For the studio I have used ESP/LTD guitars previously for Necrophagia and Automb, but this time around I'm planning on using only Deans. I have a couple more coming to me in a few months.

I started playing guitar when I was 13. Pretty much like most musicians. So that'll be 16 years of playing this year.

What kind of music have you been listening to lately? Which record did you buy last? Name us your Top 10 releases of all time.

- I've been listening to a lot of classic rock and glam metal and even some 80s pop. I got kind of burned out on metal and extreme metal in general. But that doesn't mean I don't listen to it at all. Just a lot less than I used to. I guess that's what happens with age, you end up going back to what got you into music in the first place.

Top releases is a tough one. I'm just going to randomly pick some: Kiss – Alive!, Iron Maiden – The number of the beast, Rammstein – Sehnsucht, Darkthrone – A blaze in the northern sky, Morbid Angel – Domination, Immortal – Sons of northern darkness, Watain – Sworn to the dark, Behemoth – Demigod, Nile – Annihilation of the wicked, Belphegor – Blood magick necromance.

Last 2 records I bought on vinyl are Marduk – Panzer division Marduk and Kiss – Rock and roll over.

How do you see the future of the underground bands and the music industry in terms of the pandemic, especially the live performances part of it?

- I feel the future is going to be rough and good at the same time. It's going to weed out a lot of bands, but it will also have a lot of bands touring once we all get the green light. It'll definitely be competitive. It's going to be hard to find venues to play since there are only so many left in business. But I have nothing but determination to get back out there and kick ass regardless of the setbacks and the future standards.

Well, that's all I had. Please finish up the interview by sending your darkest greetings to all the Encomium readers and fans of black/death metal in general.

- I want to thank Kornel and the Encomium magazine followers for this opportunity and, of course, to all the Necrophagia and Automb fans and all the extreme metal maniacs out there.

Stay positive and, of course, stay safe and metal! Cheers to all!



The new Tankard album is on its way... Needless to say, I am pretty excited about it, so I've decided to send in my questions. Olaf Zissel (drums) was cool enough and answered them super quick. Now read on all the latest Tankard news from Olaf's perspective!!!

Hello Olaf! I guess all the diehard maniacs of Tankard are very pleased about the fact your new record "Pavlov's Dawgs" will be out 30th of September and that the band is turning 40 this year. How do you personally feel about both?

- Hello all. The new release is far away from routine as you all know that we had two years of starving for getting our lives back. So we are happy that we made it one more time and can't wait to roll out the new one.

Back in the early days I couldn't imagine doing thrash metal till the age of 30, but now I'm 54 and still do this. But it's still fun and also the band's 40th anniversary results in doing it seriously, but don't forget to have fun with it.

This album will mark your debut at Reaper Entertainment. What kind of deal you inked with them? What was wrong with Nuclear Blast?

- We've had a long time working with Blast, but shortly after the company was sold, all of our contact persons were gone and so we decided to rejoin them at Reaper. There wasn't anything wrong at Blast, but the changes went too big for us old farts. I think we did the best we could in this situation and so we luckily have the same people around as before the change.

"Beerbarians", the first single from the upcoming record, premiered on the 1st of July. It brings the typical, humor-filled Tankard style at its best! How would you describe the other 9 songs of the album? Topics-wise, what have you been touching this time?

- Hard for me to go, because at the time I recorded the new stuff most of the lyrics weren't finished and so I only got Gerre's "Phantom Lyrics" on the headphone. These are usually total nonsense. But I give it a try to copy some of the prepared notes translated by google (sorry, would take me too long and leads me to my English limits).

"Pavlov's Dawg" – Around the turn of the 20th century, Petrovich Pavlov found out that salivation in dogs can be triggered simply by ringing a bell if it has been rung regularly before feeding. He called this process conditioning. The song is about a person being conditioned. Hearing a beer bottle open gets the person in the party mood and tipsy. He thinks this is great until the effect shifts, the party stage is skipped, and the sound of a bottle opening gives him an instant hangover. As is typical for Tankard, the text should not be taken too seriously. A funny play on words is the consonance of "dawg", which means "dude" or "guy", and "dog". It equates humans with dogs and provocatively implies that humans, with all their evolutionary-biological arrogance,

do not function any differently than "simple" animals.

"Diary of a Nihilist" – A goth is fed up with his negative attitude towards the world, because the world and society far outweighs his badness. So he discards his nihilism and becomes a faithful churchgoer.

"On the Day I Die" – You find out that you only have one more day to live, who do you still have to confess your love to, what horny shit can you still experience and which goals and wishes may never come true? Do not lose hope and dignity in the face of the inevitable end, and accept death for what it is: an ending that says an eventful life preceded it.

"Beerbarians" – There are serious anthropologists and historians who assume that brewing beer was one of the decisive engines of civilizational progress. It is claimed that many scientific developments are due to the desire for improved brewing technology and thus better and more consistent beer quality. These include agriculture and irrigation technology, road construction and transport, etc.

The new album was recorded together with producer Martin Buchwalter at Gernhard Studio in Troisdorf. Your cooperation with Martin started at the recordings of "One Foot in the Grave" in 2017. How was it to work with him this time? Are there any funny studio stories to tell? How long did it take for you to complete the material for "Pavlov's Dawgs"?

- Martin is a nice guy and his studio is just a two-hour drive away. There is an Irish Pub across the street, but at this time the city still had some lockdown rules and so I had to wear a facemask while crossing the road. Once I reached the pub I started to clean the fog off from my glasses before grabbing the mask off. So the people in the pub started to call me the masked drummer...

The cover artworks for both the album and the single were painted by Patrick Strogulski. Nice jobs again! Was it totally Patrick's vision of what these covers should look like or you gave him an exact guide on both?

- I can't give you a serious answer to this. I simply do not know.

You've joined Tankard in 1994 and your first record with the band was "The Tankard" album in 1995. How do you remember the start of your career in Tankard? Did you ever think you'll stay with them for so long?

- The guys just finished the "Two-Faced" album and asked me to play the tour in march 1994, because

they kicked Arnulf out of the band. I told them that it would be cool, but I'm on a European tour with Killrays. A few weeks later this tour was postponed for reasons I don't remember and I asked Tankard if they are still looking for a drummer for this tour. That's it. Played 17 shows in a row, returned home for two days and did another two weeks on the road with Killrays. This was the first time I got paid for what I'm loving to do (not the Killrays tour for sure). That's how I joined the bunch.

What kind of gear did you use for the recordings of "Pavlov's Dawgs". I mean the drums, cymbals, pedals, drumsticks, etc. Does it differ a lot from what you are using at your rehearsal room? By the way, when did you start playing the drums and what bands/musicians influenced you to do so?

- Nothing special. Usually I use a Mapex Falcon double pedal and/or a DW 5000. Vic Firth EX5B sticks. Drums are Mapex Saturn 22", 12", 16" and a small set of cymbals with different brands and on stage it is a Mapex Machete snare drum, but I don't remember if we used it at the recordings or not. Tried a few, but they all looked the same and the Irish pub was close.

In a few days, more precisely on 16th of July you are finally going to play at Obscene Extreme Festival in the Czech Republic. You've been announced for the 2020 edition of the festival, but for obvious reasons it didn't happen. That is definitely the sickest extreme music festival on the planet. Are you prepared for the surprise? How many and which songs are you planning to play there?

- I guess that we are not the headliner, so we have 45 or 60 minutes to perform and so we dig out the classics and see what happens.

Your guitarist Andy besides shredding in Tankard since 1998 also known for taking part in the IronMan European Championship Frankfurt 2022. How many times has he finished this championship so far? What do you personally think about his hobby and achievements?

- As far as I know it was his second full IronMan he finished. But besides this race he does a few more with shorter distances to get in shape for the main race. Finally, he finished in 11:29 hours. That would be my time for the swimming part at first (3.8 km).

OK, please share your final thoughts for the end... and long live the Tankard.

- Good to be back in the game and have the chance to share some time with people all over the world.

Cheers, Olaf

This band needs no introduction for the diehard ghouls of the death metal underworld. I've talked with guitarist Kelly McLaughlin about their long-anticipated fourth full-length album, the recent re-issues and touring plans amongst other interesting topics. So be prepared for a triumphant return of the Pessimist!!!



Hello Kelly! Pessimist's new album is titled "Keys to the Underworld" and it is currently underway at Black Attack Studio in Los Angeles. When do you plan to finish it, how many songs will it include and what should the death metal fans expect from this material music-wise?

- Hello Kornel! That's correct, recording is underway, and is almost complete. There are 9 songs, plus an outro. This record is filled with lots of haunting, evil-sounding riffs, catchy 90's-era death metal. You will hear influences from Slayer, to Decide, to Morbid Angel or Cannibal Corpse and Obituary. And it still retains that dark and heavy "Pessimist" sound fans have come to expect from our earlier records. This is our first studio album since 2002's "Slaughtering the Faithful", and fans can expect it sounds kind of like a mix of all our previous albums. There's plenty of fast stuff, plus slower riffs, and everything in-between.

Ira Black was in charge of the recording processes. How was it to work with Ira? How many days have you spent in total at his studio? I mean, you've started with the drum recordings back in April, 2021. By the way, will Ira be responsible for mixing and mastering the album as well?

- Working with Ira has been fantastic. The recording process has taken more than a year so far. Probably the main reason for this has been both Ira's and my own busy schedules. Ira is now touring in Vio-lence, also Bulletboys, and also has several other projects going. All during this time I've had my own projects going, including touring Europe with I Am Morbid earlier this year. So there have been a few delays, but we have been able to prioritize, and stay focused on just creating the best album possible. Some other things contributed to the overall length of the recording process – right after we finished tracking the drums, the studio had to be moved to a new location, so that took several weeks. Also in Jan of this year it was announced longtime bassist Kelly Conlon (Death, Monstrosity) would record bass for the album. We had pushed back the recording schedule to accommodate

this, but it ended up not materializing after all. Fortunately, we brought in new recruit bassist Andrew Bowen, who did an incredible job. The last thing left to record is my solos. Once my solos are done, we'll be ready to mix. We'll mix with Ira, then it will be mastered by Bill Metoyer (Slayer, Dark Angel, Lizzy Borden, etc.).

What should we know about the lyrical content of "Keys to the Underworld"?

- These are some of our darkest lyrics ever. Most of the lyrics were written by our vocalist, Ivan Alison. I contribute some of the lyrics, and song titles. Ivan and I work together on the vocal patterns, and vocal arrangements. I typically start off with a working song title, and a concept, maybe a skeleton of some lyrical ideas which goes with the music, and we just build from there. Some of our lyrical content for this album includes death/afterlife (*Keys to the Underworld*), war (*Wartorn Existence*), the end of the world (*Hell's Eve*), the Bermuda Triangle (*Devil's Vortex*), and murder (*Time to Kill*). We keep the lyrics interesting and sometimes the words can have more than one meaning – we leave it up to the listener to decide.

In the fall of 2018 you've already released a single with the same title and artwork by Mark Cooper. Will you use this cover art for the full-length album too or there's a plan for a new one?

- Yes, we have some brand new cover art for the full-length. We decided it is better to have new artwork, instead of the art which was already used for the 2018 single. We feel the new art really captures the dark, evil mood of the record and the title track perfectly. It is definitely the most extreme cover art in the history of the band. This will be revealed at a later date, probably when the release date is announced.

On the 17th of November, 2020 Season of Mist has officially announced your signing. The first fruits of your cooperation were the re-releases of "Cult of the Initiated" (May 14th, 2021), "Blood for the Gods" (June 11th, 2021) and "Slaughtering the Faithful" (July 16th, 2021) on CD and LP formats with t-shirts support respectively. How do you like

these re-releases and what's the response from both the fans and the media so far?

- Season of Mist has been fantastic, I am very pleased with the label, and the response to our re-issues has been great! These albums were out-of-print for almost 20 years, and it's great to see our music back out there on CD and now on vinyl for the first time ever. I wanted these re-issues to be something really special for our fans, so I spent a lot of time putting them together, including all-new layouts for vinyl and CD, featuring our new updated logo, and totally new artwork for our debut "Cult of the Initiated", which was released as a 25th-anniversary release. All 3 albums include rare bonus tracks (incl. a cover of "Pestilence" by Kreator), which were not included on the original CDs. All the new layouts include rare and never-before-seen early band photos, liner notes, etc. This also gave me the opportunity to re-order the songs where I felt necessary, so even the track list has been updated, to make the album the best it can be. Some of our fans have the original releases and have bought the re-issues, as well. It has definitely done a lot to put our name back out there, and is gathering interest towards our new album, when it is released.

Since the foundation of Pessimist in 1989 there were many member changes, but you kept the band going and playing live shows, even if there were two short stops on the road. What were the reasons for these pauses? Please introduce to our readers the current members of the band.

- Well the main reason for these pauses was from me playing in other bands. I had the Pessimist name and the logo since 1989, and the first complete lineup was formed in 1993. We had a mostly stable lineup for our first two CDs, however after our 3rd album and after some lineup changes around 2003, I decided to put Pessimist on hold for a while. I moved from Baltimore, MD to Tampa, FL and helped form a new band, Unholy Ghost. We signed to Century Media/Olympic, so that band was my main focus for a while, until 2005. At that same time, Pessimist's old record

label, Lost Disciple Records, went out of business, and our titles were officially out of print – which meant they weren't being pressed any more, and we kind of faded from the spotlight during the next years. Lost Disciple owned all our master recordings, and until I was able to buy the rights back, no one could press it. And without a record label or a full-time lineup, there wasn't much happening for Pessimist at that time. So in the meantime, I went on to play in some other FL bands, such as Equinox (2007), Angelcorpse (2008), and Resurrection (2009). Somehow I still managed to keep Pessimist going in the background, released a compilation CD called "Evolution unto Evil" in 2008, and played a few shows and our 2nd European tour in 2009. During this time, I had also joined Diabolic, and recorded on "Excisions of Exorcisms" CD. After that I joined the legends Possessed, and toured with the band from 2011-2013. So I was actually very busy playing in other bands, all this time. In 2014 I reformed Pessimist full-time, and began playing shows and writing new music. Then finally in 2018 I was able to obtain the rights to our master recordings for our first three albums, and in 2020 we signed with Season of Mist for the re-issues, and a new, multi-album deal.

The recording lineup for this album is myself on guitars, vocalist Ivan Alison (Black Mass), new recruit bassist Andrew Bowen (Carnal Necrosis, Hideous Rebirth) and drummer Tim Yeung (Morbid Angel, Hate Eternal, Divine Heresy, etc.).

What should we know about your extremely limited cassette release of "Absence of Light/Dark Reality" in 2019? Is it still available?

- Yes, it was limited to only 50 copies, and there are still a few copies (less than 15) available. It includes our first three demo tapes on one cassette, 1993-'94 "Dark Reality" (I & II) and 1995 "Absence of Light" and is printed on red chrome tapes. It includes the original J-card from the 1995 "Absence" cassette, and is signed by original members from all 3 demos.

It's really just something cool I put together for our diehard fans, who want to hear what the band was like in the early days. I don't expect we will press it again on cassette, but if we do, it won't be autographed – these are the last of them. There has been some interest and fans asking if it will be released on CD eventually, so we will see. In the US you can find it on our Bandcamp, and is also available as Digital Download.

Upon the release of "Keys to the Underworld" do you plan some extensive US and European tours? By the way, is there a release date for the album yet?

- We are in contact with some European agencies, and looking at playing some festivals here in the US. Our focus right now is getting this new album out, so everyone can hear our new music, and there will be some more interest for playing live. I would love for us to go back to Europe some day. There is no release date for the album yet, but it will be announced by Season of Mist when the time is right.

Recently, you've been part of the 30th anniversary European tour of "Blessed Are the Sick" album with I Am Morbid. How was it to share the stage during 27 shows with David Vincent, Pete Sandoval and Bill Hudson? Which are the most favorite cities and venues of yours in Europe?

- It was absolutely amazing to play these classic Morbid Angel songs and to share the stage with these legends every night. "Blessed Are the Sick" is literally the first CD I ever owned, so it's hard to put into words how much this meant to me. As a longtime fan and friend of the band, it was truly an honor. David, Pete and Bill are all at the top of their game and absolutely peak musicians. I learned so much from playing at this level, and it definitely helped me grow as a player and a touring guitarist. I got to see so many cool places, and meet lots of cool people. It was an incredible experience, and for that I am forever grateful. One of my favorite places to play was Poland, for my first time ever. The crowds

and the energy of the shows was completely over the top. I like Denmark, and Sweden. Some favorite venues include Underworld in the UK, Baroeg in the Netherlands, and Hellraiser in Leipzig, Germany.

You are endorsed by Jackson guitars, right? How many guitars do you actually own? What are your most beloved ones and why? Which kind of amps, cabinets & strings do you use for the live performances with Pessimist and I Am Morbid respectively?

- I've been playing Jacksons for 20+ years now, and working closely with them, although it's not an official endorsement yet, I would love to become an official Jackson artist some day. I've always played Jackson Kellys, but in these recent years my favorite is a Kelly Star, which is half Kelly and half Rhoads V. In addition to being totally aggressive-looking, it's also well-balanced and comfortable to play, even practicing sitting down. Some of my favorite axes include my new custom shop Kelly Star master build, and my blood-splatter Kelly Star custom shop, which was featured on the cover of the Jackson Guitars year 2000 catalog. For my recent tour with I Am Morbid, I played a Jackson Pro Series King V KV (6-string) and a X-Series Rhoads V (RRX24-7) 7-string. I have artist deals with SIT Strings, FU-Tone and Seymour Duncan pickups. I use Fractal AX8 for all my preamp tones and effects. I have a Mesa/Boogie Triple Rectifier, and two Mesa/Boogie full stacks (which used to belong to Brian and Eric, the Hoffman brothers from Decide). To me this is the best gear for true old school death metal guitar tones!

Thank you so much for the interview. Please pass your last devilish thoughts to the readers.

- Thanks for the interview, and for all of your support! Look for our new album "Keys to the Underworld" coming soon on Season of Mist. Check our website (www.pessimist.us) and our socials for updates. Keep music evil!



Facebook: facebook.com/pessimistcult | Bandcamp: pessimistcult.bandcamp.com | Instagram: instagram.com/pessimistcult

There's a really intriguing extreme death metal material coming out shortly by Arise From Worms. The death metal supergroup forged by guitar virtuoso Sonny Lombardozzi is ready to blow you away with their debut EP. More to come this year, so read my chat with Sonny and enter the realm of the worms!!!

Hi Sonny!!! In the summer of 2021 you've formed a new band called Arise From Worms. It consists of elite death metal musicians like Flo Mounier from Cryptopsy on drums, Steve Tucker from Morbid Angel on vocals and Dallas Toler-Wade from Narcotic Wasteland/ex-Nile (guest vocals and solos). Does it mean to be a project from start or you have plans to play live with this killer line-up? By the way, how did you hook up with these musicians?

- The project idea started in 2019 on the Morbid Angel tour. Steve Tucker and myself started talking about doing a few songs. Steve suggested Flo to do drums and I would record all the guitar and bass tracks. Chuck Sherwood did some lyrics. Dallas and Mark Smith did guest vocals on "Living Sacrifice" and Dallas did a guest guitar solo on the single "Axes of the Voivode II". There are plans to do a tour for the project.

"Axes of the Voivode II" is the first single out of the forthcoming EP, which is a super technical death metal shred full of insane solos. How many tracks will be on the EP and when do you planning to release it? What the lyrical topics are about?

- The four song EP will be released on January 14th, 2022. It will be available on Blood Blast Distribution and Metal Bastard Enterprises: digital, vinyl and CDs. Lyrics are based about real life history. "Axes of the Voivode II" is written about Vlad the Impaler, 15th century. I am always fascinated by the real history of the world.

The EP was mixed by Christian Donaldson (Cryptopsy, Mythosis) at The Grid and needless to say the sound production of the single speaks for itself. Anyway, was it a conscious choice from your side to mix the material with Christian or it was mostly due to Flo who recorded his drum parts there?

- At first we were going to go with Eric Rutan. Flo was doing his drums with Christian Donaldson. So I listened to his mixes and thought it was exactly what I was looking for.



- About ten guitars are now. Halo guitars and a few USA early B.C. Richs and Kramers. I would say my prototype signature Artemisia is my fav. The body has a mass of tone to it. Standard 440 Hz tuning, 10 gauge strings. I use an AMM-5150 6505 with electro-harmonix tubes for amps, no panels, no effect use at all.

Through the years you have earned quite a lot of endorsements. Which ones are you most proud of? And what companies you've got the best ties with?

- I would say I am proud of all of them. I only work with gear. I believe I am not an endorsement jumper. I have been mostly with the companies for 10 years now.

You've been a part of the Incantation family for a few years. Why did you leave them? "Sect of Vile Divinities" (2020) was your last work with them. Please share your thoughts and memories about that release.

- I was fired!!! Some bullshit crap. I worked my ass off on that album. I did most of the guitar recording. I was very disappointed with the outcome. How much shit was deleted, it was very water down to me. Never heard a mix or anything. I had lyric ideas for the album, art ideas, but nothing ever got addressed.

Besides the band and playing music, what things do you like to do the most, what makes you happy?

- Besides music I do Martial Arts to stay balanced in life. 90 percent is in the studio recording. Arise stuff or orchestration.

Please finish the interview by revealing all your plans for 2022.

- 2022 Arise is already recording the full length. Flo goes back into the studio in February. The tracks then go to Tucker as he records his vocals. I'll be working on the bass. It's coming along extremely well. We are getting a lot of offers for festivals and tours. Hope to see you soon. Shred on. Sonny

If I am right, Blood Blast Distribution will be going to issue the EP. What should we know about this label and your alliance with them? They are focused on digital distribution, so will the EP be pressed onto some physical formats as well?

- Yes, Blood Blast Distribution will be the digital and Metal Bastard Enterprises that handles all the hard copies. Of course, Amazon, iTunes and Spotify.

The music of Arise From Worms is pretty much inspired by the old classics of death metal as well as the classical music in general. How do you see it? What has been influential on you from

the moment you've started to play the guitar?

- I listen to a lot of different styles of music. Some old school death metal. I am really into tech bands and classical music. Just recorded what I felt, didn't think too much of a genre. I was going for the sounds: Ultra-Phrygian, jazz melodic minor, Ultra scales, Bitonal arpeggios c/c-, Dominant 7 Flat 5 and ninth type sounds. The movie Crossroads really got me going with Steve Vai to pursue classical music.

Let's talk a little bit about your guitars and gear. How many guitars you own actually? Would you be so kind to pick your favorite ones and tell the readers why they're special to you? What tuning you use for Arise From Worms? What kind of gear (amps, cabinets, effect pedals, strings, etc.) you use for the live rituals, in the studio and at your rehearsal place?

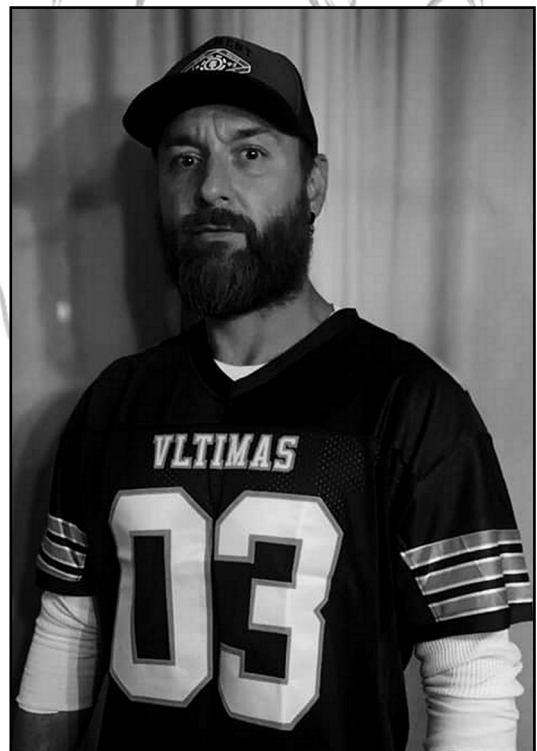
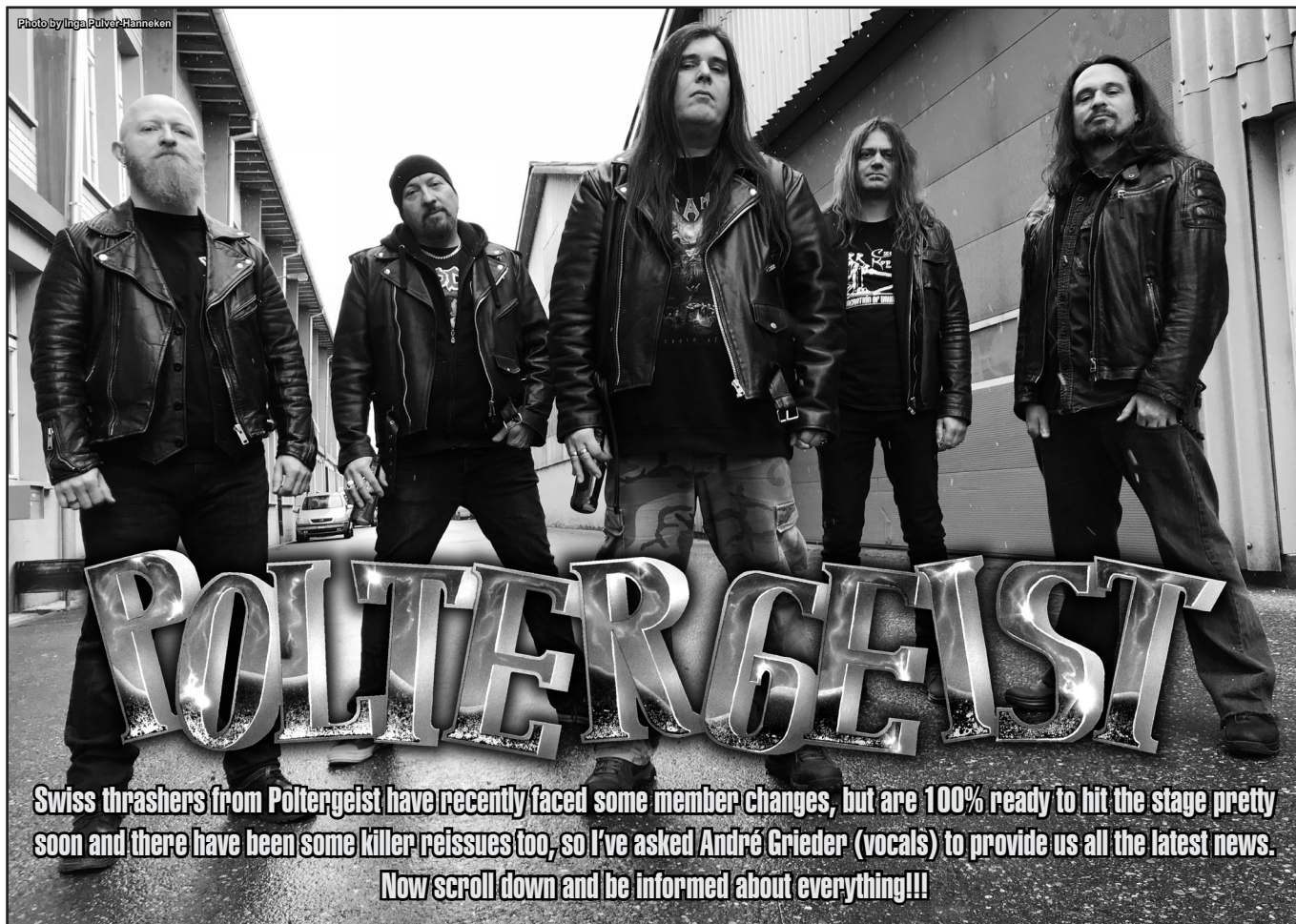


Photo by Inga Pulver-Hanneken



Hey André, how are you? Is there anything new cooking in the Poltergeist camp lately? If so, please share all the details to the readers. What will be the musical/lyrical directions of the new material?

- I'm fine. The biggest news is that we have two new members in the band. Sven Vormann is back to beat the drums and our new bassist is Pat Müller, who also plays guitar in Gurd and Klaw. A little incest in our bands as you can see. I can't tell you much news about our next album, because there are no new songs made so far. First we had to learn our old songs with the new lineup.

Your lattermost record was "Feather of Truth" in 2020. It was released by Massacre Records in CD & LP formats. What have been the reactions of the fans and the media to it like? How did it sell?

- The reactions were almost positive, but I don't know the exact sales, because that's V.O.'s thing. I'm not good with numbers.

There have been some special re-releases issued this year by Vic Records and MDD Records. The first label took care of your first two demos, while the second label decided to revamp your first two LPs. Could you please go into details and transfer as many infos as possible regarding these reissues?

- Obviously there was an interest in releasing our demos. Vic Records asked us if they can release the old stuff, and the artist who made our last two covers, Roberto Toderico, made a cool new cover for this reissue. About the "Depression" and the "Behind My Mask" reissues, I don't know much details to be honest, that was also made with V.O.'s help.

You've not played live a while. Do you have any future shows or festivals fixed yet? Where can we see you play live next?

- We start again in October with a show in Switzerland and in December we play the Ruhrpott Metal Masters in Oberhausen, Germany.

Since 2017 you have a stable membership. Would you please introduce each member of the band to the readers? I mean, besides playing in Poltergeist, are they involved in other bands & projects, what kind of daily jobs do they have at the moment and say something about their hobbies.

- We had a stable membership until Corona showed up. Our bass player Ralph decided to move to Ireland, because of the medical problems of his wife, so he sadly left the band. And Reto, our drummer, had some problems finding time for us, besides his other bands and his own business, so he left us too. We're still friends and wish them all the best for the future. So the band is me, André Grieder, who has only one band at the moment and that's my profession. My hobbies are sports (watch not practice) and playing some games. Then there is V.O. Pulver on the guitar who also is our producer with his own Little Creek Studios, and he produces other bands like Destruction or Burning Witches. He also plays the guitar and sings in Gurd and plays the guitar for Messiah and his own band Pulver, with his wife Inga. Then we have Chasper Wanner on the guitars, who also has his own bands, called Klaw and an acoustic project with his girlfriend named Soulmates. He also works as a guitar teacher. Next is Pat Müller, our new bassist, who also plays guitar in Gurd and Klaw. Last but definitely not least, Sven Vormann on the drums, who also plays with Megora. He also has his own business with an online wine delivery.

What is the real story behind the song called "Never Again" from your third long play "Nothing Lasts Forever"? It was deliberately omitted from all the recent reissues.

- To be honest, we were not happy with that song at all. Back in '89, we wrote this tune in half an hour, to have a last filler on our "Nothing Lasts Forever" album. So we decided to cancel the song for our re-mastered version. So all who have the original press, still have something special.

There was a special show of Destruction held at the Baden in Blut Open Air Festival on July 22, 2022. To be more precise the band's 40th anniversary live performance. You've also been announced to do guest vocals for Destruction's "Cracked Brain" song there, but unfortunately it didn't happen due to the severe storm. However, tell us your impressions from that event and how the other guest musicians (Harry, Sven, V.O. and Thomas) performed there.

- Well, we had a great time there. It was like a family

meeting, because we have known each other for more than twenty years. There are plans to give it another try, so Tommy and myself finally can make our appearance. The other four had a great show with the band, 'til the storm showed up. Bummer.

I have one more Destruction related question to you and it is connected to the vocal parts and the recording process of the "Cracked Brain" album. I personally feel your vocals were pretty aggressive, angry and brutal there. How did you manage to sing that way? I mean, was it all because of the actual songs or you felt inside that you have to sing that way? Apropos, how long did it take for you to record all the vocals for the "Cracked Brain" album?

- That was a natural process. Olly wrote the lyrics and we recorded instantly. I recorded the whole album in five days in Berlin. It was Olly's wish that I have to sing it that aggressively and I did so. I'm still happy with the result.

How often do you have rehearsals with Poltergeist these days? How long do you rehearse and do you play some covers along your own tracks as well? If so, please name us which covers you prefer to play and why?

- We do not rehearse that much, to be honest. Once in a month or so. When we have a show, we try to intensify our rehearsals. But it's always a tricky time management, when everyone has two or more bands and a profession besides.

You live in Basel, Switzerland. How's the underground life over there? Which places are your most beloved to visit? What bands would you recommend to us from that area?

- Basel is a nice city, but the scene is not that big. We have other thrash bands here, like Total Annihilation or Mnemocide and the famous Z7 is here in the agglomeration. It's a relaxed life here in Switzerland.

Thank you very much for the interview. Send in your greetings for all the Poltergeist fans and thrash metal maniacs of Ukraine.

- You're welcome and I want to say hello to our Ukrainian fans. Stay strong and heavy. Our thoughts are always with you. Thanks for having me and Polter 'til death.

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