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#09



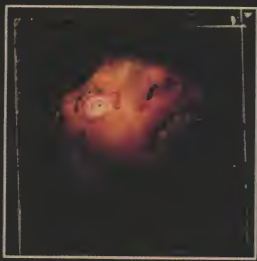
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# EDITORIAL

# STREET CULTURE

I can't believe that I'm typing the final lines already! I would say that this Brutallica issue turned out to be the hardest to make, "thanks" to some people's total lack of responsibility! No names need to be mentioned, I guess - you guys

know who you are, and we do know that you'll keep acting the same way! The thing is that you all are used to live your pathetic lives in constant lies and broken promises. The easier way! Ok, enough with negativity, let's simply enjoy what we have, and in this very case this is a wonderful issue featuring a lot of interesting and varied bands! Many of the names will probably turn out not to ring a bell but, after all, digging new bands out of the Underground pits is what Brutallica basically deals with! As you can see, this issue's major interview presents EXHUMED - a band that demonstrated a spectacular growth. Let's hope that we will have helped the dudes with gaining even more popularity, they definitely deserve this! Not that the rest of the bands joined in #9 are bad though, but still I can't help advising some of them to take interviews more thoroughly yet seriously, as it's exactly the interviews that help readers comprehend your art even more successfully, folks! Like you don't know that being promoted includes answering interviews as well! Anyways, what we do is meant for entertaining fans as much as possible - we busted our arses this time, so we hope you'll appreciate our efforts. Also, we are opened for any questions or suggestions, so feel free to contact us anytime!

Huge thanks go to all those who chose advertising their stuff on our pages and our CD sampler. Special thanks to our distributors, contributors and - last but not least - readers! You all kill!!!

Chavdar Tzachkov

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Underground music is no longer beyond your vision. Just stretch out a hand and get a grip on this incredible issue that will provide the information you have been hungering for about the music least minded by the media.



INTERNATIONAL UNDERGROUND METAL MAGAZINE

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Chavdar Tzachkov

DEPUTY EDITOR  
Vanya Marinova

CONTRIBUTORS  
Tsvetan Rachev, Stoyan Tzonev, Dilyana Iankova,  
Pavlina Todorova, Atanas Kostadinov, The Horse,

Ivailo Tonchev, Stefan Stefanov, Stefan Rusev,  
Thiago Pinto Correa Sarkis, Iordan K

GRAPHIC DESIGN  
Brutallica Graphic Team

PRINTERS  
Brutallica Print

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Brutallica Print  
Grigor Parlichev Street,  
Block.1, Appt. 1,  
5800 Pleven,  
BULGARIA

Phone: +359 64 834 009  
Fax: +359 64 800 593  
GSM: +359 88 836 3814  
E-mail: [manager@brutallica.com](mailto:manager@brutallica.com)  
[printhouse@intercom.bg](mailto:printhouse@intercom.bg)  
Web: <http://www.brutallica.com>  
ICQ: 116490053

**SATYRICON** are this year's Wacken headliners and Nocturno Culto will join them on stage within 30 min for performing some **DARKTHRONE** classics!! A show not to be missed, keeping in mind that this is the LAST time that the two bands are playing together!!! Keep an eye on <http://www.moonfog.no> for further news.

Our friends of <http://z043.org> have recently created a 2004 calendar featuring 13 photos of some of the most respected representatives of the Norwegian Black Metal Scene at present! All pictures are delivered especially for the purpose by the famous American photographer **PETER BESTE**. Feel free to visit his own website here: <http://www.peterbeste.com>

**WOLFEN SOCIETY** is getting ready to create some more hate filled music for your ears to enjoy. The band has been in contact with each other and are planning to start writing their new album, which will be entitled "Misanthropic Race". The songs that will be featured on this new album will all new material, written by the whole band. So the madness will indeed continue! <http://www.wolfensociety.com>

Norway's Apocalyptic Paranoia Metalers **RED HARVEST** keep on delighting their fans! After the "Antipax Mundial Total" internet release, the guys are now offering 3 awesome clips featuring excerpts from the recording process of the band's new album (scheduled for August / September 2004). Visit <http://www.redharvest.com> and download these gems!

Attention, admirers of the grim and depressive Death / Doom sounds! A new smashing project is on the horizon, pre-encounter it here: <http://www.xanthoma.co.uk>

Bulgaria's **BLEEDING BLACK** have acquired with a fan site recently that is located at <http://www.bleeding-black.hit.bg>! So far so good, let's hope the webpage will be completed soon...

The IsraHELLI oldschool Black / Death freaks **ARALLU** have launched on their webpage a clip from their upcoming "Live Chaos Invasion" DVD. Go to <http://listen.to/arallu> and get your Dead Bull cup!

The Black Metal dinosaurs from Norway **MAYHEM** have already finished the work on their latest "Chimera" CD and you can even read the titelists at <http://www.thetruemayhem.com>. The release date is set for March 29 (Europe) and April 6 (the States). Check out the aforementioned link periodically for possible updates.

**HAGALAZ RUNEDANCE's** Andrea "Nebel" Haugen has eventually returned to the alias that she used in her previous AGHAST project, so expect her latest creation "Luguz within the Lake" to appear under the name of **NEBELHEXE** instead, and it is scheduled for April / May this year. For further info / pre-order contact at [info@plastichead.com](mailto:info@plastichead.com)

**KOSMOS WALD** is another young band that Italy's Code 666 showed interest in. The guys from Belgium are currently working on their first demo the "rough" version of which you can download from here: <http://www.kosmoswald.com>

Despite being banned for its lyric content and artwork, the latest release by Norway's Black Metal weirdoes **CREST OF DARKNESS** did become a reality! Visit the band's website at <http://www.crestofdarksness.com> and read the "Evil Knows Evil" tracklist for yourselves.

**IMPIETY** is set to record their 4<sup>th</sup> full-length album this July. The band is currently in Mexico recording 3 songs for a split 7" EP with **SURRENDER OF DIVINITY**. Watch out for further news at <http://listen.to/impiety>

The **DEMONCY** 2CD re-issue of older material has been postponed until a later date. Keep looking out for future news at <http://www.infernalhorde.com/baphomet>

Germany's extreme Metal band **COCK AND BALL TORTURE** will release their third full-length album, tentatively titled "Egoleech", on June 14 through Morbid Records. The band is in the final steps of mixing the follow-up to 2002's highly acclaimed "Sadochismo".

Mastering will be done in March. According to the band, "Expect the sickest and heaviest piece of Metal we've ever written!! The songs will rock your nuts off!!!!"

British Black Metalers **HECATE ENTHRONED** have been recently left by their vocalist Dean. You can read the band's entire statement about that by going to <http://www.hecate-enthroned.co.uk>

The Danish Metalers **WITHERING SURFACE** have inked a two-album deal with Italy's Scarlet Records. The group's recently completed fourth album, "Force The Pace", will be released in early June. "Scarlet have a lot of great bands, as well as they are a dedicated and music-loving staff," the group write on their web site. "We are very satisfied with the new album and are all fired up and 666% ready to kick some serious ass in the future!!!"

**ORCUSTUS'** "World Dirtnap" 7" EP is now available through Southern Lord. It's limited to 1000 copies so you definitely must hurry, folks! <http://www.orcustus.com>

The next major effort from Sweden's **ARMAGEDDA** must be the band's third full-length scheduled for this spring. You can find preview here: <http://www.armagedda.net>

**WURDULAK** will enter the studio this summer to record their third album to be titled "Entrails of a Virgin", guitarist Fug recently revealed the following "We intend to make a really ugly, dirty, and raw record. No thrash riffs just pure fucking darkness and hell. I know Killjoy and maniac plan to sing together again, so it's going to be extremely chaotic." <http://www.necrophagia.com/wurdulak.html>

Italy's Thrashers **NECRODEATH** have launched the video to "The Flag" (of the band's latest "Ton(e)s of Hate" CD). You can download it from here: <http://www.necrodeath.com>

The 3rd full-length of Canada's Industrial / digital Hardcore project **SCHIZOID** is going slowly, but surely. The material will mix the all out Heavy Metal ways of "Covered in Metal" (feat. covers of **BIOHAZARD**, **RAMONES**, **DARKTHRONE**, **GUNS N' ROSES**, etc) and the Industrial noise of "All Things Are Connected". Keep visiting <http://www.schizoid.org> for further info.

After much delay the second CD from Norway's Ambient formation **NORTHAUNT** is finally released. It carries the title "Barren Land" and goes in a digipack limited to 1000 copies. <http://www.northaunt.com>

Vietnam's sympho-Black Metalheads **SWORD OF DARKNESS** are currently working on their next full-length album. According to the what the band stated, the release will be more brutal and with a unique Death / Black sound. Keep an eye on <http://www.swordofdarksness.cjb.net> for further clues.

April 19 is the street date for Germany's **SECRETS OF THE MOON's** "Carved in Stigmata Wounds". The album is to be released as CD / 2CD (including 4 bonus tracks and a video) / 2LP. Go to <http://come.to/secretsofthemoon> for more details.

The Norwegian Black Metalers **WINDIR** have officially decided to disband as a result of the tragic death of the group's frontman Terje "Valfar" Bakken in January. You can read more at <http://www.windir.no>

Finally some news from Norway's **GENENNA**: Dolgar is back in the band and they are recording the new album. The drums are already recorded by Frost of **SATYRICON**. Keep visiting <http://genenna666.cjb.net> for further info

**BLOOD RED THRONE** news: Dub Studio is booked for the last part of May. The band is currently writing the final parts for the album and rehearsals begin shortly. <http://www.bloodredthrone.tk>

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of February Ukraine's **NOKTURNAL MORTUM** started working on their new album, which is supposed to be entitled "Nechrist". The lyrics will be mostly in Russian, as the band says. <http://www.rus-metal.ru/mortum>

News from the camp of USA's Horror Goths **MIDNIGHT SYNDICATE** : Scheduled for release in early 2005, the new CD will mark a return to their trademark horror stylings. "It's going to be a very dark disc," said Edward Douglas, "with a real focus on the more sinister side of things that go bump in the night." In particular, the Cthulu myths has been a good source of inspiration thus far.... To be continued at <http://www.midnightsyndicate.com>

March 8 is the street date for **THE 3RD AND THE MORTAL's** "EP's And Rarities" a compilation consisting of the "Sorrow" and "Nightswan" EPs + the b-side of the "Stream" single and the bonus track from the Japanese version of the "In This Room" album. Next in line is "Project Bluebook... A Decade of Endeavour" an album featuring new material as well as unreleased live tracks. <http://mortal.info>

**MADDER MORTEM** are currently working on their latest release. According to the news on the band's website, the songs must have been just written (end of February / early March). In case so, the band is heading is entering studio on April / May, so expect the outcome somewhere in August or September this year! <http://www.maddermortem.com>

The British Black Metal act **ANAAL NATHRAKH** have signed an exclusive 2 album recording agreement with Season of Mist. **ANAAL NATHRAKH**: "The label have been naive enough to sign the deal, and **ANAAL NATHRAKH** will shortly commence making them rue the day they were born." The next CD from the band is scheduled for September 2004.

The **DEAD HEAD** must have recorded their latest "Hateland" CD already (the work on it planned for February). Holland's Thrashers are also supposed to appear at the legendary Stonehenge Festival on the 31<sup>th</sup> of July. More info to come here: <http://www.deadhead.nl>

Latest statement from Sweden's **THE HAUNTED**: "Unfortunately we cannot use the winning contribution for the upcoming album - indeed it's a great title (well, we think so anyway), but not representative for the work now being recorded in Studio Fredman. The rest of the suggested titles were all good, although most were just a good laugh. So now you know. That's it for now..". Let's hope the guys will make their final choice soon though, keep checking out <http://www.the-haunted.com> now and then...

**INSISION** has entered Sound Lab Studio on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March to record their new album tentatively entitled "Revealed And Worshipped". The band is also ready for the Mega Fest in Stockholm that is to take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August. <http://www.insision.com>

We are very proud to announce that on February 27 Germany's Thrash legends **SODOM** played in Bulgaria for a second time, 13 years later! According to vague rumours, the band is supposed to release a special DVD!! Nevertheless, keep an eye on <http://crash.to/sodom> for that..

The new album with the German Death / Grind kings **ANASARCA** is entitled "Dying" and will be released April this year. A brutal and as fast as hell grinding Death Metal attack. <http://www.anasarca.de>

Rumours have said the **FLESHITIZED** had split up, but **FLESHITIZED** is still around and are currently preparing to enter the studio in order to record some pre-material before entering the studio to do the long awaited follow up to the classic "Here Among Thorns". The Line-up currently consists of Garth Lovorn (bass) & Gary White (Drums), Sonny Lombodarzi on guitar (for-

mer INCANTATION), Tony Norman on guitar (MONSTROCYCLE, MORBID ANGEL-session) and Rob Kline on vocals (PESSIMIST, PSYCHOTOGEN). <http://www.mightymusic.dk/fleshtized.html>

The Brutal US Death Metal scene will be enriched by yet another strong force on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2004. **DARK DISCIPLE**, hailing from Baltimore, Maryland, have signed with Morbid Records and their first, grooving masterpiece "Unholy Hate Gore, does definitely hold up against acts like **DEICIDE**, **DYING FETUS**, **DEEDS OF FLESH** or **BRODEQUIN**. Recorded at Hit and Run Studios (**DYING FETUS**, **MISERY INDEX**). Definitely worth checking out!!

Chicago's Deathmonster **DISINTER** are currently adding the finishing touches to their new album. The new title is "As We Burn,, the album will contain ten Death Metal thunderstorms in usual US quality standard. Release is planned for June 14<sup>th</sup> 2004

Illinois' Porn Gore heroes **LIVIDITY** have found a new guy to handle the low end frequencies, Chris Campbell, and plan to record the 3rd killer "Used, Abused and left for Dead" this Summer / Autumn. The release is planned for late 2004.

Czech Death Metal institution **HYPNOS** has decided to produce their third inferno under the supervision of Harris Johns again. Release can be expected late 2004. The band will then tour with **ALTAR**, as matters stand right now.

Sweden's Death / Thrash act **THE CROWN** is disbanding after 13 years of existence! You can read the statement of the drummer Janne S. at the News section of the Digital Metal website: <http://www.digitalmetal.com>

The new album of Norway's Black Metalers **1349** is entitled "Beyond the Apocalypse" and the track listing is confirmed as: "Chasing Dragons", "Beyond the Apocalypse", "Aiwaz Aeon", "Necronatalaheten", "Perished in Pain", "Singer of Strange Songs", "Blood is the Mortar", "Internal Winter" and "The Blade". Further info at <http://www.legion1349.com>

Another band from the Norwegian Black Metal scene is releasing a new album: **KHOLD's** third creation is supposed to carry the title "Morke Gravers Kamer" (The Gravediggers' Dark Chamber), and the tracks included are as follows: "Atselgraver", "Død Nilheimr", "Hevnerske", "Med Nebb Og Klor", "Morke Gravers Kamer", "Opera Seria Sjeleskjender", "Vardoger" and "Kamp". Watch out for more details at the band's website <http://www.khold.com>

**MORTAL DECAY** is working on new material for their next release tentatively called "Cadaver Art". They will be playing a show with **MACABRE** on May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Trocadero in Philly. Go check it out!

**DEEDS OF FLESH** have moved their site to <http://www.deedsofflesh.net>. The band is currently working on a new album that is supposed to contain a number of cover tunes from the likes of **CARCASS**, **NAPALM DEATH**, **DEICIDE** and **KREATOR**. There will also be a number of new **DEEDS OF FLESH** songs. The guys have confirmed a tour for New Zealand and Australia in June/July 2004 with label mates **PSY-CROPTIC**.

Norway's avangarde trio **PECCATUM** are back after 4 years of silence! The band's "Lost in Reverie" album is scheduled for April 19 (Europe) and May 25 (USA). The website <http://www.peccatum.com> is still in the works, but is opened for visitors already.

## OBSCENE EXTREME Festival 2004

- EXTREME NOISE TERROR (Uk), EXHUMED (Usa), GENERAL SURGERY (Swe), NATRON (It), SCREAMING AFTERBIRTH (Usa), BIRDFLESH (Swe), GRIDE (Cz), ROMPEPROP (Hol), LAHAR (Cz), REQUIEM (Swi), DESPONDENCY (D), FLESHGORE (Ukr), PROSTITUTE DISFIGUREMENT (Hol), GUTTED (Hun), KENT BROCKMAN (D), PSYCHOFAGIST (It), AMPUTATED (Wales), BUTCHER ABC (Jap), RESURRECTED (D), EMBALMING THEATRE (Swi), SUFFERAGE (D), INSANE ASSHOLES (It) + more soon...

8.-9.-10. July 2004 in TRUTNOV, CZECH REPUBLIC, all info on <http://www.obscene.cz>

## The real renaissance was of course MORBID ANGEL...

There are bands whose debut albums create a storm in the Underground and give birth to great expectations towards their future releases. LUCIFERION are certainly such a band. Back in 1995 their „Demonication - The Manifest“ blew the fans off with its smashing mix of MORBID ANGEL Death Metal attacks and keyboards a la EMPEROR. This release was followed by a long period of silence. Now, 8 years later, the second spawn of LUCIFERION - „The Apostate“ is a fact and also the reason for the following interview.

TSVETAN RACHEV

-Greetings from Bulgaria! First of all, congratulations on „The Apostate“ - it rips! What's up with you guys now, when you have released your album? Are you touring?

Hi and thank! We toured the band only to record „The Apostate“, there are no plans to play live, at least for now. We shall see what we feel in the nearest future.

-I still like „Demonication (The Manifest)“ very much. What happened after that release? You took part in some tribute albums and you somehow disappeared from the scene then(!)...

As a band we actually disappeared, only participating on all those tributes sporadically. As musicians we definitely didn't. We were all playing in other well know bands since '98. Me and Martin in LOST HORIZON, Michael in DARK TRANQUILLITY and Hans (who replaced Peter directly after „Demonication (The Manifest)“) in CRYSTAL AGE and later DIABOLIQUE, DIMENSION ZERO, THE GREAT DECEIVER...

-Do you have any info about „The Apostate“ sales? Fans' responses so far, etc...?

No, we don't have any info about the sales yet. It's too early. I don't consider this information being of any interest for other people, and for us only when it comes to the payment for our blood work. What counts is the quality of the music and the magic inside, not how much „confirmation“ we get judged on the sold amount of the CDs. We are very conscious about our values without that.

-Why did you choose Listenable Records to

work with? Are you satisfied with your cooperation with them?

Michael work with promotion of the album. Except for that our work is temporary done.

-Where did you record „The Apostate“? Are you satisfied with the production?  
It's recorded in Meta4Music and Metal King Domain in Gothenburg (Sweden) by me and Baskim Zuta ... the same engineer as on both LOST HORIZON albums. The mastering is done in Tremolo Music, also in Gothenburg. We are very pleased with the furious and wild sound of the album, which is also mysterious and airy. We are getting closer to an ideal soundscape for our music.

-On the new album you used samples from the „Dark City“ movie... What was the reason to choose that film exactly?

We choose „Dark City“ as that movie represents some values in direct connection to *The Apostate's* lyrical content. In a way the samples play a separate, own role on the album, as the aspects they reflect are not touched upon in my lyrics (I meant the movie), still they are directly connected to the subjects that the lyrics describe. Those samples play a significant role in *The Apostate's* wholeness of. The whole new recorded material is amalgamated by them, content wise and spiritually. They also make the album more mystical, dark and illustrative.

-„The Apostate“ contains a smashing cover of CELTIC FROST's „Circle of the Tyrants“. When did you record it?

It's recorded in 1996 in Niento Studio in Gothenburg area by Lasse "i skogen" Nilsson. It

band must have been UK Subs, still in Poland. I actually don't remember which was the first Metal band I saw in Sweden. Damn it, that could be interesting to know. Maybe it will reveal itself some day. My first record I actually bought for my own money must have been „Stained Class“ of JUDAS PRIEST or LED ZEPPELIN II. Shit, I must launch both immediately! (On the way)  
-Who / what inspired you to start playing Death Metal?

Well, I could actually say that SLAYER introduced me to this genre with „Hell Awaits“. That was the first band I heard playing that kind of music. I have always been a pure Heavy Metal freak (still am to a biggest extent), but when I heard SLAYER there was something in that music that was so indescribably attracting. I remember that feeling. Everybody around (the mortals in my school) hated that, I yearned for it... There was a short time when I used to run home after school to listen to SLAYER... But the real renaissance was of course MORBID ANGEL...

-Your Top 5 for Metal albums of all times?

Oooh man... come on, this can't be answered... I can give it a try, but I will not give you 5, but at least 10, otherwise it would be absolutely impossible. It has to be known that this list is made on an emotional apprehension. „Blessed Are The Sick“ - MORBID ANGEL, „Don't Break The Oath“ ... MERCYFUL FATE, W.A.S.P., „W.A.S.P.“, BLACK SABBATH „Live Evil“, IMMORTAL „Pure Holocaust“, EMPEROR „In The night Side Eclipse“, HELLOWEEN „Walls Of Jericho“.



work with? Are you satisfied with your cooperation with them?

We choose Listenable because we have cooperated before and also because we didn't have the strength to be involved in the business mess with any other company in connection to this release. I can't say if I am satisfied, as we have to wait a little bit longer, but what I personally appreciate is that we had free hands regarding all the artistic parts. I wouldn't accept anybody intervene in our work, so I guess it could be unnecessary arguing, which wouldn't lead anywhere, as we are not doing compromises of this kind. So regarding that part the cooperation has been very good so far.

-Members of LUCIFERION used to be also in LOST HORIZON, DARK TRANQUILLITY and DIABOLIQUE. Are you still involved with those bands or are you fully concentrated on LUCIFERION now?

I am not a member of LOST HORIZON anymore, which I am happy about. The rest of the guys are continuing playing in their bands. „Fully concentrated“ is a little bit exaggerated, me and

was remastered recently (in May 2003) in Tremolo music by Tobias Lindell. We really like this cover. For me it's in a way the favourite cover among the other ones we have done through he years.

-What are the lyrics of „The Apostate“ dealing with?

The Apostate is he who delivers himself from all forced upon believes, predetermined ways of life, implanted interpretations... The lyrics are among other things about the oppression of mind and infecting of the soul by the true negative forces in the world. The apostasy is a new beginning, a first step to the true salvation of the individual. A salvation by finding one's truest self by one self.

-Enough for the new spawn. Tell us something about yourself - what was the first Metal record you bought? What about the first Metal gig you visited?

The first Metal gigs I experienced were when I still lived in Poland, seeing some of my favourite Polish bands, like TSA, ODZIAL, ZAMKNIETY, PERFECT... My first concert with a forefinger

DEICIDE „Deicide“, RIOT „Thundersteel“, Joey Tafolla „Out Of The Sun“.

-Are there any new bands that impressed you lately?

Well, I could mention GRIEF OF EMERALD's „Christian Termination“, GODHATE's „Neither Of Gods“, the soundtrack of „Matrix Reload“, the soundtrack of „Queen Of The Damned“. But I must tell that I am absolutely not updated. I am not following any scene or any specific music style. The music I listen to reaches me sporadically, so I have for sure missed a lot of good stuff.

-I know Sweden refused to enter the EMU. Your comment on that? What's your opinion about globalization, by the way?

I am totally against globalization because of different reasons, but also because I know „who“ lies behind all of this, and what is the real purpose. It's all one giant masterplan. I am also totally against mixing of cultures! My happiness is great regarding Sweden's refusal to join EMU. Maybe even the gray mass is about to open their eyes a little bit... What I know is that the gov-

ernment will not stop this enterprise just because a single one-time opposition. Soon, they will find a way to do a re-voting. They will continue doing it until the people give in, just like they did in another Scandinavian country. Hopefully, the oppositional forces will be strong enough.

-Will you release a third album soon? I hope it won't take another seven years though...

„Soon“ is very optimistically said, he, he... The material for the third album is already written, so there will be another album for sure. It's hard to say when it is going to be recorded, as it will demand an abnormal dedication, because of its extreme complexity. I will do my best to have it out within three years. I will also do some projects in the nearest future, so I couldn't give all my priority to that anyway for now. But I really can't wait for final result of the third album, meaning in a proper form, as I have heard this material in midi form in years now. It's going to be really exciting. The magic is strong.

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The Apostate



friends paid the same price for a bottle as for an AGATHOCLES T-shirt. I didn't earn money on it because I used the money to print the shirts. Nice story, don't you think?  
 -Ha, hahaha, I know...loads of my friends had AGX shirts back at the time, and I really envied them.  
 But you never sent me vodka or rakia, right? And I sent out all these free tapes with songs from different releases. Maybe you got hold of one of these tapes.  
 -Do you know any Bulgarian bands? What was the first Bulgarian band that you heard?  
 The first one... I don't know... maybe DISCHORD, aaaaahh... DISCORDIA... and KOKOSHA GLAVA.  
 -IMMORTAL DISCHORDIA??  
 Might be, we made a split with them a long time ago, a grindcore band. I have only the tape, no cover with a picture of the band members, drinking vodka. Now that I have visited Bulgaria, I know many more Bulgarian bands.  
 -So, you still like noise core?  
 I'm still into noise core, I like it, when it is made with the right feeling. And not as some cheap way to record music.  
 -So, there is good and bad noise core, ha, ha, ha!  
 For me, there is good and bad noise core. One of my favourite bands in this kind of music is 7 MON, one of the first ones. But also, PERMANENT DEATH from Belgium is kicking some serious ass.  
 -And this is your first visit to Bulgaria?  
 Yes, it is the first time for me and my girlfriend and we enjoy it very much.  
 -Is it the most exotic place you have been?  
 Aaaaah, I think it was Istanbul. We made a gig there a long time ago. Back in 1996. We played there with RADICAL NOISE, a band from Istanbul.  
 -I heard about it being pretty successful!  
 Hahah, where did you hear that?  
 -A friend of mine went to see you.  
 It was strange, as there were a lot of people in the hall who were into jazz. Later in the evening we went to the bar to have some beers and somebody said we used a lot of „trilla“ in our songs. And I said „What the fuck is that?“...ha, ha, ha. I still don't know what it means but it has something to do with songstructures based on a rhythm of three or something like that.  
 -By the way, how did you pick this name? We really wondered what it meant.

AGATHOCLES was an ancient tyrant. He was first a rebel against the state oppression back in ancient Greece, 400 years B.C. He was something like a Che Guevara at that time, starting a revolution. But when he got power, he became a tyrant like Hitler. Power corrupts!  
 -Or Fidel Castro??  
 Oh, no no! If you look at Cuba, the social security system is quite good over there. Cuba is a third world country and the deaths at child birth are nearly the same as the one in Belgium - pretty good for a third world country, not supported but boycotted by the USA and other countries. In Ethiopia and Somalia, supported by the USA the deathrate is much higher.  
 -But I've heard terrible stories about their low wages and the prostitution...  
 But all the prior needs are free there... hospitals, schools...  
 -I think it is a trap!  
 It could be!  
 -We used to have free health care as well...but at the end we had to pay to be treated with care. Cheap or free things are never good.

You know it better, for sure...  
 -So, what are your impressions from Bulgaria?  
 We've only been to Balchik, Albena and Varna. I liked it a lot and the people are friendly. Last year we went to Greece and the people we met at all friendly, except for the friends that I have there. About Bulgaria, we have seen many nice buildings, for us coming from Belgium things are very cheap, Zagorka beer is great. And the rakia rules of course. Open-minded country, very nice people. I will tell that to all of my friends.  
 -What is the future of AGATHOCLES?  
 When I return to Belgium, I have to do some studio work, catching up with my mail. Our guitar player is at honeymoon in Egypt now, but when he returns, we will record songs for some 7" EP's. Veselin (Ozz Records) will probably do a CD of AGATHOCLES in Bulgaria - like a Bulgaria only release. It will contain songs from 7" EPs and more...as people here do not have record players anymore. And by the end of the year hopefully a new album...  
 -If think this is about the end of the interview, do you want to say something to the people of Bulgaria?

I want to thank them a lot, as their letters and interest were one of the main reasons to keep the band alive! I know that life in Bulgaria is different and probably more difficult compared to Belgium, but it is great to see that there is such a good Underground scene! And this is the true and good-working alternative to commercial musicbusiness.  
 -And one last question...when are you going to play in Bulgaria??  
 Hopefully soon... if somebody is willing to organize it!

AGATHOCLES contact:  
 JAN FREDERICKX  
 ASBERG 8  
 2400 MOL  
 BELGIUM

e-mail:  
[mincemaniam@hotmail.com](mailto:mincemaniam@hotmail.com)  
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# TORTURE KILLER

To have fun is definitely on top of the list

I decided to do this interview immediately after I heard their debut album „For Maggots To Devour“. Why? Maybe simply because this Finns really entertain me with their killer, oldschool Death Metal. I speak about the music, which is the most important thing for me! This band is a proof that sometimes the basing things rule. This band (and interview) is for everyone who feels nostalgic for the glorious early Death Metal days when the spirit was the fuel and the passion was true...

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

-Hi guys, I hope I'm finding you in a good mood for interviews?

Hey man, yep totally.

-Last year I received maybe more than 1000 different CDs and I could tell you that your „For Maggots To Devour“ album was the most remarkable debut. Could you tell the story of the band and the album itself?

Thanks man, wow... I'm glad you found it that good. Here's how it started: We first started out as a fun project during the spring of 2002, when we hung out at our rehearsal rooms drinking beer and playing our favourite SIX FEET UNDER and OBITUARY songs. After a couple of months a sudden possibility to play live at a local Metal show rose out of nowhere and after a small discussion we agreed to perform a set of SFU cover songs. The band name was chosen after a track we played that night: „Torture Killer“. After that weekend we decided to try writing similar kind of stuff ourselves. After a couple of finished songs I suggested that we should write a full album, record it and I would release it with my small Underground Death Metal label / distribution called Severe Music. So in January 2003 we went to a studio to record the album and after a couple of days we started calling to each other saying that this was actually good enough to get signed with a real label. We sent a small number of copies to select labels and here we are...

-Old school Death Metal from Finland!? As though this style of Metal is not very popular in your country? Or maybe I'm wrong?

No you're not wrong at all. Death Metal is not doing well here at all, for some reason people seem to be more into the melodic stuff...however we do have a small number of Death Metal bands and people who keep up with the spirit so it's not totally dead, but like you said...it could be A LOT better.

-After I heard some passages only from the first track „Flesh Breaks To Open Wounds“ I was completely certain that TORTURE KILLER features solely mature and well-experienced musicians. What are you guys occupied with for the last 5-6 years? Well we've had and still have other bands, I'm glad that the years with those haven't been a total waste of time...ha, ha...no seriously, I agree that it definitely has helped us with the song writing, arrangements and of course playing it. TORTURE KILLER is pretty basic compared to the other bands we have but in my opinion it is our strength, not a weakness. I played in a Death Metal band called ADRAAMELECH, Latvala (drums) has DEMIGOD, DEEPRED and TORN... Karppinen (bass on the album, now lead guitars) plays also in TORN and FUNERAL FEAST...and Liuke (vocals) is helping out FUNERAL FEAST with the bass. All of the aforementioned bands play Death Metal apart from FUNERAL FEAST which has more of the Black

Metal stuff mixed with Death Metal. TORN's album is available through Severe Music mailorder, DEEPRED is available through Forensick Music, and DEMIGOD through Spikfarm. FUNERAL FEAST is available through Northern Heritage.

-What is TORTURE KILLER for you? Is the band kind of a fun project, an aim at returning to the glorious days of Death Metal or is it anything else??

Well it started out as a fun project, when we wrote songs to this one it was only so that we would have something to play the next weekend... ha, ha...really, we didn't pay so much attention if we sounded too much like our influences. We didn't have a deal or any plans for the future, only the next weekend was important to us...ha, ha...it eventually ended up in the situation it is in now, to me and most of the guys this is top priority. Latvala (drums) plays almost in every great Death Metal band we have in Finland, but he enjoys this as much as the rest.

-Your influences are mostly from SIX FEET UNDER, OBITUARY, BOLT THROWER... But I'm sure most of the Death Metal fans have to check out your band because there are a lot of great and catchy moments in your songs. What about your personal opinion of the fans? I think also that Gore Metal fans will like your lyrics, artwork, etc.

I believe people will like TORTURE KILLER like you said, we are not original AT ALL but I think we are doing a very good job with the music we are doing. The lyrics and the music have 0% of originality, all this has been done before BUT we do have great songs and catchy moments like you said. A lot of the new Death Metal bands are doing the fast stuff and they are doing a very good job with it, but I think people need the slower and groovier stuff as well. At least I do. Also since the tempo is not 200 bpm people who are not into Death Metal can find something good in it because it's based on the heaviness and the riffs rather than on the speed and brutality. Still there is a lot of brutality in it, and the lyrics are just plain butchery so I think the gore fans will like it as well.

-The distance between Finland and Bulgaria is really huge. Still, there is a historical fact that appears to connect mine and your country to some extent back in 1877, when Bulgaria was still under a Turkish yoke, soldiers from both Russia and Finland came to our lands to fight for our deliverance. We even have monuments built in memory of all Russian and Finnish soldiers who fell almost 130 years ago. Did you know that? I'm talking about Finland's contribution to the deliverance of Bulgaria.

I did not know that, so this is something new to me definitely. Cool, man. I'm not too sure how the things we going back then but I think we did you a favour...ha, ha...You're better off without the Turks.

-I can't believe that „For Maggots To Devour“ is recorded for only 30 hours. Was it that the band was well prepared or was it that the studio was too expensive and you had to work faster?

At the time we didn't have a deal of any kind so we didn't have a budget to record it. We were in the studio with our own beer money so that's the reason why we had to do fast. This was something that having bands before helped a lot. A friend of ours owns the studio so it wasn't that expensive for us but like I said, we were there with our own beer money...ha, ha. I'm really satisfied with the sound and the studio engineer turned the right knobs and gave us the sound we wanted. Old-school style, raw yet powerful. We were prepared because we knew we wouldn't have time to „practice“ the songs in the studio anymore.

-Did you have the chance to play live already? Since TORTURE KILLER was started as a side project, I guess you haven't played live before releasing the debut album, right?

We have had some gigs in Finland, TORTURE KILLER is definitely a live band - the best I've ever been in, and the gigs have been a great promotion for us. The guys are totally aggressive on stage and I really feel that we are one of the best live bands Finland has to offer. But like I said earlier, playing in a Death Metal band in Finland is not that



smart if your only goal is to play a lot of gigs... We have some cool plans for Finland for the coming months and hopefully we get to play as much as we can.

-The most important thing now is to promote „For Maggots To Devour“ as much as possible. The album is great and it would be pity if it remains unnoticed! Is Karmageddon Media doing its best to promote the album?

I think it is, at least I'm happy with the job they've done. A lot of interviews during the past months and a shit load of promos have been spread throughout Europe so I really can't complain about anything.

-Now let's talk about the 9 tracks included in your debut album - I guess each one has its own story both concept-wise and record-wise?

Ha, ha...not really. The concept is only to make good and groovy Death Metal songs and the lyrics are just imaginary descriptions of random acts of violence. But to come up with an answer here's a few facts about it: „Flesh Breaks To Open Wounds“ was actually the first ever TORTURE KILLER track we did. I still think it's one of the better ones though...a very good description of the style of TORTURE KILLER. „Necrophag“ tells a story about necrophilia. A disgusting tale of a cannibal devouring the dead. „Fuck them When They Bleed“ is the coolest track title we have...ha, ha...this was one of those tracks where we stepped over the line of being a tribute to plain rip-off...ha, ha...just listen to OBITUARY's „By the Light“ from „Back From The Dead“. „Gore Terror“ is about a slaughter gallery placed down the basement of a psycho. „Strangulation“ - the name says it all...choking a victim to death...

-Did you comply with any concrete criteria regarding the sound of your album? I mean, did you for

example take a SIX FEET UNDER CD with you or did you decide to leave everything to the sound engineer?

I think we had OBITUARY CDs and SFU's „Haunted“ CD with us, but to be honest they didn't have a big input on the final sound. You see, it's all about the equipment you have, there's no use to bring a MACHINE HEAD CD to the studio if your equipment is made for DARKTHRONE. The studio is not a magic place where you can turn a pile of turd into a birthday cake...ha, ha...we had a pretty good sound already looked out in the rehearsal place, so all we had to do was to get it on tape. We were not after a hi-fi-clean sound at all, but a raw, dirty but still powerful sound. We knew that a sound would have a big role of how the album would be at the end. This kind of music needs a fat sound to be effective. There's not much you can do in 30 hours so I'm very, very pleased of the final result. When we thought the guitar sound was good, we said to the sound engineer to keep it and moved to the drum and on to the bass sound. We didn't analyze it for long, and sometimes it works like now.

-I guess any unsigned bands would be interested to learn how a young act like TORTURE KILLER succeeded in signing with such a famous label as Karmageddon Media (ex-Hammerheart)?

It's pretty standard way to contact a label really. Send in a promo...ha, ha...that's how we did it. The only difference was that we had the album ready, so the label could hear what they were about to sign. I think there's always more concern from the label when you send in a demo that rocks, but they don't know how you can pull it off on the album.

-Do you have an idea of why Guido and Peter decided to change their label's name into

Karmageddon Media? They also changed the whole distribution policy of the label, I guess they might have told you something about that?

I'm not the right guy to answer this one simply because I don't know too much about it. I think the main reason was that they collaborated with Plastic Head Distribution from UK...

-It seems that the Metal scene in Finland is very strong at the moment. But why do most of the bands choose to play CHILDREN OF THE BODOM's style or Black Metal? As though Spinefarm Records is most influential in Finland at present? What is your opinion about the current situation with the Finnish Metal scene?

It seems to be doing ok. I mean, if bands like CHILDREN OF BODOM end up being No.1 in the national album charts above Eminem and P.Daddy it can't be all that bad... To me however, and to be totally honest, the scene has nothing to offer. I'm into Death Metal man, and to me the best bands from Finland are DEMIGOD, DEEPRED, SLUGATHOR, TORN, SOTAJUMALA and KATAPLEXIA. Those bands that are better known outside of Finland (most of them signed with Spinefarm) have nothing to offer or interest me.

-How many albums do you have to record for Karmageddon Media, according to your contract with them?

We'll see about that in the future, I'd be more than happy to continue with them but I can see their side of it too...If we don't get enough copies sold, there's no reason for them to keep us.

-What I'm most recently crazy about is collecting music DVDs, but not so much of my fave bands have the possibility to release a DVD. I guess it is fucking expensive to make a DVD in Finland, right?

Yes I suppose so, it has to be the reason, otherwise everybody would do it, right? I haven't

thought about it really...ha, ha...Sounds too big for TORTURE KILLER anyways...I heard there's a DVD from IMMOLATION soon available though! and my fave band MONSTROSITY is planning for it, so hopefully those will work out.

-What is your main goal with TORTURE KILLER? Do you have serious intentions for this project or having fun is the most important thing for you?

To have fun is definitely on top of the list, but with a deal with Karmageddon Media, the response we've been getting...it feels good, man...ha, ha...and there will definitely be more Death Metal coming from TORTURE KILLER in the future. We have new stuff written and I feel very relaxed about it...a lot more effort has been put to the songs and the future looks really good to me at the moment.

-I'm asking every band about their opinion concerning the war in Iraq. Do you think it was really necessary, this war? Also, what are the current moods in Finland like, as a result to the USA's „divide et impera“ policy?

I have an opinion about it, but I'm not talking about it here. My English is not good enough to talk about it really, I would end up sounding like a retard with it so I'm skipping this one. If you need an answer for this one then I'll say yes. It is pretty fucking easy to judge Americans for their actions when you don't have anything to do with it. Sitting here far up north safely, this without any problems seems to make people the most liberal, peace-loving hypocrites like Americans. I'd rather have them in charge instead of the Arabs. Most of the Finnish people seem to think otherwise.

-Your final words?

Thanks a lot for the interview, man. Keep up with the brutality man, go check out

[www.torture-killer.cib.net](http://www.torture-killer.cib.net)  
for samples and shit. Take care and Cheers!!!

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# DEAD INFECTION

Hi, it was a really long time without any news from you. It's awesome that you play again? Thanx... I made decision to bring the band back to life at the beginning of 2003.

What was the concrete reason for your break-up in 1999?

Some misunderstandings inside the band. But now when the band exists again, it's nothing to speak about...

Did you miss all these concerts?

Yes, I did. But I hope that the best is still before us.

Can you inform our readers about your current line-up and more particularly about the two new guys Camel and Husar?

Camel & Husar don't play in the band anymore. Our relationship wasn't too good... The present line-up is: Jaro - vocals, Tocha - guitars, Cyjan - drums.

Are you satisfied with the final results of your new album „Brain Corrosion“?

Too soon for this question. I'll let you know later because we enter the studio in March this year. Was „The Lethal Collection“ some kind of a present for your fans or did you just prepare them for your new album?

I'm not sure... It was Obscene Productions' idea. Is it so hard to play such extreme music in Poland? Because here in Bulgaria it is almost impossible...

No, it's not... You can play what you wish. Most important thing is to find good place to rehearse. Also, you have to spend a lot of money to get decent music equipment. Then you can start playing and fight for good band promotion.

What is your opinion of other famous Polish groups like VADER, BEHEMOTH, DECAPITATED, LUX OCCULTA, SQUASH BOWELS...?

The Polish brutal scene is very strong and powerful! I think it's the strongest in middle Europe...and not only.

Who are the leaders in your country's Underground Scene, maybe you could recommend us some bands?

There's a lot of good bands. I could recommend bands like: NEUROPATHIA, INCARNATED, SQUASH BOWELS, DAMNABLE, TOXIC BANGERS. Do you like the American Death and Grind acts? I also enjoy the American Scene. My favourite bands are: MORTICIAN, DISRUPT /r.i.p./, TERRORIZER /r.i.p./, old DEATH, PIG DESTROYER,

## The Polish Gore/Grind machine works again!

4 years! During that period of time we were just sitting and listening to albums like „A Chapter Of Accidents“ , „The Greatest Shits“... and wondering when these dudes are gonna play again. Well, the waiting is over, because DEAD INFECTION are back!!! Be ready for decapitation and bloodbath. We will talk about life, bands, albums and DEAD INFECTION with Cyjan ... the legendary drummer of one of the sickest bands in the world.

STEFAN RUSEV

old BRUTAL TRUTH.

How do you manage to achieve this incredibly brutal and unique sound?

I think that's through the years of experience. That's all.

Do you use any vocal effects?

Now we're not using any vocal effects... And how can you play so fast and brutal, Cyjan? Is this due to strenuous rehearsals only, or is there something else about it?

Practise makes you perfect. I still keep playing drums, sometimes 5 times a week for a few hours. If you wanna know...I never used any medicaments or drugs...

Which are your favourite groups?

INHUME, REGURGITATE, HAEMORRHAGE, GENERAL SURGERY, old CARCASS, old NAPALM DEATH...

Are SPINELESS and COFFEE GRINDER active? No. When DEAD INFECTION plays again, then it doesn't make any sense to continue those projects.

I read that you were married. What is it like to be married? I mean, does this have any effect on your stage behaviour, are you more sensible? I'm not married anymore. I got divorced on Autumn '03.

Which are the bands you had your best tour with?

Too much to mention, but... HAEMORRHAGE, CSSO, BUTCHER ABC and many others. Have you ever heard of a good Bulgarian Gore bands or have you ever listened to a good Bulgarian Gore / Grind band?

Sorry but I don't recall now any Bulgarian bands. You said that playing extreme music in your country was almost impossible... Huh... Which were the last albums you were impressed by?

INHUME „In For The Kill“, BUTCHER ABC

„Butchered At Birthday“.

Do you listen to any music other than Metal? Mostly...I really enjoy bands like ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA, CHUMBAWAMBA, BAD RELIGION, REPUBLICA, MADNESS and music from motion pictures.

When you start recording an album, do you have any concrete idea of what the final results will be like?

It's the most important thing when you work in studio!

Your favourite 5 albums?

CARCASS - „Reek Of Putrefaction“ NAPALM DEAT - „From Enslavement to Obliteration“ TERRORIZER - „World Downfall“ NAPALM DEATH - „Peel Session“ SLAYER - „Reign In Blood“

When you see a fan on the street and he recognizes you, do you feel like a star and do you talk to him, or do you just ignore him? I never ignore our fans.

Do you receive many harsh e-mails?

I don't remember when I got last time an e-mail like that.

What are the comments in Poland on your reunion?

We are very happy that people still remember us. It's nice.

What can we expect from DEAD INFECTION in future?

Grind, Grind, Grind!!!

Do you have plans or offers for touring Europe in the future and especially playing in countries like Bulgaria?

Next year we'll get some tours in Europe and not only. But at the moment I'm not sure if we'll get any Bulgarian dates. Please watch our website:

<http://www.deadinfection.ht.st>

Thank for the interview! Take care... all of you!

## the underground

HELUNAR  
„Grat“ Promo CD-R  
Self Released

If it wasn't the info-sheet in my hands I would swear that HELUNAR are Norwegians! As a matter of fact, this trio hails from Germany and is releasing its debut the promo copy of which I'm listening to right now. Well, you might assume by the very band name these guys have massive forces in creating an album entirely accorded to the mid 90's Black Metal expressed in resorting to Scandinavian sagas inspiration-wise. In other words, „Grat“ will certainly appeal to anybody who is fond of the earliest work of SATYRICON, ENSLAVED or ULVER. I have never been into stuff like that really, what I heard from HELUNAR was far from bad. Contact: [seebwinter@web.de](mailto:seebwinter@web.de)  
Vanya Marina

DEJECT  
„As Our Days Come To Pass“ Demo CD  
Self Released

What an impactful appearance on a demo level! DEJECT hail from Oslo, Norway and what they have for you is 4 track and moderate Death Metal tracks of an awesome record quality. Conceptwise this demo starts with an instrumental, especially if you bear in mind that the DEJECT members' average age is like 19-20... The guys didn't print the lyrics on the CD booklet but were kinder to explain what each song was about instead. The front cover is not sweet dreams bringer either...it actually represents a vague silhouette of a straight jacket and with...bullet-shoes on! Contact: [s.lemercier@hotmail.fr](mailto:s.lemercier@hotmail.fr)  
Vanya Marina

NOBLE SAVAGE  
„Shadows of the Night“ Promo CD-R  
Self Released

Well...I can't say that I am entranced by what this Italian band has created because I'm not into Power Metal at all. The same old story here... high-pitched vocals and howling leads making you feel like you're suspended on a whirling ventilator and, of course, the obligatory sometimes-heroes-often-manics expressed in slower acoustic passages. There ain't no lyrics here but without reading whatsoever I bet that the good win in the end, heh...  
[noblesavage@supereva.it](mailto:noblesavage@supereva.it)  
Vanya Marina

IMPERIAL CRYSTALLINE ENTOMBMENT  
„Come Demo CD  
Self Released

What we have here is 3 tracks of rapid, winter praising Black Metal. And that reminds me... I've heard say that the Eskimo language had like 40 words for snow, so I guess a possible Eskimo-English dictionary could be in a huge lot of bands like ICE about lyric writing... Kidding of course, „ICE“ sounds just great for a demo. Apart from that, the guys in the band must have practiced a lot since the tracks on the CD are very well constructed. Let's see how they will develop in the future... <http://www.imperialice.com>  
Vanya Marina

LOST EMOTIONS  
„For Each Tear That You Spill“ Promo CD-R  
Self Released

I haven't heard the previous two CDs of Spain's LOST EMOTIONS but still one thing tells me that they do hardly differ from the one I'm listening to at the moment... Thus, what we have is 8 tracks of melodic Death Metal with some Doom touches that bring more melancholic moods here. I wouldn't call „For Each Tear That You Spill“ a bad release but I can't help reminding them that the Scene is literally awash with bands like theirs!  
[lucianov.ycos.es/lostemotions](mailto:lucianov.ycos.es/lostemotions)  
Vanya Marina

GRODHAIN  
„Demo Sampler“ 2003  
Self Released

The Czech Grodhain Prods offers this comp. CD with seven ultra brutal tracks. First are FEGELE MINDED - crazy, furious Death / Grind reminding to some of the best American bands in the genre. Next are DEPSISE - two songs of mad mad madness, one of which is a cover version of PIRAMIA's „Criminal“. Those guys use a drum machine and vocal effects that don't appeal to me as much. IMPERIAL FOETICITE are third - decent Death / Grind, but nothing outstanding. SUN HAS CANCER are the most unusual band on that comp. Industrial / Death with tops and electronic beats. SYNTHETICALLY BUILT offers cinema brutal Death / Grind with fierce but boring solos. CRAMANT attack with brutal Death Metal in the vein of CRYPTOPHS. The comp ends with DESTROYING DIVINITY - darkened Death Metal reminding of MONSTRIOUS. Valuable compilation beyond any doubt! And finally my admirations go to his beautiful girl with the bass guitar whose picture is put on the back of the CD cover. Unfortunately there's no info about her...  
Tsvetan Puhar

FROST LIKE ASHES  
„Pure As the Blood Covered Snow“ Promo CD-R  
SOTD

When I first took a look at the front cover of this promo CD I thought that I was to hear another piece referred either to the symphonic-Black or the Gothic genre. Just to see the SOTD Records paper and you'll find out what I meant. Frost Like Ashes is a band that is not out to play wintry gloomy Black Metal with some Death / Doom touches... What was most amazing about this recording was that I was JUST thinking how much the riffing here was reminding me of BLAD SABBATH's earliest works when the 4th track on the CD started and I ended up listening to a cover version of... „After Forever“!!! Definitely „FROST“ appeared to be a very good lesson for me that justifies for the music by the band. At least would not always be the best idea... FROST LIKE ASHES' material has nothing to do with those pathetic moods surrounding like an 80 % of my bands in my opinion. The 5 tracks on the CD intrigued me a lot and made me feel completely certain of the band's success on the Scene in the near future!  
<http://www.frostlikeashes.com>  
Vanya Marina

RAVEN BLACK NIGHT  
„Morbid Gladiator“ Demo CD-R  
Self Released

This is the second demo of Australia's RAVEN BLACK NIGHT and what it offers is okayish Doom / Heavy Metal. You can distinguish „Morbid Gladiator“ by remarkably adroit leads and vocals reminding of CANDLEMASS a bit. It's „The White Knight“ who is both the guitarist and the singer here and he seems to be on a level sensibly higher than the rest of the band members when it comes to musical performances. I would advise the other guys to practice more, so that some more harmony could be achieved. Otherwise-wise, he'll tracks suggest visions of glorious encounters with fabulously ominous creature from times forgotten and probably that's the reason for me to find „Morbid Gladiator“ sort of nostalgic... The sound quality is far from bad, too.  
[RavenBlacknight@hotmail.com](mailto:RavenBlacknight@hotmail.com)  
Vanya Marina

GROM OTORIC  
„Dark Fears“ Demo CD-R  
Self Released

I was very surprised to see a Bulgarian name here! GROM OTORIC hail from Greece and Dimo Dimov guests with some drumming and lyric writing... Well, I am sorry, compatriot, but THIS turned out to be too inferior for a demo recording event! First off, the sound sucks totally! Second: the vocals of Sabbanian Hellmann are simply excruciating and spoil EVERYTHING by making this Demo Metal piece sound like a big bad joke! Still, I could discern that the track constructions were not that bad and I could also hear some very good guitar solos here and there. But one stark cent call the other ones! What comes out of me in anyway was tracks 6 and 7... GROM OTORIC's covers of the GUN-BERRIES' „Zombie“ and METALLICA's „...And Justice for All“!!!  
[grom\\_otoric@gmx.de](mailto:grom_otoric@gmx.de)  
Vanya Marina

TOTAL MASSACRE  
„Primo 2002“ Promo CD-R  
Self Released

With its one-track promo CD this band from Greece offers few minutes of pitifully straightforward Death Metal. The „Kill My Brain“ song leaves you with the impression that it has become the result of one of those blitz inspiration hits when you should act really fast if you don't want to omit your chance of creating something, be it unique or merely worthy to attract people's attention in this very case. TOTAL MASSACRE have managed comparatively good, but let's see what future will bring through... [total.massacre@hotmail.com](mailto:total.massacre@hotmail.com)  
Vanya Marina

WINGED SERPENT MASTER  
„Serpent Sign“ CD-R  
Self Released

WINGED SERPENT MASTER is a project of Adrah Al-Fahran (aka Iku Netariou). „Serpent Sign“ is his album #2 and what it offers is 11 Red Death songs that shine with nothing peculiar in my opinion. What I could see in Lord Netariou's aim is that he, although being only 20 years old, has authored 3 projects namely METANEMPROST (Industrial / Dark Ambient / Noise), SILENCE PRIMATE TARGET (Industrial / Digital Hard Core) and THE OPHIOD (experimental electronics). Get in touch, in case you feel interested.  
<http://www.expans.com/wingedserpentmaster>  
Vanya Marina

## Jose Afonso: To hear people say stuff like "Sweden has BATHORY and Portugal has DECAYED"... that is nice!

This summer something had urged me on visiting the official website of DECAYED only to find out that Portugal's oldschool Black / Death Metallers have just finished the work on their latest CD! I haven't heard „The Beast Has Risen“ yet but still I am more than certain that the new release is intended to be another fuel infernal for all those who might be missing the Black Metal sound in its purest, most unrefined form! Still, it is really sad when your goals don't coincide with your bandmates' ones, since the guitarist Jose Afonso is the only DECAYED member left nowadays... So all I can do is to wish him good luck with finding more reliable musicians to collaborate with in the near future!

VANYA MARINOVA



were HOTH, ALASTOR and NETHERMANCY.

-Do you find a vent in creating music?

Hmmm. Not sure. You can call it that, but it is much more than just that. I just have these ideas in my head, coming from everywhere and I just grab the guitar or the computer or the drum machine or a piece of paper and everything becomes real into this world. But sometimes it can also be a vent, although I would call to play the music more of a vent than the actual process of creating it. Did I make sense?

-2000 appears to be DECAYED's wildest year about live performances; back then you visited Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, France, etc... Where did you enjoy your stay the most?

This one is difficult... there were a few shows that were memorable. The show in Wermelskirchen, Germany (if I'm not mistaken) was pure Metal and for that I cannot forget it. The place was good, the sound was good and the crowd was just fucking unbelievable. Not to mention the great soup that we had for dinner! Everything was just great! The show in the boat was also... fucking bizarre and we had the best beer of the whole tour. That show where we only had 1 guy in front of us was also... different. I don't know, there were several great shows. I just wish that I could do it once more...

-Where else would you love to go on tour and why?

I would like to do a full European tour so that I could check out all the countries that I still haven't, go back to the ones I already went. Why? Cause I love to play live and I like to see how people react to my music. It's great to be on stage and have a bunch of Metalheads banging to your creations. It just is!

-How about South America? Fans seem to be quite

dedicated out there, it's the bands I've heard as yet that makes me think so - MYSTIFER, DEVASTACION, OSSUARY, MORTEM, or even earliest SEPULTURA and SARCOPHAGO...

South America is a bit too far to make part of my plans. Obviously I would like to play there, if not for the similarities in the language, but I don't think that I'll ever have that chance.

-When do you feel more contented of being involved in a band - on stage or in studio?

Both, cause they are totally different. When you're in the studio you're creating something, you can stop, think, play it again, experiment with effects and small details and when you're playing live you just... let yourself go, what is done is done and you will never again have it. It's a sort of coming and conquering, but it is just perfect when the people you're conquering just go crazy and enjoy the music. Some people call it a ritual, I call it a „feeding“.

-How about DECAYED's status in Portugal for the time being? I mean, are you considered as your country's Black Metal coryphaei or are you regarded as the antique of today's Portuguese scene?

Our status? I don't know. Some people love us, others just hate us, so, in my eyes, either way, we are doing it correctly! LOL! The ones that like us and that listen to our music (I think) regard us as the old band that still kicks ass and that have remained truthful to it's ideals and sound. I'm not sure of what people really think, but when they talk to me they say that we are something that makes them proud to be Portuguese and to me, it just can't get better than that you know. To hear people say stuff like „Sweden has BATHORY and Portugal has DECAYED“... that is nice.

-And guess what I dug out recently, that DECAYED interview for Sweden's Immortal Magazine since... 1995, I think. You stated there that you felt ashamed of living in Portugal, that you didn't even have a scene, etc. Could you say the same things now?

Yup! Nothing has changed, although some people like to think so. Most bands are still more concerned with showing off and following what foreign bands do instead of trying to come up with something different or Metal. Most people don't even listen to Metal, they just listen to some styles of Metal and that is not how you should live your life, if you're a Metalhead. But I don't concern myself with that nowadays, I just do my own shit and let the kids have their fun, listen to their wild theories about what is true Metal and what is not. How can we have a scene if most bands don't talk to each other and musicians don't want to be labeled as Metalheads and the people who listen to the music prefer to stay at home, chatting in the internet (being evil and misanthropic) instead of attending the shows?

-Your opinion about the world Metal Scene at present?

Basically, the same as in Portugal!  
-We have been witnessing many reunions of 80's-related bands lately... Honestly speaking, I'm apt of associating this all with some people's lightened wallets basically; what is your point though?

I guess that you're right in some cases, but I don't give a flying fuck about re-unions cause the ones I've seen, they suck! The only 2 that I enjoyed were NUCLEAR ASSAULT at Wacken and EXODUS, but the 2 new songs suck! So, let the past rest cause you can't re-live it! Unless you still live it. But when musicians start „broadening their horizons“ and listening to new shit and changing the old songs to sound more „updated“... FUCK THEM! I mean, I went to see DORO in the north of Portugal and everything was perfect, except for that stupid guitar player! Jumping when playing old WARLOCK songs? Asshole! And those silly clothes. Argh! Metal till Death.

-What would you (not) change if you happen to be given the chance of going back in time?

I would kill the one called Jesus and thus, maybe, just maybe, prevent Christianity of rising. I would like to see this world if Paganism had prevailed.

-Which labels do you purchase your CDs from most often? Are you listening to Metal only by the way?

I don't buy that many new stuff, but I buy it from everywhere cause usually I just like 1 band in each label. There are so few worthy, but maybe Iron Pegasus is the label with more interesting bands, not sure though, but I just bought 3 of their releases, so... I never listen only to Metal, I also listen to Rock, but I guess that 90% is Metal.

-How would you feel in case you happen to hear an Industrialized cover of a DECAYED track?

Depends... if it is well done I wouldn't mind. I think that MINISTRY's „Psalms 69“ is one of the best albums ever, so... But then again, that is the only album of theirs that I have and it sounds a lot like Thrash Metal. LOL!

-The musician(s) you might dream of collaborating with one day?

Satanic from DESASTER on vocals. Very good vocals I can tell you and live, he rules! Draugen who played drums on the first MCD of DARK FUNERAL - what a drummer and a very friendly guy. And some good guitar player, but right now I can't remember of one, except Pica who used to play in SACRED SIN. I'm sure that there are several more guys I want to work with and probably will in the future, but right now my fucked up mind just thought of these.

-Your visions of DECAYED's future?

I already have stuff for our 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th albums. So, you can expect at least 4 more albums, but I must warn you that they might be different from what this band did in the past. Now that I'm the only member of DECAYED I will do stuff that I sometimes did in my side projects. Expect the unexpected. I would like to do one final European tour with a great line-up, have lots of fun... See all of our releases on good old vinyl and leave my mark on the Metal Universe. We'll see what the future will bring. I've been around for 13 years and I have never surrender. I guess that I can hold on for 5 years more. I know that I will make lots of people miserable so...

Website: <http://come.to/decayed>



**-How is your life going and how are you a year after Chuck's death?**

Life is a daily struggle for me without him, Chuck is profoundly loved and missed in so many ways. He was a very loving and caring son, brother and uncle, spending much of his time doing things with us. We had dinner together most days at his house, he loved to cook and barbeque and there were many movies, trips, etc. Our lives were filled with Chuck and it is very empty now, for all of us.

**-We all know something about what happened. But tell us. How Chuck got when he received the result of the exams telling that he was sick?**

When Chuck got the news of the tumor he was of course upset, but he quickly got into the fighting mode that he stayed in throughout his fight against that tumor.

**-Do you remember any moment, word or phrase from him to you or to others after the revelation**

promised him that we would make sure of it. That album was his last, and it was very, very important to him.

**-After Chuck's death and during his treatment we had some really praiseworthy movements by artists, including some unexpected ones like RED HOT CHILI PAPERS, KID ROCK, KORN, etc, besides other more Metal names like PANTERA, ANTHRAX, EXODUS, etc. Did you have any contact with those artists?**

Yes, I did have contact with them, letters and calls, and they spoke of their sorrow for the tragic end of Chuck's fight for life and their admiration for Chuck as a musician. Some of them were in touch with Chuck when he was in recovery the first time in 2001, giving their support, some very nice caring people. In music there is a kinship, no matter what kind of music it is, and when there is a problem or sickness, whatever, they close ranks and support one

Chuck got involved with music when he was 9 years old. His brother, Frank, was killed in an accident. They were so close and Chuck was devastated, so we bought him a guitar and took him for lessons. He loved playing but got tired quickly of the lessons, and continued playing on his own. He heard KISS play and they were his favorite band for years, having quite an influence on him. Jimi Hendrix he thought was fantastic and he also liked THE DOORS. When he was thirteen years old I took him to his first KISS concert.

**When he started to play guitar and MANTAS turned into DEATH, what did you think? Did you approve his decision?**

I suppose it was because Chuck was never a problem child that I accepted his music and thought if he liked it, then it was okay. Chuck always loved animals and cooking, he told me once that if he had not been a musician he

December 13, 2001 - This date will be always remembered by Metal fans with suffering and pain. The founder of DEATH lost his battle against cancer and nobody could believe it. He was a hero for most headbangers, and heroes don't die, right? Maybe this is not the truth. Chuck Schuldiner is gone and more than 2 years after his death, we would find that he was a hero not only to his fans, but also to his family. This was the most difficult interview to do ever. I had the idea in mid November and I decided to contact Chuck's mother, Mrs. Jane Schuldiner. She answered quickly as she does with every journalist and also with every fan that Chuck has in this world. We talked for a long time. After sometime, even I started to have doubts as to whether or not this interview would be good for her (this was so important) and for Chuck's fans. I thought about giving up on the idea and she also thought the same. The end. No interview. After almost a month, nearing the date of Chuck's death, Mrs. Schuldiner sent me a message telling me that she was fine with the interview. But the period of Chuck's death, and also Christmas time weren't very good to Mrs. Schuldiner. So the interview was ready in the first days of January. This was one of the longest interviews and easily the most touching interview ever. Mrs. Schuldiner opened wide her feelings, the history of her family, of her son. The result of our conversations can give you an idea of how Chuck was as a child, a son, a family member, etc. But it also shows who was behind and supporting him all the time. I only hope that this interview was as important to Mrs. Schuldiner as it'll be to Chuck's fans.

THIAGO PINTO CORREA SARKIS [tpcsark@zipmail.com.br](mailto:tpcsark@zipmail.com.br)



**of the disease?**

When Chuck came into the door of my house and I had to hear those words, I was so devastated. Chuck just put his arms around me and we stood there hugging each other. After I calmed down, his sister, Chuck and I began plans for getting the best help possible. As always, we did it together, as a family.

**-In that time, was music the only thing that involved Chuck to keep going on and fighting? Or did he search for religion or anything like that?**

What kept Chuck motivated in his fight was his love of his family, his music and the fans, who responded with tons of mails of encouragement. I can't stress enough the role they played throughout the past three years. And still do.

**-Do you remember what was Chuck listening to at that time? Any album or artist in particular?**

I know Chuck listened to music frequently during that time, but I do not know the names of the artists. He wore headphones a lot. Chuck never listened to depressing songs, they were about life, much as the songs he wrote. I do know he received inspiration and gratification by the music he listened to, and as always, CDs were always nearby.

**-The first album of CONTROL DENIED says already a lot in its title, "The Fragile Art Of Existence". Even the lyrics of the songs are very related to what Chuck would live in his next years. It seems like a premonition sometimes. Do you have this same feeling?**

No, when that album was written it was well before the time Chuck found out he was ill. It surely is amazing that it did seem to be a premonition, and when someone said that to Chuck, he said there was nothing to it, there was no premonition. Chuck was a philosophical person, concerned about many things he saw and experienced himself, and his lyrics reflected that. Chuck was always in great health throughout his life until this happened.

**-Talking about CONTROL DENIED, do the members still have the idea of completing and releasing the second album, "When Man And Machine Collide"?**

Chuck had completed most of his part of the new CONTROL DENIED album and his bandmates are going to make sure it is completed. That was very much on Chuck's mind and we

another. I admire that because it is rare.

**-Which were his closest friends in his final days?**

The people closest to Chuck in his final days were Richard, the drummer in his band, and David, his best friend from 5th grade. Richard was always a good friend and he was there for Chuck throughout his illness, bringing little meaningful presents and sensitivity. He and Chuck always had the same sense of humor and he made Chuck laugh, he lightened all our lives during that time. He has kept in touch and is included in special occasions in our family and is very dear to us.

**Before this all... did you have any idea of how much of an icon Chuck was considered to be and how much he was a representative of a style to the music world?**

I did know Chuck was a force in his music, but not until he became ill I was aware of how very large that force was, and still is. From the beginning of Chuck's illness there were so many emails, letters, and gifts of support from fans that I had to have help answering them. And when they found out that Chuck was being denied surgery because of lack of insurance, they responded with a roar, sending financial support to help him. They were instrumental in helping Chuck get the medical help he needed. I will always feel close to them for that.

**Let's get back a bit more. Tell us about Chuck's childhood.**

Chuck was a great child, loving and always so good natured that everyone loved him back. I always had to caution him against strangers as a child because he thought everyone was his friend. Chuck played baseball and soccer in school, soccer was his favorite. His grades were always good throughout school, and this may surprise some people, but he always got excellent in conduct. We always camped throughout the years when our children were growing up and Chuck loved it, the woods, and fishing, hiking, he loved it all. We moved to this neighborhood next to the forest when Chuck was two years old and he and his friends spent many hours building forts and treehouses when they were children. Chuck always told me that he had the happiest of childhoods, and he really did.

**When did he get involved with Metal? Before this, what did he listen to?**

would have been either a chef or a veterinarian. I always thought that the name of the band derived from the death of his brother, and while the word had such painful memories, I did not object.

**Did you like his music? Since the beginning, did you listen to his records and enjoy them?**

Chuck's music was very loud and it took me some time before I really listened to it with a critical ear. I have always loved the drums, and early on I loved the way Chuck could play the guitar, always amazed at the progression of his talent as he taught himself. Chuck could play a lot of instruments. He was such an interesting person, and my garage was always full of young, hungry musicians. Great young people. Was Chuck a 24hrs a day Metal man? Which other styles he used to listen to?

Metal was the music Chuck listened to mostly, though he liked Jazz very much also. There is no music that I don't like. I always have either the radio or television on turned to the music stations. Chuck did not like country, thinking it was a sad music.

**Besides the 2nd CONTROL DENIED album, is there more unpublished material that probably will see the light soon?**

I did find unpublished songs that Chuck had written and lots of demos and there was music he had written for a friend in another band, but when I asked his friend about it, he didn't think he would go forward with their plans for it. I don't know what plans we have for all of those. Which are the last words that you remember Chuck saying to you or to another person?

Chuck's family were around him at the last and many words of love and comfort were spoken. It felt as though my heart and soul were breaking, and I still feel that way.

**Mrs. Schuldiner, thanks so much for the interview. We know how hard those times are and you can count on us. This space is yours to leave a message to Chuck's fans, friends... and whatever you want to do.**

I want to thank you, Thiago, for your patience. Some of the answers were very difficult and it has taken me a long time. My message to Chuck's fans and friends is very much what I wrote in his memory December 13th of this year. Thank you all for your continued support to me and Chuck's music, he would be so proud.



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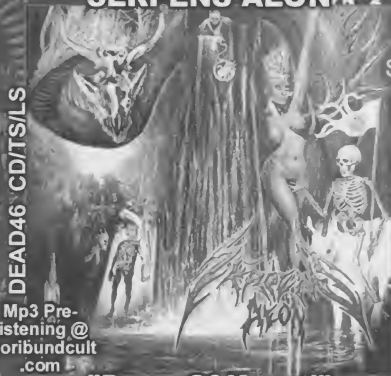
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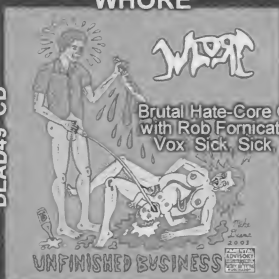
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## The Spirit of Ancient Vikings is Musically Revived

MANEGARM have impressed us quite a lot with their original music based on ancient Nordic folklore, Heavy and Black Metal. Being curious to know more about their art and ideas as well as about the band itself, we arranged an interview with Eric Grawsio, the band's drummer / vocalist.

SIMEON ILIEV

-Do you like your new album? How long have you been writing it? Did you put on the CD everything you wanted to?

Yes, we're very satisfied with the album. We worked on it for a while, I don't know exactly for how long. Everything we wanted is on the CD except for one song. We felt that we didn't get it right, so we saved it for the next album.

-Are you pleased by Displeased Records? You have been working with them since 1997.

The relationship with Displeased Records has gotten better and better through the years. We have been working with these guys for more than 6 years now and it feels good.

-Why are you playing Viking Metal? Why not reggae or something else?

Ha, ha... No need to answer that one...

-What are your musical influences?

Heavy Metal and Rock N' Roll in general. MOTORHEAD, RUNNING WILD, IRON MAIDEN, etc.

-Do you learn theoretically from Northern folklore to use this knowledge in your song writing? No, we don't. None of us is a theoretical musician. It all comes down to expressions and to a feeling of what fits in our music.

-What is this death journey you are on? (I'm talking about the title of the album). And where is MANEGARM going?

We're on no death journey ourselves. The title of the album is referred to the ancient Viking burials. We came up with an idea for a title and for a front cover and from that idea Kris Vervimp made an excellent artwork.

-Do you have any philosophical influences?

What are the lyrics of your songs based on?

The lyrics are mostly inspired and based on our heathen heritage. Pierre is the one of us that writes most of the lyrics. What inspires him, no one knows...

-What does MANEGARM mean? I know that Garm is an evil mythological dog, eating the sun on the last day or something.

Manegarm is the wolf that swallows the moon.

-Has the style of MANEGARM changed over the years? I mean, does your new album differ from the old material and if yes, in what?

The style of MANEGARM hasn't changed that much I think, even if we have slowed down the pace. With this new album we feel that we have developed our music and matured a bit. I think that this is something every band experiences, hopefully...

-What types of bands are you playing with live? Do they play Viking Metal too, or some other stuff?

It's pretty sad to say, but we haven't played live for a very, very long time. I hardly remember who we played with the last time we did.

-How does such kind of music sell in different countries? Are you happy with your audiences? You have to ask Displeased about that. I don't really know exactly how many records we have sold of the previous albums. Hopefully "Dödsfärd" will do even better.

-Except for playing in MANEGARM, what are the members of the band doing in their everyday life? Is there something eccentric about you? There's nothing eccentric about us. Conceding we're not rockstars, we have to work to make

our living. We all have everyday lives with everything that comes with it.

-What do you think about extremism ... political, religious, whatever?

Personally, I'm not into any of these things, so I really don't care that much. To be honest, I don't think extremism is good in any way.

-Generally speaking, are you satisfied with the way the world turns? I know other Metal musicians that are quite pessimistic about the future. Of course, I can understand that other musicians and other people are pessimistic about different things in our world and in our future. I am too, in some way. I try not to think about the pessimistic things in life that much. The answer to your question will have to be that I'm contented, generally speaking.

-Are you planning some big tours, some new albums? When are we going to see you in Bulgaria or hear your songs on the radio?

Displeased was talking about a 2 week tour in Germany in December / January. Of course we're planning a fourth album. We have started writing some new songs and if we're ready we can hopefully record the album in one year from now or so. It would be great if we can tour Bulgaria and to be played on the radio would of course be great as well. Let's hope the Bulgarian radio stations read this.

-Thanks for the answers. We will be waiting for MANEGARM's next release. Bye.

Thank you. It's always fun with interviews. Hopefully the waiting for the next album won't be that long. We'll try to be creative. Bye !!



**LITHAM**  
*"Dhar Ennar" CD-R*  
 Self Released  
 Definitely reviewing the album by a band from Algeria was the last thing I have ever expected to do!!! Thus, "Dhar Ennar" (shade of fire) is LITHAM's debut and what it offers is melodic Death / Doom Metal expressed in straightforward guitar riffs decorated with delectable leads. The atmosphere is an automatically melancholic and Oriental mysterious construction—also, the drum positions are faultless and you can sense that some people just don't want their time through the years (LITHAM was founded in July '96).  
<http://www.litham.fr.st>  
 Vanya Mainim

**HONEY FOR CHRIST**  
*"Forging Iron Will" Promo CD-R*  
 (ELABEL METAL)  
 In the very first moment I just couldn't help laughing when I read the name of this band from Northern Ireland... A little bit later I decided that it was a 2011 Hard Core-oriented. Eventually, the three tracks on "Forging Iron Will" turned out to be a 300% Metal-oriented and quite simple in construction. Okayish, I will say. Otherwise, HFC exist since 1990 and thus far have warmed the coals for bands like CATHEDRAL, ORANGE CORN, LACUNA COIL, MY DYING BRIDE, NILE, etc. <http://www.honeyforchrist.co.uk>  
 Vanya Mainim

**MYSTICE**  
*"Mystic" Demo CD-R*  
 Self Released  
 I am sorry that I have to write this, but "Mystice" is one of the worst recordings that I have come across ever! The sound quality is unacceptably bad for a demo even and the 9 Black Metal tracks on this CD-R are totally devoid of persistence... recitations in French against the background of organ tunes alternating chaotically with steady guitar riffs and vomit-like vocals is the chief. Despite my sincere sympathy for MYSTICE's only member Olamir (his life is abundant in tragic losses and accidents), I would like to advise him to start working harder in the future. What I can add as an interesting detail is that the band logo was made by Christophe Szpajdel who turned out to be responsible also for that of... EMPEROR. Contact MYSTICE here: Olamir Nicolas, 5, Rue Quincy 92170, Vanves 0147362486, France.  
 Vanya Mainim

**HELLIUM METAL**  
*"From the Belgian Underground 1" Compilation CD-R*  
 HELLOCOMMANDER BELZEBUB  
 If ANCIENT RITES is the only band that pops up in your head whenever it comes to Belgian Metal acts, then you should definitely give this compilation a listen. From the Belgian Underground 1 features 21 tracks from 21 bands related to genres ranging from melodic Black Metal through rhythmic Death (but not to be confused with the band's enjoyed most were the Death "Parasites DONT RIP"), AGATHOCLES (no need of introduction), PRESUMED, GARBAGE (no reminding me that I haven't listened to STORM's "Mordwund" for ages), ENTHROED and ANCIENT RITES (need I say anything about these 2 acts?), ICONOCULAM (rapid Black / Death), AVAMENTA (euphoric Black / Heavy), CATAR (melodic Black) and CATAPALQUE (melodic Death, the band exists in Louvain). The rest of the bands are as follows: ABORTED (Death), PANORAMA (Death), LEGAL BUTT-OFF (Death), PESSIMISM (Death), FURIOUS EARTH (Black), GRIM, BLOOD SUCKERS (D / G), SERIAL BUTCHER (D / S), SURHM (brutal Death), IN-QUEST (Death), CAUSTICITY (Death), ECTOPIC (D / G) and ASHMOLEAN (symphonic Black). You can contact Hellocommander/Belezub here: Belezub (johan@hotmail.com)  
 Vanya Mainim

**CANAUS ANALIS / STOMBAMFRER STEDE**  
*"Soul CD-R"*  
 TIVOLASTARACHELIE Records  
 This material would certainly delight anyone who is into those good old Black Core bands that are capable of releasing a 10-minute double album but CANAUS ANALIS and STOMBAMFRER STEDE hail from Poland and the self-titled CD-R is the result of the first since Easter 2001 and the "The Blue Fest 2002" recording of the latter. I am not a fan of stuff like this. I would like to change which band appealed to me more, I would point out STOMBAMFRER STEDE (their cover "of RED PURPLE'S 'Smoke on the Water' didn't literally die in, ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!!!"). <http://www.sickness.republica.it>  
 Vanya Mainim

**ZEROTONIN**  
*"Reinvention" Promo CD-R*  
 MENENDO MUSIC  
 The 4 tracks on this promo CD are from the "Institute of Unquiet" album that ZEROTONIN are still working upon. Well, it is hard (yet quite pointless, I would say) to refer this band from Belfast to any concrete genre... the answer you come to the conclusion that you are listening to another PARADOX (but, of course, you are suddenly being blown off by typically like Metal riffs which, in their turn, transform into a pure Hard Core aerial assault! And this is quite a vague clue of what ZEROTONIN's music is like, so you would better hear for yourselves. What I will add in conclusion is that I would love to give the wait album a listen someday! <http://www.zerotonin.co.uk>  
 Vanya Mainim

**BLOODTHRONE**  
*"Shield of Hate" Promo CD-R*  
 FOREVER UNDERGROUND  
 These 2 tracks are taken from the upcoming "Shield of Hate" release which appears to be the second one in the discography of New Jersey's BLACK THRONE. Okay, what we have here is several minutes of rapid and fierce Black Metal that certainly appeal to the ordinary fan of the genre. What I mean is that the promo doesn't shine with anything specific... the Bloodthrone is sensibly chosen to walk well-trodden paths... but at least the songs are not constructed and headbang-suggestive. Otherwise, the band exists since 1988 and, as I could read from the info-sheet, the guys have played a lot of shows as well and have opened for such acts as MAYHEM and DARK FUNERAL. <http://www.geocities.com/bloodthrone666>  
 Vanya Mainim

**HEOL TELWEN**  
*"Mor Braz" Promo CD*  
 Self Released  
 As soon as you look at the front cover you can guess what the music on this promo CD might be dealing with namely folkish Black Metal! HEOL TELWEN hail from France and their music is "The Dark Sun" in the Breton language. I am into this stuff like that but if I have to be completely honest, I would say that the four songs sound far from bad with these fresh tunes and choirs. Highly recommendable for all CRUIACHAN and FALKENBACH admirers!  
<http://www.heoltelwen.fr.st>  
 Vanya Mainim

**DISHARMONIC**  
*"Unholy Remains" Demo CD-R*  
 Self Released  
 This Greek band was formed in 2001 and what its "Unholy Remains" demo offers is 4 tracks oriented to the Death/Core blend. Not a bad beginning, I would say... The sound quality is ok. If you are interested, contact DISHARMONIC here: disharmonic666@hotmail.com  
 Vanya Mainim

**DEGRADE**  
*"Feasting On Bloody Chunks" Demo CD-R*  
 Self Released  
 Sweden's DEGRADE was devised in 2001 and this is the band's first recording ever. The demo title speaks quite eloquently of what you should be expecting from these 4 tracks: namely sheer, brutal Death Metal. Rather good beginning, if you ask me! <http://www.degrade.tk>  
 Vanya Mainim

**ANAEL**  
*"Necromantic Rituals" Promo CD-R*  
 Self-released  
 I can't say I'm very excited about this promo. ANAEL delivers slow and unrelentingly extremely monotonous Doom / Black Metal. There are some interesting passages where the Black Metal influence is clear but the songs sound pretty similar. It becomes even boring at moments. ANAEL will find their audience but they still have a lot of work to do. Contact them at: [www.anael.de](http://www.anael.de)  
 Tsvetan Richter

**V / A**  
*"We Worship..." Vol. 1 CD-R*  
 AMF / VOICORT / CHRISTLUCK  
 Here you have a compilation from Bulgaria that would do just fine for anyone who feels eager of exploring the Underground depths more thoroughly! That "We Worship..." offers is 29 tracks by bands hailing from different corners of the world (Bulgaria, Russia, Norway, Brazil, Colombia, Germany, the US, etc.). Side-wise, the compilation is Black Metal-dominated except for the nearly 10 ambient tracks by Norway's NORTHLIGHT and Finland's JAJAFOUR, which appeared to be like breathtaking whiffs of cleansed air against the background of blasphemous ferocity. Naturally, like 85% of this compilation deals with Bulgarian bands so, if you would like to get acquainted with the subterranean activity in our country more closely, do not hesitate to use the email address left below! AMF Productions: [christluck@abv.bg](mailto:christluck@abv.bg)  
 Vanya Mainim

# Sverre Daehli: Attention children: cassettes were the only medium to do trading with in the old days so it WAS not a question of choice to be true Underground or whatever!



-I will have to admit that AUDIOPAIN is not very well known in our country yet... Would you introduce our Bulgarian readers to your band's essence - how did you start it all, etc?

AUDIOPAIN is a totally independent Thrash act from the Oslo area in Norway, playing a style comparable to the 80's Thrash Metal, though with our original twist. We've played together since the end of '96, and have released 4 demos / self-prods since then. AUDIOPAIN are mainly a live act, and have focused the song writing to fit on stage. The respond from the Underground has been very good all from the beginning, and during the years we've played a good amount of gigs with major bands like MAYHEM, GORGOROTH, ZYKLON, RED HARVEST, 1349 and AURA NOIR among others, as well as at most Metal festivals here in Norway. The word out there is that we deliver the goods on stage, and that is also our first priority. You don't know AUDIOPAIN before you've seen us live!

-Have you (all) been involved in other projects before forming AUDIOPAIN?

Yes, but nothing interesting to you. Just some local teenager bands.

-"Revel In Desecration" is the only recording I've heard from you as yet and it literally did me in with its thrashing relentlessness! Do you miss the 1980s?

He-he... Well, musically a definite "Yes!", but else-wise "no, really". I'm not a nostalgic nerd totally devoted to everything surrounding the style of music I like. Music is one thing, but the other trends is a different story. I laugh at those youngsters that totally devour everything that can be linked to what they believe is correct for their new interest. Teenagers that change style of music one day, and behave like an old-timer the day after. Posers!

-Which bands opened your heart for Metal as a whole? To name the most influential... First KISS in the early eighties, then W.A.S.P. around 1984, then MAIDEN and METALLICA later mid eighties, then SLAYER and MEGADETH in the end of the decade. After that I cannot really keep a track...

-Speaking of this very genre... I've come across plenty of people being apt of shrinking Metal to rivers of beer and adolescent aggro basically. I'm sure you have encountered such individuals as well - what have your responses been in such situations?

Let them drink! I don't care, as long as they don't interrupt me. I'm more into making music than to be a Metal fan, so I'm not one of the stereotypes you know. But, without these maniacs there wouldn't be any scene at all. And, I also like to have a drink or two, so to say too much about this would be like shooting myself in my foot. Cheers!

-Do you listen to stuff other than Metal?

Some, but not too much. I like some pop, some rock, some classical and some prog / psycho. I hate R'n'B, soul, rap, disco, dance, latino, reggae, trance and opera. The other guys in the band are more into different styles of music though.

-Back to AUDIOPAIN again: the "Revel..." tracklist font reminded me of those threatening messages from the movies where the murderer cuts separate letters from newspapers so that he couldn't be caught by his handwriting... Was this very detail from the CD layout

intended to be a hint of the mean instincts sleeping inside of us all?

No, I don't know for sure, but I believe that was only a question of graphical choice. Kim that does our cover art has totally free hands while making our covers, and I think he was only trying to use a different setting. He does all our cover art and artwork, and is a very good friend of ours. A great artist, and also a good composer. He plays in several projects with my bandmate Petter, and they play everything from the most extreme Metal to Electronica. Among others he's in the bands M and THE HAPPY NIHILISTS.

-And how did it come to Fenriz' contribution with the "Infuriation Scalp" lyric???

We were one lyric short while recording the "Revel In Desecration" release, and on proposal he wrote "Infuriation Scalp" to us. He's a friend of ours, and therefore also natural to ask. An honour to us, and a tribute to a man that we really respect. A great lyricist!

-I noticed that one of the bands you mentioned in your thanklist on "Revel..." was NOCTURNAL BREED - what's going on with these dudes nowadays? I haven't heard about them for ages...

Who knows? I guess they are preparing some new releases or something. I haven't seen them perform for a while, but at least they played the X-mass party in Oslo last year. They have a new guitarist now.

-All that I managed to find about AUDIOPAIN in the Internet was several reviews and interviews... Is this supposed to mean that you prefer staying more Underground (for now)?

We prefer to be in charge of our own music, Underground or not. We focus on what we believe is important, and don't really care about what others expect from a band of today. We think it's best to just release good music and do good shows. Then the reputation can grow on that. Not that it's very important to us what others might think of us. The most common way for a new band to do things today is to start out by spreading big words about themselves on the internet, and then make a big fuss about their "great band" even before they have recorded a single tone or played one fucking gig. I have nothing against websites as for what it is, but when small non-established bands start out by making their flashy website before they even have a line-up, that's just stupid. A website demands info, useful info that is, and a host that have the time to update it now and then. We have neither the skill nor the time to do that. We don't actually have so much interesting news to add either, so therefore we don't need a website. Personally I prefer printed magazines to internet sites anyway.

-Will we see an AUDIOPAIN full-length CD soon? (say yes, say yes...)

Nope, nothing planned by now. I guess we'll record some more six-trackers, and maybe a 7 inch vinyl or two. But, we don't have this tight schedule, so I really don't know. Maybe one time in the future.

-You have plenty of concerts behind your backs already - what do stage appearances feel like for you with? Beers and adrenaline. It's always a kick to play live, and that's the one reason we do this in the first place, so it's also our main motivation factor. It's always cool to meet and talk to fans and friends.

Funny, when I learned about this Norwegian act like 5 years ago its name left me with the impression that these dudes were supposed to play either Noise Core or wackier Industrial stuff...

Nevertheless, what I heard with my own two ears from the "Revel In Desecration" demo CD last spring gave me the quite unambiguous clue that the AUDIOPAIN are in fact some of the most zealous and reliable spreaders of the 80's Thrash rage! When I contacted the fronter Sverre Daehli for a possible interview, he was busy with rehearsing with the band for their participation in Inferno 2003 and eventually proved to be a really cool guy for keeping his promise to answer my questions as soon as the festival ends! Apart from that, Sverre showed quite a fresh humour sense by responding to my requests for some AUDIOPAIN photos with an excruciating collage of 3 guys in their early 50's smiling against the background of the band logo! Ha-ha, I still got FIVE awesome concert pics ... mega thanks to Jan F of [www.beattheblizzard.com](http://www.beattheblizzard.com) for sending them to me! Okay, enough with the intros, read this interview and learn once and for all what terms like "underground" and "oldschool" are truly supposed to be about!!!

VANYA MARINOVA

-You also participated in this year's Inferno Festival in Oslo - how did the crowd accept you? I'm asking about fans from abroad basically...

Great responds! We did a 45-minute set, about 12 songs, and it went ok. The crowd was very good, and I heard from everyone that we had a good sound that day. So, thanx again to our soundman and "5th wheel" Bjorn. We love you!

-Which countries would you like to visit on tour in the future?

Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Syria, Lebanon and Burma. Or, if that's not going to happen, Europe. All of Europe that is. As long as there is people around, there will always be an oldschool Thrash fan around. True Thrashers never surrender to commercialism. It's in the blood!

-Your opinion about today's Metal Scene?

Crap. Like all genera Metal is filled to the brim with uninteresting bands and parasites to the Scene, I don't feel any bonds or commitments to the latex and make-up scene of today, and I don't feel that I have anything in common with the most of the newschool Metal acts. I have my connections to the oldschoolers, and as for that Oslo has a pretty good scene actually. I believe those into the 80's style have stayed the same for so long now, that it proves how stable and lasting it is. The new styles are way too trend-dependent. I don't listen to any of the new genera, and that is not a choice of principle, just taste. There really are no interesting new styles. Anyway, there's always a couple of retro bands, or old bands that never changed, so I am still into the Scene. Caution: that is as long as the retrospective bands don't just copy their heroes, and make nothing but 2nd grade versions of old classics. There are way too many bands out there just focusing on their own reputation within the Scene.

They have nothing new to offer, just playing what they know is "correct", so they'll have the chance to label themselves as oldschool and true and such. It seems like many of the newcomers are more interested in following their imaginary strict rules for oldschool Metal, and thereby gain a certain credit within their internet reality than to actually contribute with something original. I don't know if I shall laugh or cry when I see how the new oldschoolers behave. These young guys make their own set of rules for how they think an oldschool band should be, mostly image related, and follow these pathetic self-made laws blindly. Like if any true oldschool fan would care about if anyone wears a long sleeve or a girle instead of a T-shirt. And the stupid thing about releasing MCs only. Attention children: cassettes were the only medium to do trading with in the old days. It was not a question of choice, to be true Underground or whatever. You are all too young to even remember the times when MCs were in use. If you believe you are a true oldschool maniac because of such ridiculous behaviour, you are nothing but a poser! Fuck off for taking focus away from the only thing that matters: the actual music.

-Do you (sometimes) feel annoyed by the fact that Norway is being referred to Black Metal basically? If yes, now's the time to add some new names...

Well, not really. Norway has a tremendous Black Metal scene, and has made a huge impression on that scene

in total, so it's only natural. BUT, even though I rated myself as a Black Metal fan before, I don't anymore. I cannot be labeled as anything that also includes fans of DIMMU BORGIR and CRADLE OF FILTH. I only listen to old BM, and today it is almost only the older bands that release anything of interest. I'm talking about DARKTHRONE, MAYHEM, IMMORTAL, etc. Bands from the new wave, including the sympho-bullshit, are nothing but annoying to me. I see no reason to label bands like DIMMU to the same genera as for example DARKTHRONE. Black Metal is ugly and raw, DIMMU is polished and melodic sing-along Metal. These newest "contributions" to the Scene are merely money machines made to milk out every drop of attention to the Scene, and make money based on others' hard work, quality and originality. They are raping the true intentions of these very genera, and have blurred the focus into a huge scene with a parodic trademark. The true essence of Black Metal has been neglected in favour of money. Hate! Great unsigned / underdog bands in my opinion are FURZE, LAMENTED SOULS (old timers re-fueled), NATTERFROST (the C. FOREST mainman) and AMOK. There are also some runner-ups like VESEN, HELLISH ORKESTRA and DEAD TROOPER, and some more established bands such as 1349.

-As I mentioned Norway... Time ago I was told that pubs out there close at 11pm - is this true?!! Also, where would you recommend me (not) to go in case I happen to visit your country one day? I know about Elm Street already...

No, it's not true. The pubs close at 3.30am. In Oslo there are also some places named Rock-In, Gamla, Last Train and Nylon that deal with Metal and Hard Rock. In Bergen there's a place called Garage that has sort of the same aura as Oslo's Elm Street.

-Have you ever felt so down that leaving AUDIOPAIN even could have been quite an acceptable idea for you?

No, on the contrary, AUDIOPAIN is one of the few things I must do. Playing in the band is both an escape from the boring reality and an aggression release. My way to use all my creativity. Therapy for the untreatable!

-What is capable of flipping you out?

Norwegian politicians. I am mostly fed up with all our stupid laws. Norway is the world's biggest kindergarten, where we have no free will about whatsoever.

-Which people do you regard as more dangerous - fools or lunatics?

Fools. Lunatics can on occasion make great art, so at least they have something to contribute with.

-What are you sick of lately?

Posers. People that change like chameleons to fit into a new setting. Young nerds that have a history of everything but true Metal, now turning around to point their fingers at newcomers and acting like they have been in the game for a long time. New bands that have nothing but image to lean on. The shallow scene of today's Metal in general. Trends. Hail all bands that rehearse, record, play gigs and communicate by their music in itself. You will win eventually! Fuck!

Band contact:

Sverre Daehli, Huldrevingen 59,  
1388-Bergen, Norway  
Email: [audiopain@hotmail.com](mailto:audiopain@hotmail.com)

**Xarfax: Man is capable to commit terrible, horrible and illogical acts mainly due to lack of imagination, narrowmindedness and shortsightedness.**



# MIND ECLIPSE

Definitely it's not easy to be involved with a Black Metal band nowadays, without being compared to any of Scandinavia's acts from the 90's first half basically... Russia's MIND ECLIPSE is not different at this point, but still „Chronicles of Chaos“ was like a whiff of fresh air for me both at musical and lyrical point! Like I mentioned in my review for the CD already, I am really sorry that the guys couldn't come to Bulgaria on April 30, 2003 - the way the bassist Xarfax and the guitarist Master M answered my questions left me with the impression that we could have had a great talk but anyway, the milk was spilled and crying won't bring it back so...

VANYA MARINOVA

-At first, congratulations about your stunning CD! Bands like yours keep me still optimistic about the Black Metal future... You're obviously well experienced musicians, so I suppose you've played in other bands before forming MIND ECLIPSE?

Xarfax: Thanks, it's nice to hear. Actually prior to founding ME, none of us was really into Metal and consequently were not involved with any projects. Only our drummer Battlefield has studied percussions at music school since he was 7, taking up drums shortly before joining our band. The exception is our current vocalist Velingor who began his music endeavour as a bassplayer in the early 90's with the legendary group SCALD, which later ceased its existence and changed its name to TUMULUS.

-I am very sorry that you didn't come to Bulgaria on April 30 - what happened actually?

Xarfax: What happened was that the people who were entrusted with the responsibility of organizing this trip failed to follow through. In half an year of preparation they did not find out the situation with visas, their fees, nor the transportation costs. On top of this, a couple of days before our departure we were informed that there were enough money to cover the fare of only one band... and that band was not us. Later on, right before the departure it became apparent that their information as to the ticket fare had been incorrect and the available funds would have been enough for both bands. Though we decided not to reconsider. We see our only fault in entrusting this task to those people, next time we will do everything ourselves.

-As I could notice from your webpage, you have plenty of concerts behind your backs yet... What do you remember your very first stage appearance with?

Xarfax: Yes, we play shows regularly - at least once every two months. I hope that in the future there will be more of them. I remember well our first stage appearance. Of course, there were stage jitters. However, the audience received us very well - they were going crazy the whole set. My memories of that night are truly fond. It's possible that this somewhat influenced our drive to continue playing, playing better and more professionally with every show.

-The „Chaos Chronicles“ production is just excellent! Was it hard to find a decent studio where to record your material at? By the way, what's the situation in Russia about studios?

Xarfax: We were looking for a studio for about a year, we even recorded sample tracks at different locations. As a result, the instruments were recorded at one of the better quality studios in Yaroslavl. Then the material was sent for mastering to Arkady Navahar at Navaho Hut Rec in Moscow (he is also a guitarist in a band named THRON). He is the one who should be credited with such sound quality - Arkady is a true professional and, most importantly, he understands the idea of Metal and knows how this music should

sound. Good studios in Russia are few (and in between). They're mainly located in large cities - Moscow, St. Petersburg. Though I doubt that they can complete with the established recording outfits of the world. An additional aspect is the „Metal illiteracy“ of the sound technicians as to recording and mastering of Metal and other unorthodox styles of music. You could spend a lot of money and still end up with a result that is far below your expectations. Also, we don't have an established pricing system and studios sometimes ask ridiculous prices, often completely out of balance with their abilities. But you usually don't have much choice.

-Since I mentioned your country's name... I happened to catch the 80's last train so I remember that metalheads in ex-socialist countries were treated like criminals almost. Do you have memories referred to that period of time and how do you view Russia's current attitude toward Metal as?

Xarfax: Good ol' times. In the 70's - 80's you could be thrown in jail for having long hair or the cops would forcefully shave your head. It was forbidden to stand out of the crowd. Long hair was your sign to your fondness of Rock music and consequently to capitalism as well. There were lots of stupid and strange things in socialist ideology... Luckily, I virtually bypassed this period. Now the situation is much better. No one is against your musical aspirations. But not much help is to be found either - everything is hinged on pure enthusiasm. Though to get beaten up by street thugs because of your appearance is just as easy today. Crime is flourishing in Russia - it's best not to venture out alone at night.

-I have been pondering over Metal music alot ... what it has been attracting people with, etc... What did you find here yourselves, and which were the very first names you came across?

Master M: To me Metal is a natural expressing of my feelings and emotions, and I'd be hard pressed to imagine my life without Metal music. It is an integral part of my existence and I can't even think what I could have kept myself busy with if I hadn't taken up this „dark“ hobby. My initiation was „The Master of Puppets“ of METALLICA, and this was an eye-opener. „Dang! That's what real music is like“, I thought to myself. Then I discovered SLAYER, MEGADETH, SEPULTURA... and the whole thing just started to roll.

-How about the bands that urged you to start making music on your turn?

Master M: A bit later I started to follow the art of Scandinavian Black Metal groups like EMPEROR, IMMORTAL, SATYRICON, MAYHEM, DARK FUNERAL, which basically served as a catalyst to creating our own band.

-Did anything change ever since you devised MIND ECLIPSE?

Master M: I'm not sure exactly what you mean - if

you're asking about our music, then yes, it's undergoing constant changes. It's clearly evident if you compare our first and last albums. Or are you referring to my musical preferences? They are as well on a constant path of progress. Right now I like brutal and aggressive Death Metal bands such as MORBID ANGEL, VADER, NILE, HATE ETERNAL, IMMOLATION, MYRKSOG, ZYKLON.

-In the meantime some people here, after giving your CD a listen, compared you to ZYKLON, EMPEROR and IMMORTAL. Has the same happened in Russia as well and, in case it has, what have your responses been like?

Master M: Indeed, in Russia we were quite frequently compared to IMMORTAL, less often to EMPEROR circa '99-'00. What's interesting is that in our first work, which differs quite radically from the „Chaos Chronicles“, similarities were found with the same IMMORTAL and EMPEROR, though of their earlier work. So this interconnection is quite easy to follow. We haven't been compared to ZYKLON yet, because this band is practically unknown in Russia to an average listener, though I have heard their debut „World of Worms“ - really excellent work.

-As I touched on this about ZYKLON, EMPEROR and IMMORTAL: how do you find Norway's extreme scene nowadays? Which bands have you been enjoying most lately?

Master M: The Norwegian scene is stronger than ever. The bands like ZYKLON, MYRKSOG and MAYHEM breathed new life into Black Metal by crossing it with other extreme genres like Death and Industrial. Unfortunately, EMPEROR broke up 2 years ago (and IMMORTAL too, just tomorrow), but I think it was a natural step in their evolution - the musicians went to follow their own paths. The latest works of DIMMU BORGIR, IMMORTAL, SATYRICON and THE KOVENANT are really great as well.

-Is it easy to create truly original Black Metal in times when the World Scene is literally acrawl with bands referred to this very style?

Master M: Well, first of all, I wouldn't claim that ours is an absolutely original material, borrowing to some extent was unavoidable. The aforementioned comparisons to IMMORTAL and EMPEROR are the evidence of that. We're constantly in a search mode, seeking our own niche, our path of evolution. And anyway, I think that at this point the style of MIND ECLIPSE has just begun to take shape and a lot is still ahead of us. As to absolutely original material and style, I think that MAYHEM's „Grand Declaration of War“ would be a good example. That's where all the conventions and boundaries of styles and approaches to composition were broken.

-Have you been emailed by fans from abroad as yet?

Master M: Practically no, since our first album was distributed in Russia and the former USSR only, and the second one came out just recently and have not yet received much feedback in print.

-The lyrics on „Chaos Chronicles“ had a huge impact on me for their bitterness... Do you regard existentialism as the trend that mirrors the world we live in most successfully?

Xarfax: The author of the lyrics was our former vocalist Teufel Bloodhorn. At present we collaborate with him only in writing new texts - he will be the author of

the lyrics on our new album as well. I think I could agree with this notion - people should be responsible for their actions. Man is capable to commit terrible, horrible and illogical acts, mainly due to lack of imagination, narrowmindedness and shortsightedness. Also, the human memory erases quickly and man is capable to repeat his mistakes over and over. Luckily, there is a certain number of people in the world who keep the scale in balance - they understand the consequences of various acts and deeds.

-Do you believe that it is destiny that navigates us all entirely or do you think that we are free to choose which paths to follow?

Xarfax: I adhere to the second notion - we build our own destiny. At present you yourself determine what your future is to be, and your past prepares your present. All my past experiences forged me into who I am today. I have changed significantly over the last 5 years - the process is ongoing. I believe that one of the purposes of life is the constant battle of the self, the progress. It's a different matter that the majority of population simply lives in the beaten rut that was prepared for them by the parents and society. The same people wish not to express their individuality and are afraid to be perceived different than others. And so they live their limited lives, simply executing pre-programmed instructions dictated by society, as society is interested in faceless pawns, obedient screws of its machine. Very few find strength to break the chains and throw a challenge.

-Are you apt of accepting Oscar Wilde's dictum that religion is today's faith substitute?

Xarfax: People adhere to religious doctrines for they fear the imminent punishment for disobedience. It's a baseless fear, logically unsupported. Many need religion as a containing factor without which they lose certain ethical values, degrade morally for inability of self-control in an environment of unimpeded freedom. To some religion is a rod they grasp onto to steady themselves in this life, for they lack the strength to stand up on their own and life's travails have broken their will. I personally have no need for religion, I am capable of controlling my own actions and take responsibility for them.

-Could depression or anger be reliable inspiration sources?

Xarfax: I presume yes. The history has many examples where such emotions influenced many people in creating great pieces of art. I myself, when writing music, am usually guided by sudden gusts of inspiration - they're like some cosmic waves. The music is in your head, you just have to translate it into notes.

-Do you consider attractive cover artwork and luxury packaging as a guarantee for good CD sales or do you regard them as armour for incapacity pretty often?

Xarfax: I feel that the cover should complement the music on the disk. It gives a certain color, helps to uncover some emotions and ideas incorporated into the project, creates the right mood. Though it's not a secret that a bright and expressive cover can greatly increase sales in general buying population due to its attractive appearance. And not always a worthy cover contains a worthy content.

-I assume that deep inside you have been dreaming of the moment when you will not need to bust your asses to earn for a living as being involved with MIND ECLIPSE will be quite enough... What if the pleasure of playing in a band disappears, in case this happens???

Xarfax: I am not sure that such can happen, since extreme Metal cannot bring money enough to sustain yourself. If such things were to happen, then we would only be happier since we would have more time to spend on the band and the satisfaction with our playing would increase due to improved quality. If however some future event were to put an end to MIND ECLIPSE, I think I'd be able to find ways to express myself that would bring satisfaction, as well as money that to provide for a dignified old age, ha-ha-ha...

-The outfits you dream of touring with someday?

Master M: I dream to tour the States with MORBID ANGEL, HATE ETERNAL and NILE.

Website: <http://mindclipse.yaroslavl.ru>



# Wanna get your heads crashed??

I still remember when I heard the debut album of INGROWING for the first time, it immediately grabbed my attention and this band became one of my personal favourites coming from the huge Czech Underground scene. Several times I tried to get in touch with their previous label Shindy Productions to do an intie with the band, but I haven't got any response from the label. But, when INGROWING moved to Curby's Obscene Productions, I was sure that I would reach the band this time. So, here you have the pleasure to read the interview with Vlakin (bass), a very cool guy definitely...

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV



**-First of all, I really hope you'll enjoy this interview. How are the members of INGROWING doing right now? Is everything ok? It's cold in the Czech Republic at the moment??**

Hi! Big cheers to you and all supporters of the extreme music in Bulgaria. First of all, I'd like to say to you a big thanks for the support which you give us in your great magazine! Be sure, I'm gonna enjoy this intie really very much, because this is our first time of doing something to Bulgaria!!! Ok, let's go! The last gig, which we participated on, was on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December and since then, we've been having a rest after the long and busy year that passed. But we're gonna go on the stage again soon! Both in the Czech Republic and abroad. We also spend lots of time in our rehearsal room by putting together some new tracks. Otherwise, we're alright, just having common problems like everyone else. What concerns that cold, I must say only one thing... I can't wait to end this fucking cold up! I hate winter! It's the same every fucking year! At the moment, here's not so cold as it could be, I guess 12 degrees or so, but it should freeze again soon! I hate winter! -I guess you guys have a good source of inspiration to create Death / Grind Metal. It is enough to turn on your TV on CNN or other news channel - the war in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, it seems that death is everywhere, eh?!

We're right. TV channels are all the time full of news from various battlefields, everywhere people are dying and it doesn't seem to stop. Humans are helpless creatures and when they one day die out, it'll be only their fault. We're happy to live in a quite peaceful part of this world. On CNN there are bollocks 24 hours a day, exactly how NAILBOMB sings! But I don't think that this would have an effect on our music anyway. We play Grind Core, because we love it and not because we wanna ventilate some depressions from today's world. Of course, we're not happy about it, but it does have an effect neither on our music nor lyrics.

**-So, I think it would be good to tell how you started the band, what your first steps were like, peeks, line-up diffusions or everything that we must know about INGROWING. By the way, how did you come to this name?**

We formed in July '95. The line up was Vlakin ... bass / voice, Pouzar ... guitar, Milan ... guitar, and Zbina ... drums. We all had some experiences from the past. Zbina played in a brutal Death horde EXHUMACE and the rest of us came from PLASTIC GRAVE. At that time, this band was over and that was the main reason for INGROWING to be born. We wanted to play faster, more extremely and more technically. We wanted pure massacre! At that time, we were very influenced by the first BRUTAL TRUTH album „Extreme Conditions...”. Zbina was for us just the right man and during the first half of the year we made enough material to release our first „Perverted Look at the World” demo. It was out in '96 on tape and half a year later was released also on CD as a split with DEFLOTRACE. Meanwhile, we started to play live shows, for the time being only in our homeland. In December '96 Milan left us, because of personal reasons, and a year later we took on Eddie (ex-PATHOLOGY STENCH). Since then, our line up hasn't been changed and that makes us happy!!! We hope to be around in the same line up forever! During those years we've played more than 350 shows around the Czech Republic and abroad, we've toured Europe twice, released plenty of split EP's on tape and CD, appeared on many compilations and threw out 3 full-length CD's. I think we can look back with ease now. And what concerns our name INGROWING, it was thought of by my ex-girlfriend. We fell in love with that name immediately. Short, striking, easy to remember and also original, hopefully.

**-I'm fucking glad that you decided to work with Curby and Obscene because this guy is obsessed with the Underground and he did a lot for the Scene. I doubt there is a better label in the Czech Republic for the style that you play! Am I right???** Without doubts!!! The Czech UG has a good name in the world, and I guess Curby has a lion's share on that! He started somewhere in '91, making his own fanzine, later he found distro and eventually label Obscene Productions. From releasing tapes and vinyls he got to CD's, making gigs and to the

one of the best festivals in Europe. Nowadays there are more quality labels, but Obscene Prods is for me far the best one around and also abroad has the best credit of all. When we started as INGROWING, it was my dream to get under Obscene Prod. It happened only in the year 2000, when he chose us and I believe he's never regretted that! Our cooperation works really well.

**-Initially you have worked with Shindy Prods, right? My impression is that the organization in this label is very strange! Sometimes it takes months to get an answer from the guy who runs the label. Apologies such as „I was on tour with my band” do not sound to me very serious. But maybe the things are different, you should know this better, I suppose?**

Martin from Shindy Prod helped us in our beginnings a lot. Most of our splits came out under his label or thanks to his cooperation with other labels. He did for us a lot of good work, plenty of superb gigs and our first trip abroad (I don't count Slovakia) took place thanks to him too. He released our first CD „Cyberspace...”. Unfortunately, our split-up wasn't the best one. When we decided to accept the offer from Curby, he couldn't get over it and regarded it as treason. We saw that in a different way, it's normal to go for better, isn't it? Nowadays the situation among us is better, so we can at least talk to each other on a normal base. I can't pass judgment on his busyness, not even why his reply took so long. The fact is that Shindy Prods have got under their wings a few really good bands and Martin goes with them on tour sometimes. I don't know, if that was the real reason, that's why you had to wait for his reply. But I believe, whatever he wrote, had a reason to. I'm sure you can trust him. Shindy Prods are the next splendid label in the Czech Republic and, for example in organizing gigs, have no competition here.

**-I heard that the wife of Curby is very beautiful. Is that true? I was in Prague years ago and my impression was that there were a lot of originally beautiful women, but most of them were not that tall and looked like tiny barby dolls. What's more important though is that in Prague I saw a lot of smiling, kind women - something not that typical to Bulgaria's ones, unfortunately.**

You can find beautiful women everywhere in the world. As for the Czech Republic specially, that's what visitors who come to us say. But you should know that as a Bulgarian, he-he! Intelligence is sometimes not the strongest advantage, but that's not a problem only in the Czech Republic... Also here you can find women (barbies) without a piece of natural beauty, but fortunately there are not many of them. They're teenagers most of the time, who'll grow up of this eventually. Curby's girlfriend is really pretty, a bit Indian type. Well, Curby knows what to choose, ha-ha! But she especially is really cool and always supports Curby in bad and good times. It should be like that! Unfortunately, I've never met any girl from Bulgaria, but I think, that there also can be found many cool girls and also many of those beautiful, but brainless ones. It is the same everywhere. If I can recommend to you a country, go to Slovakia. There are probably the most amazing women in the world!

**-Lets go back to the music. Why did you name your last album „Sunrape”? What has the poor sun done to you, ha-ha-ha!?** It will live only 4-5 more billion years, after all.

The sun hasn't done anything to us, but we must spit our rage out on something, ha-ha-ha! Of course, it was a joke. The name „Sunrape”, is obviously related to our lyrics as it also fits to our cover, so the title is more or less logical. Just read our lyrics, you'll see. Otherwise, we have nothing against the sun, even though we're above all night creatures and some of us are already showing the first symptoms of vampirism! Ha-ha! -I'm looking in the CD booklet right now and what I'm finding intriguing is that every page features a circle reminding me of the solar cover. I guess it would be cool if you say some more about this? Also, I didn't see a more ordinary band photo???

Yeah, you're right. That symbol is actually some kind of a trademark of the whole album. There's again a relation to our lyrics, especially to our title song „Sunrise Will Come No More”! If you can't find in our booklet many photos, it's sim-

ply because we didn't have any at that time, except for those ones, which you can see, he-he! No, man! I'm joking, but we don't really make pictures of us a lot and then, when we need some, we don't have any! We'll have to probably work on it, he-he...

**-I found your lyrics rather strange, the typically gory and violent topics are missing but still your overall message seems to be quite pessimistic - I can almost see what the end of the world is going to be like. That's what I see at least, so you can tell me what is what maybe?**

The lyrics on „Sunrape”, are really specific and full of allegory. They're made by Chymus from ISACAARUM, who does them for us since we formed. He writes for us most of our lyrics and we're really happy with his work. On each album

there is one specific topic, going through all songs like a string. It's never been any kind of a concept or so, but thoughts in lyrics of each album were somehow related together. „Cyberspace”, was about computer madness, „Suicide Binary Reflections”, was about suicides of brainless individuals and „Sunrape”, is about something else again. Basically, you've understood right, it's just quite difficult to explain it. Our lyrics are too abstract. The best is to read them and to make your own point of view. I'm really proud of our lyrics, even though it wasn't me who's done them. We're not really interested in those typical topics, even if I don't criticize them either. But why to sing about politics, when there's another thousand bands who do the same and better? We're more than satisfied with Chymus!

**-Where did you record your albums??**

Since the time of „Cyberspace”, we're faithful to Hostivar studio in Prague. It's a really good studio yet affordable, and we feel comfortable there. People who work in that studio are real professionals and I think it's noticeable. Especially Zdenek, the owner of the studio, has really lots of experiences. Mind you, in this studio recorded for example the cult MASTER'S HAMMER at the beginning of the nineties! In the past or nowadays, plenty of other Czech bands have recorded their stuff there, like for example FLESHLESS, CONTRASTIC, AHUMADO GRANUJO, ISACAARUM, LYKATHEA AFLAME, ALIENATION MENTAL... Still, before the recordings we thought of changing the studio in the future, but now we're with our final sound so much satisfied, that we'll probably think about it no more. But... we'd like to try Soundlab in Sweden, which owner is Mieszko of NASUM, we just don't know if our label will give us so much money for that, ha-ha...

**-Which of your releases so far are still available and where can fans purchase them from? Demos, vinyls, split CDs, etc. If I'm not mistaken, still are available are: INGROWING / CONTRASTIC and INGROWING / ISACAARUM ... split MGS, INGROWING / DEFLOTRACE ... split CD, all our 3 full-length CD's and both tribute compilations, which we participated in: „A Tribute to MASTER'S HAMMER” and „Wizard of Gore - A Tribute to IMPETIGO”. Those who interested in anything can send their emails to: curby@obsce.net (our current label), to shindy@telecom.cz (our former label) or directly to me on training@centrum.cz. Write us!!!**

**-I've just noticed that most of your lyrics are invented by Chymus. Isn't he the same guy who plays in ISACAARUM?? I had the chance to do an interview with him time ago, by the way - really cool guy.**

Of course, that's him!!! As I've already mentioned above, we work together since our beginning and he's the author of 99% of our lyrics. I also tried it once, but the result wasn't very impressive, ha-ha. Even none of the other guys from the band feel like becoming our lyric writer and that's why his help came to us more than in handy! Chymus is a fabulous writer and really cool guy! On the other side, I'm more than glad that I could revenge myself to him some time ago, by playing 4 years in his band on bass. Importunately, I had to leave ISACAARUM because of not having enough time.

**-What is your fav Czech band? Mine are so much that I will hardly be able to mention a concrete name. I've been enjoying AHUMADO GRANUJO a lot lately... What about YOU??**

I like many Czech bands, but if you wanna hear only one name, it'll be AHUMADO GRANUJO, which you've also mentioned. These guys play something extra and I must say that on the scene they are still more and more popular. They're also great guys and really good friends of ours. Last year we played together more than 10 gigs and I will never forget the afterparties, he-he. Recently they released their second album „Chemical Holocaust”, under the Khaaranus Prods. Great work, I really recommend it warmly to all fans of the most brutal and extreme music!!! Their bassist had to drop away just before the recordings date and the guys came to me, asking if I could play them on bass in the studio. It was a real honour for me!!!

**-The 5 most disappointing albums for 2003, in your opinion? What do you think about the last album of SLAYER???**

I can't say that something would really disappoint me. But I

was expecting more from NASUM and MACABRE. NASUM put their bar by their last album...HUMAN 2.0., too high and according to my opinion, they didn't manage by their new album to overcome it. „Helvete”, is a great album, but not excellent!!! MACABRE have an excellent sound on „Murder Metal...”, but I'd say they start to repeat themselves a bit. But that's just a question of an opinion. Maybe I'm too critical. It's because both bands belong to my absolute favourites and I always expect from them something extra! On the other hand, I shifted into my pants from the new EXHUMED „Anatomy Is Destiny”, album, or from MISERY INDEX and their „Retaliat...”. From the Czech bands it was especially CEREBRAL TURBULENCY's „Germ Of Error...”. The last SLAYER album is great! Tom Araya shouts as never before! SLAYER is a band

No.1 for me and „God Hates Us All”, compensated my disappointment of „Diabolus In Musica...”. I'm REALLY all ears for their new album with Dave Lombardo! I saw them a year and a half ago and it was unbelievable!!!

**-It seems that most of the Czech bands are very active with their live appearances. I'm sure you guys have toured a lot in Europe. Could you say where did you play and how the fans accept INGROWING?**

It's impossible to write here how many gigs we've played abroad, because there was around a hundred of them! We've played in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Slovakia. Above all, we sailed through 2 European tours, in 2001 together with EXHUMED and ISACAARUM and in 2003 with PHOBBIA. But nowadays there is nothing special in going on European tour, especially if you have a good label to support you. Anyway, gigs abroad are always a good experience for us and we try to enjoy them as much as we can. The most we love is playing in Germany, France, Switzerland, in Slovakia. We haven't played in Bulgaria yet, but we'd like to go there one day and see what it is all about! Our mates from DEFLOTRACE have already played there and were really high on that! Fantastic gigs and plenty of fans, hungry to hear extreme music! We hope to play in Bulgaria one day!!!

**-Your opinion about the war in Iraq??**

It's all only dirt, a high political game and also big business. There are no doubts, that Saddam is an oppressive bastard, but Mr. Bush is not an angel either. I guess he was only looking for an excuse to invade Iraq. It's good that Saddam is defeated and people in Iraq will have hopefully better life now, that's for sure. The worse thing is that so many soldiers and civilians died. And still are dying. But Mr. Nice from the White House pretends like nothing has happened. He showed to the whole world once again that USA keeps an eye on the world peace, the armament industry filled up their pockets and everyone is happy. Those few dead are worth it... I'm sick of it.

**-Your plans for 2004?**

We'd like to realize a split 7,EP with EXHUMED, which we've been planning since 2002. Our side is already been recorded for a long time, we've been just waiting for them. But Matt promised us to move things a bit forward, so we'll see. What's in their credit is that it all should be previously unreleased tracks, recorded specially for this split. It'll be out on Obscene Prod. Another of our plans includes 3-way split CD with BIRD-FLESH and LENG TCH'E by Deepseed Records and a 7,split EP with our good mates DISFIGURED CORPSE by Hynenz Records. We've got a bit of a new material ready and we'd like to go to studio before summer. All songs are gonna be either brand new or previously unreleased ones. Of course, we'd like to play live a lot and we'd be more than happy to see our US tour with PHOBBIA realized. Keep your fingers crossed!

**-I hear say that you have CDs of Michael Jackson and Britney Spears in your collection? Joshu you, ha-ha-ha!**

I really don't know who told you such a lie! I've got neither Jackson nor Britney. I've got only a vinyl of Iveta Bartošová, who's a famous Czech singer, who you might even know. During the previous regime our countries cooperated a lot, didn't they? Ha-ha! But I'll tell you a secret: Curby has got in his collection Ace of Base! Ha-ha-ha!

**-OK, that's all for now. What would you say to the numerous extreme fans that will read this interview?**

First of all, big cheers to you for this great interview!!! We really appreciate your support and we believe that this intie will help us to put us nearer to all Bulgarian Grind fans. I'd also say big thanks to Chessgrinder (a member of another great Czech Grind Core band QNANIZER), for his help with the translation of this intie. The last message is for all those fans, who've read up these lines: If you wanna get your heads crashed into small pieces and you can't get anything else, try our music, especially the still actual CD „Sunrape...”. Satisfaction is guaranteed!!! Take care! GRIND IT ALL!!!



## We walk alone through the portals of time

Probably the name of SERPENS AEON will be unknown to most of you, but still don't think that this is another teen Death / Black group. SERPENS AEON's members are known for their works in other bands, and their maturity and experiences are obvious. Just listen to their latest album „Dawn Of Kouatl“ and you will be convinced to the aforementioned words. Anyways, let's raise the curtain a bit and see what stands behind the name of SERPENS AEON and hear about their philosophy, ideas, influences, moods, etc...

STEFAN STEFANOV

**-At first, would you introduce your band to the Brutalica readers please?**

We are Matt - drums, Erick - guitars, Luis- bass and vocals, Brian- guitars. We have a new album out on Moribund Records called „Dawn Of Kouatl“ and have been together as a band for about four years now.

**-Do you use any stimulants (like alcohol, marijuana, etc?) to get inspiration or simply to have more fun in your spare time?**

No, inspiration comes out from our own hearts there is no need for us to use any kind of stimulants. Some times in our spare time we drink a little only as recreation.

**-Tell us something more about your past and present as well as what do you expect from the future...**

Our past has been good, we played great shows with some really good bands. In general it has been good, I think we got a lot of experience last few years. Right now we are writing new material for our upcoming album; although we would like to do more touring and playing more festivals. We are also hoping to tour Mexico and Canada this year.

**-Do you think that the human race will destroy itself someday?**

Most definitely, as the way we are going I don't

think it would be to long... Every day there are more conflicts, more wars, etc. So I wouldn't be surprised if the end comes soon.

**-Have you got any hobbies?**

Yeah, most of us ride motorcycles and that is very relaxing and funny hobby... Also, Luis is an artist so he spends a lot of time improving his artistic skills.

**-Is it in the works, the SERPENS AEON new album?**

Yes, we are writing new songs for a new album. We will also be recording some new tracks in March and we will release it somehow, but we are not sure what we will do with it yet.

**-Could you give us a short description of your favourite myth or legend? If you have such, of course...**

We don't really believe in too many legends. But sometimes it's interesting to read or hear the stories that people have carried on for generation to generation.

**-Are you fond of tattoos and body piercing?** Luis is a professional tattoo artist, so all of us have tattoos. It is a really good form of art.

**-Do you know any Bulgarian bands?**

I don't have any Bulgarian Metal. Why don't you send us some good shit?

**-Have you heard about KULTURE SHOCK or THE**

**FIFTH SUN?**

THE FIFTH SUN is good, I think their recording sounds killer - of course they did it in Sweden.

**-Is there any story behind the „Dawn Of Kouatl“ title and what does Kouatl mean exactly?**

Well, there is in a way for us, it took a little time to get the album together and we also went through some line up changes, so in a way it marks our own dawn. Kouatl means serpent in Nahuatl, which is the ancient Aztec tongue.

**-What does the cover symbolize?**

The album cover is by a good friend of ours named Gabriel Byrne, you can check out some of his work at <http://gabrielbyrne.sevcom.com>. We chose the painting to use because of the images, and the whole concept of it fits the record very well.

**-Do you like the „Lord of the Rings“ trilogy?**

Yeah, it was a great move trilogy, good photography.

**-What is the situation in Seattle? I'm talking about the Metal Scene out there, Are there any fresh bands that are worth checking out?**

Yeah, the Metal scene is getting strong here, HIMSA, DRAWN AND QUARTERED, HELL PROMISE, IN MEMORIUM, to mention some...

**-Are you a Supersonics fan?**

Super who? No, not really into sports that much.

**-Do you believe in the existence of UFOs or do you think that's a mass fiction?**

Fiction, I guess it really depends on what mind level you are on. For sure I don't think we are the only one living creatures in the universe.

**-Do you play live frequently?**

Yeah we try, but at this point we are focusing more on writing new material rather than playing shows. We will be playing the Seattle Death Metal Fest at the end of March.

**-Do you think „Aztec Death Metal“ would suit your music as a definition?**

No, not really, the way we approach the Aztec themes is in a very different way. Erick and Luis are from Mexico City, so the Aztec culture is their heritage. As far as the lyrics go, they are not about Aztec mythology whatsoever, they are more about how we approach our present and how we deal with our past and future.

**-The cover version of GRAVE's „Extremely Rotten Flesh“ is really cool! You must be great fans of that Swedish band, eh?**

We have been fans of GRAVE since their beginning, plus we are friends with them. We decided that it would be a good idea to honor those roots by recording „Extremely Rotten Flesh“.

**-Some words to our readers as an ending?**

First of all, we would like to thank you for taking the time, and showing interest in SERPENS AEON. We walk alone through the portals of time, waiting for the cosmic jaws to open... Thanks Stefan.

Enter the realm of Serpens...

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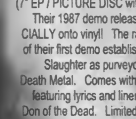
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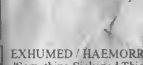
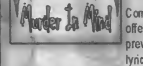
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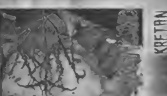
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# CARNAL FORGE



## New Wave Of Swedish Xtreme METAL

If you're a Metal fan, you've certainly heard about the Bay Area, or the NWOBHM. From time to time, we have those kinds of phenomena. But to build that and to arrive at this level, there are a lot of things to do and to be done. CARNAL FORGE has been a part of a big movement of this kind coming from Scandinavia. Along with bands like SOILWORK and IN FLAMES among others, Jari Kuusisto and his companions are leaving the word open-mouthed with every release coming from the New Wave Of Swedish Xtreme METAL (NWOSXM). A distinct and unique style that moves not only the country of origin, but also the other continents around the world. Twin guitars, brutal vocals, melodic Death / Thrash, very heavy riffs, intense bass lines and drum playing. Aggressiveness above all. The combination of those characteristics have been surprising and pleasing fans of various styles. Check out what Kuusisto had to say to us about the tours of the band, the problems with their old label, and all the matters we just introduced.

THIAGO PINTO CORREA SARKIS

### -How are being the responses for CARNAL FORGE's latest album, „The More You Suffer“?

So far the response has been amazing. We have got better and better response for each album. I think that is also what we want. I mean that if we get better response it's not only us that think that we are getting better. The funniest thing is that people nowadays talk about CF as a band and not of the band that sounds like THE HAUNTED or SLAYER.

-Most of the media is saying that you did overcome yourselves with this new release. You seem to have worked very intense in the riffs variations, that are very dynamic and still strong riffs, and also more solos. How was this work with this focus on more dynamic riffs / solos, twin guitars, etc?

We have defiantly not overcome ourselves. If we had done that there wouldn't be any reason to go on with CARNAL FORGE. I don't know if we worked any harder than before on getting the riffs more dynamic, I guess that we got a little bit more mature. We don't plan that next album is going to sound in a certain way. It has to come naturally for us, it's no meaning in forcing your self on doing a new cool song. Also one more thing is that Jonas' vocals have got so much better than before and that makes CARNAL FORGE sound more dynamic than before.

-How is usually the composition process in CARNAL FORGE? Do you all get together to compose or the compositions come mainly from a member?

We work as many other bands nowadays, everyone is doing songs at home and when we feel that we have something good, we present it to each other. After everyone has told his opinion, we do the changes together and under that process everyone learns how to play the song. I think that this is a smart way to work, why? It's hard to keep focus on the song at the rehearsal, because it's hard to just listen to the song when you play, too many elements at the same time.

Learn the song, play the song and finally play the song without thinking where to place your fingers or where to hit the drums. A song can also be really fun to play, but sounds like shit on an album! That's the main reason for CARNAL FORGE working this way.

-By the way, let's talk about the lyrics. How does CARNAL FORGE deal with them? Are they important to the band in the same level as the instrumental?

Of course the lyrics are important for us. We want the lyrics to be as violent as the music. I mean that music and the lyrics should always walk hand in hand that makes the sound even more aggressive and brutal. A CARNAL FORGE lyrics quick analysis: hard, angry, brutal, violent, sick, twisted, pure fucking hate!!!

-How would you compare „Please...Die!“ and „The More You Suffer“?

Everything is better on „The More You Suffer“! Sorry! But I think that the main difference is in the sound on the album. The sound is way better because now you can hear everything that is going on the album. The sound is much clearer and more brutal. On „Please...Die!“ we focused a lot on getting a really brutal and heavy sound and I think that the sound got too chaotic, and that makes it hard for the listener on hearing what is going on.

-Do you think that both of the albums („Please...Die!“ and „The More You Suffer“) are your best releases to date?

Yes. To explain why, I guess that I have to tell something about the other 2 albums. „Firedemon“ was written in a period when nothing was happening with the band. I think that made us a little bit frustrated. The songs on „Firedemon“ are good songs, but there are too many songs that are similar to each other on that album, and that makes the album really hard to listen to. Maybe we were too angry at everything, when we wrote those songs. „Who's Gonna Burn“ was written in just 3 months so

there are a lot of things on that album that could have been done differently. But in the same time I think that it's much better than the „Firedemon“ album. Maybe it's just because of how spontaneously we wrote that album makes it so good.

-I thought that the join of Lars Linden in the band was such a successful thing and worked out very well. It appears to have changed and helped a lot in the development of the band. Do you agree with this? How has this work being with Lars as a regular member of the band?

I think that it worked out the way that we wanted. Lars is a great person and of course he had a lot of new ideas when he joined the band. I still think that the biggest difference in the CARNAL FORGE sound came out of Petri by switching from bass to guitar. Or maybe I would like to say that those two changes made CARNAL FORGE stronger than ever. I think that Lars is a really good bass player because he doesn't just play, he wants to learn every riff as it is on guitar, so he can make the bass sound as good as possible on each and ever riff. Many bassists that I have worked with before just made it as simple as humanly possible.

-Is he still working on the website, artwork, and other things? He seems to have also a vast knowledge about production and engineering...

Yes. Lars works too much if you ask me. He is involved in everything that has to do with CARNAL FORGE. He works in Studio Underground where we have recorded all our albums, so the recording of a new album with CARNAL FORGE means that Lars both has to be in the band as well recording it. This is what he likes to do and for the rest of us it's super to have someone in the band doing all these things for us. He even answers some interviews sometimes when I can't. I would say that Lars is a workaholic but only when he can do things that he enjoys. -Talking about artwork, this last album has a very aggressive image on the front cover. But in

fact it's not even close to what some Death / Black / Hard Core bands put in their covers. I think that sometimes this use of the images become very strong and at the end of the day it turns off the sound itself and brings also some fans that aren't listening to the music itself. Do you think that this happens in some way with CARNAL FORGE?

No I don't think so. We do what we feel is right for us. Common! A violent band as CARNAL FORGE has to have covers like this. CARNAL FORGE is a package of violent music, violent lyrics and of course violent coverart. I wouldn't dream of doing it differently. The cover that you talk about is often painted and just fiction, so that takes the edge of the cover. CARNAL FORGE has heard so many times that we can't use our covers just because they are too violent. I don't think that we are more violent than a Black Metal band that has corpses and stuff on their cover. But then again we don't use painted covers, our covers is actual pictures that we arrange our selves. The „Please...Die!“ album was hell for us. The distributors refused to even touch the album with the cover art that we wanted. So in the end we had to make a compromise and have a picture that we weren't totally satisfied with.

-And still in this question about image / sound: what do you think about MTV?

MTV? Sucks stronger than ever!!!

-In this latest album you were called by your own label „New wave of Thrash Metal“? Do you really think that this is how we can describe CARNAL FORGE?

That is only sales speech. CARNAL FORGE is Metal. I would describe CARNAL FORGE as a rabid pitbull that comes at you 300 km/h and you better run.

-How are the responses for CARNAL FORGE? You're going to a 20 days tour with EXODUS, NUCLEAR ASSAULT, etc, right?

Well, the EXODUS tour was cancelled because of different reasons. We always get great response from our fans. I think that CARNAL FORGE is a band that really gets the adrenalin pumping when we play live. First time in Milan, Italy was really great. About 500 kids showed up and went berserk when we played. I guess that you have to see it for yourself to understand.

-In the first months of this year you had some shows with HALFORD. How was that for you?

Everything was great until the tour got cancelled. Everything seemed to work out as planned. It showed up a lot of fans for each and every show and everybody was having a good time. I would say that TESTAMENT is the band that always has made an impression on me and this time wasn't any different. AMON AMARTH turned out to be great guys and also a really cool live band. It's too hard to say so much more, because we only did seven shows and returned back home not understanding anything. I would still like to say that we haven't got any good explanation on why the tour was cancelled.

-Now Rob Halford is back in JUDAS PRIEST. In the time touring with him, did you feel anything different, was there already this conversation about Halford's coming back to JUDAS PRIEST? I don't have much to say. I think that Rob was always better in JUDAS PRIEST. That doesn't mean that his solo albums were bad, but only that I think that it is way much more fun to watch a band than just focusing on one person. -One thing that really impresses me is the growing of the Swedish scene, especially about melodic Death Metal and Thrash. How do you

think this became so big and how do you see this growing of the scene?

Sweden will conquer the world. No, just kidding. I think that Sweden always has had great bands and I don't see it differently today. If you ask me, my favourite band come from US, so I guess it's different when you live in Sweden. I think that the scene here will grow much stronger and bigger than it already is. One reason for this is that it is so easy here to get somewhere to rehearse and also to get help from the community to borrow instruments. That means that you can start playing music when you are really young. And the longer you play the better you get.

-Do you think that the Swedish movement is going to reach or has already reached the same status and force of the Bay Area 80's movement? Would it be the „Bay Area of the 21st Century“?

I don't think that we are too far away from that, but we still need a couple of years to establish the scene. Of course we have bands like CARNAL FORGE, THE HAUNTED, SOILWORK and IN FLAMES, but there are still some bands on their way up.

-Still on this topic... CARNAL FORGE has been compared to other bands from Sweden like SOILWORK, THE HAUNTED... Does this bother you? How do you deal with these comparisons and what do you think about those bands?

It doesn't bother me at all. I don't give a shit about what some people think. All these bands play Metal, so of course you always can find something that could sound a bit the same. One thing that always has made me confused is that CARNAL FORGE has released all four albums at the same time as THE HAUNTED, so how can we

sound like THE HAUNTED? I just would like to say to listen to music for what it is and don't waste energy in finding parts that reminds you of some other band. The biggest difference between all these bands is that CARNAL FORGE is one band, THE HAUNTED is another band and so on.

-I'm talking about the Swedish scene and Sweden, but in fact you were born in Finland. Are you kind of the black sheep of CARNAL FORGE? (laughs)

I was born in Finland and I moved here with my parents when I was 3 years old, so I guess that I am pretty Swedish. Petri is my brother and that makes him also Finnish, same parents. The drummer Stefan is half Finnish, as his mother is from Finland. So I guess that a 60% of CARNAL FORGE has something to do with Finland, maybe that is the reason for being such a great band. (laughs)

-You told a lot of times about some problems you had with your old label... but you were never very clear about this. What really happened?

Total ripoff. They didn't do anything. No promotion, no sales statement and so on. I guess that you can say that we got fucked.

-You work together with your brother Petri in CARNAL FORGE. How is your relationship with him?

I think that he is one of the best guitarists around and he is also a great friend. Working with my brother has only been inspiring and fun, and I hope that we will work together for many years to come.

-That's it Jari. Thanks a lot. You can conclude the interview...

Thank you and watch out for CARNAL FORGE because we are here to stay!



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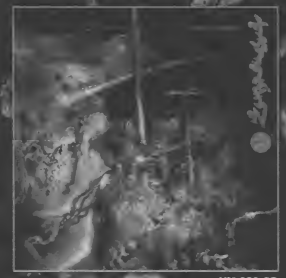
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**Jon:**  
**Our music portrays a dark image of harmful, damaging, negative feeling**

I guess the name of DETRIMENTUM does hardly ring a bell for many of you and this is quite understandable, when you take into account that the discography of this band from the UK features solely a demo recording that was later re-released as a MCD. Nevertheless, what this magazine is basically about is introducing our readers to young acts that we intuitively picked up as most promising (and so far our choices have turned out to be wrong quite seldom). So, something tells me that we came across another band like this! Anyways, I hope that this interview will throw some more light upon the DETRIMENTUM essence, so read what the drummer Jon (who also plays in the well known GOREROTTED) and myself chatted about...

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

-Wow, the record „A Monument To The Suffering“ that you sent me is fucking heavy and brutal. But don't you think it is a little chaotic?

He!!l! Yes, it is fucking heavy and brutal, that's our aim! As well as incorporating a bit of melody and some slower parts to break it up a little and let you breathe for a second! I'd agree it is chaotic also, that's due a lot to the vocals, I think, as Eddie seems to go mad and multi layer his vocals and do about 3 different styles of vocals all at once! I like it!! It's boring when you get one-dimensional vocalists just randomly grunting!! Next time we'll have a better production, so it's a little less chaotic for you muthafucka!

-I already hate such questions but a lot of people don't know much about DETRIMENTUM, so you should tell them all when / how you started the band, etc.

Well... the band has actually been on the go for about 7 years and used to be called ZARATHUSTRA! But, as you may know, there are 2 other bands with this name already, I think, so we changed it! And for the better, if you ask me! I joined the band... m-m-m... about 4 years ago, I think, if my alcohol ravaged brain serves me right!! I was originally just helping the guys out, as they were mates and lost their drummer, but it worked so well that I decided to stay with the fuckers! I think a band history would be boring, but if anyone's interested they can check our biography on our website [www.detrimentum.co.uk](http://www.detrimentum.co.uk)

-Is there any connection between DETRIMENTUM and GOREROTTED? It feels like members of the one band play in the other as well.

Yes! Me!! I am also known as Junky Jon of the scumbag drunken band GOREROTTED! That is the only connection! Alright there, fellas!? Swilling them down?? Skin up Robin Pants! Oh yea, and Fluffy's got crap hair! But at least Wilson and Goreskin have got nice shoes!

-By the way, how is the new album of GOREROTTED? The Metal Blade team didn't want to send us a promo CD. Perhaps they view us as second hand people? Ha-ha...

You are second hand people, aren't you? You'd sell our CD on E-bay for about 100 euros! And bootleg it, you bastards!!! Apart from people like you spoiling it for everyone, the album is going very well thanks! Anyway, this is supposed to be a DETRIMENTUM interview!

-The people who will have bought this issue of Brutalica will have certainly heard your

„Scalestomeasurethemisfortuneofman“ track too. Why is the name so long, is there any particular idea / message or have you decided to do anything about being joined in the Guinness book as a band with a longest song title?

We made the song title long and joined together to piss people off! Most Metalers don't have 2 brain cells to string together so we knew it'd give most people a nervous breakdown trying to read what it fucking says! Oh yeah, and we wanted to be in the Guinness book of records too! I'm sure there is a strong message behind this song, but you'll have to ask Eddie (our vocalist), as he doesn't seem to want to share his darkened ideas and lyrical concepts with the rest of the band! Most of our stuff is very misanthropic and negative towards our own kind! But I'm sure most people feel this way nowadays, all you have to do is watch the news or read a paper to see how horrendous a species we are! DESTRUCTION!!!

-Have you got new songs other than the 6 ones on „A Monument To The Suffering“ and which is the studio you usually record at? We all know that England teems with good studios but there are not so much bands in England playing your kind of Metal...

Yes, we have full albums worth of new songs waiting to be recorded! We just need a nice rich label to give us a load of cash, beer and weed so we can get it done! We have 9 songs, which kick ass waiting to be unleashed! We don't have a usual studio where we record, but I think we may go to the same studio where we did our MCD, which is local and also where PARADISE LOST recorded their 1st album, I think? The Lodge in Northampton! But this time we're gonna mix it ourselves and take a lot more time, so we can get the ultimate in heaviness, and the music can really be heard how it should be! Ideally it'd be good to record at the same studio as where GOREROTTED and DESECRATION go ... Phillia Studios, but they are expensive! Like 600 euros a day or something!!

-Did any labels show interest in DETRIMENTUM yet? We have had some interest, but nothing major as yet! Just my own label Grindethic! But I'd prefer another label to handle my own band! Like Dave Rotten does with AVULSED! He doesn't release their CDs through Xtrem Music! I'm sure there will be some major interest when people hear our new shit! Oh fuck me, isn't it brutal! Ha-ha...

-Should we take the appearance of some more new (and promising) Death Metal bands in England for a

sign that Death Metal is reviving? Well, it will hardly reach the early 90's craze but still one could sense some kind of an awakening on the English Death Metal Scene?

Yeah, there's some good brutal shit coming out of the UK at the moment such as ACKERCOCKE, BEEF CONSPIRACY, PULVERISED, AMPUTATED, BRUTAL ABORTION, NEGROCEST, and some others I can't remember. But it seems to be looking up I reckon!

-Could you give me an example for bad luck? I mean, there are a lot of talented people (not only in the fields of music) who do not have luck enough to become more famous.

Well, I guess my old band mates from BRUTAL INSANITY are a good example! They're all very talented musicians, but because we didn't quite make it straight away, they seem to have given up! All that talent going to waste!

-What are your sources of inspiration? Some people write their songs at one breath, while others need weeks or even months for that... What's the situation about you???

We take months to write songs, as they are so complex! And once you think they are done and dusted, fucking Paul (guitar) or Eddie will decide they don't like one bit, and change half the fucking song! I can hardly remember them like the bastards can! As I live like 200 miles away from the rest of the band, they all get together once a week to write and rehearse, and bring the songs to me (when we get chance to practice) pretty much finished and I just add a few out of time blast beats here and there, and there you have got another old English Death Metal song!

-Could you imagine your music without lyrics??? I have heard bands that do not use lyrics, just some improvisations. The listener can hardly understand that there are no lyrics, but I think it is sometimes better to go this way instead to use stupid lyrics. Your own point of view, anyway?

Ah, such as SUBLIME CADAVERIC DECOMPOSITION! They're too lazy to even use song titles! To me vocals in Death Metal are like another instrument, I don't care if there are lyrics or not! As long as they sound good!! As you say, you can't really understand the lyrics anyway! OBITUARY didn't use lyrics for their 1st couple of CDs I think, and you can't tell! But a band like DEICIDE where he really pronounces his words, you couldn't get away with! Maybe GOREROT-

TED should not use lyrics, as they are really fucking bad! You can't understand Goreskin's vocals, he sounds like a bullfrog farting in a windtunnel, but you can understand Mr. Gore as he sounds like Jonny Rotten with throat cancer! The cockney cunt! ANAL CUNT has nice lyrics!! Ha-ha...

-Do you think that the name of every band should be connected in one way or another to the style it's referred to music-wise? Many young bands just put a good sounding name without even to care about it that much. How did you come to the name DETRIMENTUM?

There are some great band names out there - ROTTING HEAD, FETUS EATERS, MINCING FURY AND GUTTURAL CLAMOUR OF QUEER DECAY. Now you can't tell me that a lot of thought has gone into thinking up these names! Ha-ha. Well yeah, I think the band's name should relate to the style of music! You wouldn't expect a band called THE GAY PINK FLOWERS OF JERUSALEM to play brutal Gore Grind, would you?? DETRIMENTUM, now I do believe it's the Latin phrasing for DETRIMENTAL, that means something like damaging, destructive, unhealthy, unfavourable, negative... Check the dictionary! It fits with our music perfectly!! I'm on instant messenger with Paul (our guitarist) and he said this: „The reason we picked it is because our music portrays a dark image of harmful, damaging, negative feeling“!

-There is something like a flood of new bands in today's Metal Scene but I think most of them do not have the passion and the intention to make something serious and remarkable. You exist for 7 years already, right? Can you tell that DETRIMENTUM is a strong band now and is having the potential to do something remarkable?

Yes DETRIMENTUM has been active for 7 years! Since Old School (guitar) replied to Eddie's advert in Terrorizer to start a band! Today we are stronger and more focused than ever! I think in the very near future we will be doing lots of remarkable things! We're booked to play at this year's Obscene Extreme Fest in the Czech Republic! I've already played there with GOREROTTED and it fucking rules! That's pretty remarkable, I think!! After being together for so long, we're not going to give up now! There've been a lot of obstacles that would split up a lot of bands, but we've stuck to it, and we will succeed in supremacy of brutality!

-Is DETRIMENTUM a live band? We all know that without a live activity a band could not be really noticed! Yes, we certainly are a live band! We play live as much as we can, as it's a great buzz, and it's when we are in our prime! We put out a fucking lot of brutal energy! We have a full live song „Scalestomeasure...“ which you can download from our website!! We recently played a few shows with newly reformed CAVICER! That was pretty cool, and next month we're supporting ZYKLON!

-How many days a week do you visit the rehearsal place?

Zero! We're lucky if we get a practice as a full band once a month! Because of the distance I live from the rest of the band, it's hard! And with other commitments...GOREROTTED / Grindethic Rec's / Alcoholic and my job as a Chef! Time is short!

-Your attitude to monarchy?

I can't say it's something I consider too much, I don't care! I think they can do some good for society, and also bad! They should definitely share some of their fucking money out though! Prince Charles is cool by me, as he's got great fucking ears!

-You have supported BOLT THROWER at The Camden Underworld in 2002, right? How did the audience of BOLT THROWER accept the music of DETRIMENTUM? Can you tell us about some funny occurrences from this gig?

That gig fucking ruled! The live video on our site is from that gig! It was our first gig in London and people hadn't really heard of us, and they were blown away! The only occurrences I recall from that gig is drinking lots of beer and smoking too much dope! So I can't really remember too much!

-Ok. I really hope that fans got some impressions about DETRIMENTUM both from your answers and the track included in our sampler. So, what will you offer them in the near future?

A free beer with each CD bought from us!! Thanks you, Bulgarian cock! Remember that apple pie is nicest with both custard and ice cream, and it must be WARM!!

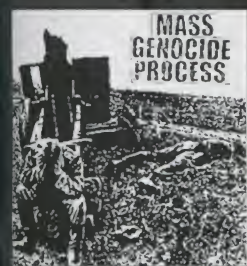
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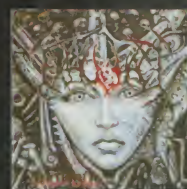
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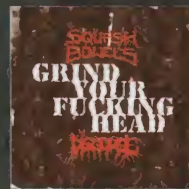
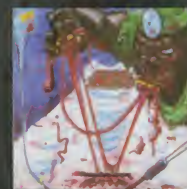
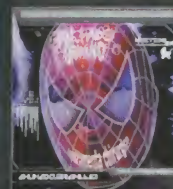
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**Rogga:  
Religious people are as always the most ignorant and stupid ones...**

Since it was I who wrote the review about Paganizer's new album, I was asked to do the interview with the band's mastermind Rogga as well and I felt pretty confused in the very first moment for I knew almost nothing about this Swedish Death Metal act! Eventually, Rogga's answers brought me once again to the conclusion that it's not so much the informativeness of interviewers that makes interviews good as is the readiness of the interviewed to reply! In other words, this was one of the greatest interviews that I have done ever!

VANYA MARINOVA

Honestly speaking, „Promoting Total Death“ is the only album that I'm familiar with save the new one, so I can't really size up your band's development through the years. How do you see Paganizer nowadays yourself, what did you achieve within these 5 years and what do you think might have been left undone yet?

The album in between („Dead Unburied“) sounds much like the new album, but with a very different production as we then recorded at Sunlight Studio. Within the five years we've been active, I think we have developed our sound from being somewhat primitive to the present state where we are free to do pretty much what we want in terms of playing, even if we of course are no skilled musicians in a technical aspect. Nowadays we find ourselves very satisfied with our songwriting and in the future we'll probably not change too much apart from improving in speed and maybe adding small amounts of new influences. The material we've written for the next album is both very true to our current sound but also displays various influences that might not have been too obvious in our previous albums.

Like I mentioned, it's only „Promoting Total Death“ and „Murder Death Kill“ that I have heard from you and the latter CD seems to sound thicker and more obscure - would you agree with me?

Yes of course, the new album was recorded together with Mieszko Talarczyk from NASUM at his Soundlab Studio. Working with him really brought out the best in us and he really knows his gear. The production he did ensured that the material turned out as brutal as we were hoping to be. The „Promoting...“ album was written during basically a week or two and then we recorded and mixed the songs at a friend's studio during four days. That is really quite a short period of time to achieve something brutal and still well produced but, if you ask me, I still think this album works fine compared to many recent releases on the market.

Your lyrics simply hit me in the stomach for their grim hostility and inexorably sickening directness! Is it solely the world's filth that inspires you?

Yes... The perpetual stupidity and sickened ideals of humanity is what motivates me to keep writing lyrics like this. I am not very fond of people in general, as I suffer from social phobia and can't socialize with more than a couple of people at the same time. If I'm not dull from alcohol that is, then the anxiety is lowered considerably. But you don't need to be a misanthrope to discover that humanity is a sick festering boil on the planet, all forms of religion will firmly prove to you that there is a twisted side of the human nature that will forever feed on the weak.

Something in the „Meateater“ lyric reminded me of HR Giger's „To Mega Therion“ picture representing the crucifix as a sling which Satan sights with. Have you ever assumed that medieval witch-hunts might have been meant to be the Devil's grand mockery at devoutness?

As I don't believe in neither Christianity nor any other religion, I doubt that the Devil had anything to do with

the witch hunts. For me the church at that time represented something that was a far greater evil than anyone but man might had been able to conjure. The thing that keeps my hate and resentment towards religion fueled is happenings like the one you mentioned, the persecution in medieval times. I mean just consider it, the very people who preached the words of a forgiving God also tortured thousands of people to death and then seized their belongings to quench their own greed. Quite obvious when you think of it, but religious people are as always the most ignorant and stupid ones...

What is „Du Vaknar Som Död“ about? Has it been easier for you to express a concrete idea in Swedish than in English or vice versa? By the way, I have always considered the English language as rather convenient about punning, and you? Of course, I didn't mean to convince you of ceasing to write in your native language, ha-ha-ha...

The „Du Vaknar Som Död“ song was written in Swedish as a homage to old crust bands like DISFEAR, DRILLER KILLER and SKITSYSTEM. I've always been listening to this kind of music and I thought we'd write a track like that in our own way to pay the genre some respect. The actual title can be translated into „You wake up as dead“ and the lyrics is (not surprisingly...) about the stupidity of people leaving their life in the hands of God instead of making any own decisions. In translation the chorus reads „No one sees you from your empty heaven, paradise was only a lie, no hand to help on your way, you wake up as dead everything was only a lie“. Pure atheistic poetry, don't you think? Ha-ha!

You wrote most of the music as well - is composing a way more reliable and persuasive than lyric writing, when it comes to self-expression?

Ha-ha, that's a question you should have asked someone who can actually make music... I've never thought about either writing music or lyrics in any special way, I just feel the need to write music as some people probably feel the need to paint, renovate cars or play Playstation 2. Everyone needs something that soothes that big hole that dwells inside, and most of us find something that takes some of the pain away. Others don't and those are the ones we read about in the obituaries. I don't try to express myself, I just try to do the only thing I enjoy as it keeps me breathing.

Which bands awakened the musician in you and when did this happen?

The whole Heavy Metal scene awakened my hunger for music, but the band that made me want to write my own music was probably SKINNY PUPPY. For those who do not know, that's a Canadian horror Industrial band and I discovered them when I was about 12 years old and that eventually also led me into Death Metal. Anyway, the band that convinced me that Death Metal was my kind of game was probably DISMEMBER, who with their first album really kicked my ass. I think it was inevitable for me to follow this way of music, as I was always as a kid looking for the hardest Heavy Metal I could find. I remember the

first time I heard the double bassdrums in „Fast as a Shark“ by ACCEPT, that was for sure a turning-point...ha-ha! That was brutal shit back then, when you were in the first grade and the older guys played their faves to you.

How did you come up to the Paganizer name? I suppose it would be interesting also to learn what other names might have popped up in your heads until you made your ultimate choice...

I think I had the name Paganizer written down somewhere, as well as the variation Paganized. Most likely I tried to come up with something in the vein of TERRORIZER or DEMONIZED. Then our first drummer thought the name would fit and that's pretty much the story...ha-ha! I remember that I shortly after that wanted to change the name into Pagan Burial, but the other guys shot me down on that idea and we're stuck with the name now, which is fine by me nowadays as I've grown to like the name.

Any other projects you (all) might be involved in currently? If yes, are they Metal-oriented too?

Yes, we have a bunch of projects / bands going on as most other musicians have nowadays. Me and the other guys of Paganizer also play in CARVE which is a slightly more HYPOCRISY and maybe even VADER-sounding act. The new album „Revel In Human Filth“ will be out in December on Black Hole Productions. Our drummer Fiebig also plays in the Black Metal band BLOODSRIIT and the Viking / Death band PORTAL.

I have just done the growls on the new EDGE OF SANITY album „Crimson II“ and Dan Swano and me are currently working on the new project RIBSPREADER together. The RIBSPREADER album will sound very alike Paganizer, but as Swano is playing drums we chose to release it under another name. I'm actually sorry to say that we don't have any non Metal projects going any of us, but personally I would like to get some Industrial songs done when I have time and more important equipment to release it, and I would also love to do a complete album in the vein of the „Du Vaknar Som Död“ song.

What led to your decision of teaming up with Xtrem Music for „Murder Death Kill“? Was it because Forever Underground turned out to be not reliable enough or was it because your contract expired?

We decided to try out Xtrem Music, since Forever Underground during two releases had failed to get our albums out on the European market. I'm not holding anything against Forever Underground, but they are based in the US and are mainly concentrated to that market which is understandable. Xtrem Music turned out to be a great choice for us as they have been up to standards by far, and they will also release our next album during next year. If we would get a good deal enough, I would most certainly contract Paganizer to Xtrem music for the coming albums as well, if they would be interested.

I noticed that the „Shows“ section at your website was still blank. Have you played outside Scandinavia as yet and, in case you have, which countries do you wish you would (not) go back to again and why?

So you noticed that? Ha-ha...! Paganizer has so far

been a very haunted band in the sense of having tours cancelled, which has certainly put its mark on our live appearances. So far we have only been playing in Sweden, as we have had a planned US tour cancelled as well as an European tour for last year. The news on this matter is that next year we will be playing throughout Europe with FLESHCRAWL and MISANTHROPIC, so we're hoping that we'll finally be able to realize a tour now. I did the vocals on the last DERANGED tour (together with IMMOLATION and DESTROYER 666) back in 2001 and then I got to play in most European and East European countries. From that tour I have great memories from almost all countries we visited and my favourites must be France and Croatia, as both countries had fucking crazy people at the shows. One guy actually licked my boots in Croatia... ha-ha! That's devotion!

As I mentioned your website: would you assume that now, when the barrier between bands and fans is easier to surmount thanks to the Internet, the spell might be broken in one way or another? Do you still receive hand-written letters and what kind of feelings do they evoke inside?

Sometimes I actually get handwritten letters still today, mostly from Asia and Russia. I definitely think the spell you refer to is broken nowadays. When I was a kid I couldn't imagine to talk to anyone playing on the albums I listened to, but now I have been talking to both Mille of KREATOR and Schmier of DESTRUCTION and, as I mentioned, I have even toured with DERANGED as their singer and done vocals on the new EDGE OF SANITY album. That was stuff I couldn't imagine when I was 16 year old gargling my throat out in some rehearsal room in my hometown. I think it's much better this way, when people can just drop you an email and you have forums where fans can tell their fave bands, what they think of their latest albums and stuff. If I have to be honest, I prefer email to handwritten letters actually... It's way much easier to answer stuff over the net than going through the whole letter sending thing!

Have you ever happened to realize that Paganizer's music had a pernicious influence on somebody? It is not a secret that the history of Metal music in general teems with suicide commissions at concerts, I even read about another case recently where an irredeemably ill guy planned to kill himself at a HELL ON EARTH live performance. How would you feel if you find out one day that someone took his / her own life at a Paganizer concert? May this never happen, though...

I mean if someone took their life while listening to a Paganizer album that would be ok for me, as I don't think any music can be the source of anyone ending their life. Other shit must be the igniting factor obviously. But if somebody chose to end their life at a Paganizer concert, it would probably feel different I guess. Maybe I would stop playing Death Metal and start preaching the evange of light and sing gospel? I don't know... Ha-ha-ha...! Seriously, if someone commits suicide I have only one comment: Congratulations! And if we provide the soundtrack to that suicide, the guy or girl will at least leave this world with some pure honest music ringing in their ears.

What is your opinion about both the Extreme Metal Scene and fans at present?

Opinions are like assholes, everyone's got one (sorry, always wanted to use that line). Anyway, I think the Scene both here in Sweden and in the rest of the world is better than ever. I mean, I mostly listen to old records but that's just because they were what raised my musical interest and I really do think that many of today's albums will be classics in the future. Just look at the latest stuff by VADER, MISERY INDEX, CATHEDRAL or even ASPHYX (which maybe be a bit old), they're all bands that after a shitload of albums still provide classic material. When it comes to fans, I really have no idea what the difference nowadays is, other than that people seem to be less interested in going to shows than ten years ago. But that'll change I think, it always does. I hope it does anyway, as we're going on the road for the first time next year...

Closing thoughts? Thank you...

What can I say? I urge everyone into oldschool brutal Death Metal to check out our new album „Murder Death Kill“. I'm confident to say that if you like older Swedish Death and are not too fond of wimpy melodies, this album will kick your ass nicely. Thank you for the most interesting interview I've done for a while and if you ever get to Sweden I'll buy you a beer or ten!

The official Paganizer website:  
<http://www.paganizer.com>





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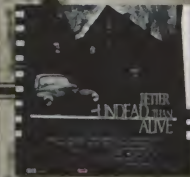
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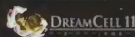
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## Cadaveria: I never sold myself out!

If you had told me like 10 years ago that I would interview Cadaveria I would have certainly laughed in your face! It was 1994 when I heard OPERA IX and I still remember how fascinated of the band's music I was and to what a huge extent Cadaveria's vocals impressed me with their power and dark magnetism... Plenty of questions started hovering inside my head but still I never made up my mind to drop OPERA IX a line (the internet was still a myth in Bulgaria by that time) ... the thing was that I was pessimistic enough to be certain that I would hardly be mailed back, or time and again to imagine the picture of „industrious“ postal workers opening my possible letter and throwing it away after finding no money enclosed... Years went by, Cadaveria left OPERA IX to set up a project on her own, and I had the pleasure to give both its albums a listen... AND one day, to my surprise, the Brutalica editor emailed me that the CADAVERIA band was available for interviews!!! Then I said to myself: „Now or never!“...

VANYA MARINOVA

-First off, Happy New Year (it's only January the 2<sup>nd</sup> today)! I hope you had a great party?

Of course. Thank you!

-As I juxtapose your two albums, „Far Away from Conformity“ seems to sound more ponderous and morose to me... Does this have anything to do with the everyday life effect on CADAVERIA's members?

Well, I think in the last year the band has reached a stronger personality and this fact is reflected in our new album's sound, that is now

not to be identified with any genre, our musical philosophy that leads us to compose songs in total freedom. Of course this attitude is reflected also in lyrics that are very unconventional too.

-At least I read the „Shadows' Madame“ texts and I must tell you that they were like whiffs of fresh air to me! Rescuing yourself at a spiritual point is a goal that everyone has been (more or less) yearning to achieve but the people who manage to crush the chains are quite few actu-

memory, sometimes inspired to my favourite books and movies, sometimes inspired by what happens inside and outside of me. They represent my internal universe, and they deal with my interests, like philosophy, poetry, visual arts.

-I'm not an erudite when it comes to occult matters but I happen to know that the sign inside the second CADAVERIA A-letter is supposed to refer to Mercury... Was this appliance meant to mirror the band members' spiritual restlessness / hunger for being fully enlightened?

That sign is not referred to the whole band but to me in particular. Mercury is the astral planet under which I was born.

-I remember that when I gave „The Shadows' Madame“ a first listen I couldn't help comparing the album to the OPERA IX works... Eventually, I found the CADAVERIA debut more mature, even though not that extreme: could you say that you've grown older?

Older? Sure, years are passing very quickly in fact, he-he... Yeah, as I said now we are more mature and brought together, we have found our personal way. Anyway, this doesn't mean CADAVERIA's style is totally done. We are open to new experimentations and influences, so we will continue to surprise our listeners in the future.

-You're a part of Italy's Metal Scene for 16 years already (if I remember right, OPERA IX was formed back in '88). How did fans view you as

achieve even better results with „Far Away from Conformity“? By the way, how are the responses to your new release shaping out?

Feedbacks from magazines and from the friends of us who have already listened to the new album are very positive. In December „FAFC“ was named „album of the month“ on some Italian magazines and now it is starting to collect good feedbacks also from abroad. The sound, as you noticed, is very variegated, you must be open minded to appreciate it, but finally I think it has the potentialities to surprise old fans and to let the band gain new followers.

-Has CADAVERIA toured outside Italy as yet? Perhaps you could even share some good / bad memories with us?

In the beginning CADAVERIA was born as a studio band. After the 1<sup>st</sup> CD was out many people showed a true interest in seeing the band live, so we organized some live dates in Italy, but we didn't play live abroad. This year the live activity will be organized in a more professional way. We hope to tour some European countries in 2004.

-Your musical / literary inspirations for the time being?

Musically the backgrounds are many: classical Heavy Metal, Death Metal, NU Metal, Thrash, Rock, Classic. Lyrically the main influences are kept from horror literature, contemporary philosophy, modern poetry (Baudelaire, Shakespeare) and from authors' cinema (Lynch, Tarantino, Cronenberg). The song „Omen Of Delirium“ is directly inspired by „The Naked Lunch“ by William S. Burroughs (movie by Cronenberg).

-Are you occupied with anything other than being involved in a band?

All CADAVERIA members are part of other bands: DYNABITE, NECRODEATH, RAZA DE ODDIO and all have a job or study at university.

-Have you ever felt so down that to start thinking of ceasing your career of a musician even?

Sometimes I think to stop recording music and to continue making music for me only. Then I think the songs we compose are so beautiful that is a pity other people cannot hear them...

-Is there anything you might be sorry for or do you live your life with the inflexible trust that you're soon or late being given the chance of correcting your mistakes?

There is nothing to be sorry for. Mistakes are part of everybody's life. We need to do them to improve ourselves.

-Have you ever had an Out Body Experience? Yes.

-The fascination of Metal music and the interest in the Occult walk hand in hand pretty often, in my opinion. What do you think newbies in the fields of the latter should know first, before diving in the surge of the Unknown?

You have to learn to be humble and at the same time you have to trust your mental potentialities. Hail all. „Far Away From Conformity“: Buy or Die!

<http://www.cadaveria.com>

# CADAVERIA



better defined, direct and always more particular and individual.

-I didn't have the chance to read the lyrics for your new album yet, but the very CD title definitely intrigued me: what exactly did you mean with Conformity? The three-dimensional capsule we live in?

The album title is connected to the actual style of CADAVERIA's music and with the „out of rules“ band members' personality. The very meaning of „far away from conformity“ is our „out of schemes“ general attitude, our wish to

ally... What's the situation about the CADAVERIA team though?

CADAVERIA's lyrics are total creation of mine and I can say that behind them there is not the pure wish to crush chains, they are rather a vehicle to express myself, to let my inner essence emerge. If the lyrics for „The Shadows' Madame“ were permeated by a very spiritual atmosphere, the „Far Away From Conformity“ lyrics are a bit more concrete and frank, even if I have preserved to talk about this using poetic forms. They are like notes developed by my

an extreme band fronter? Were you greeted as a revolutionary or did you have to encounter comments like: „Why don't you start a pop career instead, you stupid sad virago!“?

I started singing in extreme Metal bands in 1991 and since then I have been always appreciated, maybe 'cause I always worked hard and seriously and I never sold out myself. Surely if I had started a pop career I would have become richer!

-I know you sold almost 10 000 copies of „The Shadows' Madame“. Do you believe that you'll



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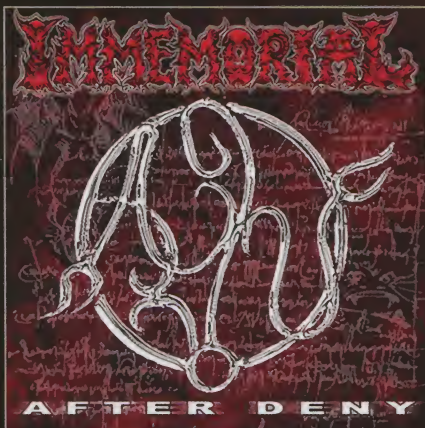


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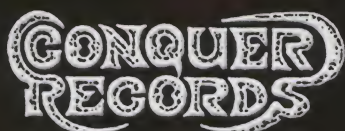
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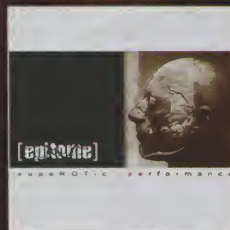
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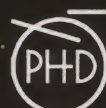
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Sebastian Elliott:

## FOR SOME "REDEMPTION" MAY VERY WELL MEAN SCHWARMA

BRAINDANCE's „Redemption“ was Album No 1 in my playlist for Brutallica's seventh issue... Now when two years have passed since, this CD keeps on entrancing me for its remarkably diverse and unique sound and I doubt that I'll EVER feel tired of listening to these 10 tracks! This interview was scheduled for Brutallica #8 actually, but the guys were too late with their replies so here we are now - myself and the fronter Sebastian Elliott discussing „Redemption“ and other topics that my head gave birth to as a result of my impressions from this very CD... The outcome left me with mixed feelings - Sebastian's witticism and emphatic laconism in moments both entertained me and enlightened me: now I know how my aunts might have felt whenever I refused to recite or sing anything from my 1st grade repertoire!

VANYA MARINOVA

-At first, I would like to express my fascination of your latest release! It left me filled with numerous questions... What I'm sure of anyway is that „Redemption“ is a result of your inspiration by both life and death. I wonder what you think about people who find sense in the one side of the coin only?

Thanks for your kind words and unusually esoteric question, although I'm not sure what you mean by „the one side of the coin“. I question those people who find the need to decide between beefy, vicious Manhattan style and thick creamy New England style clam chowder. As far as writing music and expressing spiritual themes are concerned, inspiration sometimes chooses you. It is then up to you to shape it and to present it, if applicable.

-I haven't heard your previous releases yet (but I hope to someday!) - would you say a few words about each? Indeed, the titles speak for themselves enough but still I couldn't help asking...

„Shadows“ was released as a cassette EP in 1994, „Fear Itself“ was released in 1995, and „Redemption“ is now upon you. With regards to the material, we've taken everything that worked on „Shadows“ and „Fear Itself“ and brought it to a higher level - the production is tighter, the performances are better, and the songwriting has matured considerably. Generally speaking, „Redemption“ speaks through the subgenres of Goth, Industrial, Progressive Metal, Dark Wave, Classical and Progressive Trance with enough Pop sensibilities to make anyone nauseous.

-„Redemption“ deals with rebirth as well: have you happened to have inner visions of landscapes you've never seen that still made you feel kind of nostalgic?

No - but that's a very cool concept. With regards to lyric writing, I believe in a good measure of ambiguity. Naturally, the themes have specific meanings for me, but I try not to assign definitive conceptual values to phrases, because listening should be somewhat interactive. Insofar as everyone's experiences are different, so should their interpretations be: For some

„Redemption“ may very well mean schwarma.

-What do you view the Eternal Return as?

Hopefully, one in which contains at least the videogames asteroids, defender & tempest.

-What do you think might have happened in case time machines really existed? What I mean is if they should be considered either as a chance for making corrections in life or as a key to stagnation or regression even?...

The latter, if either. The journey is relentless...

-What kind of thoughts are you most often filled with while gazing upon the night sky?

Ones involving corned beef, melted Swiss cheese and brown mustard.

-If you be given the opportunity to go to live in another epoch which would you choose?

I like your time machine concept better - Kirk and Spock visited many eras, but I would most likely say Ancient Egypt.

-Do you think that man is entirely subordinate to forces unseen or is there a hope for navigating fate to a small extent even?

I wish I knew.

-What's the average age of the BRAINDANCE members, if not a secret? The reason for asking you this very question is that I find the „Redemption“ album remarkably mature...

We've been through the Brutallica time machine for several thousands of years, my friend. If you met us in person, however, you would find us to be secretly childish...

-Do you surf around the internet frequently and (in case you do) what kind of sites do you visit most?

If I do, it's occasionally check out new music or for general pornographic information.

-Favourite book(s)?

Anthony Robbins - „Awaken the Giant Within“.

-Do you always manage to accept your failures philosophically?

Not always - there are very few that can

consistently.

-Are you apt of viewing self-irony as a way to survive mentally?

Yes.

-How would you visualize madness yourself, by the way?

No need for visualization, my friend...

-What is fear itself?

Really scary stuff.

-Are you inclined to consider Art (in general) as a ventage for internal conflicts and fears?

Only to work my way through them, and perhaps gain a greater understanding...

-Which kind of people do you view as more dangerous - fools or lunatics?

Those who are apparently sane who are misled by either fools or lunatics can be the most dangerous of all...

-Do you believe in (self) suggestion?

Completely - conscious, subconscious and unconscious workings...

-What could you say that you're seriously tired of lately?

We only have so much time together, you and I...

-?!?... Ok, back to „Redemption“: your vocals remind me of Peter Steele's a lot - have you been told that before?

I've heard that with regards to several vocalists, but certainly, Peter is a great talent, so thanks...

-I remained very intrigued by the samples inserted in between the tracks - would you say something more about them?

No.

-How do you feel while being in direct contact with the crowd at concerts?

Close, very close.

-What kind of people go to see you usually?

Vampires, computer geeks, science-fiction nerds, comic fans, cartoon buffs, musicians, the depressed, the disgruntled, the ones seeking enlightenment, and the ones we beg to show up.

-And how was 2003 concert-wise?

Great beer, great hot dogs.

-I am more than glad to find out that you're currently working on a new album! What will we have to expect this time?

Expect much of the same - plastic and paper enveloping, a disc of joy...

-Naturally, I couldn't omit the line-up changes: how did you find Beka, Jonah David and David Z?

I met Beka through one of my favourite fitness clients, who was constantly raving about her playing and musical prowess. Although quite hesitant, my reluctance cleared when I finally met her and knew she would be right for the project. I caught Jonah's playing completely through a highly bizarre divine intervention at 11 in the morning, at a large after hours nightclub in Manhattan that had a side room featuring live acts. When I heard his solid footwork, snare sound and ability to groove, I knew I had to approach him. I had known David Z peripherally for years from the New York Progressive Metal Scene. David had previously expressed interest in playing for BRAINDANCE, and when he wasn't busy with Joan Jett and the TEENS SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA, I asked him to come aboard.

-Alright, I'll be on the watch for the new album then! Any plans for the future, though?

Vegas, baby, Vegas...

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# SUMMER BREEZE FESTIVAL

Absgmund, August 22-23 2003

DILIANA IANKOVA

Actually, we started preparing for the festival even two months earlier and the peculiar indicator of our excitement increase was the calendar sheet fall... Until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August, when we finally headed for Absgmund! (In fact, the festival started on August 21 but, after being aware of the bands that were supposed to play that day, I didn't feel the necessity of attending the event from the very beginning.) The atmosphere during the whole trip could be described least as euphoric, as we didn't omit warming ourselves up by filling the car with the insanity of the albums from the bands we were yet to see... Thus, we arrived the moment when GRAVEWORM appeared on stage... the first worth seeing band for the day, actually. These Italians, despite the horrible heat, did manage to turn the heads of some fans, most of them still drunk from the riot of Day 1. GRAVEWORM definitely deserved more attention, for they showed sensible progress through the years and I would define their latest „Engraved in Black“ album as a real Black / Death Metal masterpiece! Unfortunately, VINTERSORG had cancelled their gig so they were replaced by DISBELIEF that turned out to be not bad at all. AMON AMARTH came next on the main stage, where journalists and headbangers had been waiting for more than an hour. Of course, I tried to take the advantage of being accred-

ited for taking pictures from the festival, so I can eventually tell you that this privilege didn't help me much: the stage was like 180 cm tall and the press area width was about 1 m, so the shots you could take started up from the musicians' knees in the best case. Unless this happened to coincide with one of the moments when security guys started cooling the crowd with hoses from the fire crew cisterns! The sun position mattered as well, naturally. Anyways, AMON AMARTH didn't sound that good on stage ... I could barely hear the main melody. So I took some shots of the band and went to the other



DIAL have cancelled their gig too. DARKSEED was the other band I was interested in watching for the day. The dudes from Germany were elegantly dressed, played fuckin' great and appeared to be like a magnet for the crowd! Next came DESASTER (also from Germany). Everything was just fine about both of these outfits... after all, most of the fans were from the bands' country and sang with the musicians all the time. It was a really awesome atmosphere! The other two groups that followed were respectively DEW SCENTED and CALLENISH GIRCLE and they both sounded really good but the (sensibly multiplied) crowd already awaited such cult acts as GOD DETHRONED and THE CROWN to

appear. And so, GOD DETHRONED finally showed up! I doubt that this Dutch band needs representation: I'm certain that it has a lot of fans worldwide! GOD DETHRONED started with the title track from their latest „Into the Lungs of Hell“ release and continued with such classics as „The Grand Grimoire“, „Villa Vampiria“, etc... I suddenly ended up just standing with eyes opened wide, enjoying the music silently. GOD DETHRONED were just brilliant, they obviously gave everything from themselves! I really wish these guys could have played more than 40 minutes... I skipped SINNER and several other bands to return about 30 minutes before THE CROWN's appearance. J. B. O. were still playing and till the end I couldn't find out how these dudes managed to gather



so much audience: they acted like buffoons from a circus by asking the fans to shout their name a thousand times, screamed various concert cliches meant for warming the crowd up and so on. What they played was jolly Punk with German lyrics and truly succeeded in making me nervous! I'm saying again, I still can't explain to myself how J.B.O. managed to gather so many people around... although the smaller stage where THE CROWN were going to play was only 100 m away, it took me about half an hour to go there!

THE CROWN was my doubtless favorite



for the Summer Breeze Festival! Indeed, I could see many other bands that showed a lot of skill, but THE CROWN sounded most real and original, whatever you may mean with these definitions! It's all from their music, of course... brutally versatile and forcefully impressive, it entralls you with every single riff and word screamed in a way that only Tomas Lindberg could be able to!!! After THE CROWN this year's Summer Festival was over for me already (I just couldn't take more!) so we set off, with the music still ringing in my ears... What I will state in conclusion is that the Summer Breeze Festival was an experience that I shall never forget and that left me incredibly contented. It was fantastic!!!



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As long as this band exists it will always be as heavy as possible

# MALEVOLENT CREATION

I don't think MALEVOLENT CREATION needs a special presentation, so if you do not know this name you will have probably bought the wrong magazine. For this band is already considered as a Death Metal icon for having behind their backs numerous classics that gained MALEVOLENT CREATION the status of one of the most successful yet uncompromising representatives of Florida's Scenel Thus, not without some bustle before that, I finally trapped Phil Fasciana in the corner and asked him several questions which he answered with indescribable "thoroughness".

CHAYDAR TZACHKOV

-Hello Phil, what's the latest news around MALEVOLENT CREATION? I heard that you were ready to record a new album. Tell me more! We start recording our 9th full-length album „Warkult“ next week and it will be released via Nuclear Blast Records in June 2004.

-Where will you record the new album and can you tell the name of the producer? Is it true that you will also record some covers of old Thrash bands?!

We are recording once again at Mana Studios in Tampa, Florida and then mixing it in Montreal, Canada with producer Jean Francois Degenais once again. We hope this will become the heaviest album we ever released.

-Your last album „The Will To Kill“ was a real hit! I guess the response and the sales were great?!

We were happy with it and so were our fans so we can't complain. As far as sales are concerned I'm not sure how many were sold but it must have been good enough that Nuclear Blast has decided to continue working with us so that is very cool.

-I guess the new album will be released by Arctic Music Group again and by Nuclear Blast on the territory of Europe?

No, we signed to Nuclear Blast for the whole world now. They are a great label and my small label Arctic Music is no comparison.

-A couple of months ago Roadrunner released „Best Of MALEVOLENT CREATION“. Did you take part in the track selection?

No, we were not asked to be included except they asked me if I had any rare photos they could use for the CD booklet. Which I sent them and they did not use. Nice guys huh?

-Why in your opinion did all big bands from the 90's leave Roadrunner? I mean OBITUARY, DEICIDE, SEPULTURA, MALEVOLENT CREATION... Was it due to the label's dubiousness or was there another reason for that?

They lost interest in the heavy bands on the label and wanted more commercial and gay bands to profit from. I don't think they have any brutal bands left except for NICKELBACK!!! Yeah right!!! Ha-ha.

-If you happen to be asked to do a MALEVOLENT CREATION Top 10, which songs would you pick?

I don't know, I like almost all the songs we have recorded so I cannot honestly answer this question.

-I had read somewhere that you meet difficulties with organizing live shows in some places

of USA. Is it true that you even do not have a booking agent?? Europe, America, Australia, Japan: where do you think is the best place to play the music of MALEVOLENT CREATION live?

We have had problems finding a good booking agent in America and we have not done too much touring here in the last 5 years. We have never been to Japan or Australia because those countries are also not interested in MALEVOLENT CREATION. We spend most of our time touring Europe where we have a good relationship with our record label, booking agent and fans!!!

-I'm sure your fans have been dreaming to see a MALEVOLENT CREATION DVD in the future, do you actually have plans to do anything like that? So many bands released DVDs, even some of them are quite Underground, I'm sure a possible DVD release by MALEVOLENT CREATION would have a great success!

We are working on this now. When we finish recording our new album we will be putting together our first Official DVD release. We hope to have it out sometime this fall. It will feature footage from our very first rehearsals all the way to the making of our new album „Warkult“.

-Next year I'm going to the Wacken Open Air Fest in Germany. Is there a chance to see MALEVOLENT CREATION on some of the stages?? I guess with such a big label as Nuclear Blast behind your back it won't be a problem for you to be joined in this unique fest?

We played last year in 2003 at Wacken and it was amazing. We will be playing some great festivals this year like Graspop, With Full Force, Rock Hard and Rock Harz.

-What is the reason for the constant line-up changes in MALEVOLENT CREATION?

Drugs and alcohol have had a big hand in some of the line up changes over the years but we only get better with each change so it is no big deal. We don't have time to deal with idiots.

-James Murphy guests with a guitar solo on the „Assassin Squad“ track. What is your relationship with him?

He has been a friend of mine since 1991 and he came to visit us in the studio when we did „The Will To Kill“ album last year and while he was there we offered him the chance to lay down a couple of solos on one of the songs and he did it. It was way cool and James is an amazing lead guitarist.

-Since you are an American, I can't help asking you about your attitude to the war in Iraq!

I suppose people in the US are divided into supporters and opponents at that point. I personally think that this war is a mistake, because I see no reliable solution, at least not in the near future. What is your opinion, anyway?

I have been obsessed with war for a long time and our band writes heavily about war topics but I am against war in this time and age. It does nobody any good and is responsible for many useless deaths.

-What is an ordinary Phil Fasciana day like? I suppose that, save with MALEVOLENT CREATION, you spend some time at the Arctic Music Group office too?

I am busy as hell doing the band and the label and other things but if I don't do it nobody else will. It keeps me busy and out of trouble.

-What was the last Independent movie that you have watched? Something different from the brackish Hollywood films?

I haven't watched any movies in a while because I never have the time to. I prefer to watch documentaries on war and mass murderers. I like real things opposed to horror stories.

-Do you have any demos / promos before „The Ten Commandments“? If yes, have they ever been re-released on CD?

We recorded 3 demos before our 1st album. One in 1987, 1989 and 1990. They have been bootlegged by some small labels but never were officially released.

-Was 2003 a good year for MALEVOLENT CREATION? I mean, did you manage to realize all your plans or did anything remain for 2004?

Yes it was a great year and we did a lot of touring in Europe and South America and we will continue to do so in 2004 as well.

-Your personal impressions from the Wacken Open Air and the Brutal Assault Open Air Fests? They were both great and we also played Party San Open air which was awesome as well.

-Time ago I read that Glen Benton of DEICIDE walked with an armoured vest due to the threats from various organizations at him... Can we say that Phil Fasciana has such problems as well?

Only with my x-girlfriends!!!

-Now let's see if your memory concerning American History is still good - can you say who of the US presidents said the following words: „if you want to test people's mettle, give them power“? By the way, what in your opinion is the reason for fewer and fewer peo-

ple to remain outside the gold diggers' circle? I can't remember which president said that and I didn't understand the 2nd half of the question. Sorry. (Let me help you then: it was actually Abraham Lincoln who was the president I spoke of - GT)

-Your musical interests other than Metal? None.

-Can you imagine your life without music??? I'm asking both about creating and listening to music.

Never!! It is my life and the one thing that keeps me sane!!!

-Playing extreme Death Metal requires a lot of energy and physical endurance, right? So could you imagine a 50 or 60 year-old guy playing this kind of music?! I asked Chris Barnes and Paul Mazurkiewicz the same question and they thought that it would be hard to play the same kind of music when they reach this age! What do you think about that yourself?

I don't think it is possible either, this music is very physically demanding and I doubt I will live that long anyways!!!

-Do you think that any band aiming at recognition should comply with the modern tendencies in music for the moment or do you think this is a compromise that MALEVOLENT CREATION would never make?

Compromise is for pussies. Our band still exists because we have never followed trends or tried to soften our sound. As long as this band exists it will always be as heavy as possible.

-These days a band called EVANESCENCE is No.1 in USA's album charts. It seems that this kind of combination of Nu Metal and Gothic attracts the US public! What do you think about the musical tastes of the young Americans??

I hate it but I think the chick in EVANESCENCE is hot. America is full of posers and trendy people who only buy records from the gay Nu Metal and Metal / Core bands they see on MTV.

-Well Phil, I asked everything that I was curious about. As a tradition, the final words are yours! Look for our new album „Warkult“ this June on Nuclear Blast and on tour this summer in Europe. We will be playing at the following open air festivals this year: Rock Hard, Graspop, With Full Force and Rock Harz. Keep On Killing!!!!!!

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port what you're doing.  
-Why did you choose „Anatomy Is Destiny“ for a title? Did you have anything special in mind with this title or did you just want it to sound more gory?!

Basically, the title conveys a concept that runs throughout some of the songs on the album, which is that the sum total of human existence is no greater than the postmortem sum of our decomposing physical form. Basically, that no matter what you accomplish, dream, feel, or think throughout your life, the only legacy you'll leave is your rotten corpse, and that physical death is the final destination for all humans, that there is no metaphysical justice, karma, or after-life.

-Lets talk about the recording process of „Anatomy Is Destiny“. Where did you record the album and did you record some other tracks for possible future EP's, Splits, tributes?

The recording was done at a studio in San Francisco called Closer Recording ([www.closer-recording.com](http://www.closer-recording.com)) where one of my favorite records of the past few years, „What's Next to the Moon“ by Mark Kozelek, was recorded. I doubt we'll return there, as it's more of an indie rock kind of studio and vibe there, and we usually record as cheaply as possible for EPs and tributes, etc. It worked out pretty well for the recording of the album though, after we worked out a few technical problems.

-When you record a track do you have in mind that this track could be possibly played live? I mean, if you use, for example passages with 3 or 4 guitars, it would be hard to be presented when you play live, I suppose?!

We always rehearse our songs pretty thoroughly before recording them, so we have a pretty good idea of what they will sound like played live. Of course, live, we aren't able to re-create all of the guitar harmonies and stuff that are on the album, but that's okay, because the pure volume and energy of the live performance already more than compensate for the lack of overdubs or anything.

-I was really surprised to see that Neil Kernon has produced the album. Was it easy for you to hire such a famous producer?

Well, it wasn't exactly easy, as Neil is really busy, and we had to coordinate our schedules and make sure that everything could come in within the budget for the album...we almost made it... Sorry, Gordon! As far as convincing him to do it or whatever, that was pretty easy. He really liked the vibe of „Slaughtercult“ and when he heard the rough demos of some of the new tracks, he saw where we were going with things and how he could figure into the picture, so in that sense, it was really easy.

-What are your impressions from the work of Neil Kernon? Now, when your album is a reality, could you say that you chose the right guy?

Definitely. I think he did a great job and the band sounds better than ever. I really am psyched on the job that he did and think that the album is as close to realizing what we wanted as possible given the constraints of budget and time that we had.

-Maybe you don't know but we decided to put EXHUMED on the front cover page of the new issue of Brutalica Magazine. This is because we see a big progress in your band and we are sure you will have a great future. Could you tell what motto or slogan would you like to be added to the logo of EXHUMED?

We usually call what we do „Gore Fucking Metal“... It would have been the title of the first album, but we wouldn't have been able to get it

## Gore Fucking Metal

I had the will to chat with Matt from EXHUMED for a long time but so far circumstances always happened to be against us, we even did a phone interview awhile ago but the recorded material was so noisy that it was impossible to get even a word. Anyway, I finally decided to resort to the good „old“ Internet so I sent Matt some questions about his band, thoughts, opinions, influences, etc... I really enjoyed his answers because Matt is a cool guy fully devoted to his band and music. I'm sure this interview will entertain you too, even if you are not a fan of EXHUMED. Who knows, maybe these lines could help you to love this band. Like I do!

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

-Hello Matt! How are things going with EXHUMED now?

Things are going well, we just got back from a killer European tour with CEPHALIC CARNAGE and INHUME and are working on a couple of split EPs, as well as the „Platters Of Splatter“ compilation.

-Several months ago you have released the „Anatomy Is Destiny“ album. What are the responses so far, are they what you expected them to be?

The responses have been really excellent in general, which is cool. We didn't really have any expectations as far as how people would respond. We mainly worried about what we ourselves would think about the album, and we're really happy with the way it came out. It's a nice extra, though, when other people enjoy and sup-

from any stores here in the US, so we just abbreviated it to „Gore Metal“... Another personal favorite I have is (apologies here to HELL-HAMMER) „Only Gore Is Real“...

-A lot of people will be really disgusted at the artwork in the booklet, but the images are really artistic and professional done. Who painted them?

All of the images in the booklet are photographs. They were taken by a killer Swiss photographer named Alex Solca who did an amazing job by helping us realize what we wanted to put across.

-Would you feel annoyed if a journalist defines EXHUMED as CARCASS clones?

I've heard it too many times to really be that annoyed. I think it's easy to write the band off as a band that just follows in the footsteps of CARCASS. I think if you really listen to the album, you'll hear tons of influence from SLAYER, METALLICA, PESTILENCE, EXODUS, NAPALM DEATH, CARNAGE, TERRORIZER, REPULSION, INSANITY, DEATH, POSSESSED, etc. It's all filtered through the EXHUMED meat grinder of course, but the riffs and influences are all over the album. We listen to so many different bands and are influenced by a million things, but I think because of the multiple vocals and the lyrics, people automatically key in on CARCASS. Of course, they are a big influence on us, as well as the aforementioned bands, but they are far from being our ONLY influence.

-There is also another band in the US that successfully follows the steps of the legendary CARCASS. What is your opinion about IMPALED?

It's hard to be objective about them as a band, because I've known Ross for over 10 years now and literally taught him to play bass, I've also known Sean for about 8 years, and have seen them grow and change every step of the way. I've also been able to see how we've really paved the way for them to establish themselves and for them to mold their image, cover artwork, etc. I really liked the first album, probably because it sounded more like EXHUMED, but the newer stuff seems to have a bit too much Swedish influence from AT THE GATES, DISSECTION...which I'm not too big a fan of.

-I heard „Anatomy Is Destiny“ maybe more than 10 times already and I'm stunned of the precisely made compositions and the great musicianship. It seems you worked hard to improve yourselves as musicians?

We all pushed each other to improve and decomposed material that would challenge us individually and collectively. Thanks for acknowledging the work and time that we put into crafting this record.

-I suppose your band's life before signing with Relapse is a mystery to many people - could you say some words about this period?

Hmmm... To make a long story shorter... We formed in 1991, when Col (Jones, drummer) and I were 15 years old, influenced mostly by NAPALM DEATH, TERRORIZER, CARCASS, OBITUARY, DEATH, PESTILENCE, REPULSION, CARNAGE, etc. We recorded a lot of different demos and whatnot, until 1996, when we recorded the „In the Name of Gore“ split CD with HEMDALE, which kind of let the Underground know who we were and what we were about. After that, we continued recording split EPs, until we signed with Relapse in early 1998. Almost all of the early recordings will be compiled this year on the „Platters of Splatter“ Double CD that Relapse will put out in the spring, that has relatively extensive liner notes, etc.

-What is your main goal with using gory images and lyrics? Shocking the public or entertaining

fans?

Actually, if you check out the lyrics to the song „In the Name of Gore“ on the new record, it kind of outlines our lyrical stance and what it's all about. Basically, we hope to shock, entertain, and provoke reassessment of cultural and moral norms through aesthetic confrontation of ideas like „beauty“, „pleasure“, and „fulfillment“. The

real meanings of our lyrics are all in the subtext, while they are overtly shocking and hopefully entertaining. We have songs that deal with everything from relationship problems to consumerism, to sexual repression, to conformity. Ultimately, entertainment is the primary function of the lyrics though.

-As far as I can see, Death Metal has been being acclaimed by many girls too lately. I cannot explain what attracts them to listen to such extreme kind of music, it's that I don't think it has anything to do with their nature... What's your opinion anyway?

Huh?!? Are you serious? I would love to see more girls at our shows. Death Metal is for anyone, not just for a small club of people. Anyone that really gets into the music and cares about it is welcome in the scene as far as I'm concerned, regardless what gender, race, or whatever they are. Besides, I like girls, so hopefully more and more of them will come to our shows!

-I hope you know that all your albums can be downloaded for free from Internet. Do you consider this as a big problem? Bootlegging is still a real sickness in Eastern Europe...

I think that downloading is okay, especially in areas where a CD manufactured in America might cost a lot of money, comparatively, or as a way to getting a free „sample“ of what a band sounds like. I think it's just like a new kind of tape trading and that, as long as people really like your band, they'll buy the albums and come to the shows anyway. I don't know how many bands I heard about in the late 80s and early 90s through tape trading, but it's a lot. So if it helps more people hear the band, I'm all for it.

-Your opinion about the war in Iraq? More than 500 Americans died so far, but the main question is if they knew what they died for?

I think that the way the war in Iraq has been handled has been awful, and continues to be. The assertion of the presence of weapons of mass destruction was a flimsy excuse. I'm no fan of Saddam Hussein, I think he's a piece of

shit, but I'm against the way that the US has handled the middle east since 9/11 every step of the way. It's embarrassing.

-I have the feeling that more and more people in the US are not satisfied with the policy of the president J. W. Bush? Would you vote for him? I didn't vote for him the first time, and there's no way in hell that I would vote for him again.

-Can you imagine a live show of EXHUMED in Baghdad? I heard that SEX PISTOLS plan to do a live show there next year so that to show the people over there what the so called „democracy“ can bring, ha-ha...

I would play there for the troops, I guess, but I don't think there are too many Death Metal fans in the Army though. We'll see if there even is a democracy in Baghdad in a year. I doubt there will be...

-Which is the last cover version that you did?? We haven't recorded any covers since we did the IMPETIGO and CARCASS tributes. I want to do some more... Hopefully covers from SIEGE, LARM, EXTREME NOISE TERROR, AMEBIX, GBH, DISCHARGE, RAW POWER, MERCYFUL FATE, NASTY SAVAGE, MASSACRE, INSANITY, INFERNAL MAJESTY... There are so many songs I'd love to do. Hopefully someday we'll do a covers album.

-I heard from the radio today that 30 million of people die of starvation every year. What kind of thoughts does this statistics bring to you? America spends 500 billion US\$ for warfare every year. I assume this money could be used for turning Sahara to an oasis, for example...

World hunger is a purely economic problem, that is not solely the fault of the US. Although our defense budget is completely out of control, it would take a communal effort from the western world to end world hunger, as well as a change in diet for a lot of people. I just feel frustrated when I hear facts like this, but the way the system is set up, I don't see things changing in the foreseeable future.

-Where did you manage to play live this year?

Are there any plans for a big tour?

So far we've played in France, England, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Czech Republic, and of course the good ol' U.S.A., albeit only a few dates on the East Coast. This year, we're returning to Europe, and working on more US dates, as well as Japanese and Australian dates.

-What do you not like in the music scene in America and what are the positive sides of the US Underground Scene? How far do your musical interests go, by the way: are you a Metal fan only or do you listen to other genres as well?

I think that in America, a lot of people in the Metal Scene seem to be either worshippers of anything from Sweden or brutal US-style Death Metal, but nothing of which I'm the biggest fan of. It also seems that people don't have a very long memory as far as the history of the Scene and where it came from. On the positive side, those that do are ultra-die-hard. We've always had positive experiences in the states as far as touring and I have no real complaints about our treatment from fans here. I listen to all kinds of music, from Bjork to the Red House Painters to Merle Haggard. I really love Spaghetti Western soundtracks by Ennio Morricone, and have recently started getting into Reverend Horton Heat. There's not really too much new stuff in Metal that interests me, so I listen to a lot of other things. Most of the Metal that I listen to is 1991 and before. There are a few exceptions though, like NASUM, PIG DESTROYER, BENUMB, COCK AND BALL TORTURE, INHUME, ABORTED, REGURGITATE, and a few other bands.

-Your main goal with EXHUMED?

World domination. And free beer.

-Well, I am done. As a tradition you can tell something more special to our readers!

Thanks for the interview and the support... We'll see everybody on the road or on the slab... In the front or in the morgue... Either way, only gore is real...

[www.exhumed.us](http://www.exhumed.us)

## Try to be intelligent and put a big question mark everywhere!

Apparently, being natural appears to be a privilege that solely a 100% original artists can be proud of! Nevertheless, I shall admit that I had already started feeling pessimistic that Brutallica's latest issue would feature an interview with the cult ATTILA CSIHAR, as it took a lot of time until I received his replies (even though he had warned me how terribly busy he was)... But it turned out that it was damn worth waiting, for this interview appears to be probably the greatest one I have done ever!!! Attila's revelations literally made me feel dizzy for their exceptional maturity and vivid thoroughness, and I could truly feel what a long and untrodden path he had to walk until gaining the deserved status of one of the most respected and creative representatives of today's Extreme Scene!

VANYA MARINOVA

# The Beast of Attila Csihar

I presume the „Beast Of“ CD has surprised plenty of people... What are the responses thus far?

Hello to you Vanya and the readers of Brutallica! Thank you, the CD is going well, the responses are all-right so far.

-How did it come up to the idea of releasing this compilation, by the way? Also, was it hard for you to choose which tracks to include exactly, or was it easy to do that for any of these tracks might have been linked to moments too special for you?

I've been playing extreme music since '86, when we formed our first band called TORMENTOR. Over the years I played in many bands and this compilation was made to let people hear a little bit about the more interesting ones. The compilation contains only unreleased versions of the songs that I have collected - but not released - for the last 15 years. We were playing Underground music so these recordings are in different soundings, some are just demo recordings or from strange experiments while others are remastered excerpts from already released albums. When I chose finally the more interesting tracks I went down to my friend's studio to put together the final result. Usually I was working with this friend of mine called Gyik in his VAA studio for the masterings. As I mentioned, it was a longer process... I started to work on it already years ago. Then, when I was ready with the ideas, first we made the remastering and mixes then we took care of the final order of the tracks and of course the soundscape. Finally it turned out to be also pretty long, but still I think it's worth and it's a cool album. For example, the ABORYM tracks are remasters and the TORMENTOR tracks are from the original unreleased master tape, while the MAYHEM ones are from a compact cassette, there is a live track from PLASMA POOL and some interesting side experiments, so all the recordings have their own story. All the tracks are from different periods and from different moods... I had the idea to do a compilation since 2001, so I started to sort the things out slowly already by that time... I was in contact with other labels too but finally Southern Lord was the more interested and most sympathetic.

-I will have to admit that I hadn't heard of the PROFESSOR FATE project... It's joined in your compilation with a remix of WHEN's „Ghosts“, why didn't you insert a PROFESSOR FATE song instead? Or you merely paid a tribute to WHEN?

We liked WHEN, you are right, and the music of PROFESSOR FATE was done by Irrumator from ANAAL NATHRAKH / MISTRESS / FROST. This band is more like a wing thing for now and you can call it a cover or a tribute as you like.

-I didn't see a „Recipe Ferrum“ track on the compilation...

Yes. It was out of this somehow. I wanted to use only unreleased stuff and we forgot about that, but later it just came to my mind that we had pretty cool remixes of some songs from that album too. Something can be missing and I can never be a 100% satisfied. It was impossible to use everything on one album. The CD was already full. It was hard even to master it for the pressing cause of the too many data on it.

-As I mentioned „Recipe Ferrum“, this album had left me with feelings varying from scorching nostalgia to mind-freezing bitterness. Was it meant to be some kind of a TORMENTOR-esque reminiscence? The reason for asking this is that the „Recipe Ferrum“ intro was used for „Anno Domini“ before that...

We used that intro also for our first demo. Yes, it was the intro we always used and played with TORMENTOR. Anyway, that album was quite different from the ones made 12-15 ago also cause of the other line-up. You know, it was very hard to reform the band without the original guitarists since they were out of the Scene. So we decided to do something else, another extraordinary thing. That's why we agreed with the old drummer that he would look for new members and would take care of the music while I would take care of the release and the vocals. He was more into dirty Rock'n'Roll... you can sense it on the music - so we called it Black'n'Roll sometimes... By that time I was in ABORYM already so we didn't want to do the same Black Metal stuff as hundreds of other bands, since TORMENTOR has always been a strange kind of a grotesque band when it existed before... Anyway, we reached our goal maybe more far than we wanted, since we had again bad reviews and it seemed just a few people understood its message. So, since the drummer lives in Germany (he works as a tattoo master there), I had other things to do too, and since other guys from the new line-up could not really assimilate the style, we stopped again somehow... maybe just for another period... I can't see the future.

-What else impressed me was that the album was divided into 3 chapters - could this be accepted as an attempt of TORMENTOR to mirror the childhood-mood-old age life phases?

Well, as I said TORMENTOR has always been bizarre and grotesque. We made three chapters just to make it more complex and weird. They can represent the three things you mentioned as well: I liked your metaphor and feelings.

-Who is Paprika Jancsi??

It's hard to explain in English 'cause it's more understandable for Hungarians. That figure is pretty similar to the character that you could see on old festivals (the ones like in the middle ages) for children, like when the puppets fighting and hitting each other all the time on a little stage... one is Paprika Jancsi, the other is the Devil... hope it's clear what I mean, but it has other kind of bizarre and kind of painful feelings for the Huns... got more meanings.

-I suppose you are feeling tired of being asked this question again and again but I can't help asking on my

turn: have you thought of starting to work on a new TORMENTOR album someday?

Hmm, I'm not sure. Maybe, but I could not find the right line-up so far. The original guitarist is not interested in music anymore, the drummer lives in Germany and he is very busy with making tattoos, the original bass player is cool but he plays in other bands in Hungary too. The last guitarist disappeared while the last bass player was just an asshole. So you see it's not easy... Anyway, no one of us is able to survive from music since it's impossible and, since we grew older, it's hard to get the old members involved. Everybody is living different lives with different interests...

-Hashing the TORMENTOR subject over logically gives birth to a question referred to the 80's... Hungary, just like Bulgaria, is an ex-socialist country so this decade passed quite differently for us: have you happened to burst into laughter whenever you might have encountered people's worship of the 80's lately? They are completely unaware of the reverse side of the medal, after all...

You are right! No one can understand how much we were separated. The TORMENTOR „Anno Domini“ debut was not released in '89 in Hungary thanx to those conditions. Everybody is talkin' in superlatives about that stuff now, how it inspired MAYHEM, DARK-THRONE, EMPEROR, etc... but for us it was completely hopeless in that age. We never heard about any Underground movements from Scandinavia and so on. Imagine if we had released „Anno Domini“... definitely we would have continued with TORMENTOR maybe till now... but we were cursed. Anyway, TORMENTOR's „Anno Domini“ is a cult recording that I actually want to re-release via my new label called Saturnus Productions ([www.saturnusproductions.com](http://www.saturnusproductions.com)) together with our old demo called „The 7th Day of Doom“, with some original videos from the 80's plus some old PLASMA POOL stuff, etc. Time ago I found the original master-tape of TORMENTOR's „Anno Domini“ which we have remastered in the great VAA Studio.

-And what's the current attitude to Metal music in your country? I mean, are there good studios where bands to record their albums at and are there labels reliable enough to guarantee a 100% that these albums will get good promotion?

I think recently it's getting better. There are some bands like SEAR BLISS, FINNUGOR, MALEDICTION, AHRIMAN... Also, there are some ok studios. But I don't know any good labels in Hungary now. There was Nephilim Records who were cool but unfortunately they split so it's bad. Maybe Hammer Records are ok, however they are not for extreme Metal really.

-Back to your side projects: say something about N. A. P., Himalaya and northpole please... You are well informed! They were just experimental things in the past without any recorded materials that would worth to release. There was a period when I played music only for the moment if you know what I mean... After I returned from the MAYHEM recording

session many cursed things happened in '93. One thing was the murdering of Euronymous that pretty much shocked me. Also in the same period PLASMA POOL split for strange reasons. First, the drummer called me one day and told me that he sold his electronic drum set cause he decided to buy a motor bike, it's pretty ironic that later this money was stolen from him, from his room... It was not the complete end for PLASMA POOL but things already started to sink... The end was later when I heard that all our other instruments, all the synths and stufis, my guitar, etc were robbed from our keyboard player by the mafia cause he had done some very bad deals and they just ripped him off, as they went to his place with guns and took everything... I just became very disappointed of everything and got into pretty misanthropic mood. Back then we could find no labels that would have been interested in our stuff. We made some demo recordings from our force in a very cheap studio and we played more live. That time this kind of electro music seemed to be too far from people... I decided to stop doing music for people for a while, so I had only some experimental formations between '93 - '98 for ourselves, we were playing only for the moment and the cosmic energy... these melodies were more like rituals without recordings, concerts and all these modern things. In the same time I got married, had kids and had to work on our house building and such, we built our house by ourselves and I needed my hands there every day. Anyway, those years were pretty dark for me. Of course, the flames were still burning inside and I couldn't find peace. So I got back into the Scene in '98 when I joined ABORYM. I lost some years but it was worth, I think. In those years, for example, I read lots of books about ancient - especially eastern philosophies and mythologies...

-You must be a very openminded and creative person, since you have been participating in bands referring to various genres... Still, I assume that there is one project you might be fond of the most?

Recently it's ABORYM, my Italian band. It's a kind of problem that we don't play live since so far we never had a label to support us that was too bad. We were always lookin' for live possibilities but normally the label should support tours, etc, what never happened with us - don't ask me why! That's the main reason why it's not clear for people which my main band is... So the live gigs were really missing from ABORYM's existence. I would need a strong touring band cause I like to play live a lot. We played recently in London with ABORYM... it was our 3rd gig in 5 years... and it was very successful in comparison to the two others from before. Even Bard Faust (ex-EMPEROR) was with us on drums and the audience just went crazy... There was pogo, even some stage diving at the end (which is rare and not our kind but that night was really cool). It seemed people were very hungry to see us

in the UK. It seemed the whole world was against ABORVM in the last years. The first album was censored and boycotted in some countries, the 2<sup>nd</sup> was boycotted by our label (!) since they knew that we would leave them and there were some arguments but apart of everything we gained the best reviews like, for example, „album of the month 10/10 at Terrorizer“ ... etc. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> album the new label was still not strong enough and interested to support us for a tour... so we were a bit tired and disappointed, to be honest. 5 years of fuckin' hard work and suffering without any fruits to harvest... It is also SUNN O))) (an extremely slow Ambient / Doom band from US) which I'm involved in and I'm more like a guest vocalist there, but we had at least 5 fantastic gigs together this year. We played on All Tomorrows Parties this spring in front of like 3 thousand people and even BBC Radio broadcasted that gig! We also played in London Hammersmiths Lyric Theatre recently, where we were supporting JULIAN COPE... they were great things. Apart from that, I recently made an MCD with the Norwegian KEEP OF KALESSIN. I think that's again a great stuff with a unique line-up with Obsidian C on guitars and Frost on drums... both guys play in SATYRICON. Anyway, I love to play with such great musicians and especially I was hungry to play in a traditional way of Black Metal with real drums. The other cool thing is that we will play some live gigs quite soon in Norway, one of which will be at the „Kick off Inferno Festival“.

-Any concrete musicians that you might dream of collaborating with in the future?

Of course I have some visions, and would be cool to meet and do something with my „heroes“ who were inspiring me in my childhood. For example, it was pretty cool to chat with KING DIAMOND sometimes and I felt very much honoured when he told me that he has heard about me (even knew some of my songs) and knew about my activities. Maybe I would really love to get in touch also with some people from ex-SKINNY PUPPY, WILL or FRONT LINE ASSEMBLY (however, they are not Metal heads)... Anyway, we have an idea with my friends: Shane from NAPALM DEATH, Inrator from ANAAL NATHRAKH and also Necrotoucher from MAYHEM to do a „wing“ band called BORN TO MURDER THIS WORLD. I'm not sure when will it be realized, but I guess it will be great. I always heard some of the bases that Shane sent me and they were cool - fucking Necro Grind stuff...

-Are you apt of considering the negative in nature as Art's most reliable inspiration source?

Of course, man! I believe in the whole cosmic energy that contains naturally the „negative-side“ too. But today's religions mostly just forget about it or negate it... Vanya... let me include here some thoughts that I wrote to an Italian zine once... I guess it could fit here and you can use it if you like... (it was published only in Italian so far): „I'm so sad, disappointed and angry to see still those blind „religious“ people praying to the dead walls or false idols not only in Italy or Hungary but everywhere. Slow death, pain, paled faces, useless gold, dropping blood, coldness, gigantic priests, punishment from god, homosexuality, inquisition, destroying of the new thoughts and science, and false morals and false ideologies... in the name of „love“ or „goodness“, this is what most of today's religions are meaning to me. We don't need any priest to transmit between ourselves and the supreme!! It would be more than enough just to let the children grow and let them to become Men just as they were created. But we destroy the intelligence from the first day of life... teaching and forcing false ideologies on them (of course I'm not saying that we should hide the informations when one is interested) Nature and cosmos are our real parents and no one can define what life or existence is! One can find the truth only inside. We should learn only one thing in schools: to be able to find the truth deep inside ourselves. But today's system is a slave system and the egoistic false leaders, priests, politicians need power, money and lots of slaves to exploit of course; but if one is intelligent, he can see that death will come soon and no one can bring nothing to the other side apart from what is deep in the soul... death will take back everything at the end what belongs here. „Do this or we'll fuckin destroy you, or at least god will punish you after death“. It's their ideology and it's fuckin bullshit!!!

Actually Death is the real leader coming unstoppable closer minutes by minutes. No good and bad, or both is the same in the converging in infinity. It's the duality of the supreme. It's impossible to understand with-

out supreme way of thinking. But to pray for „good“ and ignore the „bad“ is completely false and unnatural... Every animal is more intelligent than all people who believe in that. We have the intelligence but we use only 5-10% of the capacity of our minds. Why? It's cause of the degradation and sinking of thousands of years! I think Man came here to this world as a semi-god in the beginning, and we do not evolve from the stupid monkeys!! We have a mission in life to get closer back to the supreme. But it's not a suffering human being on a cross! I visited some temples in Rome recently... after a pretty long period... and I found them fuckin bizarre and false still. I can never see paintings where Jesus talks to the crowd and everybody is happy and proud of their existence or victory, but only whiplash, calvaria, tears, suffering, pain... I definitely prefer Satan who represents similar things in Nature but in a majestic way! I also hate when „god“ appears as an old bearded man! I don't believe in resurrection too! What's that? Billions of zombies will come out from their graves? What a fuckin stupid idea!!!... And most people believe in these things. It's in our depths of mind from the childhood, it's in our subconscious... I hate the idea of the „virgin mother“ and the „father-son-spirit“, it's again about the homosexual anti-sex. Where is a woman to fuck?! Every woman naturally needs and loves to fuck but they can't do it as they wish or should cause that's a „sin“. Why? What a fuckin bullshit!! Who told this? This bigot moral leads our society to sink so deep. Almost in every family there are hidden sexual problems. Man, we are suffering from these religions... and for this I'm saying: it's all a fuckin evil manipulation. Jesus never had existed!! It's all just a created legend to make us slaves mentally!! No bearded god and anything like that!! Only the cosmic existence and Nature is what we have, but it's much more than what we had learned or what we can feel with our senses! The supreme intelligence is existing everywhere!! Of course there are other dimensions, spiritual worlds, and other existences and beings! There are fine physical energies and non-material forms and entities. Who once lived will always exist somewhere! Don't be afraid of death cause death does not exist as they told us! No punishment from god, it's only from our soul, only from our conscience and that's really painful enough. So try to be intelligent and put a big question mark everywhere! Don't believe me and don't follow me cause the truth is different for each of us!! But ask yourself cause the answer is deep inside of you! No one else can tell you what to do or what to think! Don't let yourself be manipulated!!! Be a rebel!! They call it Lucifer the Rebel, the Evil!! Of course, „cause they want to define you, they want to tell you what is right for you, and they want to take and use your life! Don't let them in your world!! Be yourself!!!

-How did you feel when you were asked to join MAYHEM back in 1993?

That time I was into occultism and dark visions and meditations so it was cool, however when Euryonymous first reached me it was in '91 when we were in the beginning with PLASMA POOL...  
-As though I'm about to turn my questionnaire to a word association game, ha-ha... In other words, as soon as I mentioned MAYHEM the name of Norway popped up in my head: what impressions did you remain from this country with, when you visited it in 1999 and 2000?

It was still very beautiful, the landscape and stuff, but the Scene changed a lot... In '93 the biggest band was MAYHEM but they were still poor people and Black Metal and the „Inner Circle“ was kind of an Underground movement, however most of common people had heard about that cause of their activities. So it was before a kind of explosion. Nowadays it's after that „explosion“ and it's grown pretty big but I still like it, though the feeling is much different. Anyway, it's still better than the commercial crap what we have everywhere... we need it and we need the extreme music as a whole!

-Your viewpoint about today's Metal Scene?

It changed a lot. I like that extreme Metal became much more popular than before, while I hate Rap Metal and stuffs like that... the Scene is always changing and waving but those who are committed remain... Thank you for your questions and hail to the fans from Bulgaria!!

Attila's label's website:  
<http://www.saturnusproductions.com>

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Golden Lake Productions Ltd.,  
46 Shuna Place, Newton Mearns,  
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GOLDCD015

**Forsaken**  
"Anima Mundi" CD

£6/\$10/10 Euros

The veterans of doom metal return! After 13 years and numerous releases, these guys have produced by far their best album yet. Already regarded as co-fathers of the doom metal scene worldwide this album will give them the throne all to themselves. Powerful, majestic, epic and extremely heavy! Mixing crunchy, stompin' riffs with eerie keyboards and superb clean vocals and rounded off with a top notch production. It doesn't get much better than this!

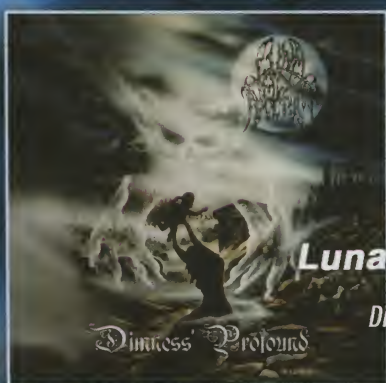


GOLDCD014

**Emancer**  
"Invisible" CD

£6/\$10/10 Euros

After two successful albums "Utopian Illusions" and "The Human Experiment", we are hit with the 3rd full length album from this experimental black metal band. Hailing from Norway, you know you can expect top quality musicianship and skilled song writing. The band mix cold aggressive black metal with progressive astral passages resulting in a unique sound without straying too far from their black metal roots. Like fellow countrymen Satyricon, these guys can mix pure hatred with atmosphere, leaving you gasping for more.

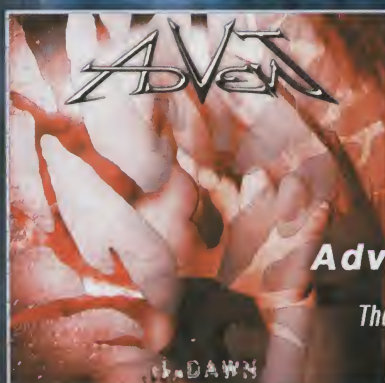


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# REVIEWS

10 - HITS THE CEILING! 9,0 - BRILLIANT;  
8,0 - GROUNDBREAKING; 7,0 - OKAYISH;  
5,0 TO 6,0 - COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER;  
1,0 TO 4,0 - TOTAL TIME WASTE

**NUNSLAUGHTER**  
„Nunslaughter“ CD  
UNUSUOUS


I shall admit that „Hells Unholy Fire“ is the only NUNSLAUGHTER album that I've heard as yet, although this band has been existing since 1987 and is currently considered as one of the cult acts on the Death Metal Scene. So the „Nunslaughter“ CD was of great use to me for it helped me get acquainted with the band more thoroughly, as it turned out to be a compilation of tracks selected from previous NUNSLAUGHTER works. I remember the „Hells Unholy Fire“ album didn't appeal to me very much but THIS one was a pure classic!

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**LORD BLASPHEMER**  
„Tales of Misanthropy, Bloodlust And Mass Homicide“ CD  
METAL WAR

Although LORD BLASPHEMER could not be labeled as newbies on the world Metal Scene (the band's first demo dates since '89), „Tales of Misanthropy, Bloodlust And Mass Homicide“ is the debut full-length from these Chicago dudes. The very release will be a great surprise for all the admirers of the most primitive and brutal aspects of the Death / Thrash genre. I at least did enjoy the album and felt totally doubtless about LORD BLASPHEMER's severe stage assaults. Or open ups, if you like. The bands which LB have played with include ANGEL CORPSE, VADER, SAMAEI, SATYRICON, DIMMU BORGIR, GORGUTS, KRISIUN and more...

Vanya Marinova.....7,0



**MANITOCORE**  
„Ritual Cleansing of the Whore“ MCD  
BREATH OF NIGHT / MERCILESS


This grinding Death / Black outfit from the States was started in 2000 by members of BLOOD COVEN, SOMNUS and EMANCIATED ENTRAILS. The „Ritual Cleansing of the Whore“ MCD is the only item in MANITOCORE's discography at the moment but still I bet these dudes have garnered numerous fans already! Hell yeah, it is not everyday when you have the chance to lay your hands on a release that shines both for its angst driven performances and uncanny atmospheres... Nevertheless, the REAL gem on the album appears to be the breathtakingly grim cover of SAMAEI's „Beyond the Nothingness“ ... all fans of that cult Swiss act MUST give it a listen!

Vanya Marinova.....7,0

**MORTAL AGONY**  
„Neurobutchery“ MCD  
Self Released

Mad, straightforward Death Metal is what MORTAL AGONY deliver in their „Neurobutchery“ MCD. This record will appeal to the maniacs of brutal Death aggression without useless technical stuff. Solid rhythm section, low-tuned guitars and deep voice in the vein of early INCANTATION. I don't have any info about MORTAL AGONY but they sound like being referred to the European rather than to the American Death Metal style. Not a bad album, if you're deathbanger-search for it!


Tsvetan Rachev.....6,0



**ACT OF GODS**  
„Dies Irae“ MCD  
OSMOSE

This French band was formed in 2001 by members of MULTILATED and ABYSSALS. Thus, what these guys offer with their „Dies Irae“ debut is a vehement Death / Grind blend with the intent to sweep you away with rumbling riffs, insanely howling solos and malicious grunts. I am not into stuff like that in general but still I find this MCD far from bad. The guys are currently working on their full-length debut so be on the watch!


Vanya Marinova.....7,0



**REVENGE**  
„Triumph, Genocide, Antichrist“ CD  
OSMOSE

AAAAAARRRRRRGGGGHHH!!! If you decide to make a serial killer related movie someday then know that the music for the hardest scenes would be your last problem in the presence of a CD like this... That's right, „Triumph, Genocide, Antichrist“ proved to be a real aural assault suggesting destructive intents by means of insanely chaotic guitar riffs, brain-slicing leads and headreelingly vehement drums. This all completed by the vöKILLIES of Peter Helmkamp (ORDER FROM CHAOS, ANGEL CORPSE). I am yet to choose whether to recommend this album for parental audio torturing or to offer it to fans having problems with getting up earlier in the morning.


Vanya Marinova.....6,0



**ARKHON INFAUSTUS**  
„Fifth Catalyst“ CD  
OSMOSE

Welcome back to the hellish maelstrom of severely rumbling riffs, deranging leads, vehement drumming and schizoid vocal alternation! The second CD from this French Death / Black outfit doesn't differ from their previous „Hell Injection“ except for the sound quality that sucks totally this time, even though the sound engineer was David Decobert (known for his work with NILE, IMMORTAL, MARDUK, etc.). Of course, I do not expect that this might have been one on purpose... we talk about a „Fifth Catalyst“ after all, ha-ha-ha... Not a bad release, though.

Vanya Marinova.....7,5



**NOCTIFERIA**  
„Per Aspera“ CD  
ARCTIC MUSIC GROUP

Arctic Music Group is Phil Fasciana's (MALEVOLENT CREATION) music label and NOCTIFERIA are one of the most intriguing bands in their ranks. Coming from Slovenia, this band combines Death Metal riffs influenced by MORBIID ANGEL with majestic and symphonic passages in the vein of EMPEROR. The voice is high reminding me of Martin Shirc from HOL-LENTHON. It's obvious that NOCTIFERIA are experienced musicians. „Per Aspera“ is their third CD actually and the band has been a warm-up act for NILE and MALEVOLENT CREATION on their European tours. The production is on a high level, the sound is good.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

**SPAWN OF SATAN / BLOODSICK**  
Split CD  
HELLS HEADBANGERS

Definitely this split CD is a must for everyone who's been yearning to submerge into the 80's vortex once again! Thus, it is SPAWN OF SATAN that go first with their 5 tracks of rhythmic Death Metal influenced from bands like ENTOMBED, DISMEMBER, MORBIID ANGEL, CARNAGE, NUNSLAUGHTER, etc. The SPAWN OF SATAN guys are not around since yesterday though... the band is actually fronted by NUNSLAUGHTER's Jim Sadist and also features members of SOULLESS, ALL THAT IS EVIL and DEGREPIT. Then the listener is smoothly tuned in a Thrash Metal wave. In other words, BLOODSICK come with their own 5 bloodboilers resurrecting dearest memories of nonchalant escapades under the sign of such cult acts as DARK ANGEL, DESTRUCTION, KREATOR, SODOM and so on. BLOODSICK are not newbies on the Scene either... names like MORTICIAN, TERROR, LEK or RINGWORM is the clue.

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**M-90's**  
„Desert of Pangea“ CD  
Self Released

Well, what I heard from M-90's was not bad... „Desert of Pangea“ proved to be abundant in remarkably skillful performances and you could feel that the 5 band members must have worked really hard in order to achieve such great results! What didn't appeal to me anyway was that these guys were too much SLAYER-influenced and could easily pass for copycats respectively. On the top of it, their CD includes a cover version of „Silent Scream“! I would advise M-90's to feel free to experiment more...things would go unspectacularly fine from then on!

Web: <http://www.m90s.nl>  
Vanya Marinova.....7,0

**PROJECT: FAILING FLESH**  
„A Beautiful Sickness“ CD  
Self Released

Definitely these guys will turn a lot of heads very soon if they keep on developing the same way! „A Beautiful Sickness“ (the CD title have anything to do with „A Beautiful Mind“?) turned out to be a very promising debut... from the very beginning you end up with a throat seized by the thick obscurity of Thrash-Death-Core oriented riffs with uncanny synth parts inserted here and there... In addition, the CD includes a great cover of VENOM's „Warhead“!

Web: [www.projectfailingflesh.com](http://www.projectfailingflesh.com)  
Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**A BRUTAL CHRISTMAS**  
Compilation CD  
SOUND OF THE DEAD RECORDS

What happens when you like equally strong typical Christmas songs and brutal Metal? In the case of Neil Edge, the president of SOTD Records this was to make a label, invite Metal bands and let them perform your favourite Christmas songs. Eleven bands doing songs for the silent (un)holy night! First are ARCHER and their Thrash-/Speed attack of „Angels We Have Heard On High“, „God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen“ is made by KEKAL in their unique style of classic Heavy Metal / sympho Black ROYAL ANGUSIR perform in a great way „Mary Did You Know“... Power / Black Metal with strong keyboard presence and excellent singer reminding me of Dan Swano. Totally twisted and insane is „Coventry Carol (Julia Julia)“ by FRANK'S ENEMY - the distorted voice of Angela Levi can drive you mad; angelic choirs combined with noise! FROSTKESHES destroy „Let All Mortal Flesh Cease Silence / O Come Emmanuel“ in their EMPEROR-influenced style - smashing! „The Little Drummerboy“ is mutilated and disemboweled by TORTURED CONSCIENCE in a brutal Death Metal way. HEARKEN also deliver brutal Death Metal version of „O Come All Ye Faithful“ - it sounds like some of NILE's brutal anthems but with a drummachine. DEATH REQUISITE execute „Child Messiah“ by turning it in an oldschool Black Metal track. „O Holy Night“ - impressive Dark / Doom version by EverSINCE - heavy riffs and excellent vocals. Next is again „God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen“ but this time in a short and furious Thrash / Hard Core version played by FATHOMBOMB. The compilation ends with PURE DEFANGED's version of „Joy To The World“ - a heavy mid-paced Thrash with male choicess. Isn't that the perfect present for the (Un)Holy Night? This CD deserves your attention and for more info about the bands featured visit: [www.sotdrecords.com](http://www.sotdrecords.com). Santa Claus broke his fucking neck from headbanging.

Tsvetan Rachev.....9,0

**DROWNED**  
„Back from Hell“ CD  
COGUMELO

If you have heard DROWNED's „Bonegrinder“ debut then you would certainly like „Back from Hell“ too! The new longplayer of these Brazilian dudes offers another 12 tracks of severely straightforward Death / Thrash including a stunning cover of SARCOPHAGO's „The Laws of Scourge“ classic and the demo version of the „Bonegrinder“ track. As I could read, DROWNED are considered as Brazil's biggest act for the time being and I firmly believe that: apart from mirroring such a killer return, „Back from Hell“ appears to confirm DROWNED's status of reliable disciples of such cult bands as SARCOPHAGO or VULCAN!

Vanya Marinova.....7,0

**NEBEL**  
„Nebel“ CD  
ADIPOCERE

Long before being sent this CD for reviewing I had found the website of a one-man German band called NEBEL that was described as a Black Metal / Grind Core / Industrial-influenced act. I remained so intrigued that when I saw the NEBEL name on the album list that Chavdar had sent me, I asked him to give this release for reviewing to me. And you just couldn't imagine my surprise when I eventually ended up with holding in my hands the CD of ANOTHER band NEBEL that hailed from France!!! I am far from disappointed though as what I heard was 10 songs of killer, mid 90's Black Metal that strongly reminded me of DARKTHRONE's „Transylvanian Hunger“! By the way, NEBEL exist no longer... like I read in the info-sheet, the trio decided to split right after the release of their debut... That was sad to learn but, on the other hand, you'd better be remembered as „a shining and a falling star“ than as another DARKTHRONE clone...

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**SCEPTER**  
„Fucking Metal Motherfuckers“ CD  
MERCILESS

I couldn't suppress the smile on my face after I read the title of SCEPTER's new CD... it was that some people expressed a bit childish way of thinking while aiming at reviving the 80's nonchalance... I couldn't say the same thing about SCEPTER's music though. The second longplayer from this Chicago trio turned out to be a cool, slightly CELTIC FROST-influenced release that simply delights the ear for its straightforward, unpretentious riffs laced with awesome leads, moderate drumming and vocals a la Tom G. Warrior. I happen to own SCEPTER's „I'm Going to Hell“ but so I can say that „Fucking Metal Motherfuckers“ is a step forward definitely!

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**PATH OF EXPERIENCE**  
Compilation CD  
P.O.E.

This is probably the most varied compilation CD that I've ever come upon! „Path of Experience“ features only Italian bands from the most melodic to the most brutal genres. First are DIANIRA - they play some modern alternative Rock with lyrics in Italian. The next band is LIVING DREAM and their melodic radio-friendly Rock - simple and memorable song, potential radio hit. Not my cup of tea though! Anyway, the thing gets harder with FALLING SILENCE - crossover with female screamer, something like GUANO APES but rawer. Not bad at all! SPELLCRAFT offer Dark / Gothic Metal influenced by DARKSEED, but they still have a lot of work to do. It's time for some Progressive Rock - ALIPERDUTE. Relaxing Rock music with flute and sung in Italian. The next band GAMILA offers mellow, a little depressive music of a highest quality. KARDIA bring back the more brutal sonority - their style is strange mixture of Gothic / Dark Wave and Hard Core. FLUCTUOTUM (intriguing name!) are a Gothic band reminding me of LACRIMOSA but with Italian lyrics. After them comes the time for the most brutal band on the CD - NUCLEAR DEVASTATION - smashing Grind Core with Underground sound and fierce growls. MESHALINA are next and if you're a fan of RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE you'll dig them because they imitate RATM's sound almost a 100%. Again some Progressive / Jazz Rock from BRIGHT CORNER - technical but also passionate track. The end comes with HOLLYWOOD VEMPIRES. Their track threw me back in time when GUNS'N'ROSES were at their top - dirty LA Hard Rock telling stories about fast cars, hot chicks and seas of drugs / alcohol. Even their singer sounds like Axel Well, in conclusion, this CD is only for open-minded persons who like different stuff. Enjoy! For contacts: [pathofexperience@aruba.it](mailto:pathofexperience@aruba.it)

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

**EAT MY FUK**  
„Wet Silt And a Bottle of Whiskey“ CD  
DISPLEASED

Here is a CD that will bring you almost 20 years back with its Punk'N'Roll reminding of VENOM's earlier works a bit... The tracks are performed with a lot of humor and you have the feeling that 3 - 4 80's freaks suddenly decided to hit the studio while drinking at the bar... Actually, I read in the info-sheet that the EAT MY FUK line up consisted of „prominent members from the US Death and Black Metal scene“ and that it was even rumored that the guys were involved with ABSCCESS and VONI! Honestly speaking, I couldn't care less... the 15 tracks on „Wet Silt...“, even though performed with skill, were a bit tedious. You would hardly lose if you hear 2-3 only. I mean.

Vanya Marinova.....6,0

**ANKH**  
„Expect Unexpected“ CD  
METAL MIND

This band appears to be another proof that the Metal Mind Productions team chose to work with very special representatives of the Polish scene only! Actually, „Expect Unexpected“ (#5 in ANKH's discography) is the first album of the band released via MM and what it deals with is a stunning Electro / Progressive Rock blend suggesting a bit psychedelic moods. The 16 tracks on this CD are abundant in fresh ideas presented with remarkable artiscism and skill that literally make your head reel! As I could read from the info-sheet, ANKH is a cult name in Poland's Progressive environments and is well-known worldwide too for the band's participations in important festivals in the States, Brazil, Mexico, etc. To end this review, I am recommending „Expect Unexpected“ to everyone who is in search of releases standing beyond the music cliches circle!

Vanya Marinova.....9,5

**HEAVEN'N'HELL**  
„Sleeping With Angels“ CD  
SPIHFNARM

Although „Sleeping With Angels“ does not shine with anything peculiar, you could feel that the people behind this Heavy / Rock act from Finland were not born yesterday when it comes to playing music. I personally enjoyed those ponderous and straightforward riffs, catchy leads and moderate drumming. Apart from that, Tom Hendriksson's vocals sensibly resemble Ozzy Osbourne's and this appears to be another plus

concerning „Sleeping with Angels“  
Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**ALPHA-PROJECT**  
„Counter Reset“ CD  
THUNDERING RECORDS

Definitely I could feel that „Counter Reset“ was truly ALPHA-PROJECT's debut! Apparently these guys had the good will to create something innovative, but the result was an impetuous, Electro / Core / Nu Metal release. The tracks on the album sound quite mediocre and this rap singing in moments can really freak you out! Indeed I could distinguish some catchy synth melodies inserted here and there but they sound like feeble cries in a desert literally... Let's hope that ALPHA-PROJECT will progress in the future.

Vanya Marinova.....5,0



**DIVINE RAPTURE**  
„The Burning Passion“ CD  
LISTENABLE

DR seem to be one of the most prosperous US bands lately. Participation at many Underground festivals, tours in the US as support of DECIDE, IN FLAMES... and finally a debut album - „The Burning Passion“. DR's sound is influenced to a great extent by the mighty MORBIID ANGEL lightning fast and technical drumming, speedy riffing and good deep vocals. No wonder that their first 3-song promo was produced by Erik Rutan. Also, there are some Black Metal passages present in the vein of EMPEROR and BEHEMOTH. „The Burning Passion“ is recorded at Nightcity Studios with Ray Vento (AURORA BOREALIS) - the production is faultless. DR definitely deserve attention with their high-class Death Metal - for more info visit their site: <http://www.divinerapture.net>

Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0



**NUMBER ONE SON**  
„Lessons“ CD  
VISIBLE NOISE

Hm, this is not a bad band. And I will surely regret about my low mark, since I know guys who would give it 10/10. It is just not that kind of music I like, trendy and a bit boring post Rock with nothing unique. The moment I started liking something, the next moment I hated what followed. There are good spots, but on the whole, it is not for me.

Ivailo Tonchev.....3,0

**SVARTSYN**  
„Destruction Of Man“ CD  
SOUND RIOT

It's always a pleasure that there are still bands in Scandinavia that play oldschool Black Metal in its purest form. Three years after their last release, SVARTSYN are back with „Destruction Of Man“. This time the band is a duo - Ormas on vocals and strings and Draugen (ex-DARK FUNERAL) on drums. All die-hard fans of old MAYHEM and MARDUK, this CD will definitely appeal to you - there are seven songs with excellent drumming, harsh riffs and spiteful dark voice. This album is recorded at Necromorbus Studio (TRIUMPHATOR, INSISION...) and the layout-out is made by Thomas Vaananen (THYRFING). SVARTSYN's music is able to create truly dark, atmospheric and this is something that's not very often met today in the albums of younger bands. This is totally anti-commercial Black you like it or hate it!

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

**SARGATANAS REIGN**  
„Euthanasia...Last Resort“ CD  
I HATE RECORDS

Well, Swedish Death Metal is Swedish Death Metal, yet bands like SARGATANAS REIGN add a new approach. Compared to MORBIID ANGEL, GOD DETHRONED or DEATH, I can say they have a good dose of „doom“ passages, perfect music for an autumn evening like this. Note, this CD has Magnus Devo Anderson (ex-MARDUK) on vocals. And, also some more experimental, almost Industrial sounding parts. It is also pressed on vinyl with a bonus song, a cover of the almighty GG Allin. Good, support the vinyl!

Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

**PERVERSY**  
„In the Garment Of Lust“ CD  
PERENNIAL QUEST RECORDS

I've always been a fan of the Czech Underground scene. There are many good and original bands and Slovakia's PERVERSY isn't an exception. Formed in 1995, the band finally made a stable line up and released the debut „In the Garment Of Lust“ via the French label Perennial Quest (any associations with DEATH?!). PERVERSY strike with brutal but groovy Death Metal where slow parts are followed by speedy attacks supported by throaty vocals. Special attention to the bass lines - the bass can be heard clearly and it's obvious that Martin Kukul is an experienced musician. There are some violins here and there among the brutal sounds. You need some original Death Metal? Give a try to PERVERSY.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5



**REPROBATION**  
„Undoing Creation“ CD  
FOREVER UNDERGROUND

I heard about REPROBATION some time ago but „Undoing Creation“ is the first CD of theirs that I have the chance to listen to. Tolerable Death / Grind with furious swaths and solid as rock riffs. The most interesting thing here is the vocalist - this guy is able to change his voice from ultra-low growls to high screams in no time! „Undoing Creation“ is nothing new but is good enough in its own way. Special your attention! Tsvetan Rachev.....6,0



**SATELLITE**  
*"A Street Between Sunrise And Sunset"*  
**CD**  
**METAL MIND**  
 I still think that Progressive Rock is dead. But this CD proved I might be wrong. Somehow, for the last 10 years, I rejected even the existence of the term "progressive" in the modern day music scene. Now I'm in doubt! The SATELLITE from Poland sound really smooth and poetic, with a hint of folk music here and there, a bit jazzy in places. I kind of consider this really similar to GENESIS or MARILLION, but it is in a way different too. You should really pay attention to the lyrics, beautiful and gentle. The promo sheet says these are ex-COLLAGE people who joined and played for fun, but finally decided to release it. And it is great that they did! This band is heading for sure success within the international music scene, so watch out. I should also check the other bands on their label, Metal Mind from Poland.  
 Ivailo Tonchev.....9.0

**GENOCIDE KOMMANDO**  
*"Black Metal Supremacy" 8/10*  
**MORBUND**  
 If you have ever wondered what sort of creatures inhabit the nightmares of a kid, they must be really close to what I saw on the cover. Grim, totalitarian Black Metal from France / Portugal - this is what the Black Metal Supremacy promo says. It is released on Moribund Records and it certainly amazes me. The music is fast, extreme and evil. No keyboards and the sound is pretty simple, yet effective. Honestly speaking, it is my third spinning of the CD in my stereo and I can say that I like it. It is not exceptional in any way, yet I like the idea they have used. No more satanic images, no more pentagrams - but a picture of some cops, shooting at somebody. At last - the first political Black Metal band! These were my first feelings. To my surprise, and while scanning the cover, I spotted pentagrams on their police uniforms. Is it a joke, or are cops really the Devil's slaves? Ha-ha-ha...I can never tell that but the CD is good and in a way amusing, and if you like raw and primitive Black Metal the way I like it, this is your band!  
 Ivailo Tonchev.....7.0

**LUEN-TA**  
*"Ghost Area" CD*  
**THUNDERING RECORDS**  
 Finally a young band from the class of DEATH, CYRHC and PESTILENCE. LUEN-TA come from France and "Ghost Area" is their first album. This is excellent technical Death Metal - non-standard structures of the songs, technical breaks, virtuoso leads, just a pleasure for the ear. LUEN-TA use a keyboard that fits perfectly to the aggressive music by creating a majestic atmosphere. Besides, there are some influences from MESHUGGAH and FEAR FACTORY on one hand and DIMMU BORGIR and NOCTURNUS on the other. So you see that we're talking about open-minded persons able to take the best from every genre and to interpretate it in their own way. The most important thing is that despite the technical performances there's no useless posing - all songs are memorable and easy to listen. "Ghost Area" ends with a conversion of GRAVE's classic "Souless" and the whole album is dedicated to the memory of Chuck Schuldiner (R.I.P. - we'll miss you forever!). Don't miss one of the best albums for the year - LUEN-TA are here to stay!  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....9.5

**ZAMAK**  
*"Fortress" CD*  
**Self Released**  
 Zamak's first CD, after being a band for over 7 years. This is a Mexican band that has been existing since 1995, and they are looking for a company to produce them. But why do they bother, since they released the album on their own and did it good? What we have here is 10 fast and violent Death Metal tracks, very much in the early SEPULTURA style. With the difference that this is played better, recorded in a better studio and I guess the band has a potential for some stardom in the international Metal circles. I believe in them, as they have the guts to do a great CD by themselves and to be what they are. It is hard being "true to what you believe" in the contemporary world. As reading their promo sheet (by the way, find somebody to do a better translation, this one is awful!) I see they have played with many bands like CHILDREN OF BODOM, MONSTROSITY, etc. and visited Guatemala, San Salvador and Nicaragua. I think it is a great way to start, and I guess ZAMAK will be the new Metal sensation, coming out of Mexico.  
 Contact: zamakur@hotmail.com  
 Ivailo Tonchev.....9.0

**SEPTIK**  
*"Inception Of Decay" CD*  
**WINTERTHORN**  
 Let's go back to 1991 when some dudes decided to form a Death Metal band - SEPTIK. In 1992 they released their debut "Inception Of Decay" and after some touring across USA in 1994 the band split-up. In 2002 the guys decided to reunite and as a first step they signed a deal with Winterthorn that released a remastered version of the debut. So you'll find here some impressive oldschool Dark / Death Metal in the vein of ADHERER, INCUBUS, etc. SEPTIK are probably one of the first Death Metal bands using keyboard together with the other instruments, some of their songs sound exactly like the Scandinavian Black Metal wave that would emerge some years later. "Inception Of Decay" ends with acoustic instrumental fully revealing the musical abilities of the band. If you wanna know some more about this band write to: septik@winterthorn.com  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

**THYRANE**  
*"Hypnotic" CD*  
**SPIKEFARM**  
 Blastor (vocals, guitar, drums) formed THYRANE in 1994 and now, ten years after the beginning, they have two albums and one demo CD behind their backs. "Hypnotic" is THYRANE's third album recorded with

the help of Daemon (bass), Avather (guitar) and Hannamari (keys). The band offer Black Metal combined with electronics, similar to bands like ...AND OCEANS, THE KOVENANT...or darker RAAHMSTEIN if you wish. There are some pretty interesting songs but in the end it all becomes a little boring - all tracks are somehow similar and predictable. But decide for yourselves.  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

**MISANTHROPIC**  
*"Soulreaver" CD*  
**XTREM MUSIC**  
 A German Death Metal band ... this speaks for itself. All sorts of riffs from the old and new school of Death Metal are sequencing one after the other. Some ballad-type parts, some Grind-like rushes. No significant attempt actually to make real music ... nothing more than the average putting together of immature riffs and parts. The vocals are growling but toneless, the sound of the CD is all the same from the beginning to the end, no ups or downs, or some life in it. This album is really a Soulreaver ... despite the musical skills of the musicians, it lacks what it's needed for great music to be created, it's rather having what's necessary to make one nervous and bad-reviewing.  
 Simeon Ilev.....5.0

**PUTRID PILE**  
*"Collection Of Butchery" CD*  
**UNITED GUTTURAL**  
 Guess what style does a band with such a name play? Definitely not Stoner Rock! But if you think about CANNIBAL CORPSE-influenced Death Metal, you're damn right! PUTRID PILE's sound is just like those from the first three albums of the legendary Cannibals. Of course, the movie samplers aren't forgotten. Those guys aren't bad musicians but they need some fresh ideas or they'll drown in the sea of wannabes.  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....6.0

**GOSPEL OF THE HORNS**  
*"A Call To Arms" CD*  
**INVICTUS RECORDS**  
 Australia strikes again! After MORTIFICATION and DESTROYER 666, it's time for GOTH to raise their flags of victory over the world. "A Call To Arms" is a second album for the band after their "Eye Of the Conqueror" since 2000. Stunning mixture of Black Metal and Thrash, seven songs of satanic aggression is what you'll find here. HOUWITZER, WARHAMMER and MASOCHIST put together influences from SODOM to MARDOUK and create a style of their own. The guys know how to play their instruments and the production of the album is on a high level too.  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

**MANEGARM**  
*"Dodstard" CD*  
**DISPLEASED**  
 The band is making VIKING Metal reminding me of the great FALKENBACH and ENSLAVED. Modern Norwegian / Viking folklore (could we say so?) very, very much influenced by the ancient one. The album is very melodic but there should have been more singing than screaming vocals, just to strengthen the atmosphere of these hymns and make them singable by fans (could be a great thing, just think of it!). Ok, there are lots of these typical Black Metal rushing parts to remind us where all this started from, and that it's Metal after all, not pure folk. This album is quite good, only the vocals and the overall songwriting should be a little bit improved and tightened to make MANEGARM one of the best in this genre. The only track in English ... "Pagan War" ... gives you an idea what it's all about.  
 Simeon Ilev.....7.0

**PROFANATION**  
*"Dead Man Rotting" CD*  
**Self Released**  
 Don't you think there are too many cheesy Death / Grind / Gore bands popping up nowadays? Distorted growls and sick screams combined in a CARCASS manner, low-tuned guitars, grinding drumming - that's what you'll hear in a 90% of the brutal Death Metal bands especially those coming from USA. PROFANATION are this kind of band - monotonous brutal Death with nothing to be remembered. There are some fresh moments but as a whole it's like one song throughout the whole album. Fortunately, their drummer is a human - if they have used a drum-machine, "Dead Man Rotting" would have been a nightmare. There's a hidden track where PROFANATION "profanate" the classic Rock'n'Roll scheme, but it doesn't save the situation.  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....5.0

**LEVIATHAN**  
*"The Tenth Sub Level Of Suicide" CD*  
**MORBUND**  
 Yeah, great! This album is real fun. I haven't listened to such insane Black Metal for a long time. It has a lot of BURZUM's hypnosis, the barbarism of DARKTHRONE or GRAVELAND, the grimness of JUDAS ISCARIOT, blending these classics was meant to form its own fascinating atmosphere you'd like to return to again and again. It's one of the most worth listening products of Black Metal recently. The album is very, very dark indeed, but if you are able to feel the joke behind it and enjoy the game, it will be a great listening time. But if you take it for real - well, then your life and sanity are put in jeopardy, and this is serious! Modern psycho-analysis must listen carefully. These slow psycho parts are the most mind-altering (not to speak of the fast ones) and the voice ... it is coming from the tenth sub level of suicide.  
 Simeon Ilev.....9.0

**ABSORBED**  
*"Visions In Bloodred" CD*  
**DEADLOCK RECORDS**  
 ABSORBED attack your ears with true oldschool Swedish Death Metal, the way we know it from the first albums of DISMEMBER, ENTOMBED, etc. All the following "Left Hand Path" and "Into the Everlasting

Stream" should hear ABSORBED's debut full-length album (they have one demo and one mini-CD before that), it most probably will appeal to them. Unfortunately this album has nothing new to offer, I've heard these things before in many bands and ABSORBED doesn't stand out with anything special. Anyway, if you're a die-hard fan of Swedish Death-give this CD a try.  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....6.5

**CORPSE GRINDER**  
*"Persistence" CD*  
**DESTROYER RECORDS**  
 CORPSE GRINDER are the consecutive jewel from the huge Brazilian Underground scene. Formed in the distant 1987, the band start to play brutal Death Metal in the vein of BENEDICTION, MASSACRE, AUTOPSY... "Persistence" delivers low, brutal growls; low-tuned Death riffs; varied drumming... This is the old Death Metal, the way it was in the beginning of the 90's. If you crave for such a style, this is your band!  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....6.0

**OBSCENE EXTREME 2002**  
**Compilation CD**  
**OBSCENE**  
 This CD contains 39 tracks of bands that had participated in the Czech Grind Core festival of the same name. Some of these - like SQUASH BOWELS, AGATHOCLES, FLESHLESS, ISACAARUM - are well-known to the fans of Grind Core for many years. Their musical / composing skills are out of the question and are audible in this CD too. Unfortunately, the same could not be said for the bigger part of bands here. Most of them obviously play just for the joke, their production is being far from the standards set by REPULSION and NAPALM DEATH 15 years ago. So, if you want to know what East European Grind Core has been like in 2002 ... try this CD. Otherwise, stick to the classics.  
 Simeon Ilev.....5.0

**PAGANIZER**  
*"Murder Death Kill" CD*  
**XTREM MUSIC**  
 This is the second PAGANIZER CD that I'm being sent for reviewing. I remember how much "Promoting Total Death" appealed to me so I expected that I would enjoy "Murder Death Kill" as well. Did I? Man, this release BLEW ME OFF!!! Believe me, these 9 tracks will wipe your brains out for their numbing riffs, insane leads, masterfully impaling drumming and rancour vomiting guitars. I would advise you to check this CD out immediately, especially if you're a diehard fan of Sweden's old school Death Metal bands!  
 Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**MALIGNANCE**  
*"Regna Umbrae Mortis" CD*  
**BTD**  
 Another band from the hordes of Satan. These four warriors want to be in the foremost lines but still cannot compete with the most evil beasts in Black Metal. The hate and aggression streaming from their music are impressing. The same goes about composing - audio hate composed to reach and destroy on the spot. MALIGNANCE have almost done it and are obviously trying to achieve mastery in this direction, but the audi-

ence will have to wait for their next releases to hear if the goal has been achieved... For now, we can say that this is a promising album, the photos are great ... MALIGNANCE look really evil, but improve your sound (some ears are aching) and depart from the cliches, please.  
 Simeon Ilev.....5.5

**AETERNUS**  
*"A Darker Monument" CD*  
**NOCTURNAL ART**  
 Here is another praised band from Norway's scene extreme that pops up with a new album for 2003. Things are a bit more special in this case though, as "A Darker Monument" appears to be the release that marks both an ending and a beginning in AETERNUS' history. What I mean is that with this very CD the trio from Bergen should be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary (as you might know, AETERNUS started in 1993 as ARES first), and with this very CD again they start working with a new label namely Samoth's Nocturnal Art Productions. As for the album itself, I couldn't say that it offers anything different as a whole, the AETERNUS stick to their thick and obscure Death Metal sound with the same beautiful acoustic passages inserted here and there. Still, if you juxtapose AETERNUS' new longplayer with their previous releases more thoroughly, you will feel that "A Darker Monument" sounds more mature and majestic!  
 Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**MONDPROJECT**  
*"Mondproject" CD*  
**THUNDERING / NAUSEA**  
 I suppose I would have remained impressed by this CD more if it happened to be released 5-6 years ago, for an instance... As time went by, I had the chance to hear numerous bands resorting to the combining of Metal riffs with Gothic / Dark Wave / Electro influences so MONDPROJECT didn't intrigue me really. Still, I couldn't deny that the 10 tracks on the album were simply faultless in construction and were not bereft of some catchiness... I would recommend "Mondproject" to anyone who might have felt tired of listening to solely Metal stuff for years and has felt eager to try something new...  
 Vanya Marinova.....6.5

**DYSRHYTHMIA**  
*"Pretest" CD*  
**RELAPSE**  
 Jazz Rock from famous Relapse records. 9 pieces of this trio to show us what some real playing sounds like. The band is twisting time and instruments in the best traditions of the genre by playing to guitar / bass / drums and listeners. And it is an interesting and relaxing game. The freedom of Jazz, some urban landscapes, thoughtful introspections, musical theory in practice ... that's what this album is about. Far from mainstream or Underground commercialism, DYSRHYTHMIA deserve a "well done, folks" for their fifth record.  
 Simeon Ilev.....7.5

**YWOLF**  
*"The Night of the Werewolf" CD*  
**ADPOCERE**  
 When I first looked at the CD title, I thought that I was to hear another

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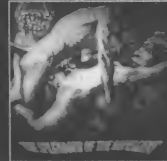
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brackish, vampire inspired BM release... Eventually, it turned out to feature 7 mediocrally dark, Atmo-Gothic tracks (incl. a remix of the titanic) strongly reminding of WELTENBAND's works. With this CD of *"The Night of the Werewolf"* features a bit CRADLE OF FLTH-ish vocals. The person standing behind YWOLF is the Hungarian Gabriel Wolf and this is his second album.

Vanya Marina .....6.0

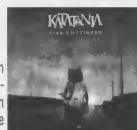
**PENITENT**  
*"Songs of Despair" CD*  
**BEYOND... Productions**  
 Without being fully acquainted with PENITENT's development through the years, I somehow know that *"Songs of Despair"* will astonish many people! The thing is that another representative of Norway's Dark Atmospheric environments (after MORTIS) has decided to start exploring new paths: what we have here is PENITENT's typical dark melodies mingled with... Black Metal and Industrial influences! Although *"Songs of Despair"* sounds theatrically obscure and beautiful as a whole, I think that the album would have been much better without the aforementioned "extras" that make it sound like an epigon of MORGUE's latest releases in monstrosity. By the way, PENITENT is a two-piece project since 2000 and I wonder if it is not the new member Berndt Sunden who is responsible for this metamorphosis...

Vanya Marina .....6.5



**KATATONIA**  
*"Viva Emptiness" CD*  
**PEACEVILLE**  
 I have never been a devoted KATATONIA fan but *"Viva Emptiness"* appealed to me surprisingly. The very title of the Swedes' sixth album fits perfectly the music itself... the 13 tracks on the CD literally entrance the listener with their (somehow melancholic) ripeness and also display clearly the (inevitable) routine acquired by musicians being a part of the Scene for 10 years least! The awesome cover artwork by Travis Smith (KING DIAMOND, OPEX, DEATH, SADUS, etc) is another plus here. I believe that the KATATONIA fans have enjoyed the album a lot!

Vanya Marina .....7.5



**LUCIFUGUM**  
*"On Hooks to Pieces" CD*  
**ADPOCERE**  
 The Ukrainian band has made 8 tracks and a video for this CD. Melodic Black Metal, slow / medium tempo, nice keyboards and guitar melodies, lyrics in Russian, all this creating an atmosphere of lost freedom, homeland invaded by oppressors, struggles for liberation somewhere in the Middle Ages. LUCIFUGUM's hit song is *"All Mothers Die"* (the one with the video) and it tells the same story. It seems LUCIFUGUM is more about poetry than aggression. Musically, they return the listener to the past, too... Black Metal from the early 90's, Heavy Metal riffs from the 80's. Still, LUCIFUGUM have to work a lot to reach a listenable status. Hope this will happen soon.

Simon Iliev .....5.0



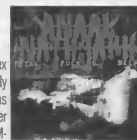
**AJATTARA**  
*"Kuolema" CD*  
**SPIKEFARM**  
 This is the second CD of Finland's AJATTARA (devised in 1996). Well, I don't know about the band's previous release but *"Kuolema"* simply took my breath for its obscurely detectable Black / Doom atmosphere which is powerfully driven by furiously slow drumming, thick guitar riffs and uncanny synth melodies! The lyrics on the album are in Finnish and this contributes additionally to its uniqueness.

Vanya Marina .....8.0



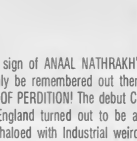
**ANAAL NATHRAKH**  
*"Total Fucking Necro" CD*  
**RAGE OF ACHILLES**  
 I had heard ANAAL NATHRAKH's *"Codex Necro"* debut already and it had literally tipped me out (in the good way), so it was more than interesting to hear some earlier work from this awesome, slightly MAYHEM-influenced duo... Yes, *"Total Fucking Necro"* features ANAAL NATHRAKH's two demos since 1999 plus *"The Necrogeddon"* track from the previously unreleased *"We Will Fuckin Kill You"* recordings since 2001. For those MAYHEM fans who might have not heard *"Total Fucking Necro"* yet: the CD also features brilliant cover versions of the *"Carnage"* and *"De Mysteries Dom Satanas"* classics!

Vanya Marina .....7.5



**AXIS OF PERDITION**  
*"The Ichnemoun Method" CD*  
**RAGE OF ACHILLES**  
 If 2001 passed for the UK under the sign of ANAAL NATHRAKH's *"Codex Necro"*, then 2003 will certainly be remembered out there with *"The Ichnemoun Method"* by AXIS OF PERDITION! The debut CD of this two-piece act from Northern England turned out to be an eardrum blasting Black Metal release halved with Industrial weirdness. It would be very easy for me to say that AXIS OF PERDITION indeed appeal to people into bands like ABORYM, the aforementioned ANAAL NATHRAKH, THEE MALDOROR KOLLEKTIVE or Finland's DIABLERIE even, but the truth is that *"The Ichnemoun Method"*, although being a hybrid of two well utilized genres, has its own atmosphere! Some people definitely didn't waste a second of their time spent in the studio, that's what I can assure you off!

Vanya Marina .....8.0



**DARK FORTRESS**  
*"Profane Genocidal Creations" CD*  
**RED STREAM**  
 Recorded in Grieghallen Studios by the famous sound engineer Pyten. The Black Metal sound of this German band is inspired by contemporary "folklore" of MERCYFUL FATE, DIMMU BORGIR and the rest. It is to be put in the category of those dream-like, romantic, heroic, ancient-like, anti-life creations that have turned into the most exploited and profit-making Pop Black Metal clichés. Acoustic guitars, whis-



pering male voices, female choirs, keyboards, Heavy Metal riffing... you have listened to it many times, in better or worse variations. So, if you would like to relax with something well-known and polished, something that will not disturb your ear with new ideas, well played and well produced... go for this one. DARK FORTRESS have learned their lesson well.

Simen Ijev .....6.0

**BETHLEHEM**  
*"Suicide Radio" CD*  
**RED STREAM**  
 I have always viewed this Doom / Black Metal band as a real phenomenon for the Metal Scene in general Ever since their *"Dark Metal"* debut was released, these guys have been revealing to the listener the darkness even in places in which it was supposed to be missing! Joke aside, whenever I happen to spin a BETHLEHEM CD, I can't help laughing at about 80 % of today's bands claiming to play "grim, misanthropic (Black) Metal" as they all sound like sleep-well wishes in comparison to what these dudes from Germany have created through the years... Their latest album not only mirrors their inexorably about deviating from the path they started walking since 1994, but also turns out to be the clue of what happens when you unfold your full potential, be it darkness or light inspired! *"Suicide Radio"* will be certainly a tremendous kick in the soul for most of the BETHLEHEM fans even because of the shrewdly obvious video clips included that illuminate your darkest fears and compulsions to drag them cunningly out then right before your eyes... The CD also features tracks remixed with maximum obscenity as well as flash animation, discography, photo gallery and more. Highly recommendable for all rare stuff collectors!

Vanya Marina .....8.5

**ABORYM**  
*"With No Human Intervention" CD*  
**CODE 666**  
 These guys get better and better with every following release! *"Kali Yuga Bizarre"* was just another average Black Metal album to me and *"Fire, Walk with Us"* marked ABORYM's huge progress within two years, BUT it was *"With No Human Intervention"* that became the calling ticket!!! I am completely speechless about what I'm listening to at the moment. It is not everyday when you have the chance to hear tracks so precisely constructed and so dangerously severe at the same time... I am generally reserved towards releases with a bunch of celebrities standing behind them but THIS time it was to the good. *"With No Human Intervention"* was the spectacular outcome of the collaboration between Atilla Csihar (TORMENTOR, ex-MAYHEM and PLASMA POOL), Bard "Faust" Eithun (DISSECTION, ex-EMPEROR), CARPATHIAN FOREST's Matterfoster and ANAAL NATHRAKH's Irrumator! In addition, I already feel curious about what ABORYM's next release will be like. Praise the three-dimensional idyl! devastators!!!

Vanya Marina .....10

**V / A**  
*"Better Undead Than Alive" Compilation*  
**CODE 666**  
 I am not into CD compilations as a whole but THIS one definitely appears to be a must for your collection! *"Better Undead Than Alive"* gives you the opportunity to learn more about bands that you're fond of by hearing re-mastered or previously unreleased tracks of ABORYM, ATR0X, VOID OF SILENCE, EPHEL DUATH, BLOODSHED, RAKOTH, THEE MALDOROR KOLLEKTIVE, UNMOORED etc... But the really great surprise comes with inserting the second CD, where you can read information regarding Code 666 as well as to watch NEGURU BUNGET's never released *"Vazduh"* video shot on the Carpathians in 2002, and also to hear additional rare stuff from AGHORA, BLOODSHED, UNMOORED and EPHEL DUATH!

Vanya Marina .....8.5

**NEGURU BUNGET**  
*"N Grupu Bradului" CD*  
**CODE 666**  
 As you might know, Bram Stawker's *"Dracula"* + the novel-inspired movies have been reliable inspiration for numerous representatives of the world Black Metal Scene. Now you have the opportunity to get acquainted with NEGURU BUNGET... a band that truly hails from Romania and the music of which portrays Transylvania's dark atmosphere as vividly as no one else before! The 4<sup>th</sup> album in the discography of this three-piece outfit definitely succeeded in causing me goosebumps in this way in the middle of August when the thermometer in my room showed +38! In other words, NEGURU BUNGET has created a real masterpiece by combining quite aptly mid 90's Black Metal riffs with uncanny synth tunes... my vocabulary appears to be too small to describe all those manevously distinct visions which *"N Grupu Bradului"* filled my head with... You must experience this for yourselves!!! Also, do not omit picking up Code 666's *"Better Undead Than Alive"* CD compilation where you can see NEGURU BUNGET's *"Vazduh"* video clip that was shot on the Carpathian Mountains in 2002!

Vanya Marina .....8.0

**MANES**  
*"Vilosophe" CD*  
**CODE 666**  
 Here is an album that illustrates quite persuasively the restlessly searching spirits of its creators! *"Vilosophe"* is only the second longplayer of this Norwegian outfit but it amazes the listener with vertiginously audacious performances and fresh ideas! MANES was set up somewhere in 1993 as a Black Metal-oriented act and now these 7 people are apparently saying goodbye to facinated and bullet belts in the most inexcusable possible way... what they offer is a KATATONIA / RADIOHEAD / APHEX TWIN blend that simply mesmerizes you with its space atmosphere... Highly recommendable for dreamy star contemplators!

Vanya Marina .....8.0

**NEHEMAM**  
*"Shadows from the Past" CD*  
**ADPOCERE**  
 Honestly speaking, I felt a bit biased approaching this French band after I read that *"true Black Metal"* description of NEHEMAM's music in the info-sheet; it was that in the very first moment I decided that these guys were another bunch of Scandinavian wannabes striving for the Throne after barely 2-3 years of existence... But THIS time I guessed wrong! The second CD of this ELEVEN year-old band turned out to be a blood-drippingly delightful release compiled entirely with the early 90's Black Metal greatness! Darkness and magic stream from every single chord on



*"Shadows from the Past"* and you gradually end up with mind filled with visions of arcaic sorrow bound forests under darkened skies... In brief, who said that THOSE years were gone?! Ultimately, I will mention that the first 2000 copies of NEHEMAM's album go with an awesome cover version of BATHORY's *"Call from the Grave"*!

Vanya Marina .....8.0

**HATRED**  
*"Chaos In The Flesh" CD*  
**GRAF Records**  
 This band gave me a whole new dimension of Thrash brutality. It is fast, gets you head-banging with the first seconds of the CD. It is only 4 songs, 20 minutes long, yet this is their second CD, after a demo CD. The band consists of some die-hard Dutch metalheads, that started it all back in 1999. If you like Metal fast, raw and aggressive, this one is for you. Support them, as the guys need your attention. [www.hatred.nl](http://www.hatred.nl)

lvailo Tonchev .....8.0



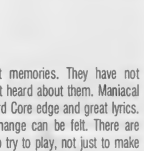
**KALMAH**  
*"Swampsong" CD*  
**SPIKEFARM**  
 KALMAH begin their existence in 1992 in Finland and *"Swampsong"* is their third album. Well, if you need another CHILDREN OF BODOM and you like NIGHTWISH or STRATOVARIUS, KALMAH will grab your attention. *"Swampsong"* is Power / Speed Metal combined with Black Metal vocals - hear any album of Alexi Laiho & Co and you'll know what to expect from KALMAH. The guys are skilled musicians, that's for sure, but they don't offer anything new on the Power / Black Metal field. Anyway, if you're a die-hard fan of Finnish Metal - give an ear to *"Swampsong"*.

Tsvetan Rachev .....6.0



**MASTIC SCUM**  
*"Scar" CD*  
**CUDGEL AGENCY**  
 Well, this band brings memories, sweet memories. They have not changed since the early 90s, when we first heard about them. Maniacal Grind Core from Austria, with a certain Hard Core edge and great lyrics. Though this CD is a change, a certain change can be felt. There are some industrial structures and the boys do try to play, not just to make noise. My favourite is *"The Generation X"*, but there are more songs that deserve to be heard again and again. Great lyrics, awesome music... get this, if you like unordinary Grind Core.

lvailo Tonchev .....8.0



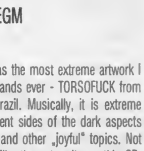
**HEDFIRST**  
*"Hedfirst" CD*  
**CRASH MUSIC**  
 HEDFIRST come from Poland and the info sheet says that they're emerging from the Death Metal scene. I couldn't find much Death Metal in this CD, the music is more crossover-like, something similar to MACHINE HEAD, COAL CHAMBER or PRONG. The production isn't the best possible, it lacks power and density. HEDFIRST play modern heavy style and they'll find their audience for sure, but they definitely have a lot of work to do!

Tsvetan Rachev .....6.0



**TORSOFUCK / LYMPHATIC PHELEM**  
*"Bizar" CD*  
**BIZZARE LEPROUS**  
 Honestly speaking, this is shit! This CD has the most extreme artwork I have seen and two of the most extreme bands ever - TORSOFUCK from Finland and LYMPHATIC PHELEM from Brazil. Musically, it is extreme Noise / Grind Core with texts about different sides of the dark aspects of humanity, pathology, sex with corpses and other *"joyful"* topics. Not for kids and not for the heavy-hearted. I like the extremity on this CD, but I also find it boring!

lvailo Tonchev .....3.0



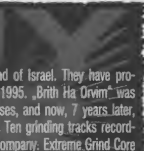
**FORGOTTEN TOMB**  
*"Springtime Depression" CD*  
**ADPOCERE**  
 Don't touch that album if you're susceptible of suicide. *"Springtime Depression"* is a soundtrack to the long lonely winter nights when all hope is gone and ending your life seems to be the only solution. The Italians FORGOTTEN TOMB throw a solid dose of misanthropy and depression with their second creation *"Springtime Depression"*. The main man behind the band is Herr Morbid who found it in 1999. The music is predominantly slow, painful Black / Doom Metal close to the depressive opuses of BURZUM and old KATATONIA. The production is made by Tommy Tagretan at The Abyss so there are no faults. *"Springtime Depression"* is quite impressive album based on self-destructive thoughts and misanthropy. Try it if you dare!

Tsvetan Rachev .....8.0



**LEHAWOTH**  
*"Hated Shaped Man" CD*  
**FADLESS RECORDS**  
 A pretty-unholy band from the Holy Land of Israel. They have progressed a lot, since their first demo in 1995. *"Brith Ha Orim"* was one of the first Israeli Black Metal releases, and now, 7 years later, their first album shows a new direction. Ten grinding tracks recorded in Sweden and released by a Dutch company. Extreme Grind Core that can melt your brain down and still you'll surely ask for more. Listen to the lyrics more carefully, as they've got a lot to say. The artwork of the CD is really nice, there is also a bonus live video and the CD itself has a very nice booklet with all the lyrics in it. I like it.

lvailo Tonchev .....9.0



**HATEWORK**  
*"Madvent For Disaster" CD*  
**SELF-RELEASED**  
 If *"Madvent For Disaster"* was released in the 86-90 period, it could have easily been called classic today together with *"Agent Orange"* or *"Pleasure To Kill"*. But HATEWORK were formed in Italy and this album (their first) was out in 2002. This is classic Thrash from the 80's praising the German scene and its superior beasts - SODOM, KREATOR, DESTRUCTION, TANKARD... All Thrash fans will feel nostalgic for the old



**CORPSEPIRE**  
*"The Living We Mourn" Demo CD-R*  
**SELF-RELEASED**  
 The fact that the band comes from Pakistan makes it worth hearing CORPSEPIRE are Hammad Khan (vocals) and Saquib Malik (all instruments) and their 3-song promo *"The Living We Mourn"* offers some death / Grind with bad sound and good inspiration. Hammad's grunts are deep and sound louder than the music itself. I'm surprised to see that there's an Underground movement even in a Muslim country like Pakistan. I wish those guys good luck and better production next time. Contact: [www.corpsepire.cib.net](mailto:www.corpsepire.cib.net)

Tsvetan Rachev

**BLEEDING BLACK**  
*"Personal Hell" Cass LP*  
**043**  
 Once more BLEEDING BLACK appear to prove that I was right to regard them as Bulgaria's best Black Metal act at present! Something more, if you "Too Black" debut was accepted well merely because it reminded BURZUM's earliest stuff, then *"Personal Hell"* is firmly meant to mirror the success of Agan & Co in finding their own niche! Sensibly darker and heavier, the new album beats his elder brother totaly and these 6 tracks simply MUST be given a listen, especially if you have been feeling sick of pompous pseudo-fusions dealing with macho men a la Conann Th Barbarian and symbio vampirists! As real old hounds (all known for being previously involved in such respected outfits from the early 90's Scene o Bulgaria as NIGHTMARE, DAMNED, HYPNOSIS, etc), the BLEEDING BLACK remain grimly insubordinate to today's clownery by shouting in your face with the unique vocals of the female fronter Pagane! Hell dwells WITHIN my friends!!!

Web: <http://www.043.org>

Vanya Marina

**EVICERATED**  
*"Gutted Humans" Demo CD-R*  
**SELF-RELEASED**  
 Greece isn't well known in the Underground for its Core / Grind scene. In fact EVICERATED is the second band from that country that I know (first are ATAVISIM in the Gore field). *"Gutted Humans"* is EVICERATED's first release - horrible Gore / Grind influenced heavily by MORTICIAN. Three songs with poor quality, weak guitars, blasting drumming and voice coming from the deepest circles of the anatomical inferior. The third song is EVICERATED's interpretation of SODOM's all-time classic *"Outbreak C Evil"* but due to the awful guitar sound you'll need plenty of imagination to recognize it. *"Gutted Humans"* is only for the real Underground freaks.

Tsvetan Rachev

**EMBRACE BY DARK**  
*"Sculture Of the Godforsaken Aeons" Cass LP*  
**043**  
*"Sculture of the Godforsaken Aeons"* is the second album in the discography of EMBRACE BY DARK from Bulgaria and it sees the light of day years after the band's *"Infall Dark Arches"* debut. Quite a long period of inactivity, you might say, but if you give *"Sculture..."* a listen you will certainly comprehend that popping up with a new album every year is definitely NOT what these Dark Doom Metallers insist on, unless they are fully satisfied with the material they might have created! In other words: EMBRACE BY DARK's new release will literally freeze you in rapture with its 7 tracks that shine bright for their delectably dismal atmospheres an faultless constructions mirroring clearly the huge potential of the musicians as well as their respectable preciseness when it comes to make music: Immortally true to their perfectionism, the EMBRACE BY DARK team has also come up with relatively deep, thought-provoking lyrics, vital along with the fascinating layout by Emil Saparazov! ([www.corsrecords.com](http://www.corsrecords.com)) appear to be the ultimate proof that *"Sculture Of The Godforsaken Aeons"* turns out to be another whiff of fresh air in the haze of mediocrity brooding over the current Metal Scene!

Vanya Marina

**VINTERIKET**  
*"Aura 7" EP*  
**KETZER RECORDS**  
 Talking about beautiful vinyls, this one tops many! Such a beautiful package predicts a very hot band and this is not a lie. A strange, yet intriguing mixture of electronic music, Ambient, Black Metal and whatsoever you can think of, connected with these genres. Honestly speaking, there's something missing about this release. I loved the music, but whenever I tried to play a *"harder"* Metal part, the magic was gone. I was especially amazed by their music, but I have to confess they have to learn a lot more. Unfortunately, loads of the info on the plastic disc was very hard to read as they used a very strange font that wasn't printed well on the disc. Nevermind and play loud! [www.ketzer-records.de](http://www.ketzer-records.de)

lvailo Tonchev

**ERED**  
*"Darkmageddon 3.0" Promo CD-R*  
**SELF RELEASED**  
 Just like many other bands ERED (formed in 1996 as ERED LITHUI) firm was not passed by numerous line-up changes in its very beginning. Still the guys managed to do some recordings the never released *"Northern Sky"* demo tape (1997), the *"Soulhunter Demo CD"* (1998) as well as a track promo CD since 2000. Even the *"Darkmageddon 3.0"* material was recorded with a session drummer and I really hope that things will start going more smoothly soon, for what I heard from these Spanish dude appealed to me a lot! *"Darkmageddon 3.0"* features 2 tracks filled to the brim with angst and moroseness, which will truly make the blood of *"ave. Death / Black admirer bold!"* As far as I could understand, this promo CD contains a part of the material intended for an MCD scheduled for 2003, which means that it should be released already. So contact ERED and get your copy! Web: <http://www.geocities.com/ered666>

Vanya Marina

**VINTERIKET**  
*"Winterschatten" 3 x 7" EP*  
**KETZER RECORDS**  
 Only 500 copies do exist of this marvelous triple 7" EP. I believe it represents material that was already pressed on the band's CD-R, as rare since it's the music that makes it! Without the Metal influences of the *"Aura 7" EP*, this time the band blasts a good portion of really dark & mystic Ambient. The artwork is perfect, thick cardboard and white vinyl. I loved this and I guess it should be a great record to listen to for anyone... if you like Ambient / Electronic, that's for you!

lvailo Tonchev

**GH PLIAGE**  
*"Spracing the Satanic Gospel" Promo CD-R*  
**SELF RELEASED**  
 Isn't it strange to guess where a band is exactly from by hearing only the opening riffs of its recording? Such was the case with GH PLIAGE anyway... I do not even have to look in the info-sheet to find out that these guys hail from Sweden... I have always viewed guesses like this as an eloquent proof that it given outfit comes from a country that has raised a scene with inflexible traditions meant to live for decades ahead! *"Spracing the Satanic Gospel"* is GH PLIAGE's first demo recording ever and it would certainly appeal to all connoisseurs of the Satanic Death Metal genre. The 4 tracks on the CD are performed with a great deal of angst and skill and I dare say that GH PLIAGE going to turn a lot of heads very soon, as long as the band keeps up the great work! Web: <http://www.amgnetline.com/real2/ghplague>

Vanya Marina

**EVANESCENCE / CONQUEST OF STEEL**  
*"Shift LP"*  
**NO FACE RECORDS**  
 Whoever might have said that vinyl was dead can surely go and kill himself! The brilliant split MLP shows that - marvelously coloured vinyl, a great cover as music that makes me happy. At side A you find EVANESCENCE, heavy stuidy, *"Dea Metal, doom..."* Side B knocks you down with some quality Heavy Metal that was recorded back in 1989. I can compare it to MANOWAR, but weirdly enough the 3 songs cover a period of 7 years: 1982-1989. So, you can see these a not some hype followers, but true Metal warriors. This MLP will be a nutritional tool for the new albums of both bands, so ask the label for availability. Support some good and true bands, and a label that seems trustworthy & promising. [www.nofacerecords.co.uk](http://www.nofacerecords.co.uk)

lvailo Tonchev

times when they hear HATEWORK. The singer Max' voice is reminding of Tom Angeli's and as a whole SODOM are the biggest influence for these guys. The song 'We Are Alcoholic Abusers' sounds like TANKARD's beer anthems and the last chorus is a cover of DESTRUCTION's 'All Hell Breaks Loose'. The sound is also typical for the 80's - dirty and totally Underground. All Thrashers - visit www.hatework.it and give your support to HATEWORK. Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

**ILL FARES THE LAND**

„Nonentity“ MCD UXION Records Their first CD is a damn good attack over your ears. Started in 1997, this is their first official album for the Uxion label. Pure Belgian Death Metal with some Grind Core and very dark lyrics, by no means associated with political or religious ideology. They only want to give a decent musical substance to those feelings that breathe eternal darkness - so, good, dark and extreme. When will the second album come out??? Ivalio Tonchev.....7.0

**IN AETERNUM**

„Nuclear Armageddon“ CD AGONIA Records Those of you who have listened to the previous IN AETERNUM CD „The Pestilent Plague“ won't be surprised by „Nuclear Armageddon“. The band offers the same explosive mixture of Black / Death Metal combined with oldschool Thrash. The riffs are typically Swedish, melodic but aggressive. The voice is predominantly death growl, more screaming at some passages. The production of the album is on a good level. Try this CD if you're keen on Swedish Black / Death sound. Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

**GRUESOME MELADY**

„Infected With Virulent Seed“ CD BIZARRE LEPROUS Hahahahahahaha! Oh, my heart! I am still laughing...this is simply not possible! This is one of the MOST extreme bands I have heard for my entire life, and they come from nowhere else but...India. Sick porno Noise, very similar to the early MEATSHITS and a million times worse for sure. But I find it funny, hope the guys that did it are sharing the same taste of humour as mine. Ivalio Tonchev.....5.0

**SHADOW SEASON**

„The Frozen“ MCD SOUND RIOT In 2001 three Irishmen from the band WITCHHAMMER met the Norwegian Necro (lead guitarist in GEHENNA) and formed SHADOW SEASON. With the help of Kris Vold (DISMAL EUPHONY) on drums they recorded a 5-track promo and sent it to labels and zines. In 2002 only one of the Irishmen... Winter (bass / vocals) stayed in the band and together with Necro began to write new material. The result is „The Frozen“ MCD - the battery is held by His Imperial Majesty Tym and the guest vocals are Scrabbl (GEHENNA) and Dolgar (FORLORN). With such line-up the style can be only first-class Scandinavian Black Metal - dark and cold riffs, smashing drumming and brutal, varied vocals. There's also a viola that adds depressive moods a la MY DYING BRIDE. „The Frozen“ carries the spirit of the legendary Norwegian bands from the beginning of the 90's. Every black head should possess SHADOW SEASON - hear and wait for the full-length. Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

**UNSANCTUM**

„Ignite the Skies“ CD CACOPHONOUS Fast and English - that is a rare combination, yet it exists. On the Cacophonous label, it is a mixture of Death / Black Metal with some Death / Core influence. They declare the album is „a dose of venom in the world of saccarine pop“ - yes, it is and what is more interesting is that the musicians are all in their late teens! Another teen sensation? Yeah, but this time from the realm of the extreme music. Ivalio Tonchev.....6.0

**LUCIFERION**

„The Apostate“ CD LISTENABLE Do you remember LUCIFERION and their „Demonication - The Manifest“ since 1997? This band created a little storm in the Underground with their MORBID ANGEL-influenced Death Metal enriched with dark keyboards. Unfortunately, after the debut LUCIFERION appeared in some tribute comps and nothing more - the band members started different projects or joined other bands. Well, I'm more than happy that LUCIFERION are back again with their second album „The Apostate“, seven years after the debut. Michael Nicklasson (guitar, also in DARK TRANQUILITY), Wojter Lisicki (vocals / guitar, also in LOST HORIZON), Martin Furungen (bass, LOST HORIZON) and Hans Nilsson (drums, also in DIABOLIQUE and LIARSNIWAT) have created an album that definitely won't remain unnoticed. Excellent Dark / Death Metal skillfully played and surrounded by keyboards creating diabolical atmosphere; perfect sound and impressive compositions - „The Apostate“ just crushed! The new thing in comparison to the first album is the presence of some NILE-like passages as well as Heavy Metal riffs. The album is divided in two parts; the first contains the new material - six songs inspired by the film „Dark City“ with Kiefer Sutherland in the leading role. The second part offers LUCIFERION's demo versions since 1994 of some songs from the first album + smashing new version of CELTIC FROST's anthem „Circle Of The Tyrants“ played twice faster than the original. And the old and new LUCIFERION fans will be pleased equally by this album. Raise your glasses for one of the strongest comebacks in 2003 and play „The Apostate“ at maximum volume - LUCIFERION deserve it! Tsvetan Rachev.....9.0

**PSYCHOFAGIST / HYBRID VISCERY**

„Split CD AMPUTATED VEIN Records Two bands, one from Italy and the other from Belgium. Both play Grind Core with perverse lyrics, extreme speed, and a special „acoustic effect“ for the drums (that I have never heard anywhere else). Nothing so exciting about this but if you like Grind Core...that is for you. If not, do not

waste your time. Ivalio Tonchev.....5.0

**DESTROYING DIVINITY**

„Greated...“ CD GROTHAUSN The Czech Republic attacks with evil Thrash / Death Metal in the 80's style with a touch from the atmosphere of the Nordic Black Metal scene. Fast and ripping sonic speed Metal with vocals, put through a really sinister effect. DESTROYING DIVINITY seem to be a pretty decent band and it will be interesting to hear more about them. Ivalio Tonchev.....7.0

**MEATSHITS**

„Sniper At The Fay Parade“ CD MORIBUND If there is anything worse than a MEATSHITS imitation it is the MEATSHITS themselves. After so many years, they never gave up and keep on delivering their sick and hard to absorb art to the world. This time they have placed their guns against the gay community, kind of a sick attitude, but what can you expect from these long time psychos. If you find it funny, get it...if not, play some „Married With Children“ - equally funny, but less blood involved. Ivalio Tonchev.....5.0

**ADULTERY**

„Age Of Winter Kings“ CD AVALANCHE Productions Bird singing, bubbling spring, violins, Black Metal - that's what ADULTERY offer in their „Age Of Winter Kings“. There are raging tracks carrying the aggression of AMON AMARTH and old BATHORY together with male choruses and from time to time Scandinavian folk passages. One of the compositions is acoustic with pleasant female voice singing - this song stayed in my mind after the first listening. ADULTERY aren't the best band that I've heard in the Epic / Black Metal field but aren't the worst either. Not a bad album after all. Tsvetan Rachev.....6.0

**BLOOD BEYOND THE SAND**

3 x Split CD GOREGORE Records Released by Gore Gore records, this CD has 3 bands. All from Italy, the first is BARATRO, Thrash / Death Metal. Second is ENTITY, more into the 80's Thrash vein, sort of the Tampa bands. The Third is called UNDEAD, again Thrash Metal. If you like Italian Thrash Metal, this one's for you! If not...why don't you try it too? Very nice artwork and I guess it is a great release! Ivalio Tonchev.....7.0

**NUMINOUS BIGFOOT**

„Names Is For Tombstones Baby...“ CD CASKEIT MUSIC Well, I heard this CD twice and now I must review this band. The promo sheet tells they remind of ALICE IN CHAINS, quite possible... but it's a fine mixture of Punk, Sludge and alternative Rock with some 70's sound in the guitars, if you ask me. And it is good enough to make me interested. There is something that keeps me listening to this band, even it is music I usually dislike. Keep up the good work! Ivalio Tonchev.....7.0

**HALO**

„Body Of Light“ CD RELAPSE In the endless world of art here they are: HALO! The band that has philosophically reduced GODFLESH and friends to a post-Industrial sonic absurd. Monstrously slow, heavily distorted, low freq. chill-out sound scapes that are able to drive even the most stable human psyche to the breakdown. The sound of this Metal factory has been recorded live in studio, stylistically moving from Noise Core to Industrial and back to Ambient. Very often HALO cross the line of audibility and dive deep into low frequencies one can only feel with his ears, just rise again to new heights of mutant sonic oppression. The vocals speak of the grey reality the way it could be seen from the industrial area of your city, as well as of humans enslaved by the apocal. Simeon Iliev.....7.5

**THALARION**

„Tunes Of Despondency“ CD MIGHTY MUSIC THALARION started as a Death Metal band in 1990 and they should have stayed a Death Metal band. „Tunes Of Despondency“ is their third CD which delivers some Gothic / Death influenced by LACUNA COIL and the early THE GATHERING. Juraj Grezdo (vocals / keys) deserves good words for his vocal performances - he has an impressive voice! Unlike Nela Novahotova (female vocals), who spoils the good impression with her weak inexperienced singing! I really liked the Death Metal passages but there are only few, the Gothic mood prevails. There's nothing special about this album, I hope their next one will be more brutal. Tsvetan Rachev.....5.5

**TODESBLEI**

„Splittergranatendauerbombardement“ CD Self Released Despite the difficulties that I had while writing down the title of TODESBLEI's album, there's nothing wrong with that CD. The band comes from Germany but only the drummer Daniel German. Luca Lukovic (bass) and Dusan Djopic (vocals) are from Serbia, while the guitarist and founder of the band Andrea Baglioni is an Italian. TODESBLEI attack with brutal Death Metal with the typical German sound - remember OBSCENITY?! The sound isn't the best possible, it's more like a demo-recording, especially the drum sound is terrible! Next time find better studio, boys! Tsvetan Rachev.....5.0

**FACE OF EVIL**

„Face of Evil“ CD METALBLOODMUSIC Deep from the Swedish Underground, the FACE OF EVIL rises to bring destruction to the Metal Scene. These guys have declared war to all other bands and labeled them as losers. Playing Black Metal inspired by

the great bands of the 80's, they probably do have the ground to be so disgusted of the contemporary scene. Their album sounds fresh, full of energy, interesting to listen to and kind of new, despite the fact that it is built on schemes we all have known and loved for ages. Uncompromising, having no instructions from music labels to conform to, FACE OF EVIL have reached their own apex of sonic vigor! Simeon Iliev.....7.0

**KALIBAS / RUNE**

„Split“ CD RELAPSE Relapse Records offer some non-standard bands to your attention. These bands are far away from the average Metal groups you meet everyday. KALIBAS is a project of people playing in other bands, the best known of them being the Thrash monsters NUCLEAR ASSAULT (Dan Likier Rulez!). This is technical, non-standard Grind Core with deranging vocals! The style of RUNE is harder to be defined - psychotic mixture of technical Death Metal, Grind passages, newschool Hard Core and some Industrial. They sound twisted like DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN or TODAY IS THE DAY. This split isn't for everyone, it's just for the true maniacs who have nothing against experimental aggressive music. If you're one of them, get that split! Tsvetan Rachev.....7.5

**ROTTEN MINDS**

„Necrogallery“ HECATOMBE Records Now that's a drummer! The skin basher of ROTTEN MINDS grinds like a machine-gun yet he's playing clear, without irritating mistakes. The other guys in the band also give their best to deliver first class Gore / Death / Grind! The songs are brutal yet catchy, not just boring noise. The voice sounds like a pig supported by higher screams. There are some influences from DEAD INFECTION or MORTICIAN, but ROTTEN MINDS have succeeded in creating an original and interesting album. And let's do not forget the synths - this instrument is used in some of the songs as a background for darker and ominous atmosphere. ROTTEN MINDS definitely deserve attention as they're one of the few new Grind bands with their own touch in music. I wish them good luck! Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

**BURNT BY THE SUN**

„The Perfect Is The Enemy Of The Good“ CD RELAPSE Interesting and irritating, here is a promising Hard Core/Metal band from the USA. Energetic, sometimes very abstract riffing, very complicated and powerful material, impressing musical skills of musicians playing mainly on your nerves, high-frequency distorted guitars that make ears hurt bad after 5 minutes of headphone listening and an overall impression of bull-dogs fighting is what Relapse Records present to us with this release. Can you take it? Please bear in mind that these guys have played with SLAYER on the big Beast Feast Festival in Japan. This fact speaks by itself of the quality we have here. Well, it's hard to get the idea from the first listening, but after 5-10 rounds when you start to know the songs, you will surely start to enjoy them too. Oh, and there is this 40 minute-long noise at the end of the album. Do you still hear me? Simeon Iliev.....7.0

**NEURAL BOOSTER**

„Gross Negligence“ CD ECLIPSE NEURAL BOOSTER have been twice in Bulgaria but, unfortunately, I didn't have the chance to visit none of their shows. But, some friends of mine said that the band sounds very tight and brutal on stage. I'm ready to believe them, because what I heard in „Gross Negligence“ is far from bad! This is Grind Core in the classic form of NAPALM DEATH, BRUTAL TRUTH, AGATHOCLES... Short and fast songs, solid rhythm-section, miming riffs and a wide range of vocalistic expressions is what you'll find in „Gross Negligence“. The sound is dense and powerful, just the way it should be for such a release. Add some slow Death Metal passages and you'll get the whole picture. If you're into Grind Core, don't miss NEURAL BOOSTER! Tsvetan Rachev.....7.5

**MORGUE**

„The Process To Define The Shape Of Self-Loathing“ CD ADIPOCERE There's a big difference between the debut album of MORGUE's „Artgore“ and the new one. The first album was tolerable Gore / Grind while in this one the band defines their style as... Death Core?! The new sound of MORGUE is chaotic Noise / Grind reminding me strongly of the American CIRCLE OF DEATH CHILDREN. The voice of Max is high and distorted with effect, nothing common with the first album. The sound is too chaotic at places, you can't hear the instruments clearly but maybe this is a desired effect. Fred (guitar) says in the info-sheet that MORGUE will never use gore images again, the whole concept is changed. Anyway, this album doesn't stand out with anything special, there are better things than that! Tsvetan Rachev.....5.0

**BURST**

„Pray On Life“ CD RELAPSE It is hard to define the style this band is playing in. There is a bit of everything - from acoustic guitars to Grind Core rushes. It is easier to tell about their mood though, and it is one of depression and sadness, of personal problems brought before psychoanalytic eye or bursting somewhere in our common urban environment. This mood is convincingly put in music, sometimes way too versatile. Musicians obviously know their job; it is just the remark that the songs could have been more convincingly constructed, more coherent, less diverse. This would have made them far more impressing. But the way they are put here also makes you familiar (in case you don't personally know) with the ghostly world of shadows that so many people inhabit. Simeon Iliev.....5.5

**KULT OF AZAZEL**

„Oculus Infernum“ CD ARCTIC MUSIC GROUP

I have always associated Florida with sunny beaches and some cut Death Metal bands. But even in that sunny state there's place for grim cold Black Metal. KULT OF AZAZEL are from Fort Lauderdale (the town of MALEVOLENT CREATION) and „Oculus Infernum“ is their debut. Their style reminds strongly of the first albums of MARDUK - the drummer Goss beats the shit out of his kit, the guitarists Xephon and Nocturnath weave piercing black riffs and Xul cries his throat out...„Oculus Infernum“ is a very good debut and I'm sure KULT OF AZAZEL will find their way to the black souls of the fans. Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

**TEMPLE OF BAAL**

„Servants Of The Beast“ CD ADIPOCERE Although coming from France, TEMPLE OF BAAL play raw Black Metal in the darkest Norwegian traditions from the beginning of the 90's. „Servants Of The Beast“ is the first full-length for the band formed in 1998 by Amudusias. There's a great influence from DARKTHRONE's first opuses and you can also hear some SATYRICON-like passages. Amudusias' voice reminds to some extent of Attila Csihar's. The production of „Servants Of The Beast“ is dirty and unpolished - the way the first Black Metal records used to sound. So if you're feeling nostalgic for the oldschool Black Metal sound - TEMPLE OF BAAL will certainly appeal to you! Tsvetan Rachev.....6.0

**TALJANDOROG**

„Neverplace“ CD ADIPOCERE In 1999 five musicians who used to play in Heavy, Death, Black Metal bands decided to form their own outfit. Thus TALJANDOROG was born. „Neverplace“ is the first album of this band recorded with the help of the drummer Dirk Verbeuren (SCARVE, HEADLINE...). The style is symphonic Black Metal in moments reminding of DIMMU BORGIR but, as a whole, the guys have found their own sound. The production is on a high level, the sound is powerful and clear. If you like newschool Black Metal - try this band! Tsvetan Rachev.....7.5

**DEEDS OF FLESH**

„Reduced To Ashes“ CD UNIQUE LEADER The sixth bloody piece of the Californian horde DEEDS OF FLESH is already a fact. It was a pleasure for me to go through the eight tracks in „Reduced To Ashes“. Complex Death Metal riffing, impressive drumming with lots of rhythmic changes, strong bass line and above all the fierce, brutal grooves of Erik and Jacoby. Those of you who have listened to their previous releases should know what to expect - first class brutal Death Metal! I find „Reduced To Ashes“ better than its predecessor „Mark Of The Legion“ - this is the second album of DOF recorded as trio with the drummer Mike Hamilton (VILE). This album is a must for every soul craving for qualitative Death Metal - very strong release from DEEDS OF FLESH once again! Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

**BROKEN EDGE**

„Obey And Conform“ CD THUNDERING RECORDS BROKEN EDGE can easily be named „The French FEAR FACTORY“. There's great similarity between the „Obey And Conform“ sound and those of the last two FF records. Some influences from the latest works of MACHINE HEAD and SEPULTURA also present here. The production of the album is excellent, the sound is dense and powerful - „Obey and Conform“ is recorded at LB LAB (LOUDBLAST). I didn't like most of the guitar leads - somehow they don't fit to the crossover style of BROKEN EDGE. In case you're a fan of FF and wanna hear another band in the same vein, try it with BROKEN EDGE. But the band still haven't reached FF's level. Tsvetan Rachev.....6.0

**BLACKNESS**

„Dawn Of The New Sun“ CD THUNDERING RECORDS Take some Bay Area Speed / Thrash Metal (most of all the first albums of METALLICA), mix it with some German Power / Thrash and add raw, almost Death Metal vocals. The result will probably sound like „Dawn Of The New Sun“. BLACKNESS deliver alien smashing tracks combining the raging speed of the oldschool Thrash with the dense heavy sound of Death Metal. Some songs sound like METALLICA with Death Metal vocals, others are more epic and heavier. One of the songs is DEATH-influenced and I can swear I heard the main riff of „Suicide Machine“ there. The ninth song is a brutal cover version of MOTORHEAD's eternal anthem „Ace Of Spades“. The guys in BLACKNESS know how to play their instruments, that's for sure. The sound of the album is excellent - aggressive but clean at the same time. „Dawn Of The New Sun“ can make you bang your head 'til death! Don't miss that album - it's pure METAL! Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

**BLOOD**

„Dysangelium“ CD MORBID This is the seventh effort of one of the pioneers of the German Death Metal scene. The band was formed in 1986 and the first album „Impulse To Destroy“ was released in 1989. Now, 14 years later, Clausi (growls / screams), Eisen (guitar), Taki (bass) and Ventilator (very suitable name) on drums offer „Dysangelium“ to all Death Metal freaks. I must admit I've heard better albums of BLOOD - not that this one is so bad, it's the old simple Death / Grind style typical for that group. But I expected something more from a band with more than 15 year history behind their backs. „Dysangelium“ has grinding swaths, simple riffs, brutal vocal attack, movie samplers, even a female singing in two songs - but nothing stayed in my mind after the listening. BLOOD sound like an average Death Metal band and they can do better than that! The next album maybe... Tsvetan Rachev.....6.0

**CARNAL LUST**  
*"Whore Of Violence" CD*  
 DIAMOND PRODUCTIONS  
 CARNAL LUST come from France and "Whore Of Violence" is their debut album. Jerome (drums / vocals), Ludo (guitars) and Nico (bass / vocals) strike with brutal Death Metal in the best European traditions. There are some Black Metal passages enriching the overall Death sound. The songs are fast and aggressive, skillfully played. "Whore Of Violence" ends with a Noise Core experiment. The cover artwork of this album is really impressive - futuristic women showing different aspects of sexual satisfaction. CARNAL LUST have great potential and I'm sure we'll hear more from them in the future.  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

**DISSIMULATION**  
*"Maras" CD*  
 LENO TAKAS  
 Venous (bass / vocals) and Stabmelyds (drums) formed the band in 1993 in Lithuania. After numerous changes they finally found the proper guitarist namely Necrophagos. "Maras" is the first full-length of DISSIMULATION and it was recorded at Phoenix studios in Latvia. Imagine DEATHKRONER playing Heavy Metal and Thrash and you'll get an idea about the music in "Maras". The guys have mixed the oldschool Black Metal with influences from RUNNING WILD to SLAYER. The last song is a devastating version of KREATOR's "Tormentor" - darker than the original. The lyrics are on DISSIMULATION's native language and I don't have their transcription but there's a little piece of Hitler's speech in one of the songs - maybe there's Nazi ideology here? Anyway, "Maras" is an interesting album, try to get a hold of one of the 333 golden vinyl versions.  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....7.5

**HOUR OF PENANCE**  
*"Disturbance" CD*  
 XTREEM MUSIC  
 Dave Rottan (MUSEED) has always been able to find new interesting bands and to deliver them to the fans. His label Xtrem Music released the first album of one of the best Italian Death Metal bands - HOUR OF PENANCE. Those guys deliver fast and brutal, darkened Death Metal strongly reminding of NILE with some influences from DEICIDE and MORBID ANGEL. "Disturbance" has a great sound, it's like a nuclear blast hitting you from the speakers. The drummer of the band beats his drums like deranged - he's obviously an experienced musician. The same can be said about the other guys too, they know how to create qualitative brutal sound. All Death Metal fans should hear this CD - HOUR OF PENANCE are not to be missed.  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

**BARBARA**  
*"A Blessing from the Angel of Death" CD*  
 HEART & CROSSBONE PRODUCTION  
 I shall admit that I hear BARBARA for the first time, although this duo proved to exist for 8 years... "A Blessing From The Angel of Death" is actually a live album and it portrays quite picturesquely the band's appearance at Dymano Dvash, Tel-Aviv, in September 1999. Music-wise, I am apt of calling BARBARA Israel's TODAY IS THE DAY... "ABTAAD" simply kicks the listener's ass with its psychotic atmosphere achieved by... bass, drums and vocals only! If you are into wackier stuff, you MUST check this CD out immediately!  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.0

**MENGEED**  
*"Killing Something Beautiful" MCD*  
 COPRO  
 This is only MENGEED's debut but it mirrors quite persuasively the fine condition these Glasgow dudes are in! What "Killing Something Beautiful" is about is 4 Thrash / Core tracks which just couldn't remain unnoted for their exceptional vitality! In other words, if you need some fresh air about music, MENGEED are highly recommendable! The band itself was started in the summer of 2000 and since then the guys had various stage appearances with acts such as VACANT STARE, DEVOLVED, THOR-RIA, FONY, BRUTAL DELUXE, etc.  
 Vanya Marinova.....6.5

**LUCKY STRIKER 201**  
*"Night Room" CD*  
 Self Released  
 I shall admit that the very name of this French band called the smile on my face in the first moment as I found it hilariously eccentric... Music-wise things are not the same though, "Night Room" turned out to be a catchy Gothic / Dark Wave / Industrial-oriented release with its own aura... something comparatively difficult to achieve, bearing in mind today's plenty of bands referred to the aforementioned genres... The 5 tracks on the CD simply enthrall with their gloomy, cosmically mysterious atmospheres and would certainly persuade the listener that copycats / clones didn't conquer the Scene yet. This is the debut of LUCKY STRIKER 201 and it makes me feel very optimistic about this outfit already!  
 Web: <http://www.lis201.fr.st>  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**THE SILENT AGONY**  
*"Silence Of Insanity" CD*  
 THUNDERING RECORDS  
 I haven't heard anything about this French band before and don't even know whether this CD is their debut or not, but whatever the album is, it sounds really cool and will certainly turn the heads of many Doom / Gothic fans! "Silence Of Insanity" simply mesmerizes with its depressively deep moments aptly mingled with catchy guitar riffs and solos, this all the background against which clean male vocals suggest not less efficiently moods of poetic, desperate yearning and fragility driven, heart-breaking grief... Not a trace of that pathetic, flower-haloed sadness here!  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**ACHERON**  
*"Xomaly" MCD*  
 WAPLORD  
 I hadn't heard from ACHERON for ages and it was a boundless pleasure to submerge into the unholy sounds of this Satanic Death Metal outfit from Florida once again! "Xomaly" sensibly differs from the band's previous releases anyway, the 4 tracks included appear to be more atmospheric and (uncannily) mature. Plus, the demonic growls of Rev. Vincent

Crowley are this time accompanied by the witching chants of SOMNUS' Rihannon who is a special guest in the album. Yet another celebrity in the ACHERON team is Kyle Severn of INCANTATION.  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**NORDVARGR**  
*"Awaken" CD*  
 CODE 666  
 Hitherto Code 666 remains the strongest label when it comes to album impacts on me for 2003! After the awesome releases from ABOYIM, NEGURA BUNGET and MAMES I now have the opportunity to submerge into the atmosphere of NORDVARGR's "Awaken" and this very CD tends to beat totally the albums mentioned above! Those of you who are familiar with Sweden's cult Industrial / Ambient act MZ 412 should know what to expect on the whole, as NORDVARGR is another branch of Henrik Nordvargr Bjorker and is meant to unleash you for another blood-freezing drive alongside ice-cold cliffs under the blankness of the inexorably achromatized firmament... Enthralling drums of Doom will seduce you to keep on floating further and further till you shrink to one single dot of helplessness against the background of utter Desolation! Pure occult chiller, it must be experienced!  
 Vanya Marinova.....10

**KAVIAR KAVALIER**  
*"Studio Y" CD*  
 OBSCENE  
 I shall admit that this is a name I haven't heard before... KAVIAR KAVALIER turned out to feature Necrocock... the guitarist of the cult Black Metal act MASTER'S HAMMER (!), and "Studio Y" is the second CD from this formation. As soon as I heard the very first tunes I already knew that I was to hear something really special: the 15 tracks on the CD (incl. the "Dreams of Caviar" demo since 1994) entrance totally with their cosmically eerie atmospheres and will certainly convince even the most skeptic ones that today's Electro / Gothic Scene still does have qualitative bands to offer! Apart from being such an imagination challenger, "Studio Y" is also a real paragon of harmony - each single chord, drum-hit and effect here is in its right place and all you're expected to do is simply to enjoy the music!  
 Vanya Marinova.....8.5

**HARMONY DIES**  
*"Impact" CD*  
 MORBID  
 Definitely the second longplayer of this band from Berlin suits its title just fine! From the very start it hits you in the stomach with its thick sound and brilliant performances, so even if being not a Death Metal fan in general, you just cannot deny that since their forming in 1992 HARMONY DIES didn't waste their time at all! Save "Impact", the band's discography includes also 3 demo recordings, the "Don't Trust" debut since 1998 and 2 split singles with Brazil's KRISIUM and SPAIN from Berlin respectively... not much within 11 years but a great lesson for all zealous normative covers that it's the quality rather than the quantity that matters! HARMONY DIES are also known for their participation in a SUFFOCATION tribute and numerous stage appearances with acts such as VADER, DEEDS OF FLESH, DYVING FETUS, KRISIUM, MAYHEM, DERANGED, etc.  
 Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**PSYCHOTOGEN**  
*"The Calculus Of Evil" CD*  
 CRASH MUSIC  
 It was very interesting to hear what PSYCHOTOGEN have done after 2 years of silence... Well, "The Calculus Of Evil" definitely cannot beat the "Perverse And Unnatural Practices" debut when it comes to both obscurity and ferocity in sound, but I could say that this is generously compensated with more varied and versatile track constructions suggesting a wider spectrum of emotions! In other words, this band

from Ballimore remains a bright shining phenomenon on the Death Metal Scene in my opinion, and I already feel curious about what these dudes will come up with next! What I only didn't like on "The Calculus Of Evil" was that cover of JUDAS PRIEST's "All Guns Blazing" ... pretty mediocre done. Some people are just not good at tribute paying, that's it!  
 Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**FORNICATION**  
*"Descendants Of The Degenerated Race" CD*  
 BLACK HOLE  
 Here is another band from Brazil. FORNICATION have been existing since '96 and "Descendants..." is their debut longplayer. Most devoted Death Metal adorer will enjoy these 10 tracks (incl. a DEATH cover) for their exceptional directness, rapidity and thick sound. I couldn't say that I was much impressed though, despite the musicians' obvious skills and Eric's sinister growls. To add something in (possible) aid of FORNICATION: the drummer Mauricio L. Amorim is known for his former participation in INFERNAL... a band considered as Brazil's most prestigious Death Metal representative currently.  
 Vanya Marinova.....6.0

**BERSERK**  
*"Rites Of Supremacy" CD*  
 ADOPCRE  
 Well, what I can basically say about Spain's BERSERK is that "Rites Of Supremacy" is their second full-length CD and it would appear to every average mid 90's Black Metal fan. In other words, the album sounds far from intriguingly innovative or exemplarily oldschool but it has nothing to do with the ordinary sympho-effusions either. The tracks are austere, straightforward, as some catchy acoustic moments and discreet synth parts contribute to the more diverse sound here.  
 Vanya Marinova.....6.0

**MASTER**  
*"Unreleased 1985 Album" CD*  
 DISPLEASED  
 Although the pop ups of nearly 20-year old bands are not that sensational anymore, I doubt that people will ever get bored... the 80's will be the 80's, that's it! This time it's Chicago's Death / Thrash legend MASTER that has risen from the ashes... as you can guess by the CD title, "Unreleased 1985 Album" was scheduled for almost 20 years ago and was meant to be the band's debut but, due to the ordinary label runner / artist friction, things were put on ice... Until April 2003, I think it's far from necessary to explain what the 11 tracks on this CD are about. I will only state that they will have certainly pleased all those who have been trying to put the squares of the MASTER puzzle together through the years. So enjoy your reward, folks... you deserved it!  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**MORS PRINCIPIUM EST**  
*"Inhumanity" CD*  
 LISTENABLE  
 Here is a band that would certainly appeal to all fans of acts such as CHILDREN OF BODOM, SOILWORK or GANDALF. MORS PRINCIPIUM EST hail from Finland and "Inhumanity" is their debut CD. The material has been recorded at the well-known Tico-Tico Studios so the great sound quality is a 100% guaranteed. Otherwise, the release doesn't shine with innovative ideas but still you should like it: the 10 tracks are simply faultless in construction and are abundant in skillful performances. The music flows as fluently and bloodleedily as a river in spring and, despite the resemblances to the bands I mentioned ut supra, I am far from apt of considering MPE as copycats yet I dare say that they sound even better!  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.0

**STURM**  
*"Fragments" CD*  
 SOURCE OF DELUGE  
 In the very first moment I was apt of referring "Fragments" to the pile of cheesy Nu Metal releases, but the more I was listening the more ludicrous I was looking in my own eyes for being about to categorize STURM in such a superficial way! Actually, the CD of this 7-year old band from Germany turned out to be a total hotchpotch stylewise, so I mere-

ly decided to accept STURM's definition of their own music ("Nordische Harte") instead of becoming even more ridiculous, ha-ha-ha... The album atmosphere is pretty weird and the German lyrics additionally contribute to this, in my opinion! What a pity that the STURM website doesn't have an English version... Web: <http://www.sturm-id-fb.de>  
 Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**SULACO**  
*"Sulaco" MCD*  
 RELEASE  
 SULACO is a project of former LETHARGY, KALIBAS and MUNGBEAN DEMON members and this same-titled MCD is the first outcome of their collaboration. The 4 Death / Core tracks here are notable for their remarkable versatility and mirror clearly SULACO's members' musicianship. The guitarist Eric Bourke is also a NUCLEAR ASSAULT touring member.  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.0

**DEMONIZED**  
*"Demonized" CD*  
 OSMOSE  
 Wow, that's an eardrum assault! From the very beginning the debut CD from DEMONIZED (feat. DISGORGE & RAVAGER members) will blow you off with maximum aggressiveness and vehemence! This combined with adroit performances gives you a stunning Death / Black album which would (at least partially) console you for the ANGEL CORPSE break-up. A release not to be missed, even if you have neighbors to settle accounts with only!  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**DETONATION**  
*"An Epic Defiance" CD*  
 OSMOSE  
 This name sounds quite familiar to me, I'm even almost sure that I have the band's "Lost Euphoria" MCD since 2000... Anyways, "An Epic Defiance" is the debut full-length album for Holland's DETONATION and what it offers is melodic Death Metal in the vein of AT THE GATES or DARK TRANQUILITY. The album tracks are distinguished for their dynamics and diversity and this makes them have quite a freshening influence on the listener as a whole.  
 Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**THE PROVENANCE**  
*"Still At Arms Length" CD*  
 SCARLET  
 I haven't heard THE PROVENANCE's "25 Hours; Bleeding" debut album but with THIS one these Dark Doomsters from Sweden are definitely about to gain another fan namely myself... I am giving "Still At Arms Length" a first listen right now and I'm barely on track 3 but I already feel completely enthralled by the somber beauty this CD is filled with! This is where unearthly synth and flute melodies meet sadness and anger-driven guitar riffs to give birth to a heart-rending opus in praise of melancholy! The dark spectrum is additionally enriched vocal-wise... THE PROVENANCE features both a male and a female singer. I shall admit that I'm against this in general as I have always found something pathetically sexist in this growl / feminine chant juxtaposing, but in this very case Tobias Martinsson's and Emma Hellstrom's vocals complement one another just fine!  
 Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**XANDRIA**  
*"Kill The Sun" CD*  
 DRAXXAR  
 Here is a band coming straight from Germany... a country supposed to be known for its main contribution with bands to the Gothic Scene. XANDRIA exist since 2001, "Kill The Sun" is their debut and it delights the ear with Doomy, ponderous



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riffs laced with beautiful acoustic passages, brilliant leads and dulcet synth and fiddle melodies. The vocals are solely female (Lisa) and they, apart from surling the overall picture just fine, are capable to touch the deepest chords of your soul with their delectable purity reminding of Kari Rueslaeten's and Liv Kristine's angelic chants. An awesome beginning!  
Vanya Marinova.....2,0

**HIMINBJORG**  
Golden Age CD  
ADPOCERE  
This is the 4th album of HIMINBJORG. It would undoubtedly appeal to all admirers of pagan times inspired Black Metal bands. I find it far from bad myself - although this French quartet sticks to the 90's tendencies on the whole, it could discern some fresh ideas in terms of composing. Atmosphere-wise, Golden Age\* filled me with a vague nostalgia for the 1990's, when the Black Metal sound was yet to lose its magic...  
Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**ROSSOHAAR**  
Qaerite Lux in Tenebris... CD  
XTREEM MUSIC  
I am aware of the existence of this Russian band for several years but I am going to hear it for a first time only now... Qaerite Lux in Tenebris... is ROSSOHAAR's second album and it offers not bad symphonic Black Metal. The 9 tracks on the CD are distinguished for their pliant vivacity, the vocals of Lazar astoundingly resemble those of ROTTING CHRIST'S Sakis and this awakened dearest memories of the cult Passage to Arcuro\* release... Atmosphere-wise, the album seems to sound a bit blank to me.  
Vanya Marinova.....6,0

**EXHUMACE**  
Morbid CD  
BIZARRE LEPROUS  
Here we have another promising act from the huge Czech Death / Grind scene. EXHUMACE play morbid music for the morbid fans of DYING FETUS / DEEDS OF FLESH style. All songs are tight and brutal, the rhythm section is solid and the riffs are fast and complex. The vocals are two types, low and a higher one, alternating all the time. The production is on a decent level, the sound is good. EXHUMACE are nothing extraordinary, I've listened more unique bands from the Czech scene. But if you're diehard Death / Grind freaks - give this CD a try!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....6,5

**SUMMON**  
... And the Blood Runs Black\* CD  
MORIBUND  
This band is yet another proof that each rule has its exception! In other words, I have always viewed the US as a place with a comparatively weak Black Metal scene or at least weaker in comparison to the scenes in many other countries... But SUMMON appears to be one of the bands meant to free you from thoughts like that definitely! ... And the Blood Runs Black\* is the 5th longplayer in the discography of this outfit that was started in 1991, and it offers 15 neck-crushing Black Metal tracks that will certainly make you feel dizzy for their impious angst! Plus, the album includes a cover of VENOM's Buried Alive\* classic and this additionally contributes to the pleasure of enriching your collection with SUMMON's new CD!  
Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**BLOODSRIT**  
Ocularis Infernum\* CD  
ADPOCERE  
BLOODSRIT are representatives of the Swedish Black Metal scene and their second album Ocularis Infernum\* won't disappoint anyone into raw Black Metal. The beginning is set by Nazgul and Kettli (now in PAGANIZER) in 1998, when the first demo The Arrival Of Kaos\* was released. BLOODSRIT released their debut Supreme Misanthropy\* via Oaken Shield (a sublabel of Adpoecore Records) and here comes their second spawn. All of you who are into the swirling madness of MARDUK and the grimness of CARPATHIAN FOREST / DARKTHRONE should hear this CD. This is professionally performed Black Metal with great production, the mastering is done by Dan Swanof! His name is a guarantee for excellent sound. BLOODSRIT are one of the most promising Black Metal bands coming out from Sweden in the last few years. Find Ocularis Infernum\* and dive yourself in their inferno!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

**TSJUDER**  
Demonic Possession\* CD  
DRAWKAR  
This is the second full-length album from Norway's TSJUDER and it definitely sounds better than their debut! Well, not that Kill for Satan\* is bad, it's just that with Demonic Possession\* these guys show that they have walked a step forward. Those of you who still might be unaware of what TSJUDER is about should be certain that picking this CD up would be a great decision in case you're into pure, synth part-devoid Black Metal! The tracks on Demonic Possession\* are notable for their suicidal speed and this combined with the band members' musicianship guarantees you a 666% that, along with acts like CARPATHIAN FOREST, URGEHAL or KHOLD, TSJUDER are meant to retain Norway's renown of a Black Metal resurrection center for years ahead!  
Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**ANCIENT RITES**  
And the Hordes Stood As One\* CD  
HAMMERHEART  
The And the Hordes Stood As One\* CD turned out to be a live album from this Belgian Black Metal band that celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1999 already. I have never been ANCIENT RITES-interested, as I'm not for the folkish / epic moods in Black Metal on the whole. Still, I shall admit that the guys succeeded in creating the atmosphere needed to warm at least several hundred people up. Also, I could not remain deaf for the musicians' skills expressed quite eloquently in the delectably versatile track constructions! The vocals of Gunther Theys additionally cheer up with their fear-not-fighting-the-war suggesting moods. In short, this CD appears to be a great compensation for all those who might have

been eager of attending this concert and failed for one reason or another!  
Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**WINDIR**  
Liktard\* CD  
VOW  
It's really oppressive to write this review now, when Valtor (guitars / vocals / synth), the main man behind the band WINDIR, is among the living no longer. After two albums as a one-man project, he released his third album 1184\* with the help of the Norwegian band ILLCUS. Liktard\* is the fourth album of WINDIR, again recorded as a whole band. This is epic Black Metal with influences from the Norwegian folklore, inspired by the history of their native village Soknedal. The sound is dark and aggressive, recorded at Akkerhaugen Studio. The cover artwork represents 150-year old painting made by two of the greatest Norwegian romantic painters. WINDIR offered impressive Scandinavian Black Metal that deserves your praises for sure! RIP Valtor, your contribution to the Scene will be remembered by many!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8,5

**SINGLE BULLET THEORY**  
Route 666\* CD  
CRASH MUSIC  
SBT is a band formed by Matt Difibio (PISSING RAZORS) on guitars / vox and Billy Mex (X-SEVEN WITCHES) on bass. With the help of Doug Rush (guitar) and Johnnie Sasso (drums) the line up is completed and the debut Route 666\* is made. This album is a mix of many different styles of Metal, but as a whole this is more neo-Metal than anything else. Many passages remind of SYSTEM OF A DOWN mixed with MESHUGGAH, Hard Core parts and even Black Metal riffs. Matt's voice changes constantly from harsh screams to clear singing. The production is on a high level. This CD will appeal mostly to those who are into the modern tendencies in Metal. If you're one of these fans - check this out!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....6,5

**MAGAN**  
Nathicans\* CD  
SEMPITERNAL  
Although I couldn't say that this MCD from Mexico's MAGAN was bad, I couldn't say that it left me intrigued either. Nathicans\* appears to be one of those symphonic-Black Metal releases about which you feel that you don't need to read the lyrics, as the music itself speaks quite persuasively that you have just come across another ancient time revival! In other words, this mini album sounds okay for a debut but I would advise the MAGAN members not to forget in the future that the Scene literally tears with bands like that!  
Vanya Marinova.....5,0

**SKINLESS**  
From Sacrifice To Survival\* CD  
RELAPSE  
It seems that SKINLESS are one of the most prosperous Death / Grind bands in today's Underground. American tour with HATEBREED and SIX FEET UNDER; live in Japan with SLAYER and PANTERA; three albums behind their backs - pretty serious work! From Sacrifice To Survival\* is a smashing Death Metal record with a big Hard Core influence. The drumming is performed by John Longstreth who has already proved his huge potential in ANGEL CORPSE and ORIGIN. Neil Kernon is the producer so the sound is faultless. SKINLESS' music is brutal and varied, with numerous tempo changes. The vocals of Sherwood Webber are deep and grunting although in some songs he uses his normal clear voice. Well enough said, From Sacrifice To Survival\* is for everyone yearning for qualitative Death Metal!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8,5

**PUTREFACTION**  
War, Blood and Rotteness\* CD  
Self-Released  
Brazil strikes again by unleashing another band on the world Metal Scene! War, Blood and Rotteness\* is the debut CD of PUTREFACTION after 2 demo tapes (since 1999 and 2000 respectively), and what it brings to you is 10 tracks of severely impolished Death Metal suggesting associations with the cult SARCOPHAGUS a bit... I'm far from the thought of calling PUTREFACTION copycats though: the truth is that their release is one of the most grandiose breakthroughs that I've witnessed as yet and I highly recommend it to every self-respecting deambler!  
Web: http://www.putrefaction.kit.net  
Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**MISTWEAVER**  
The Aftermath\* CD  
DEEPESEND Records  
A Spanish band playing Swedish kind of Death Metal. But MISTWEAVER are more than just another boring clone of IN FLAMES and DARK TRANQUILITY. Their music is strongly influenced by the above mentioned bands but still MISTWEAVER have created their own personal sound. The sixth song Wanderers Of The Battlefield\* is like medieval ballad with impressive male / female duet. The other tracks are aggressive but melodic Death Metal with many Heavy Metal passages. The production is on a good level, so are the musical skills of the guys. If you're fans of the Swedish sound but you're sick of all those IN FLAMES-wannabes, give an ear to MISTWEAVER.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

**OLC SINNSIR**  
The Throne Of Dead Emotions\* CD  
ADPOCERE  
I would say that OLC SINNSIR's CD would help many fans outlive IMMORTAL's break-up not because this cult band from Norway could be ever replaced, but because what they left would certainly live in the music of many debutants on the Scene! In other words, The Throne of Dead Emotions\* offers rapid and wintry morose Black Metal performed with a lot of skill, and you bear in mind the fact that this is only the FIRST album from this French outfit! Check the CD out, in case you feel nostalgic for 1995.  
Vanya Marinova.....7,0

**VICTORY THROUGH DOMINATION**  
Compilation CD  
No COLOURS Records  
The German label No Colours is well known among the fans of epic / oldschool Black Metal. This compilation CD offers 15 bands in the above

mentioned vein. The beginning is with The Ancient Beginning\* of LORD WIND - atmospheric Black Metal, perfect for opener of the second band WELT-MACHT - midtempo Black Metal with spiteful vocals. After that the sound mayhem of MARGAROTH will make your ears bleed - their song is total Underground Black Metal in the best Scandinavian traditions. ABYSSIC HATE have a very poor sound, a song taken from some demo recordings. JUVENES are next with offering epic Black Metal in the vein of BATHORY with drum-machine. WIGRID are total crap - shitty sound and stupid vocals. JUDAS ISCARIOT is better - they play their specific nihilistic Black Metal. WOODTEMPLE have a good powerful sound - this is slow Black Metal reminding of FALKENBACH but without keys. GRAVELAND are maybe the best known band in No Colours and of course they have one track here - Legion of Giants\* from the Memory And Destiny\* CD. SLAVES are a real surprise - impressive Thrash with vocals a la Tom Araya - the track is taken from their demo recording. THOR'S HAMMER have some good ideas but the awful sound destroys everything. SATANIC WARMMASTER attack with grim Black Metal supported by depressive keyboards. SUICIDAL WINDS really delighted me with their raging Black / Thrash assault in the vein of bands like SODOM or DESTRUCTION. GAAHLSKAGG are the fastest band on that comp - there's some Punk influence in their raw Black Metal, EXPLOITED-like riffing in a Black Metal vein. The CD ends with CURSE - very qualitative and mystical Black. So there are good and there are bad bands here. But if you're true Black Metal fan don't miss that comp.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....6,0

**THE LEGION**  
Awakened Fury\* MCD  
Awakened Records  
THE LEGION is the new band of Fredrik who used to be the drum-crusher for MARDUK. He left the band last year and formed a brand new outfit, Awakened Fury\* is the debut mini-album for THE LEGION and presents 5 smashing tracks combining US Death Metal in the vein of DE-CIDE with the typical Swedish Black Metal riffs. All 5 tracks are extreme to the bone, the musicianship is on a high level. The drumming is fast and technical, much more varied than in MARDUK. THE LEGION have already a three-album deal with Listenable Records and surely we'll hear more blasphemous stuff from them.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

**LATRODECTUS**  
Altered Flesh\* CD  
ADPOCERE  
LATRODECTUS (the scientific name of the spider Black Widow) are a French band formed in 2000. Altered Flesh\* is their second record after the debut mini-CD Darkened Abyss\* released in 2001. LATRODECTUS strike with extreme Black Metal enriched by majestic keys, the sound is totally dark and cold. Count Necrot's voice is very close to this of Abbat (IMMORTAL), almost one and the same. But you won't hear Abbat sing in French and German while LATRODECTUS' throat sing in both languages as well as in English. Altered Flesh\* is recorded at Drudenhaus Studio with producer Xor (MOREXIA NERVOSA's keyboardist). The sound is very good, although the guitars' sound could have been more powerful. Author of the cover-artwork is

Bolek Budzyn, famous for his works on LOUDBLAST's albums. This artist has a very interesting style, something like Euronimus Bosh's artwork. If you're into Black Metal don't miss that album - especially the fans of ANOREXIA NERVOSA will love this CD.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

**HELL-BORN**  
The Call of Megiddo\* CD  
CONQUER  
I had almost forgotten about this Polish band as I haven't heard from them since 1996, when their S / T\* MCD was released... Actually, HELL-BORN is the project of former members of BEHEMOTH and members of DAMINATION. The Call of Megiddo\* is the third album in their discography and the CD is meant to assure you of the inflexible aim of the HELL-BORN at sticking to their own Death / Black Metal sound! The 10 tracks on the release considered are performed with headreeling skill and are filled to the brim with apocalyptic angst and hostility! The production is just faultless, and the CD layout is rather impressive too. Buy or DIE!!!!!!!  
Vanya Marinova.....8,5

**NOCTURNAL MAJESTY**  
Orgiastic Trilogy\* CD  
UNSOUND  
Now this is an awful sound! I can't understand how this poor recording has been released on a CD format. The only thing that can be clearly heard is the pathetic keyboard and some morose screams. Everything else is nothing but noise. I see Orgiastic Trilogy\* as an attempt to create Black Metal but the result is total crap! Don't waste your time on this, there are far better albums.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....3,0

**GRIMFIST**  
Ghouls of Grandeur\* CD  
CANDLELIGHT  
Here is another celebrity-featuring project from Norway. This time the names to be mentioned are FREDIABLO (GORELORD, NECROPHAGIA) on vocals and HORGH (IMMORTAL) on drums. The third member's name (Die Walaunet... guitars / bass) doesn't ring a bell, but I wouldn't be surprised if I realize someday that he is a part of another famous band in his turn, as he sensibly is a very well experienced musician too. Ghouls of Grandeur\* is GRIMFIST's debut and it hits you in the head from the very start with its thick, powerful sound and brilliant performances! Style-wise, the band could not be shrunked to one single genre only; here you could feel touches of Black, Death and Heavy Metal simultaneously and what you get is nothing but... Ghouls of Grandeur! As for the sound quality, the material was recorded and mixed at Peter Tagtgren's Abyss Studio so need I say that it rocks too?  
Vanya Marinova.....8,0

**ALCHEMIST**  
Austral Alien\* CD  
RELAPSE  
ALCHEMIST come from distant Australia and Austral Alien\* is already their fifth album (two of their albums have never been released in Europe) and first for Relapse. Don't expect brutal Grind Core attacks,

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**ALCHEMIST** combine Metal riffs with a huge dose of psychedelic moods. There's certain PAIN-full influence as well as something from the latest works of FEAR FACTORY. The style of **ALCHEMIST** will appeal to the more open-minded fans. Their music is quite interesting and non-standard and deserves the attention of those who want to hear something different in the Metal field.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

**YOUR SHAPELESS BEAUTY**  
*"My Swan Song" CD*  
**ADIPOCERE**  
 This French band is formed in 1994 and till now they have released one full-length album "Sycamore Grave" and a mini-CD "Terrorize Spiritus". My Swan Song" is their second CD and can say that it sounds truly impressive. The style is dark Death Metal influenced by MOONSPELL and early PARADISE LOST. The vocalist uses deep Death voice and high Black screams. In some of the songs beautiful female singing appears and, together with the violin, creates gloomy dark atmosphere. The sound is excellent - really professional work. All of you who crave for qualitative dark and heavy music, don't waste your time and hear YOUR SHAPELESS BEAUTY. You won't be disappointed.

Tsvetan Rachev.....8,5

**VILE**  
*"Stench Of The Deceased" CD*  
**LISTENABLE**  
 This is what I call brutal US Death Metal. This band from California was created in 1996. Now it's a turn of the French label to re-publish their first long play creation "Stench Of The Deceased", that was released after 2 demos and 2 albums. This album consists of 8 songs and 4 bonus songs between them (one of them is from the demo since 1996), the others are from their concert in San Francisco. The songs smash the listener with their high quality sound! The music of VILE is fast, played masterfully with skill and is a real overwinding of aggression and spite, which is going to make you feel the absolute power of this brutal Death Machine. These tracks can stand side by side with such classics in the genre as DECIDE and CANNIBAL CORPSE, for example! I'm only say: brutal maniacs, buy this album and crash your heads from enjoyment!

Stefan Stefanov.....9,0

**ATILIA CSIHAR**  
*"Best Of..." CD*  
**SOUTHERN LORD**  
 No doubt, this CD was a great surprise to me!!! Thus, what we have here is 15 tracks (including a bonus MP3) meant to portray the 15-year musical career of one of the most respected representatives of today's Extreme Scene namely the mighty Atilia Csihar of Hungary's cult Black Metal act TORMENTOR, who is also known for his membership in PLASMA POOL and AGRYMM as well as for his guest appearances in MAYHEM, ANAAL NATHRAKH, SUN 011) and LIT-BONIC ART. "Best Of" is a must-have not only for the most dedicated fans but also for anyone who is into curio collecting: the CD features some remixes and live performances of tracks referred to the bands I mentioned up supra as well as such of two other acts which I was not aware of myself, namely KOROG from Hungary and PROFESSOR FATE (a branch of Atilia and an ANAAL NATHRAKH member). The latter project was really interesting to hear, it turned out to be joined with a cover version of the "Ghosts" track by Moravia's wounded WHEN (an excerpt of which, by the way, was used also by SATYRIORUM as an intro for their "Dark Medieval Times" debut). The CD booklet is quite impressive too, as it features various photos including such of Atilia's lyric drafts as well as a message from him to anyone who will have bought the album.

Vanya Marinova.....9,0

**THE FIFTH SUN**  
*"The Moment Of Truth" CD*  
**Self Released**  
 I wonder why a good band like this still didn't find a label which could popularise it. THE FIFTH SUN comes from North Minnesota and I suppose that this is their first album. Bryan Hom... vocals / guitars, Shawn Matilla - guitars, Brad Geroy - bass, and John Eggers - drums have created a majestic Death Metal album. "The Moment Of Truth" was recorded in May 2001 at the Swedish studio Freedom with Fredrik Nordstrom (he helps with keyboards and a guitar solo in one of the songs). Maybe this is the reason for which in the album you could sense the popular Swedish Death Metal sound. I'm sure that "The Moment Of Truth" will appeal to everybody who loves good yet melodic Metal. THE FIFTH SUN definitely have future on the Scene and they deserve your supports. Contact: thefifthsun@hotmail.com

Stefan Stefanov.....7,5

**SUCIDAL WINDS**  
*"Crush Us With Fire" MCD*  
**NO COLOURS**  
 "Crush Us With Fire" has six tracks of top Speed guitar scraping filled with brutality and wrathful drums, both backgrounding the eruptive grunts and growls of Mathias. There is one live track included, which partly gives us an idea of the whole atmosphere at their concerts. All the rest is intense, sharply changing rhythm, which could appeal mainly to meshpitters.

Pavina Todorova.....6,0

**SYMBEL**  
*"We Drink - Hymns and Counsel..." CD*  
**ANGELISC ENTERPRISES**  
 They define themselves as an English Heathen Metal band and, according to me, they very accurately correspond to that style, despite the Black and Dark motives. A dark and luring atmosphere coming from the most gloomy and dreary parts of England combined with highly tangible ecclesiastical touches, now that sounds truly weird. There are also some attempts for re-creating of historical scenes and hypnotizing sounds. However, we must not forget: the Metal elements coming from the guitar riffs and the partial growls which appear from time to time.

Pavina Todorova.....5,5

**ATROX**  
*"Orgasm" CD*  
**CODE 666**  
 It was I again who reviewed ATROX previous "Terrestrials" CD for Brutality's 8th issue and the album had entranced me totally for its delectably mysterious atmospheres, so I was all joy and contentedness when I was sent the band's latest release too! And I can tell you now that it turned out to be not less brilliant!!! Once again these charismatic Norwegians prove that it's not only the bars that make the prison impossible to escape from, but is also the lack of desire to learn and progress! In other words, "Orgasm" appears to be another bunch of original ideas the spacy fragrance of which will make you feel really dizzy yet bizarrely nostalgic for a world never seen but still sensibly close, whenever the night draws high... The CD layout (Monika Edvardsen) is appropriately weird and will certainly resurrect your childhood fears!

Vanya Marinova.....10

**DRASTIQUE**  
*"Pleasureligion" CD*  
**BEYOND... / MASTERPIECE**  
 I would say that the second album by Italy's DRASTIQUE (previously DRASTIC) is highly recommendable to all symphonic Black Metal / Gothic admirers. Although I am fond of neither of these two tendencies in general, I cannot deny that "Pleasureligion" does have what to offer! The tracks on the CD (including a cover of Sandra's "Maria Magdalena") stand out for their amazingly versatile constructions and, despite the band members' resorting to my "favorite" masculine / feminine vocal juxtaposition, I doubt that I will soon feel tired of listening to them again and again! Lyric-wise, the DRASTIQUE are inspired by such classics as D. Alighieri, W. Blake, P. B. Shelley, J. Keats, J. H. Lawrence and more.

Vanya Marinova.....8,0

**TUMULUS SERAPHIM**  
*"Centerians Divine Lullacy..." CD*  
**BEYOND Productions**  
 I don't see what I can write about that album except for that it really deserves its title. It is one continuous consistency of sounds resembling echoes or flowing water. As if you are standing on a deserted street in a dirty and poor neighborhood and just listen. If you want to calm yourself down you will, and at the same time you'll get truly nervous and even insane by those strange spate of noises.

Pavina Todorova.....3,0

**BIONIC**  
*"Deliverance" CD*  
**ABSTRACT SOUNDS**  
 This is the second full-length album in the discography of BIONIC from Canada. What it is about is 12 melodic Rock tracks that would sound quite appropriate as a musical background to any movie dealing with college escapades. I don't think that I will go back to this CD again... it would be like starting to read "Gone with the Wind" again at 75 or so respectively. Apart from that, the songs on "Deliverance" sound kind of monotonous.

Vanya Marinova.....5,5

**USER NE**  
*"Tarantos" CD*  
**XTRREM MUSIC**  
 USER NE come from Malaga, South Spain, and are the most interesting and impressive band that I have heard lately! I haven't heard anything about them before, but I can say that they did grip my attention - USER NE have created a grandiose album, which style is difficult to describe with a few words. Here you can discern such genres as Death, Doom and Pagan Metal, combined perfectly with elements of Spanish folk motives and this creates an indescribably epic atmosphere, which enchants the listener from the very beginning. The band was created in 1996 and "Tarantos" is its second long play album which 14 musicians (9 of them permanent) take part in. Here you could hear some untypical musical instruments (crossing flute, bagpipe, clarinet, carillon), two male vocals that sound very diverse, as well as the beautiful voice of Annah (soprano) who actually leaves the group after the records of "Tarantos", what a pity. Most of the songs are written in Spanish - my favorite track is "An Mis Thaimous" (this ritualistic atmosphere brings me to another world...). In the end I'll say that this gifted band has created a unique piece which must be heard immediately!

Stefan Stefanov.....9,5

**BURIED GOD**  
*"Dark Revelation" CD*  
**MERCILESS**  
 Although I'm not very well acquainted with Thrash Metal, I must admit that after hearing this album for a first time I was truly impressed! "Dark Revelation" is full of various, constantly changing moods and melodies. While rocking on the most intensive and brutal sound of Thrash Metal, you suddenly start headbanging in some kind of Power guitar solos, when again there comes the pure and swift Thrash. Having a real example given by great bands like DESTRUCTION, the German Thrash Metal band BURIED GOD is about to outdo its predecessors and that is why I think that this album is worth buying!

Pavina Todorova.....9,0

**EROS NECROPSIQUE**  
*"Crise de Lucidite" CD*  
**ADIPOCERE**  
 "Crise de Lucidite" is the 3rd longplayer of EROS NECROPSIQUE from France and what it offers will certainly appeal to the ordinary Gothic / sympho-Black Metal fan. The eight tracks on the album sound remarkably obscure and draw visions of nocturnally silenced, rain-drenched graveyards. The lyrics are in French and this very detail conclusively contributes to the completion of the overall picture. Not bad, but, on the other hand, the formations that I could reckon as better than EROS NECROPSIQUE are in plenty!

Vanya Marinova.....6,0

**ANTHEMON**  
*"Arcanes" CD*  
**THUNDERING Records**  
 Here is an album that is meant for delighting the ears of the sympho-Doom fans. "Arcanes" is the second full-length release in the discography of Finland's ANTHEMON and it stands out for its entrancingly melan-

cholic atmosphere achieved by dulcet female singing, beautiful acoustic parts and ethereal keyboard melodies. What I didn't like though was the same old male grunt / feminine chant interaction that have always sounded pretty much pathetic to me on the whole. A matter of taste. The 11 songs were recorded at the celebrated Tico-Tico Studios and the mastering was entrusted to Mikka Jussila (known for his work with IMPALED NAZARENE, NIGHTVISH, THERION, EMPEROR, etc.). The CD layout was done by Jean Pascal Fournier (IMMORTAL, AVANTASIA, EDGUY, METALLIAN).

Vanya Marinova.....6,5

**ASHES YOU LEAVE**  
*"Fire" CD*  
**MORBID**  
 Having made a new tradition in the Gothic Metal music, ASHES YOU LEAVE follow their style with even higher professionalism. Although there is a resemblance to bands like THERION because of the opera sound, the band has its own aura. The strongly audible female vocals blended with the fractional Black-sounding parts can be really impressive at times. Of course, the band has a hard way to go by but in comparison to their former albums, "Fire" could be a step in the right direction. Not before Marina (female vocals) clears all her parts though.

Pavina Todorova.....7,0

**ENSLAVED**  
*"Below The Lights" CD*  
**OSMOSE**  
 After producing the truly successful album "Mardraum", ENSLAVED are back again with their new release "Below The Lights", which is somehow softer, even though we could enjoy some real good and aggressive passages throughout the album. Melodic and at some places even demonic, the sound is pouring out in some unusual Norwegian manner with the growing which is constantly alternating with clear and tuneful parts. I am sorry to admit, however, that this album cannot be even compared to its predecessor, but I am sure that ENSLAVED have a lot more to show in the future.

Pavina Todorova.....9,5

**DR SHRINKER**  
*"Grotusque Wedlock" CD*  
**NECROHARMONIC**  
 Willy-nilly, I will have to admit that this band is quite unfamiliar to me, although the CD that I am listening to right now features DR SHRINKER's 3 demo recordings since '88, '89 and '90 respectively! I could not learn anything from the Necroharmonic website either, as "Grotusque Wedlock" is yet to be out officially! At least I found a DR SHRINKER review that turned out to be a ray of light in the darkness of my ignorance... Thus, what we have here is 19 Thrash / Death Metal tracks that sound archaic enough to convince you that you have just struck something truly far from easy to find! Rarity collectors, get in touch!

Vanya Marinova.....7,0

**OSCULUM OBSCENUM**  
*"Body Hurting Art" CD*  
**LOFTY STORM**  
 Being the first full-length album of this band, "Body Hurting Art" could be described as an endless aggression piece expressed through the virulent grunts of Carnifex against the background of intense guitar rhythm, which persists throughout the whole 12 songs. OSCULUM OBSCENUM is a band the style of which cannot be accurately defined because of the wide variety of influences combined in it, but we cannot deny the ascendancy of Grind Core and Death Metal.

Pavina Todorova.....6,0

**NARTVIND**  
*"Until Their Ruin" CD*  
**PAINKILLER**  
 Wow, this outfit definitely made me remember that I haven't listened to BURZUM's earliest works for ages! NARTVIND hail from Belgium and for now I am apt of thinking that "Until Their Ruin" is the band's debut CD, for the nine tracks on it do not shine with skilful performances really, but at least are filled to the brim with dark moods and this compensates to some extent the members' inexperience of playing music. Check this album out, in case you feel nostalgic for Vikernes' pre-jail revelations.

Vanya Marinova.....5,0

**DESTINITY**  
*"Under The Smell of Chaos" CD*  
**ADIPOCERE**  
 The year was 1996 when the Black Metal band DESTINITY was born. Now we can enjoy their third album - "Under The Smell of Chaos", which could be described as obscure and violent guitar aggression in a chat-

ic combination with rough and more Death-sounding vocals. There are, however, some melodic parts and scarcely perceivable piano sounds. The participation of Akaias (AGATHODAIMON), Julien (BENIGHTED) and Kohle (CENTURY) in the album will probably contribute to its success.

Pavina Todorova.....7,0

**FLAGELLATOR**  
*"Channeling The Acheron" CD*  
**NO COLOURS**  
 I haven't heard about FLAGELLATOR before but their release left me far from unimpressed! What "Channeling The Acheron" turned out to deal with was catchy Thrash / Heavy interlaced with some Black Metal influences. No innovative ideas here, but you can feel the musicians' inexperience for making Metal and that's not very important, in my opinion. If you are into Sweden's BEWITCHED or WITCHERY you should love that album too!

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**ELLIPSIS**  
*"Comastory" CD*  
**ADIPOCERE**  
 These guys are real psychos! After listening to the album for a first time, the 13 songs (some of which over seven minutes long) evoked mixed and to a great extent obscure feelings in me. Their music is truly calm and confusing and doesn't offer anything for stage-divers (except for "Evil"), but can easily make you sink into melancholy or fall into trance. Emmanuel's voice makes ELLIPSIS sound much like DREAM THEATRE, but in some psycho and freaky way and, frankly speaking, after the second or third hearing of "Comastory", I even started to like them.

Pavina Todorova.....6,0

**WELTMACHT**  
*"And To Every Beast Its Prey" CD*  
**NO COLOURS**  
 Here is another cool release from the No Colours catalogue for 2003. "And To Every Beast Its Prey" is the second longplayer of the WELTMACHT and it will certainly entrance everyone who stands by for the minimalist, straightforward Black Metal sound. Despite their simplicity, the 7 tracks on the "ATEBIPP" CD are filled with a large spectrum of emotional shades varying from epic defiance through solemn obscurity to blood-freezing desolation. I guess I should check out WELTMACHT's debut as well!

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**MORDANT**  
*"Suicide Slaughter" MCD*  
**AGONIA**  
 Old-school Black Metal! We all know that sound, inherited from great bands like VENOM and NIFELHEIM. Just imagine the same style mingled with some highly expressed Death Metal influence. That's what MORDANT is. It has the rhythm and the intensity, which are performed technically enough so they could sound truly brutal and ruthless.

Pavina Todorova.....8,0

**WOODTEMPLE**  
*"Feel The Anger of the Wind" CD*  
**NO COLOURS**  
 WOODTEMPLE is a band from Austria and what its sole member Aramath has for you is a 43-minute opus that inevitably makes you start thinking of Poland's GRAVELAND! The album tracks (including intro and outro) pass as deliberately majestic as a many thousands army on its way to the battlefield, and the feeling you are eventually left with is ineffably morose yet sort of nostalgic, in case you happened to witness the Second Black Metal Wave high tide... What I could say about WOODTEMPLE in addition is that Aramath started it all in 1998 and after the "Swords of Hate" demo since '99, "Feel The Anger of the Wind" is his debut longplayer. Very good beginning!

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**NICODEMUS**  
*"The Supernatural Ormbibus" CD*  
**DARK SYMPHONIES**  
 Despite the truly beautiful and original cover of this second album of NICODEMUS, they don't offer anything so astonishing or unique this time. The clear pensive vocals (which at times convert into pure Black Metal growls), put together with gentle and Gothic-sounding background, evoke some gloomy and indefinable feelings, which vary from murky restlessness to perfect tranquility. That is why they can't be assigned to any particular Metal genre. They're probably some kind of a combination between Gothic, Classic and melodic Black Metal performed in time of melancholy and mental indisposition.

Pavina Todorova.....6,0

**CHARGER**  
*"Confession of a Man (Mad Enough to Live among Beasts)" CD*  
**PEACEVILLE**  
 As soon as I read that these guys were special guests to TODAY IS THE DAY on their tour across the UK and Europe in May / June, I was a 100 % sure that I would hear something really insane here! And I guessed

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right, for what these 8 tracks turned out to be about was ponderously Doomish, saturnine riffs combined with fierce Punk / Noise assaults, all these coming and going as unpredictably as schizophrenic paroxysms! "Music to kill children to" is what the producer Billy Anderson (NEUR-SIS, EYE HATE GD, etc) states at the end of the recording session, and I just couldn't agree more: "Confession of a Man" is totally incompatible with anyone who might have embraced the happy end theory about life!

Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**DISMAL**  
*"Rubino Liquido - Three Scarlet Drops..." CD*  
**DREAMCELL 11 ENTERTAINMENT**  
 A dulcet masterpiece performed in a pure Gothic atmosphere with the contribution of a 12-member string orchestra and the pensive and minor sound of the piano. That's why the band's style corresponds exactly to the definition of symphonic Dark Metal. Built up in three parts ("drops"), the second full-length album of DISMAL draws pictures of medieval times with some classic elements brought about by the Gothic-sounding guitar riffs.

Pavlina Todorova.....7.5

**DIVISION ALPHA**  
*"Replica" CD*  
**HOLY RECORDS**  
 I did not even need to read the info in order to realize that I was expected to start pondering over a review about another band referred to the well known Electro-Goth / Metal combo! It was merely that the very CD layout with its cold, futuristic lines spoke quite eloquently of what the music of this French duo might be about... "Replica" is the 3rd album of DIVISION ALPHA (founded in '98) and, although offering nothing peculiar as a whole, it will be appealing to the ordinary fans of the aforementioned blend. I found the CD far from bad myself... it was not bereft of some enrapturement atmosphere-wise...

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

**CREMASTER**  
*"Mireta Uhr" CD*  
**Self Released**  
 What the hell is this?! It's like some kind of grotesque Death / Thrash music combined with extremely awful Nu Metal sounds performed by a group of "rastamanidita men". I cannot find any sense in that album and I'm not sure if it is for Metal maniacs. It's truly hard to ignore the derisive beginning of each of the songs and what's more, I think that they could have worked a little bit harder on the more aggressive Metal parts.

Pavlina Todorova.....4.0

**SHADOWS DANCE**  
*"A Quatrain for the Damned" CD*  
**EBONY TEARS / COLD BLOOD INDUSTRIES**  
 Well, I am not fond of the Greek Metal Scene in general but I will have to admit that "A Quatrain for the Damned" is abundant in awesome performances and entrancingly somber yet mysterious atmospheres! In other words, what you should be prepared for is 7 tracks of symphonic Dark Death Metal standing out for their catchy riffs additionally laced with brilliant leads, dulcet fiddle melodies, melancholic piano tunes and unearthly beautiful feminine choirs calling associations with today's THERION to some extent. Otherwise, SHADOWS DANCE exists since 1998 and this is the band's full-length debut which the musicians were helped with by colleagues of SEPTIC FLESH and ASTARTE.

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**BENUMB**  
*"By Means Of Upheaval" CD*  
**RELAPSE**  
 BENUMB sound a little bit boring to me. The reason is that the vocals on their new album "By Means Of Upheaval" are so monotonous and I fill like I am listening to one and the same song 22 times. The music is like Grind Core with some Hard Core elements and the sound is rather raw. BENUMB exist since 1994 and come from San Francisco. "By Means Of Upheaval" is only their second full-length album, but they also

have some split 7" EPs with bands like AGORAPHOBIC NOISEBLEED, DUKES OF HAZARD, APARTMENT 213, SUPPRESSION, SHORT HATE TEMPER, etc... But, despite all I said, I find the lyrics of BENUMB interesting for their anti-politic and anti-global direction.

Stefan Stefanov.....5.5

**SACRIST**  
*"Symphonies Of Ancient Empires" CD*  
**AVALANCHE**  
 Considering myself as a Black Metal fan, I thought that I have heard everything and did not expect to be so fascinated of such a band, but I must admit that after listening to this album I couldn't stop thinking about what I have heard. "Symphonies Of Ancient Empires" is full of various, constantly changing moods and emotions, expressed with real originality and musical technique on a high level. Growing, harmony, melodic guitar riffs and obscurity are just some of the ingredients that can be found in this release of SACRIST.

Pavlina Todorova.....8.5

**KLIMT 1918**  
*"Undressed Memento" CD*  
**MY KINGDOM MUSIC**  
 Definitely this band would appeal to everyone who is into ANATHEMA or KATATONIA on the one hand and the 80's Wave celebrities DURAN DURAN, POLICE or THE CURE on the other. I personally liked this CD for its catchy, straightforward riffs against the background of which clean male singing (Marco Soelner) spreads wondrously entrancing moods thus to complete the overall picture in praise of solitude and melancholy. What I can say about Italy's KLIMT 1918 in addition is that the band was set up in 1999 by 2 members of ANOTHER DAY (a Death Metal band that exists no longer) and "Undressed Memento" is their debut release.

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

**ZERO SIGNAL**  
*"Zero Signal" MCD*  
**Self Released**  
 Oh, ZERO SIGNAL can really knock you down! What would you say for a band that plays Death-Trash with some Nu Metal incinations?! I personally got a headache. It sounds rather freaky especially after hearing those strange alien noises, but still we cannot deny the good and technical performance which, as some say, drives them near the style of bands like MESHUGGAH.

Pavlina Todorova.....5.0

**THE DEFACED**  
*"Karma In Black" CD*  
**SCARLET**  
 This Swedish act was devised in late 1999 by DARKANE, TERROR 2000 and SOILWORK members and "Karma In Black" is its second CD. Which, by the way, I could hear ONLY the first 2 tracks from, as the copy I was sent for reviewing turned out to be damaged!!!! Now THAT I haven't gone through before... So, what I managed to hear was really good... these 2 songs appeared to be a perfect example of what a smashing result you get when you combine pure Metal aggression with skilful performances! Don't hesitate to give this release a listen.

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**UHRILEHTO**  
*"Virtus Millennium" CD*  
**SCHWARZDORN Productions**  
 "Virtus Millennium" is the second album of the melodic Black Metal band UHRILEHTO, which contains 11 tracks abounding in ferocious growls against the background of tuneful melodies combined with vigorous guitar riffs. There is, however, slight difference in the sound within the whole album - once we relax in the tranquility of the melodic parts, when we suddenly fall into the vortex of sinister Black Metal sounds. Following the steps of other great bands, UHRILEHTO are often being defined as a mixture between IN FLAMES and DARK THRONE.

Pavlina Todorova.....7.5

**NARCOZE**  
*"Genoma" CD*  
**CRUZ DEL SUR MUSIC**  
 Although Brazil's NARCOZE exist since 1991, this is the first album they

come up with (after 2 demos since '94 and '95 respectively). What "Genoma" is about is Power / Progressive Metal... not my piece of cake definitely but still, to be completely impartial, I would say that the guys have managed pretty well. The 10 songs here stand out for their uncanny atmospheres as well as versatile constructions, so I merely don't see any reason for any fan of the genres mentioned above to omit this record.

Vanya Marinova.....6.5

**FINNUGOR**  
*"Death Before Dawn" CD*  
**ADIPOCERE**  
 Combining the darkest moods of Finland and the melancholy of Hungary, the duo FINNUGOR comes forth with a mixture of the highest perfection in both traditions. Besides, the collaboration with their special guests - Domina Mystico (female voices) and Attila Csihar (ex-MAYHEM) - gives a formidable sense of dusk and obscurity. Apart from all the darkness there remain the folklore motives and historical reproduction of ancient scenes as in "Battle at the Heart of Dreamland".

Pavlina Todorova.....8.5

**K. A.**  
*"Close-Up" CD*  
**U. M. A.**  
 The 3rd CD by K. A. from France features 4 new tracks + 4 demo recordings. Style-wise, the band is Death / Core-oriented and the only thing that appealed to me here was the skilful guitar solos. The whole album sounds really boring and I JUST do not see what else I could write in this review!

Vanya Marinova.....4.5

**BULLET**  
*"Spreading In The Night" CD*  
**AGONIA**  
 Once you think you've seen it all and it's over, then come BULLET and rock you up with a dusty Heavy Metal. And the weirdest thing of all is that I LOVED it, the same thing I would have hated 15 years ago. Tight Heavy Metal with guitar solos, screaming vocals and a great feeling for the music. Play it loud and rip some strings off your air guitar!

Ivalio Tonchev.....5.0

**RAIN PAINT**  
*"Nihi Nisi Mors" CD*  
**MY KINGDOM MUSIC**  
 The story of RAIN PAINT is probably the most interesting one that I have read ever, when it comes to band foundation! This Finnish act was started quite spontaneously, after Alexi Anokas of FRAGILE HOLLOW (group from the ashes of PROPHET) ended up with songs written for the group which eventually turned out not to fit it... Thus, his next step was to send the material to the My Kingdom Music team and, after having received a positive feedback from there, a two-album deal was signed so Alexi, along with Sami Koikkalainen (FRAGILE HOLLOW) Tomi Toivanen (DENIGRATE), started working on the RAIN PAINT debut! The outcome is 8 tracks sensibly influenced from the works of AMORPHIS, KATATONIA, SENTENCED and HIM - nothing specific, I mean, but you could feel the RAIN PAINT members' awareness of knowing exactly what they are together for (namely creating music seriously!).

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

**ANCIENT NECROPSY**  
*"Ancient Necropsy" CD*  
**NICE TO EAT YOU Records**  
 Pure brutal Grind from a place like Colombia can not keep me sane. Of course, I turned on the highest possibility of my loudspeakers and the stuff just blew me up with its intensity. Then I noticed it is a one-man band and I got even more interested. Of course, it is interesting to see a band from Colombia being on a Czech label. Lyrics...you'd better avoid them, unless you have a good sense of humour. You can always wish more, but in case you like music from exotic places...it's for you!

Ivalio Tonchev.....5.0

**SUPERSTATIC REVOLUTION**  
*"We Kneel in the Pews by the Confession Box" MCD*  
**BASEMENT APES INDUSTRIES / MOSAIC MUSIC**  
 Damn, this is one of the wackiest records that I have heard for 2003! This, in the good way... "We Kneel..." by SUPERSTATIC REVOLUTION from France appears to be a pure challenge for any review writer who regularly insists to categorize the uncategorizable by resorting to the so convenient word "avantgarde", ha-ha-ha... Instead, I will merely tell you that these 5 tracks will make you feel as dizzy as never before! Open your mind and let Chaos in!!!

Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**AXIS OF ADVANCE**  
*"The List" CD*  
**OSMOSE**  
 The trio AXIS OF ADVANCE comes from Canada - the band was created in 1998 by Vermir and Woumir, after the disintegration of their previous project SACRAMENTARY ABOLISHMENT. "The List" is their third album, which however doesn't show anything new and interesting to the listener. The music is an extreme and noisy mix of Death / Black Metal with some Thrash influences. I'm not very sure who will like this chaos, but I don't - sounds very primitive and meaningless. Let's try to believe that the future albums of AXIS OF ADVANCE will be better.

Stefan Stefanov.....5.0

**MERENDINE ATOMICHE**  
*"Walk Across Fire" CD*  
**DEAD SUN**  
 An Italian band that recorded the album in Sweden and has a Canadian fan club. The world is a small place, after all. I find nothing that exceptional about this band, well played Thrash Metal, with nothing different to millions of other similar bands. Very good artwork, and if you fall for this kind of music, get it! Very good musicians, as far as I can judge!

Ivalio Tonchev.....5.0

**MYDGARD**  
*"Decay Of Thy Gods" MCD*  
**Self Released**  
 Spain - the country of flamenco and corridas...? Leave this sentimentality, because here is the new MCD of MYDGARD, offering to us five songs of fierce and brutal Black / Death Metal not devoid of some melody thanks to the plenty of keyboard parts. Speed and aggression are in abundance, and when we add the satanic conception, "Decay Of Thy Gods" becomes a good final product. What a pity that the dudes didn't find a label yet... Contact: <http://mydgard.cib.net/>

Stefan Stefanov.....7.5

**GARBAGE DISPOSAL**  
*"Reunion Caribbe" CD*  
**OBSCENE**  
 Machine driven Grind Core, fast attacks, combined with a sterile sound that sounds as if made by a computer. It features a collection of tracks by this band, recorded through their entire life span over 10 years. By the end you can even witness their first demo that was done in 1994. A good band, it is only a bit too much to listen to the entire CD in one piece.

Ivalio Tonchev.....6.0

**FINNUGOR**  
*"Black Flames" CD*  
**ADIPOCERE**  
 There isn't any information about this interesting band, FINNUGOR comes from Hungary. Behind this name are hiding two persons: Nikolai Stalhammer (guitars, drums, synth and lyrics) and Gabriel Wolf (vocals, programming, synth and lyrics). The music they created is delightful atmospheric Black / Death Metal, which in some moments sounds rather fabulous and dark. Definitely you could find here interesting ideas, even though the sound is not on the very high level. What I only don't like is that a drum machine is used which makes the album sound unnatural. FINNUGOR must start to work harder to reach such fames on the Hungarian Underground scene as SEAR BLISS, for example.

Stefan Stefanov.....7.0

**AXEMASTER**  
*"The Awakening" CD*  
**UNISOUND Records**  
 A Greek label doing an archival type of re-release by some ancient 80s band? Sounds suspicious, but I loved it. Great band, that started in 1985 and kept the Heavy Metal spirit for so many years. I would have loved to read something more about the band, as no info besides the lyrics was provided. Play the music loud and witness the 80s again.

Ivalio Tonchev.....8.0

**PERISHED**  
*"Seid" CD*  
**DISPLEASED**  
 PERISHED is one of the veterans on the Norwegian Black Metal scene. The album "Seid" is only their second full-length one, although they exist since 1991. What the band offers is brutal, pagan Black Metal filled with a lot of spite and aggression. The album surely will please all fans who like that genre... the band features members of BLOODTHORN, WURDLAK, GORELORD and HELLSTORM. In some moments you can hear acoustic passages and majestically dark keyboard melodies. The cover artwork of the album is a real masterpiece. It shows again the hate of these monsters for Christianity. The album "Seid" had been recorded at Skansen Lydstudio and has a very good sound. 3 of the 8 songs feature guest vocalists. Just listen to dark space evil, which comes from songs as "Forget To Bloodshed" or "Burning Heart Of Ice", and you will remember PERISHED forever! This is a Black Metal masterpiece and there are no more words needed!

Stefan Stefanov.....9.0

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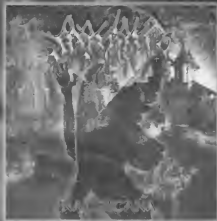
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Of The Earth" is a good start for ROSAE CRUCIS. Keep up the good work!  
Sloyan Tzonev.....7.0

**FURIA**  
„In Lac De Larmes Et De Sang“ CD  
ADPOCERE  
Here is a real melodic Death Metal masterpiece from Macon, France. „In Lac de Larmes et de Sang“ (A Lake From Tears And Blood) is the second full-length album of this talented group that was founded in 1997. This is a conceptual opus dealing with quite a different world, entirely musician-made. The mastering has been done at FIMWYDX Studio. The 13 songs team with various vocals (the guest vocals of Adeline of AKIN are a real pleasure for the ear), snatching guitar melodies and ethereally entrancing keyboards accompanied by majestically orchestral passages (most of them recorded with real instruments!). I haven't heard such a great Black Metal album before! FURIA are an active concert group, too. They have played with CANONICAL CORPSE, GLOOMY GRIM, KREATOR, MISANTHROPE, YATTERING, etc. Come with me in the lake of tears and blood...  
Slatan Stefanov.....8.5

**MUCUPURULENT**  
„Soul Reaver“ CD  
MORBD  
This has been done before, I bet my balls, but I love it! Heavy Grind / Death aggression unleashed on my ears from the stereo. And they added a Techno beat to their songs, which makes them more and more interesting! A great band and a very good release, that will satisfy all Grind Core maniacs worldwide. Watch out and buy it!  
Ivalio Tonchev.....7.0

**PLATITUDE**  
„Secrets Of Life“ CD  
SCARLET  
It is very hard for a band to be noticed today on the overcrowded melodic Heavy Metal Scene. To be honest, I am already fed up with this style and only YNGWIE and SYMPHONY X still find a place in my collection. However, PLATITUDE and their debut album „Secrets Of Life“ are an interesting offering. The first interesting fact here is that they use two (!) keyboard players along with two guitarists. This is undoubtedly an original decision which, combined with the guys' ability to create catchy melodies, makes this album an enjoyable listening experience. Don't expect too much from PLATITUDE... this is a capable young band from Sweden, but if you need to add one more melodic Metal album to your collection, it can easily be „Secrets Of Life“. I am curious what the next PLATITUDE album will sound like...  
Sloyan Tzonev.....7.0

**IMPIETY**  
„Kaos Kommand 696“ CD  
OSMOSE  
To put it this way, the Singaporean IMPIETY has literally poured the world wrath of Hell upon our heads with their new album! The first song („Christlike Intruder“) is like a mass execution that transforms them into total outrage that doesn't stop till the end of the album. Very fast, intense and sometimes chaotic drum attacks, consciousness-tormenting guitars and crazy vocals, all that makes you think like you are witnessing a horde of demons invading in rage. This is extreme Death / Thrash Metal, in which you could discern some Thrash and Speed influences - IMPIETY doesn't seem to lack velocity limits! „Kaos Kommand 696“ is the third album of the band and it was recorded at Berno Studios, Sweden, with Henrik Larsson. The album consists of 8 songs, which can be appreciated only by real Extreme Metal fans. What is interesting here is that IMPIETY use the „nuclear-war-gate“ concept and thus resurrected memories of the majestic IMPALED NAZARENE cyber-beasts... On the limited CD and LP edition you can hear two cover versions „Black Church“ (SEXTRASH) and „Goddess Of Perversity“ (BLASPHEMY).  
Slatan Stefanov.....7.0

**NAIL WITHIN**  
„Nail Within“ CD  
LISTENABLE  
What a pleasant surprise! The self-titled debut of NAIL WITHIN presents 11 tracks of storming old-school Thrash with lots of influences from KREATOR. The album is produced by the Thrash Metal guru Harris Johns and SALEM's Ze'ev Tanaboin. The songs are played with much enthusiasm and skill. There are some really catchy tunes on this CD and I also noticed some influences from AT THE GATES in „Dirty Coloured Knife“. If you buy this album, you will be able to see the excellent video of the above-mentioned song. NAIL WITHIN is one of Israel's brightest hopes in extreme music! If you like Thrash Metal, look no further!  
Sloyan Tzonev.....8.5

**HOUWITSER**  
„Damage Assessment“ CD  
OSMOSE  
Are you eager of hearing some brutal Dutch Death Metal dealing with military subjects? If yes, HOUWITSER are definitely for you - with their explosive music, the boys are certainly in a condition to create a Third World War! This Death Metal project was created in 1997 from Aad, Mike, Michel (all members of the cult Death act SINISTER) and Theo (JUDGMENT DAY). After some line-up changes through the years, the band has this line-up now. Theo (bass), Alex (guitar, from SINISTER, too), Aad (drums) and Stan (who is a real monster behind the microphone!). „Damage Assessment“ is HOUWITSER's third album. It shows us exceptionally brutal and uncompromising Death Metal, which is going to smash you like a tank. These 8 songs are going to drive you insane - every song has samples from mass „lirng“ (sometimes I even hear Russian speech! This band is obligatory for every self-respecting Death Metal fan. Just listen to „Damage Assessment“, and you will instinctively try to hide somewhere from the flying shells. Attack!!!  
Slatan Stefanov.....8.5

**GAIA EPICUS**  
„Satrap“ CD  
SOUND RIOT  
GAIA EPICUS is the first Power / Heavy band from Norway I have ever heard! It seemed as if Norwegians are only capable of composing Black Metal (although qualitative), but now GAIA EPICUS is here to show what they can do in the melodic Metal field. „Satrap“ is the debut album of this band and it surely is an impressive start. However, I will start with

the negative remarks this time. Finally, the album is too long. With a running time of 60 minutes it inevitably becomes boring at the end. IRON MAIDEN's „Dance Of Death“ is also 68 min long, but this is IRON MAIDEN... you know what I mean! Secondly, the sound is a bit blurred and muddy. Using the same recording studio as NECROPHAGIA is simply not a good choice. Finally, the songs are too long and a bit monotonous. They should have tried to express their ideas (which are very good) within 3 or 4 minutes, instead of 8. The album follows a fast tempo but this could be diversified from time to time, I think. All in all, „Satrap“ is a pleasant surprise from a Norwegian band. Fans of GAMMA RAY or EDGUY should definitely check this out. There are lots of great melodies and choruses here to enjoy and GAIA EPICUS is a band with future!  
Sloyan Tzonev.....7.0

**THE MUTANTS**  
„Voo Doo Blues“ CD  
SPINEFARM  
Some years ago God had a wise idea and invented a band, that he named THE SHADOWS. Some years later he had another bright idea by inventing this band - THE MUTANTS. All band members come from different Finnish alternative bands, but what they brought here is a fine mixture of the 60's instrumental garage, Afro-Cuban rhythms and voodoo harmonies from hell. This band really blew me up, it's something you cannot hear every day. „Sin Hipster“ sounds like no one else and the mighty JIMI HENDRIX, hooked on some heavy acid fuel. „Voo Doo Blues“ starts like „Run To The Hills“ by IRON MAIDEN, but it's nothing like the Heavy Metal classics. „Stampeo Caravan“ is a fuzzy garage tune that makes me jump from my chair and start „air guitaring“ in front of my stereo. You should pour some red rum, get a coke, invite some friends and make a perfect psychedelic party.  
Ivalio Tonchev.....10

**DOOMSTONE**  
„Disharmonic“ CD  
SOURCE OF DELUGE  
Here is another band name coincidence after the IMMEDIATE case. It's that Brutalica's seventh issue features a review by me for „Satanavoid“... a VENOM / MERCYFUL FATE-influenced release from an American act named DOOMSTONE, so in the first moment I took „Disharmonic“ for a „Satanavoid“ sequel. Instead, the „Disharmonic“ release turned out to be an album by a German band. What it is about is rather good, melodic Death Metal with remarkably versatile track constructions. Also, DOOMSTONE's website in German so I can't tell you more, but if you speak this language try the following URL: <http://www.sod-rec.de>  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**N.C.O.**  
„Pure Black Disease“ CD  
BAPHOMET  
The N.C.O. (or NEPHENZY CHAOS ORDER) hails from Sweden and was devised in 1995 as NEPHENZY first. I haven't come across the band's previous releases, but „Pure Black Disease“ sounds far from bad, so I suppose the guys have gained a lot of fans thus far. What the CD itself deals with is exceptionally rapid, vehement Death / Black metal for sweeping you away as inexorably as only the wildest bizant could! Absolutely inadvisable for more coddled ears!!!  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**SOULLESS**  
„Agony's Lament“ CD  
WORLDCHAOS Productions  
I am always happy when we receive imports of Thrash bands, since this is one of my favourite styles. I am even happier when the bands are as good as SOULLESS are. „Agony's Lament“ is the debut full-length album of these Americans, which was released on November 20th 2002. The ten songs included present some excellent Thrash Metal in the vein of old KREATOR, but with some new-school Swedish influences like THE HAUNTED. The musicians' abilities are good enough, the artwork is killer and the sound quality is great. What else can I say? Go and find this album! I already have it and look forward to the next one!  
Sloyan Tzonev.....8.0

**DISBELIEF**  
„Spreading the Rage“ CD  
MASSACRE  
Well, I hadn't come across DISBELIEF before, even though „Spreading the Rage“ appears to be the 5th CD in the discography of this German band. What the album entranced me with from the very beginning was the remarkably heavy, avalanche-like sound that had such an impact on me that I almost realized how it feels when a gigantic tornado rushes upon you! Still, the DISBELIEF were merciful enough to give you the chance of taking a few air breaths by weaving within the whole madness some „lyrical“ moments expressed in melodic guitar passages notable for their entrancing depressiveness. Until you start being swirled like a rag doll again! Absolutely, just like it's written in the review on the Massacre Records website, „Spreading the Rage“ is no musical fast-food but a culinary great enjoyment for gourmards of music! Yet another great surprise that this release brought to me was DISBELIEF's cover of „Democracy“ (KILLING JOKE)!  
Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**UNFRAGMENT**  
„In Meanderings of Ain-Soph“ CD  
Self Released  
Since the info on the UNFRAGMENT website turned out to be in French, all that I could comprehend for sure was that the band was founded in 2000 and „In Meanderings of Ain-Soph“ is its sole CD which, by the way, sounds just great for a debut! I presume the guys have been involved in other projects before that... Thus, what you will hear in case you pick „In Meanderings...“ up is pure and simple Death Metal distinguished for its vigor, versatility and thick sounding. Lyric-wise, the tracks appear to be the perfect prelude for all those who are on their way of starting to read Umberto Eco's „Foucault's Pendulum“ classic!  
Web: <http://www.unfragment.fr.st>  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**IMMEMOREAL**  
„Monologue“ CD  
CONQUER  
At first I thought that this album was by Sweden's IMMEMOREAL, but it turned out that there existed a Polish band with such a name as well. Anyway, what we have here is about 40 min of awesome Death / Thrash. „Monologue“ is only the second full-length of IMMEMOREAL and

it already displays a very high class above performance skills which many bands that have released even more albums couldn't brag with! It was also a huge surprise to find out that these grimly heavy vocals were done by a female (Karolina)... I bet a lot of feminists will start holding their heads even higher from now on...  
Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**AREA 54**  
„Beckoning of the End“ CD  
CASKEE  
This band hails from the UK and „Beckoning of the End“ is its second CD. Well, although it is not devoid of some adroit performances, I cannot find anything specific to point out, except for this that Tomas Lindberg (THE CROWN, ex-AT THE GATES) guests with some vocals. All in all, AREA 54 sounds like quite a mediocre Heavy Metal band. Besides, the album itself reminds me of IRON MAIDEN's Blaze Bayley-featuring releases and, to be honest, this is a period I'm far from fascinated of!  
Vanya Marinova.....5.0

**TWELFTH GATE**  
„Summoning“ CD  
CRASH MUSIC  
Among all Metal styles, Progressive Metal is the one where there are no more than 5 or 6 really qualitative bands that are still active. Nowadays, it is even harder to find a young Progressive band that doesn't copy either QUEENSRYCHE (my favourite) or DREAM THEATER. I can only think of ARACHNES, EVERGREY and SYMPHONY X, of course. Now we received the debut album of Chicago's TWELFTH GATE - I was just amazed with the sheer quality and excellent musicianship of these guys. First of all, the sound production is crushing! All the instruments and vocals are clearly distinguished, which is very important for all Progressive bands. There are some really heavy guitars here, along with a thunderous rhythm section. The vocals of Scott Huffman remind me a lot of James Rivera's and are very suitable to the band's style. All 11 songs are great, with perfectly executed solos, tempo-changes, etc. The debut work of TWELFTH GATE would really be a worthy addition to the collection of every Progressive Metal fan. Last but not least, the CD comes with an artwork by Travis Smith, which is more than impressive!!!  
Sloyan Tzonev.....9.0

**AS IT BURNS**  
„Mortal Dusk“ CD  
COLD BLOOD INDUSTRIES  
AS IT BURNS hails from Groningen, Holland and „Mortal Dusk“ is their third release after „Obscure Prophecies“ and „Inferno“. Their style is Death Metal in the vein of GOREFEST and early IN FLAMES. The fact that they have a keyboard player is interesting too. There are some atmospheric, melodic parts along with numerous fast, Thrashy attacks and even blasts here and there. This style of Death Metal is not particularly my cup of tea. I don't think that AT IT BURNS offers something really original here. There are some good songs I must admit, but like as a whole sounds a bit boring and does not stand out among the rest of the Death Metal bands. You can check it out just for curiosity's sake, but don't expect anything extraordinary.  
Sloyan Tzonev.....6.0

**CADAVERIA**  
„Far Away from Conformity“ CD  
SCARLET  
First off, dear reader, if you're yet to get acquainted with the essence of this Italian act, I would advise you not to do my mistake of viewing the band as an OPERA IX clone, merely because the guitarist Cadaveria and the drummer Hegias (also a NECRODEATH vocalist) used to play there! I remember, when I gave CADAVERIA's „The Shadows: Madame“ a first listen, I found it kind of boring and even cheesy in comparison to the OPERA IX works. Fortunately, it didn't take me too much time to understand that CADAVERIA proved to be a brand new chapter containing messages not that extreme anymore but still not less enthralling. Since I comprehended this once, hearing the sequel „Far Away from Conformity“ was like meeting a friend of old who was off for 2 years and returned with a bunch of new stories to tell. Sensibly darker and more ponderous than „The Shadows: Madame“, „Far Away from Conformity“ appears to be a huge step forward in the development process of these Italians. The 7 tracks on the new CD are abundant in masterful performances and at the same time delight the ear with delectably mysterious atmospheres. The overall picture is spectacularly completed by Cadaveria's unique vocals that vary from wily screams through spooky whispers to dulcet feminine singing. Step aside the well-trodden path of mundane conformity for a while and inhale the Woods enlightening Unpredictability.  
Vanya Marinova.....8.5

**THE COLLECTION**  
Volume 1: Tools Of The Trade Split CD  
SOD  
It's pretty hard to figure out a review about a brutal Death Metal CD when you have been listening to stuff like GORBUN or TANGERINE DREAM lately... Thus, what we have here is a three-in-one-release where each of the bands participates with 4 tracks. First come ROYAL ANGUISH with their re-released „Shocking the Priest“ EP since 1992. What it offers is not bad Death / Thrash... a great surprise for those who have been knowing this Canadian band from the very beginning as well as for all newbies who have been feeling eager of learning some more of the extreme Metal music golden era. The next 4 songs are from Florida's SOUL OF THE SAVOUR and what they deal with is absolutely thick, deliberate and low-tuned Death Metal with slight Grind touches here and there. Apart from that, Tony Bullard's vocals remind me strongly of Killjoy's ones in moments! The third band TORTURED CONSCIENCE hails from San Francisco and its „Face of God“ EP offers sheer, low-tuned Death / Grind interwoven with creepy movie samples. Not a bad CD on the whole, check it out!  
Vanya Marinova.....7.0

**AUTOPSY TORMENT**  
„Tormentorium“ CD  
PAINKILLER  
I haven't come across this band before and I don't really feel interested in learning more, as what I heard was totally mediocre and bowine! „Tormentorium“ is a Thrash / Heavy-oriented release which lacks both

energy and decent sound quality. Probably a newbie in the fields of the Metal music worlding will choose to add the album to his / her collection, but I'm certain about myself that I will forget about this CD unless I end up being invited to somebody's birthday and have no money to buy a present with.  
Vanya Marinova.....4.0

**MUTILATION**  
„Majestas Leprosus“ CD  
ORDEALIS  
France's MUTILATION was formed back in '92 and currently features one single member named Meynah'ch. „Majestas Leprosus“ is his 6th full-length album and it will surely appeal to all fans of the primitive Black Metal sound intrinsic to bands like JUDAS ISCARIOT or MOONLOOD. I personally find the CD not bad, but still I can't help advising Meynah'ch to try achieving more depth in his songs' atmospheres in the future, for rough guitar riffs and rapid drumming is not what Black Metal is solely about, in my opinion!  
Vanya Marinova.....6.5

**KRABATHOR**  
„Dissuade Truth“ CD  
SYSTEM SHOCK  
I still admit that I've never been interested in this Czech band... Ah, it has just hit me that I had reviewed „Orthodox“ as well like 3 years ago, but I could barely remember what the album was like. As for the new one, average Death Metal is the first definition that crosses my mind. Not that the guys are bereft of skill. Contrarwise... they rock, but the thing is that KRABATHOR have nothing to with the Death Metal sound that I like. In other words, I'd rather advise you to buy the new PAGANIZER CD instead!  
Vanya Marinova.....7.0

**DEFILED**  
„Divination“ CD  
SEASON OF MIST  
This is the third release of this Japanese Death Metal outfit and the first one that I come across. Well, DEFILED is definitely not my piece of cake, as I have never been for utter brutality in music. But if you are, check the „Divination“ CD out immediately! What I can say about the band in addition is that it exists since 1992 and so far has toured with acts like INCANTATION, MORBID ANGEL, VADER, ARCH ENEMY, TESTAMENT, etc.  
Vanya Marinova.....6.0

**KHARON**  
„Raised by Hellish Demons“ MCD  
Self Released  
Actually, this Norwegian act was formed in 1989 first. Within the period of 1990-1994 the guys manage to play several concerts in their country as well as to record one track („Coma of Hallucination“), after which the Kharon project is put on ice and the members join other bands (RAGNAROK, SUNSHINE'S GONE, SHADES OF GOD). Until 1999. Two years later the „Kharon“ demo is released (1000 copies of which distributed via the Neodawn Productions label), and now the guys strike again with 6 brand new tracks of average Black Metal accordant with their mid 90's spirit. To put it this way, the Kharon members are not devoid of routine about playing music, but offer nothing peculiar. At least, you could feel that they all were direct witnesses of Norway's apex Black Metal-wise.  
Vanya Marinova.....7.0

**GOLEM**  
„Death Never Dies“ CD  
DIAMOND  
Italy's GOLEM was formed in 1999 as an old-school Heavy Metal act first. Gradually, not without the surrounding of various line-up changes, the band orientates to more aggressive sounds and, in fact, that's what the „Death Never Dies“ debut is the result of. The CD offers 7 tracks of melodic Black / Death Metal with some Thrash touches. Nothing that you haven't heard before actually, but still the release shines bright with a great deal of dynamics and masterful performances. The perfect Red Bull substitute!  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**HANDFUL OF HATE**  
„Vice Crown“ CD  
CODE 666  
HANDFUL OF HATE was born in 1993 and „Vice Crown“ appears to be the 3rd full-length album in the band's discography. Man, I can't find words to express what a tremendous kick in the ass this release turned out to be!! What it deals with is apocalyptically relentless, vehement Black Metal capable of causing you goose bumps even if the thermometer displays 40 degrees to Celsius! Apparently, you don't have to be born and raised somewhere in Scandinavia (HANDFUL OF HATE hails from Italy) to know the exact recipe for a grimly cold BM sounding... all it pros to be in the blood instead! Apart from being filled with such chilly atmospheres, the „Vice Crown“ CD is also awash with performances so adroit that your head will certainly start reeling! Hell yeah, you think twice before concluding that Black Metal is perishing...  
Vanya Marinova.....8.0

**DARKSEED**  
„Astral Adventurers“ CD  
MASSACRE  
I heard about DARKSEED for a first time in 1998 when the guys came to play at Bulgaria's annual Hysteria Fest (RIP). Back then this German band didn't impress me that much, but the album I'm listening to right now appears to be far from bad! Indeed, „Astral Adventurers“ doesn't offer anything that you might have not heard before, the CD is entirely accordant with the well-known Electro-Gothic / Doom blend, but still sounds very catchy and the track constructions' simplicity and non-pretentiousness merely suggest you to sit back and relax! Atmosphere-wise, the release entrances with its dimly enigmatic sound that corresponds a lot to the „Astral Adventurers“ very title.  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**MISANTHROPE**  
*„Sadistic Sex Daemon“ CD*  
**HOLY Records**  
 Definitely this is an album that must be listened to very carefully! What I mean is that in the first moment one might take it merely for another sympho-Black / Heavy release and thus to omit really great moments! I have come across other MISANTHROPE CDs before, but „Sadistic Sex Daemon“ is the first one that I'm given the chance to hear from A to Z and I must say it rocks totally! Remarkably versatile and inspirational, MISANTHROPE'S 6th longplayer mirrors France's medieval spirit in a way so plausible and entrancing that for awhile I felt eager of giving another read to „The She Wolf of France“ so that to submerge into the mysticism of those times once again. In this order of thoughts, I can't help mentioning that the new album is available in two languages namely French and English!  
 Vanya Marinova.....8,0



**DEAD INFECTION**  
*„The Lethal Collection“ CD*  
**OBSCENE**  
 The polish Grind maniacs are back! After 4 years of silence DEAD INFECTION decapitate us with „The Lethal Collection“. Their new CD contains tracks from the cult MCD „The Greatest Shits“, the rare EPs „Poppyseed Cake“, „No Pale, No Mind“, „Party's Over“ and the MC „Grind Over Europe“. 46 minutes of their well-known uncompromising brutal Gore Grind. All the songs are remastered and released by Obscene Productions. Great release for a great comeback. Waiting for a new full-length album!  
 Stefan Rusev.....8,0



**TVANGESTE**  
*„Fristorn“ CD*  
**WORLD CHAOS Productions**  
 After the first TVANGESTE album „Damnation Of Regionation“ they represent us their second full-length album. Miron (vocals and guitar) founded the group in 1996. After a long search he finally managed to form the band. I am not into the orchestral Black, but their style is a combination of CRADLE OF FILTH and THERION. For the recording they hired the Baltic Symphony Orchestra and the Prussian Chamber Choir. The drums are entrusted to Cezar Mielko (DOMINIUM), his double bass pedaling takes a very important part in the whole album. In my opinion the violin parts are incredible and very well performed. For over one year of hard work and the professional intervention made this album more atmospheric, aggressive and in the same time melodic.  
 Stefan Rusev.....9,0



**UNMOORED**  
*„Indefinite Soul Extension“ CD*  
**CODE666**  
 This is the 3-rd long-length album of the Swedes UNMOORED. The

style in their new album is complex Melodic Black / Death Metal. They use some „extraterrestrial“ samples in their songs and their music isn't a copy of the other Swedish Melodic Death groups. They have created their own unique style that combines brutality, melody and the dynamic atmospheric complexion. Their artwork is impressive and very original. With no doubt the three freaks are excellent musicians and their work in Abyss Studio with Tommy Tagtgren and the contract with Code666 suggest that they will be the leaders in the Swedish extreme scene. My favourite song in the album is „Mondraper“ where they just bet on pure aggression and brutality. Beside that, if they didn't use acoustic guitars and clean vocals (with no doubt they are perfectly performed) they would have been the perfect extreme group, but I just don't like these parts too much. After some more listening, I now have the feeling that this album is very commercial. Anyway, this is not the masterpiece I wanted to hear and I don't recommend this to the DARKTHRONE maniacs. But definitely this album is worth listening.  
 Stefan Rusev.....7,0

**THE LEGION**  
*„Unseen To Creation“ CD*  
**LISTENABLE**  
 After the „Awakened Fury“ MCD it's time for the full-length debut of THE LEGION „Unseen To Creation“. The drum-dominator Fredrik (ex-MARDUK) together with David Svartz (guitars) Lars Martinsson (bass) and Anders Faldt (voices) have created a furious blend of NILE-like Death Metal, the devastating Black Metal of MARDUK (the „Panzer Division“ era) and slight touches of BOLT THROWER's epic sound. The performance is faultless, the guys know perfectly how to exploit their instruments in the most violent way. Anders Faldt screams his guts out, sometimes lowering his voice to Death growls. „Unseen To Creation“ is recorded at the Abyss with Tommy Tagtgren behind the desk. Add to this the cover artwork created by the notorious Kris Verwimp and you get the picture - THE LEGION should be heard by every extreme Metal fan.  
 Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5



**GENITAL GRINDER**  
*„Same“ CD*  
**ADIPOCERE**  
 GENITAL GRINDER was created in 1996 under the name of ABYSS GATE. The four French guys bring us this fast tempo Death / Grind carnage. In some parts they use 2 styles of vocals - growling and screaming, and I think this is a nice shot. Their music doesn't sound so monotonous as some other groups. They carry the spirit of the oldschool sound. I suppose that they are very influenced by CARCASS and that's not bad. Oh, I forgot to mention their artwork. It's sick and exactly describes the name of the group. These guys definitely have a sense of humor. I am not into French but the last song of their album sounds like a drunken song, where a bunch of pirates sing about rum. Yo-ho-ho and another bottle of rum!  
 Stefan Rusev.....7,5



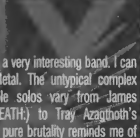
**SURGICAL DISSECTION**  
*„Absurd Humanism“ CD*  
**NICE TO EAT YOU Records**  
 Definitely this album is one of the best I've ever heard in this style. The style of course is Grind Core and of course these guys are from the Czech Republic. „SURGICAL DISSECTION“ is brilliant, fast and Grind attacks mixed with agonizing vocals like coming from the morgue. I was very impressed by the drummer - that is Grind drumming! This devastating album is recorded and produced very professionally and the sound is very good. It's no more to say, just listen to SURGICAL DISSECTION and „Absurd Humanism“.  
 Stefan Rusev.....9,0



**ASTRIAL**  
*„Deception Revelation“ CD*  
**DISSIDENT Records**  
 ASTRIAL are one of my favourite and one of the most original bands on the Australian extreme scene along with DESTROYER 666 and some other. Their style has become more popular, but for those who haven't met this audio mayhem, their style is Extreme Black Metal, mixed with vanguard and melodic passages. The album is divided into two parts - „Deception Revelation“ and „Revelations“. Part one features a song from the forthcoming ASTRIAL album („Ode To Antiquity“), two live tracks („As Mist Befell The Ruins“, „Serpentis“ (both from the MCD „Summoning The Essence Of Ancient Wisdom“)) and a re-recorded track „Millennia of Bloodshed“ (a version of „An Eclipse In Blood“) from their demo - „Glories Of The Night Sky“. While „Deception Revelation“ represents the dark aggression, „Revelations“ is more melodic, melancholic and avanguard and shows us the other side of the group.  
 Stefan Rusev.....8,0



**THE MONOLITH DEATHCULT**  
*„The Apotheosis“ CD*  
**COLD BLOOD INDUSTRIES**  
 HOLLAND'S THE MONOLITH DEATHCULT is a very interesting band. I can define the style as Technical Death Metal. The untypical complex shredding guitars riffs and remarkable solos vary - James Murphy's (OBITUARY, TESTAMENT, DEATH) to Tray Azagoth's (MORBID ANGEL). Their aggression and pure brutality reminds me of NILE and SEVERE TORTURE. I should mention the excellent triple vocal attacks and the typical hyper-fast drumming. These Doom riffs are just on their place and they are devastating!!! The separate parts where people scream „Jihad“ lead the listener to the main theme of the lyrics and music of the group. I like the transitions from slow to fast. After I listened the album for several times, I discovered that maybe there are no two equal riffs. These guys really tried not to sound monotonous and they have actually achieved it. Listen to the Slayers of Jihad.  
 Stefan Rusev.....9,0



**CUMCHRIST**  
*„Complete“ CD*  
**UNMATHED BRUTALITY**

These freaks are from Chicago and perform evil furious blasphemous Death / Grind. These guys are experienced musicians, because they play in bands like GORGASM, CINERARY, INCESTUOUS, EVIL INCARNATE and CIANIDE. Every single song starts with an intro (there is no intro just in two ones, which are Hard Core orientated) that is mainly against God. The intros are taken from films maybe! The tracks are very short and I think that their potential is not known for now. The last track is very strange because it's 10 minutes long and in the distance of 8 minutes after the Death Metal parts there is silence and some sort of Latino music. If the songs were with normal length, they would have had a better mark.  
 Stefan Rusev.....6,5

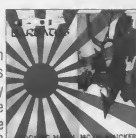
**HORNED GOD**  
*„Chaos, Bringer Of All Revelations“ CD*  
**LISTENABLE**  
 This band is from Brazil and „Chaos, Bringer Of All Revelations“ is their second album and the first for Listenable Records. They were formed in the mid '98 under the name of SACRIFICE. The style of the young five is very fast, oldschool Death Metal with blasphemous lyrics. All the components are very well performed with anger - non-standard guitar riffs, ultra fast hellish drumming, speed bass-playing and very brutal vocals - a great mix! My favourite tracks on this album are „Chaos, Bringer of War“ and „Satan Isn't The Enemy Of Men“. Definitely this is one of the most promising bands I've listened to recently and if these guys continue with their excellent work, they'll be one of the leaders on the Extreme Scene.  
 Stefan Rusev.....8,0



**ISACAARUM**  
*„Menses Exorcism“ CD*  
**OBSCENE**  
 The Czech Porno / Grind maniacs are back with their new album „Menses Exorcism“. This new dose of anti-feminine, misogynistic carnage contains 9 new tracks, 3 live tracks and a video clip. After the very good „Cunt Hackers“, their new album is a little bit more variable, dynamic, but more slower. But I think that this album is not so hateful as „Cunt Hackers“. The guitars are recorded better, the drumming is faster and the lyrics are in the same ISACAARUM vein. I thought that the album would be better than the last one, but it's on the same lane with the other - no pros no cons.  
 Stefan Rusev.....7,0



**BARBATOS**  
*„Rocking Metal Motherfucker“ CD*  
**DISPLEASED**  
 The style is Punk / Metal and the act which has turned into a legend in the last 5 years is BARBATOS, the band created in 1996 by Yasuyuki Suzuki - member of the Japanese Black Metal masters ABIGAIL. After one album, 2 demos and 5 splits, BARBATOS strike with „Rocking Metal Motherfucker“. This band really reminds me



# DEADLY METAL WARRIORS!

<p>SHEOLGEENNA; The Dark Chambers</p>	<p>POEMA ARCANUS; Buried Songs: The early Times</p>	<p>MEGIDDO; Subterranean Empire</p>
<p>TORTURER; The Flames of Purification</p>	<p>TORTURER; Oppressed by the Force - Demo '91</p>	<p>HETROERTZEN; A Crimson Terrible Vision</p>

**SHEOLGEENNA "THE DARK CHAMBERS.."** (Shuca kteis,salahas-baz) ultra Crushing Demonic Death Metal in kristiun/angel corpse vein, really a must for all true fans of brutal death metal, Excellent artwork done by Jaromir: Disinter, Vital Remains,Root, etc.....

**POEMA ARCANUS "BURIED SONGS : THE EARLY TIMES"** an awesome collection of rare and out of print material that enclose their first demos, unreleased songs, include 17 tracks of best dark doom from south american territory!

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**TORTURER "THE FLAMES OF PURIFICATION "** lethal death/thrash metal, neck-breaking that include a cult sadus cover awesome artwork done by andonis dragassias, www.eyeseered.com

**TORTURER "OPPRESSED BY THE FORCE+ KINGDOM OF THE DARKNESS "** the most legendary death / thrash metal band from chile ,this is pure old feeling , the cd include the first album and as bonus the cult demo of 91 year.

**HETROERTZEN "Crimson Terrible Vision "** cold grim black metal a real storm of blasphemous compositions, just for the true black metal maniacs!!

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of the oldschool vein, but I can't remember a group with a similar style of playing. Members of FROSTMÖON EQUIPSE, DECEAYED, BESTIAL MOCKERY and BLASPHEMY have written the lyrics. Of course, the tradition is continued since the music is written by Yasuyuki and guest musicians from some Japanese bands perform it. The last track is a part of a concert and I was very pleased to hear it.  
Stefan Rusev.....6.0

**IMMERSED IN BLOOD**

*„Jilling Season“ CD*  
**ARCTIC MUSIC GROUP**  
These are the Swedish Death Metallers released by Arctic Music Group... the label of Phil Fasciano (MALEVOLENT CREATION, HATE PLOWN). They also released my personal faves, KULT OV AZAZEL. Definitely a remarkable band with a great future. The Swedish Death Metal scene has its resurrection in the new century, where there are so many bands and it's so hard to be famous. This very fast Death Metal has the typical double-razor-sharp guitar attacks with some very good solos, very fast technical drumming (worship Jocke Unger - really one of the best drummers I've ever heard!) and brutal, aggressive vocals. The transitions from slow to fast are just incredible. If they enrich the riffs, the album will be better, but this is definitely a very good band and don't miss this outfit.  
Stefan Rusev.....9.0

**ASGARD**

*„Kletba Krale Stacha“ CD*  
**LAVA Productions**  
It's hard to say that the style of these Czech guys is Black Metal, because it is far away from this style. Maybe it's more likely to be melodic Thrash with some Heavy riffs. The clean vocals are not on their place but anyway, the solos are not bad. The album contains „Kletba Krale Stacha“ and „Hrabenska Bathory“ since 1995. This album is in the catalogue of Lava Productions and I am sure that these guys are gonna make a better album next time.  
Stefan Rusev.....6.0

**WHISPERING TEARS**

*„Canna Lacrimosa“ CD*  
**Self Released**  
This French band was created by four guys who wanted to play dark and emotional Death Metal. In their discography „Whispering Tears“ there is also only one demo tape, which had a good credit from the magazine. The present line up features nine musicians, including a cello player, a female vocalist and a keyboardist. In their new album they are mixing classical music with Black Metal, Ambient and some dark motives. The songs are really majestic and atmospheric and this band has a really great future.  
Stefan Rusev.....7.5

**CHARON**

*„The Dying Daylights“ CD*  
**SPINEFARM**  
Typical Finnish Gothic Rock is what CHARON offer with their fourth album „The Dying Daylights“. The singer JP Lepaluoto is doing his best to imitate the passionate voice of Ville Laihiala (SENTECED) and here is the result: CHARON sound like a poor SENTENCED copy. „The Dying Daylights“ contains 10 boring songs predominantly slow with a little dark touch. The production is good (Finnox Studios), but the music brings just boredom. Maybe the little HIM-admirers will like this but not me.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....5.5

**JAPANESE ASSAULT**

*Split CD*  
**RELAPSE**  
This is not a bad idea from Relapse to make a split CD with Japanese Underground groups. Well, the choice could have been better, but let me explain what I mean. The first group in that compilation is SENSELESS APOCALYPSE. Their style is a mix of Grind Core, Hard Core, Punk, Death Metal with evil Black Metal vocals. The melodic moments sound very monotonous, but anyway the group is not bad and has its potential. Muga's vocals and style of playing strongly reminds me of NAPALM DEATH. The two types of vocals are a very good match. These guys really live in the early 80s, because they mix Grind Core with Punk and Hard Core like the early NAPALM DEATH. The first riff reminds me a lot of C.S.D.'s „Are you excrements“. They play some sort of Punk / Grind with screams and growling and inhuman Grind attacks. In my opinion REALIZED are the best group in this compilation. The style of SWARRMER is not Black Metal, although they use Black and Death vocals. The acoustic passages, mixed with electric guitars do not fit in the picture. I can define the style as Punk / Metal / Hard Core. The best aspect in the album was the mix of melody and psychotics. This split is very good idea of Relapse and we hope that there will be more splits like that to reveal the World Underground.  
Stefan Rusev.....7.0

**CEREBRAL TURBULENCY**

*„Germ Of Error“ CD*  
**KHARSANUS Productions**  
The first few seconds start with inhuman fast Grind Core, double vocal attacks and double-razor guitars. „Germ Of Error“ contains 13 tracks recorded with professionalism and perfect sound. After the furious Grind Core starts, the album turns into Hard Core. This madness is a perfect comeback for this Czech group. The length of the songs is typical for the style - some of the songs are 1 minute or a minute and a half long.  
Stefan Rusev.....8.0

**INIQUITY**

*„Iniquity Bloody Iniquity“ CD*  
**MIGHTY MUSIC**  
This CD features some of the best songs of the group, a very original cover of „Extreme Uncion“ (PESTILENCE), together with a video clip. I was very impressed by the first song in the album taken from the LP „Revel in Cremation“. Another interesting track in this album is track No.13, which is taken from the first demo of the group. This album is a present for INIQUITY 's fans from their label Mighty Music.  
Stefan Rusev.....7.0

**PUTREFIED**

*„The Putrid Remains“ CD*  
**SEVARED Records**  
After the impressive debut „Bodybits“, the US Brutal Death outfit PUTREFIED vomits their second spawn „The Putrid Remains“. The first thing that makes impression here is the production - raw and dirty like the true Underground records used to be. On the other hand, every instrument may be heard clearly, PUTREFIED deliver brutal Death Metal with influences from SUFFOCATION and the first SIX FEET UNDER CD, just to name a few. The vocalist's growls won't disappoint you - such inhuman grunting is a pleasure for the ears of every Death fan. The other guys play tight, without stupid technical posing. In case you're craving for some simple in-your-face Death Metal - this is your stuff, go and get this! The putrid remains...  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7.5

**IT.O.O.H.I!**

*„Pod Vladoiu Bice“ CD*  
**PLAZMA Records**  
This seems to be a very special band, compared to DISCORDANCE AXIS, CSSO, CEPHALIC CARNAGE and MACABRE and many others, all mixed in one unpredictable mixture - „the mathematic Grind Core“, as they call it! Elements of classical music, modern Jazz and technical cyber Death Metal mix in one and the result is good! A real treat for anyone with an open mind and experimental nature.  
Ivailo Tonchev.....6.0

**SORATH**

*„Vivimos En Perpetua Guerra“ CD*  
**EQUNOX Productions**  
I'm not familiar with many Black Metal bands from the country of Grind - the Czech Republic, but SORATH isn't bad at all. From the very beginning I couldn't escape the feeling that I'm listening to RUNNING WILD in a Black Metal way. SORATH have succeeded to combine the epic and melodic sounding of the German Power Metal with Scandinavian Black Metal aggression. The mighty RUNNING WILD-like choruses are also here, but this time screamed from the four throats in SORATH. Good instrumental skills, good production. No more words needed: all fans of melodic Black Metal - check this out!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

**SOLACE**

*„13“ CD*  
**LISTENABLE**  
I love BLACK SABBATH and I guess the early period was a big inspiration for these guys. Then I read that they combine J.Hendrix with SOUNDGARDEN and I agreed too! As a whole, it is a great band, ex-GODSPEED and GLUENECKS people, with a truly complicated sound, inspired by the mighty BLACK SABBATH, yet developed with added psycho moments, that make it very interesting. The album features covers of PENTAGRAM and AGNOSTIC FRONT and also the voice of Wino (OBSESSED, STIVITUS, SPIRIT CARRAVAN...). A pretty solid release!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....8.0

**LUNA FIELD**

*„Close To Prime“ CD*  
**SEASON OF MIST**  
Hailing from Stuttgart, LUNA FIELD deliver their first album of talented Death Metal. Admirations go to Benny Rakidzija, the singer of the band - his voice constantly changes from deep grunts to high-pitched screams. The music is heavy enough to please every Death fan, but melodic at the same time. There's a certain influence from EMPEROR in some songs - Black Metal passages with slight synth presence. „Close To Prime“ is a varied brutal album, qualitative enough to deserve your attention.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....6.0

**SHRINE OF SCARS**

*„Violence Is the Answer“ CD*  
**DISFIGURED Records**  
Violence is surely no answer to anything, but this band is good! Sludge core, slow, painful and extreme - this is SHRINE OF SCARS. Sometimes they go Death Metal, sometimes they have very fast crust parts... a band with a difference. Interesting, should be cool to hear more!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....6.0

**N.C.C**

*„Paranormal Nanodivision“ CD*  
**OBSCENE**  
One thing may be said about N.C.C. (NEGLECT COLLATERAL COLLAPSE) - once you've heard this band, you can't mistake them anymore. Obscene Records defines their style as „Grind Core for NASA physicists“ - what the...?! If those physicists listen to „Paranormal Nanodivision“, we should prepare ourselves for nuclear catastrophe. N.C.C. strike with a mix of Grind Core brutality and Punk aggression by creating a smashing CD. The three Czech guys are able to bring you to derangement (especially the one who's doing the vocals - sounding like pig squealing through a distorted mike). Buy this CD and besides the 15 Grind pieces you'll get five bonuses, a video and other media. If someone someday shoots a gory movie about KHARSANUS members, N.C.C. will be the perfect soundtrack!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7.5

**AUTOPHAGIA**

*„Postmortem Human Offer“ CD*  
**BIZARRE LEPROUS**  
This band is like a mad dog, hunting for you with bloody teeth and a bad breath! 27 tracks and they never stop, wow! It reminds me of the old bands in the late 80s / early 90s and oh god, they even do FILTHY CHRISTIANS and EXTREME NOISE TERROR covers. And this band comes from Greece? Wow! Without being the salt of Earth, I like it. It is terribly un-P.C. with songs like „Black Pus“ or „Anal Psoniasis“, but it rocks and makes me start air guitaring!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....6.0

**GREEDY INVALID**

*„Last Letter“ CD*  
**AVANLANCHE Productions**  
Mix METALLICA rhythms and doomy melodies, and you will surely get

this band. Not bad, sounds fresh and some songs were even interesting...and I hope these guys will develop in the future too! At least the Czech Republic is a place where some original bands have come for the past few days. My favourite track was „Werwolf“, that sounded a bit like FAITH NO MORE...no lie! Try this yourself!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....7.0

**DIMENSIONF3H**

*„Reaping The World Winds“ CD*  
**KARMAGEDDON MEDIA**  
Born from the ashes of LIMBONIC ART, DIMENSIONF3H reveals Morpheus' vision of the modern sound. Right after the explosive beginning of „Reaping The World Winds“ you're thrown in a whirlwind of electronic beats, harsh riffs and Morpheus' clear impressive speaking. There's a great variety of voices starting from screaming a-la King Diamond, passing through female choruses and reaching the end with Russian folk song. The influence of PAIN, RAMMSTEIN or even MINISTRY is obvious, but DIMENSION F3H have achieved a sound of their own than to Morpheus' unique voice. This CD will appeal to all of you who are into dark electronics combined with Metal riffs. Highly recommended to all DJ's.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7.5

**SANATORIUM**

*„Gorsoaked Reincarnation“ CD*  
**SEVARED Records**  
„Orgasm of a 7-year old girl reached by a pneumatic drill“ - that's a cute title! Yes, the premier Slovakian Death / Grind band SANATORIUM strike again more blood-thirsty than ever! Those guys are familiar with SANATORIUM's previous works know what to expect - deep blowing grunts, blasting drumming, heavy riffs and sexual / gory lyrics. The production is on a very high level, 7 brutal songs + SANATORIUM's version of SINISTER's „Bastard Saints“ - „Gorsoaked Reincarnation“ is a pleasure for the ears of every true Death / Grind maniac.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

**OBSCENE EXTREME 2003**

*Compilation CD*  
**OBSCENE**  
God, surely Chavdar will remember the day when he decided not to print the covers with the reviews. This album has one of the most disgusting pictures as a front, and the moment I saw it I was ready to puke. Of course, then I noticed that it isn't blood but some jam(?) but it may be a decision of my brain, not strong enough to endure a female mouth sucking a bloody cock. Anyway, amongst the names of CRIPPLE BASTARDS, DENAK, DEAD INFECTION and many others you will find quality Grind Core / Death Metal...if this is what you are looking for, it is a good CD, but the artwork was too much for my politically correct brain.  
Ivailo Tonchev.....6.0

**MIRRORTHRONE**

*„Of Wind And Weeping“ CD*  
**RED STREAM**  
In my humble opinion there are many bands in France combining atmospheric Gothic passages with Black Metal. So this is what the French MIRRORTHRONE does: dark classic melodies plus some Black Metal aggression. The keyboards play the main role in MIRRORTHRONE's music, all guitars are left in the back. Good impression make the vocals - tenor choruses. I liked best the songs sung in French, somehow English isn't suitable for such music. If you consider yourself Gothic - try this CD.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

**SILENTIUM**

*„Sufferin ... Hamaria Of Prudence“ CD*  
**SPINEFARM**  
Doomy and melodic, so well done and tuneful. Beautiful artwork and heavenly voices, both female and male. I can say it is a pleasant surprise, and yet this is the kind of music you can get from a country like Finland only. It is a conceptual album, like a story, developing from song to song! Interesting!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....8.0

**VERMINOUS**

*„Impious Genocide“ CD*  
**XTREEM MUSIC**  
VERMINOUS come from Sweden and „Impious Genocide“ is their debut for Xtrem Music. Smashing Death Metal attack with influences from MORBID ANGEL, DEICIDE, GROTESQUE and even some SLAYER. The fan songs won't leave you catch your breath. „Impious Genocide“ is thirty-one minutes raging speed and satanic aggression. The blasphemous cover artwork just makes the pleasure even greater! Buy this CD and break your fuckin' head!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

**THE LOVING TONGUE**

*„Distant Dreams“ DCD*  
**Self Released**  
It is a double CD and honestly speaking, I couldn't stand the entire second CD. Mix Stoner Rock with some Progressive Rock and Heavy Metal solos + some really lame vocals and you will get it. Good production, but overall it is monotonous and I will never ever play it again.  
Ivailo Tonchev.....1.0

**LANIENA MENTIS**

*„Turn Into A Man“ CD*  
**NICE TO EAT YOU Records**  
Here we have another qualitative band from my favourite European scene - the Czech Underground! LANIENA MENTIS smash your senses with powerful Death Metal varied with influences of other extreme genres. Despite the brutal Death attacks, there are slow and heavy parts typical for the newschool Hard Core bands as well as some non-standard for a Death Metal band guitar riffs. LANIENA MENTIS' music makes me think of DYING FETUS above all. The production is great, obviously there are really qualitative studios for extreme music in the Czech Republic. My only remark is the electro

remix closing the album - who needs that shit anyway!  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

**SKEPTICISM**

*„Farkalon“ CD*  
**RED STREAM**  
It is one of the best CDs I have heard recently, slow and psychedelic Doom / Gothic that makes my heart cry. The cover is in black, you have to try hard to read any titles, but it all makes it truly stylish! The press release said „funeral Doom Metal“ and I can't do anything but to agree and play it again!! Do it too, readers!  
Ivailo Tonchev.....1.0

**DRAWN AND QUARTERED**

*„Extermination Revoly“ CD*  
**MORBUND**  
Formed as PLAGUE BEARER back in 1993, the now-called DRAWN AND QUARTERED have several demos and one full-length („To Kill is Human“ 2000) behind their backs. Extermination Revoly appears to be one of the most intense Death Metal records for 2003. Imagine the heaviness and dark atmosphere flowing out from the IMMOLATION / INCANTATION works mixed with the old-school Thrashy feeling of POSSESSED and early DEATH. That's the style of DAO, excellent Death Metal carrying the spirit of the ancient Death Godz. Excellent guitar leads, pummeling drumming, deep throats - everything you need for good Death Metal is here. Add to this the sound (mastering done by the one and only James Murphy) and the expressive cover artwork (Gabriel Byrne from BLOOD RITUAL) and it's clear that Morbund Records have hit the ceiling with that release. The US version of the album has one extra-track: DAO's version of „Show No Mercy“. I couldn't hear it though...  
Tsvetan Rachev.....9.0

**HAMMERS OF MISFORTUNE**

*„Same CD*  
**CRUZ DEL SUR MUSIC**  
I can't remember if there have ever been a Rock-opera reviewed on the pages of Brutallica 'zine, but it seems that the time has come. HAMMERS OF MISFORTUNE'S CD is just that - a conceptual Rock album that's impressive to say the least. Excellent guitar work combining IRON MAIDEN-like harmonies with Doom and Progressive Rock elements. The rhythm section is flawless - stable and varied. In this kind of musical expression the most important thing is the vocals and here we have two main voices - male and female who sing together or in different songs but in both cases the performance is excellent. HAMMERS OF MISFORTUNE mix elements from IRON MAIDEN, BLACK SABBATH, LEZ ZEPPELIN or even guitar heroes like Yngwie Malmsteen in one solid block of rock. I'm sorry, I don't have any info about this band but all Progressive fans must pay attention to the HAMMERS' coz they really have something to offer.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

**NEURAXIS**

*„Truth Beyond...“ CD*  
**MORBID**  
NEURAXIS come from the land of CRYPTOPSY and KATAKLYSM - Canada. And since Morbid Records are their label, the style can't be any other but brutal Death / Grind. NEURAXIS combine the brutal Death sound with more melodic riffs typical for Swedish bands like AT THE GATES and DARK TRANQUILITY. „The Truth Beyond...“ is impressively technical stuff, something typical for the most Canadian brutal outfits. Undoubtedly, this is the evidence for enviable musical skills but at moments the listener may face the danger of „losing“ himself in the whirlwind of sounds. This problem is often met in the albums of the technical Death Metal bands and so it is with NEURAXIS. Besides that the production is on a high level. „The Truth Beyond...“ is made at 7-Sound Studios (GORGUTS / CRYPTOPSY). In case you like really technical and brutal stuff, you should give an ear to NEURAXIS.  
Tsvetan Rachev.....7.5

**SCALD**

*„Will of the Gods Is Great Power“ CD*  
**WRATH EMITTER**  
Actually, all the tracks in this album date since 1996 (except for the „Sepulchral Bonifere“ bonus - '95) and are remastered in 2001 to be released under the title of „WOTGIGP“ via Wrath Emitter. What I can basically say about Russia's SCALD is that they play Epic Doom Metal delivering quite a vivid imagery referred to moments reduced in the ovens of Time long ago... The 9 tracks are abundant in incredibly skillful and at the same time unpretentious performances, against the background of which the powerful and expressive vocals of Agyi (HIP) hover as sorrowfully and majestically as a Viking soul on his way to the halls of Valhalla... This is a release to be missed by no means!  
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

**YOB**

*„Catharsis“ CD*  
**ABSTRACT SOUNDS**  
Finally something more different! That band is absolutely unknown to me, but it obsessed me totally from the very beginning. Portland's YOB literally hypnotized me with their unique blend of oldschool Doom combined with some weird atmospheric passages and even Deep Death growls. Yes, imagine a mixture between the 70's classic Doom and the Death Doom Metal sound nowadays. The clear vocals of Mike Shield contribute with a 50% to the uniqueness of YOB, definitely you have to hear his manner of singing. And you won't believe that this 50-minute Doom opus consists of only 3 tracks!!! Very, very slow and bizarre, full of passages with only bass, drums and slight guitar tunes followed by powerful massive guitar attacks, of course very slow and with a great reverb. The compositions are far from complex but believe me, they are very catchy and deep: if you are a Doom maniac you will love the music and I'm sure you will play this CD a lot of times. As though the music of YOB spreads some kind of magnetism, it should be depressive but I felt relaxed after I heard the album. Don't waste your time, find this masterpiece, it mirrors the triumph of DOOM!!!  
Chavdar Trachkov.....9.0

**AZRAEL**

*Into Shadows Act I: Denial* CD  
MORIBUND

Whether because of its very name or because of the exceptionally dark album layout, this band in the first moment brought dearest associations with the unique aura of the Westgate Necromantic temple of Lelah Wendell and Daniel Kemp that I have the pleasure of being apart of even if solely online... Anyways. What we have here is 7 tracks of morose and utterly unconventional Black Metal suggesting references to acts like VED BUENS ENDE or BETHLEHEM. A certain heal of the unsatisfyingness of the pickies!

Vanya Marinova.....8,0

**MIND ECLIPSE**

*Chaos Chronicles* CD  
WRATH EMITTER

Hmmm. The mini fest that took place here on the 30th of April definitely appeared to be my golden chance of getting acquainted with today's Russian Metal Scene more thoroughly... Save TUMULUS, MIND ECLIPSE was the other band that was expected to visit Bulgaria but the guys couldn't come due to the "professionalism" of some people... At least Anton of Wrath Emitter happened to be at the festival, so that's how I acquired my MIND ECLIPSE CD. And I am really, really sorry that these dudes didn't come for they would have certainly created an unforgettable moshpit!!! Starting with an entrancingly weird intro („Dementia“), the „Chaos Chronicles“ CD then transforms into a relentless, head-reeling Black / Death tornado! Some people here already compared MIND ECLIPSE to such Norwegian celebrities as ZYKLON, EMPEROR and IMMORTAL, but I will refrain myself from juxtaposing - what I will state in my own review instead is that „Chaos Chronicles“ is a release that made me feel sensibly more optimistic regarding the future of the extreme Meta Scene!!! Remarkably adroit performances, impressive lyrics and a top-notch production is what this album is meant to be offering to you! Web: <http://mindclipse.yaroslav.ru>

Vanya Marinova.....8,0

**YATTERING**

*Genocide* CD  
CANDLELIGHT

The Polish Death Metal scene is stronger than ever. This is something that quite a few people would doubt about though, even on the contrary: many people think that Poland has the best Death Metal scene in whole Europe. And one of Poland's most technical and original representatives is YATTERING - a band combining a lot of influences with incredible technical skills. It is obvious that the album „Genocide“ sounds like escape-from-the-cliches. Almost everything in this album is unpredictable, the structure of the 12 compositions is exceptionally non-straightforward and resembles the structure of CEPHALIC CARNAGE's music mixed with the heavy sound of DYING FETUS, but still sounding like...YATTERING. No doubt, this was an album created after a very hard work, you can sense the musicians' aim at experimenting with their influences and they even put slight Hard Core touches in addition. „Genocide“ would appeal to people into technical, experimental Death Metal with numerous tempo changes, some weird moments (I can even feel some psychotic, a la BRUTAL TRUTH moments), well balanced



sound and - last but not least! - incredible musicianship.

Chavdar Tzackov.....7,0

**OBEISANCE**

*Lucifer Master* CD  
SEMPITERNAL

You have been feeling tired of watching the current transformation of the Scene into a luxuriant, perfume-drenched boudoir? In case the answer is yes, here is a band that will certainly make your blood start boiling again! Produced by Daniel Corchado (GENOTAPH, THE CHASM), the „Lucifer Master“ release offers 11 tracks of Black / Death / Thrash Metal filled to the brim with impious angst delivered by vertiginously rapid drumming, insanely howling leads and raucous-belching vocals. Nothing that you haven't heard before indeed but, on the other hand, isn't it bands like OBEISANCE (founded in '92) that allow us not to forget how it all started?! Bang your headz for Satan till you bleed!

Vanya Marinova.....8,0

**EVEREVE**

*Enetics* CD  
MASSACRE

EVEREVE's fifth album „Enetics“ is certainly the best album from the band, when it comes to modern sound or cover artwork even, and if the vocals were not so monotonous I would have rated this CD higher than he previous „E Mania“, so the latter still remains my favourite EVEREVE album. Despite its undoubtedly progressive sound, „Enetics“ starts getting you bored somewhere on the fifth track and if you still give the whole release a listen, I doubt that any melody will remain inside your head in the end... Anyways, if I have to point the strongest tracks out, I should start with „Along Comes a Fool“ (probably because sounds a bit harder and more different than the rest of the songs), „This Heart“ and „Silver God“ are not bad either, although their sound is Alternative rather than Gothic. „Eat-Grow-Decay“, on its turn, appeared to be a pale suggestion of RAMMSTEIN's cult works. To be not so critical, though, I will still note that EVEREVE stick to their own tradition of always offering new instrumental ideas to their listeners!

Atanas Kostadinov.....6,0



**DGM**

*Hidden Place* CD  
SCARLET

DGM is another very good act from Italy. No wonder that it has been existing since 1994 and its discography features 4 albums already. And here is the band's current line up: Titta Tani ... vocals, Diego Reali (one of the DGM founders) ... guitars, Andrea Arcangeli ... bass, Fabio Sanges... keyboards and Fabio Costantino ... drums. „Hidden Place“ is a very strong album offering faultless sound, awesome track constructions and great layout. The routine of the DGM members can be sensed in all the 10 compositions on this CD: virtuosic guitar and keyboard performances, absolutely mature arrangements, delightful singing ... what you get is a fascinating synthesis between complexity and catchiness that makes „Hidden Place“ one of the best albums for 2003! Yet another proof of DGM's hi-class status is the invitation at the Gods Of Metal Festival, where the band played along with such cult acts as WHITESNAKE, QUEENSRYCHE, MOTORHEAD, SAXON, DESTRUCTION, ANGRA and many others. I wish I could point out the strongest tracks on „Hidden Place“, but the more I listen to them all, the less I feel able to pick any: they are all just perfect done! Do not miss this CD!

Vanya Marinova.....9,0

**PULS**

*Bigbit Je V Nas* CD  
UNISOUND

I couldn't find anything about PULS in the internet except for a few reviews mentioning the band's status of one of the pioneers on the Czech Heavy Metal scene. Judging by the sound of the „Bigbit Je V Nas“ CD, I wouldn't be surprised if I happen to find out one day that it was either a re-released album from the mid 80's-early 90's period or a best-of compilation. The lyrics are in Slovakian and this brought me like 15 years back when vinyls of Russian Hard / Heavy bands was the main source to headbang on here in Bulgaria... What I can say about the 13 tracks in „Bigbit Je V Nas“ anyway is that they mirror clearly PULS' members' frank passion for playing their favourite music, and they did it well!

Vanya Marinova.....7,0

**TYRANT EYES**

*The Darkest Hour* CD  
SCARLET

Three years after the „Book of Souls“ debut was released, TYRANT EYES shows up with a new album that sounds harder, more different and is this time released via Scarlet. The band itself exists since 1993 and its line up is as follows: Alexander Reimund on vocals, Marcus Amend on guitars, Michael Apel on bass, Jurgen Bornuth on keyboards and Sascha Tilger on drums. TYRANT EYES has done a lot of live performances already and the proof of the band's positive renown is the stage sharing with SAXON, SACRED STEEL, U. D. O., NEVERMORE, etc. Actually, the very „Book of Souls“ debut got very good responds: Metal Hammer... 5,0; Rock Hard ... 7,5; Metal Heart ... 9,0, etc... After the European tour with WARHEAD and VISION DIVINE, TYRANT EYES released their second CD that definitely sounds more mature yet more versatile and progressive. The strongest tracks here are the opening Thrash attacker „Nigh of



Defender“, the slower „Delight in Dying“ and „Command To Destroy“, as well as the final track „The Last Light“. Playing uncompromising Power Metal without any ballads or excessive instrumental deviations, TYRANT EYES are yet to show their best and I am sure they have a lot of fans already.

Atanas Kostadinov.....7,5

**DYING PASSION**

*Voyage* CD  
METAL BREATH

This release appears to be one of the most persuasive proofs that the first impression is not always most honest! In other words, I had found DYING PASSION's CD kind of tedious after the very first listen but it eventually did succeed in making me another fan of this Czech band! Thus, what you're going to hear in case you pick „Voyage“ up is awesome Doom / Death Metal with thick guitar riffs decorated with catchy rife and piano melodies here and there. The vocals are mainly female (Zuzana) and they additionally enthrall with their velvetness and strength. Apart from that, the release contains a video of the „Nightfall“ track that was first featured on the band's previous album.

Vanya Marinova.....8,0

**PHARAOH**

*After the Fire* CD  
CRUZ DEL SUR MUSIC

PHARAOH is a band from Philadelphia and it was formed in 1997 by the SAXON guitarist Keith Barnard and the drummer Chris „The Hammer“ Black. And here is the current line up: Tim Aymer (ex-COM-TROL-DENIED) ... vocals, Matt Johnson ... guitars, Chris Kerns ... bass, Chris Black ... drums. Thus, it's the Italian label Cruz Del Sur Music that releases the „After the Life“ album, and the cover artwork is done by Jean Pascal Fournier. The CD itself contains 9 tracks of melodic Power Metal, I personally would define the PHARAOH sound as an IRON MADEN / RAINBOW hybrid. Without pretending to be a masterpiece, „After the Fire“ is a rather strong Metal album. The vocal parts are very good and contribute enormously to the classical sound of the release itself. I would pick here the following songs: „Solar Flight“, „Now Is the Time“, „Slaves“ and the „After the Life“ titletrack. That's a very strong debut from PHARAOH that will bring them many fans and I just see no reason for the contrary to happen, since the band features solely well experienced musicians who know what they want and how to achieve it ... LONG LIVE HEAVY METAL!

Atanas Kostadinov.....8,5

**DUNGORTHEB**

*Intended To...* CD  
PERENIAL QUEST

France's DUNGORTHEB were formed in 1996 and „Intended To...“ is their first longplayer. What it is about is average Death Metal expressed in track constructions a bit too straightforward for my taste, despite the adroit solos which the riffs are generously laced with. What caused some interest though was that the vocals strongly reminded me of ACHERON's Vincent Crowley's... I would like to advise the DUNGORTHEB to try not to forget in the future that the Death Metal Scene is overpopulated nowadays and you should bust your ass like hell to be remembered!

Vanya Marinova.....6,5

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Ahhh, I feel young again! Back to the 80's, when the Glam Rock genre was still at its apex...

Atanas Kostadinov.....7.5

MUSTAN KUJUN LAPSET

Kauniyhauta CD
NORTHERN SOUND
I'm aware of the existence of this Finnish band for at least 3 years but never left of checking it out...

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

JETBOY

One More for Rock'n'Roll CD
PERRIS Records
Here is another Glam Rock band from the Perris Records label. JETBOY are supposed to be one of the pioneer bands in the genre...

Atanas Kostadinov.....7.0

VULTURE LORD

Profane Prayer CD
FLESH FOR THE BEAST
What this Norwegian act first caught my attention with was the very line up that turned out to feature Trondr Netas - the vocalist of one of my favorite Black Metal bands...

Vanya Marinova.....8.0

HELL-BORN

Legacy of the Nephilim CD
CONQUER
Another 40 min. of Death / Black horror from the HELL-BORN! As I'm comparing the band's new release to the previous 'The Call of Megiddo'...

Vanya Marinova.....9.0

SERPENS AEON

Dam of Kouatt CD
MORBUND
It is 1997 when Luis Martinez and Eric Diaz, after leaving THE CHASM, decide to create their own project. That's how SERPENS AEON is born...

Stefan Stefanov.....8.0

DISGORGE

Microholicus CD
XTREME MUSIC
This sort of music is not for people who believe in love or anything possible. So be very careful, before you start playing the new CD of Mexico's executioners DISGORGE...

Stefan Stefanov.....8.0

min tornado that carries you beyond life DISGORGE is a band that is not around from yesterday though. Created late in '93, after 2 splits with SQUASH BOWELS and CBT...

Stefan Stefanov.....8.0

DECAPITATED

The Negation CD
EARACHE
Well, well...is this DECAPITATED from their first album 'Winds Of Creation'? Not exactly! Their third full-length release, 'The Negation' is much more mature and solid sounding...

Stefan Stefanov.....8.5

HUMAN MINCER

Embryonic CD
XTREME MUSIC
Founded in 1996 as a Thrash / Death band first, Spain's HUMAN MINCER currently demonstrate enviable skill in the brutal Death Metal field...

Stefan Stefanov.....8.0

INHUME

In For the Kill CD
OSMOSE
Formed in the autumn of 1994, after two demos and an album (Discomposing From Inside)...

Stefan Stefanov.....8.0

NOCTURNUS

The Nocturnus Demos CD
KARMAGEDDON MEDIA
Awww, this CD brought me 15 years back in time!!! I still remember the day when I acquired NOCTURNUS. 'The Key' - an album considered as a release utterly innovative and unique by that time...

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8.0

HATEPULSE

In Extremo Letalis MCD
RAGE OF ACHILLES
I will not lie to you... I adore the Norwegian scene, as it has raised a lot of good bands so far. And HATEPULSE is yet another proof! With their very debut the two provokers Vragens and Kilde are ready to astonish the extreme underground society!

Stefan Stefanov.....9.5

KONKHRA

Really Check CD
CODE666
The latest KONKHRA album is probably the best I've heard from them. 'Really Check' is a crushing Death / Thrash monster with a style similar to TESTAMENT'S 'Demonic' somehow...

Stefan Stefanov.....9.0

PANTHEIST

O Solitude CD
FRIBOX
PANTHEIST exists since 2000, initially as a one-man-band but it later

turned to a real band. 'O Solitude' is their debut album consisting of 5 (quite long) tracks exceptionally suitable for a... funeral procession. Yes, the music is damn slow and mirthless and is reminding me of ESOTERIC...

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7.0

THROUCLT

Soldiers Of A Blackened War CD
CRASH MUSIC
THROUCLT are founded in 1997 in Lakewood, Colorado, as THROAT CULTURE first. 'Soldiers Of A Blackened War' is their debut album...

Stefan Stefanov.....7.0

DROWNED

Butchery Age CD
CUGUMLEO
DROWNED is a part of the constantly growing Brazilian Metal scene. But their style is untypical to that part of the world - it plays melodic, aggressive and fast Death Metal in the Swedish vein...

Stefan Stefanov.....6.0

DESECRATION

Gore And PerVersion 2 CD
COPRO
I knew that DESECRATION is supposed to be one of the most brutal and nasty Gore / Death Metal bands from England, but what I read on the info-sheet still managed to surprise me! Actually, 'Gore And PerVersion' is the band's debut album...

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7.0

PHOBOS / EXCRUCIATE 666

Split CD
ADM 666
Here is the split CD of two (at least to me unknown) bands from France. The first one is called PHOBOS and is created in 1994. Its 5 songs are united by the title of 'Obskure Apocalyptic Karmage'...

Stefan Stefanov.....7.5

ENTHRAL

Subterranean Movement CD
DISPLEASED
It's hard to describe the music these Norwegians play... But still I agree with Displeased Records that it will appeal to the fans of SATYRICON (especially their latest works) and THORNS...

Stefan Stefanov.....9.5

DERANGED

Plainfield Cemetery CD
LISTENABLE
Have you heard some of the previous DERANGED albums? If so, then 'Plainfield Cemetery' won't surprise you. It is the same trademark ultra brutal Death Metal played with a great deal of zeal and suicidal angst...

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7.5

SEPSISM

To Prevail In Disgust CD
FROM BEYOND / DISPLEASED
I did not even presume that SEPSISM would turn out to be such a qualitative band. 'To Prevail In Disgust' is an uncompromising Death Metal album...

Stefan Stefanov.....9.5

BRIDES OF DESTRUCTION

Here Come the Brides CD
SANCTUARY
This is the new Metal supergroup, which features Nikko Sixx (MOTLEY CRUE) on bass and Tracii Guns (L.A. GUNS) on guitar. Since I am not a fan of either MOTLEY or GUNS, I didn't expect miracles here...

Stefan Stefanov.....8.0

YWOLF

Trilogy Of The Night CD
ADPOGECRE
I shall admit that I found this name strange in the very beginning. YWOLF is a project of Gabriel Wolf, who plays in FINNU-GOR too. 'Trilogy of the Night' is his vague attempt of achieving something in the Atmospheric / Medieval music field...

Stefan Stefanov.....4.5

PAGANIZER

Dead Unburied CD
FOREVER UNDERGROUND
With this album PAGANIZER sensibly hardened their sound, as they still keep their melodiousness to some extent. The 9 tracks are recorded at Sunlight Studio and stick to the well-known and adored Swedish Death Metal...

Stefan Stefanov.....7.5

SARGEIST

Satanic Black Devotion CD
MORBUND
Starting in the summer of 1999 as a solo project, SARGEIST is for several years joined by other musicians... here you can recognize members of PEST, HORNA and BEHEXEN...

Stefan Stefanov.....6.5

SIKSAKUBUR

Back To Vengeance / The Carnage CD
DISPLEASED
Indonesia's answer of CRYPTOPSY! That was the definition the heads of the Displeased Records team spawned, and to me this sounds like they have tried to compare Earth to Jupiter or something... Well, the aim of the kids of SIKSAKUBUR at playing brutal, US Death Metal with a lot of technical performances is obvious...

Chavdar Tzachkov.....5.0

DARKBOUND

Northern - We Will Be...Chapter II CD
DARKBOUND
Darkbound was founded in 1999 by two friends whose goal was to release extreme bands from Germany. The beginning is freezing - Scandinavian Black Metal attack from MEMBARIS. Second is the band

BAND with a song from their debut album surprisingly entitled "Album". The song is excellent Death Metal with fierce vocals. AMARANTH are right, but their Death Metal doesn't stand out with anything. Next are INCURGITATING OBLIVION who attack with Grind / Death Metal with two alternating voices and an 8-minute long song! HERZSTUHL is a two-man band playing Thrash / Death and using deep vocals a la MACABRE. THE ATMOSFEAR attack with powerful Death / Grind varied with slower lyrical digressions. Next are TEARS OF DECAF who are the only band on this comp. CD being released officially by a label namely Cudgel Agency. As you can expect, the band plays brutal Death / Grind. After them come NONHUMENTAL with very qualitative Black Metal with influences from DISSECTION and EMPEROR. Next are HETAEIRIA, not bad Black Metal but the sound is too chaotic. ATLANTIS follows with strong Death Metal track performed without bass. Next is TO THE SKY - impressive technical and melodic Death Metal. CENTAURUS - a strike with modern Sludge-Jazz-Core in the vein of bands like DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN and KILLSWITCH ENGAGE. Absolute madness! The next band is totally the opposite - THARGOS play simple Alcoholic Thrash with a great influence from DESTRUCTION. Even the vocalist tries to sing like Schmier! Back in the Black Metal hell again - this time with FIEND and their "Ashorent Black Metal". CHURCHARSON with their Black Metal whirlwind are reminding of the best Norwegian Underground legends. Next are INFERNAL who attack with absolute oldschool Thrash / Black under the slogan of "Kill The Christians" and horrible sound. APOCRYPHAL is a two-man band (J.Devil and O.Satan) playing fast and raw IMMORTAL-ish Black Metal. The end of this comp. comes with a tribute to MAYHEM's "De Mysterium Dom Sathanas", performed by members of ATLANTIS and NONHUMENTAL and meant for mocking at CHRISTIAN (Varg) Vikernes. The conclusion is that "Northem..." is a very useful CD presenting 17 qualitative German bands from different circles of the Underground. The production is above average and will please every fan of extreme music in general. Halz Northem! Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

**SOULREAPER**  
"Life Eraser" CD  
KARMAGEDDON MEDIA  
SOULREAPER are back after 3 years of silence. "Life Eraser" is the title of their second longplayer, which sounds like a huge step forward in comparison to "Written in Blood" (2000). The five Swedes (two of them DISSECTION ex-members) worked on this masterpiece in Los Angeles Studio with Andy La Roque (KING DIAMOND) as a producer. This is a fantastic Death Metal album that sounds tight and hard without losing its melodiousness. In some of the songs you can hear clean male singing ("Static Darkness", "Pan Within") that makes the whole atmosphere darker and more mystic. The digipack version of the album gives you the opportunity to enjoy the "Fall from Grace" bonus, which is a cover of the Death monsters MORBID ANGELO! The cover artwork is done by Kristian Wahlin (DARK TRANQUILLITY, AT THE GATES, AMORPHIS)... a lovely addition to the album itself. SOULREAPER are coming to conquer the Swedish Death Metal throne!!! Stefan Stefanov.....9,5

**MORTIFERA**  
"Complainte d'une" MCD  
GOATWAR Records  
There isn't much to be said about this release. MORTIFERA are from France and play raw Black Metal with a garage sound. There are good ideas in the four songs of this CD, but the vocals could be much better. If you're fan of total Underground Black Metal, MORTIFERA will probably appeal to you. This is darkness unveiled! All they need is a better sound. Tsvetan Rachev.....5,5

**CONTAMINATED 5.0**  
Compilation CD  
RELAPSE  
Here is the consecutive outcome of Relapse's tradition to present all their new and upcoming releases. Again the Contaminated Sampler includes two CDs featuring more than 40 bands referred to various music genres. The music on CD1 is softer and the doomy sound prevails, as PIG DESTROYER is the sole exception here. As a result of the selection I made, I could recommend to all Doom / Stoner fans ALABAMA THUNDERPUSSY - unique and groovy Stoner Doom Metal slightly reminding of the pioneers in the genre. Some of the other bands are very specific and quite psychic, especially DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN and DYSRHYTHMIA - I'm sure all fans of experimental stuff should check out their music. CD 2 is more brutal and includes such monsters as SUFFOCATION, MORTICIAN, EXHUMED, NASUM and tons more. Almost the whole CD is Death / Grind oriented, so the fans of those styles should pay more attention to this part of the compilation. So, if you want to be updated about the latest releases from Relapse, get this double CD Sampler where you can also find complete information about the Relapse mailorder catalogue. Chavdar Tzatchkov.....7,0

**SEPTIC FLESH**  
"Sumerian Demons" CD  
KARMAGEDDON MEDIA  
At the moment the leaders on the Greek extreme scene are ROTTING CHRIST and SEPTIC FLESH. I recently heard that the latter disbanded (oh, if it's true...), but still this would hardly be a problem for us to chew on their latest creation "Sumerian Demons" a bit. Seth - bass and vocals, Sofiris... guitars, Chris A... guitars and samplers, Aklis K - drums and George... keyboards, have created something really great. That's the perfect combination between relentless Death Metal and classical music. Recorded at the Swedish Studio Fradman (with Fredrik Nordstrom), the album offers incredible sound that rushes upon the listener like an avalanche to hit his / her senses with titanic strength and pedantry. The cover artwork is a remarkable piece of art... it's done by the Azhoulous brothers (HORROR / SPECIAL FX). This album deserves admiration and I am giving it 10, as I found it just great! As for those who didn't hear "Sumerian Demons" yet, I would advise them to do something about it and until then... unleash the demon from within!!! Stefan Stefanov.....10

**VOKODLOK**  
"Mass Murder Genesis" CD  
BEAUTY OF PAIN  
I have the feeling that Romanians do not seem to take much advantage of the Dracula myth, when it comes to musical inspiration. Even when Black Metal was in its strongest position in Europe, only a few Romanian Black Metal bands were known outside of their country. And that's not very good, bearing in mind the fact that Romania's population consists of 23 million people, and I also have the impression that there are many who are seriously interested in Metal, as a whole. But maybe this will change in the near future, who knows. So, what I wrote above must have suggested you already that this review is going to deal with a Romanian or, to put it in a more "modern" way, Transylvanian Black Metal band. So here we have VOKODLOK - a surprisingly good band playing evil and extreme oldschool Black Metal. Additionally, the 10 tracks in "Mass Murder Genesis" are notable for their diverse ideas and very good performances. The production is also very acceptable, the sound is raw as it should be, but still with a very good quality. I think the guys have managed to get the sound they have been looking for... The very beginning, though, doesn't suggest at all of the unexpected wrath and speed meant for sweeping you away in 3 min only. This is pure Black Metal without keyboards, without female whimpys, just the same style which the ancient Scandinavian bands created about 15 years ago. Chavdar Tzatchkov.....7,0

**GRABNEBELFURSTEN**  
"Dynastie... Oder Wie Man Herrschaft Definiert" CD  
KETZER  
I became a GRABNEBELFURSTEN fan back in 2001, when I heard the "Sakraskastisch" song from their third demo. Later on I acquired their debut album "Von Schemen Und Trubldern" and it left me with good impressions. And here I am now, with the sequel in my hands carrying the long "Dynastie..." title. Again I hear the same avant-garde Black Metal... fast and melodic. A delight for the ear is the remarkably diverse vocals of Sturm Deiner Winter. This album consists of 6 songs that are rather long and this allows the listener to submerge fully into their emotiveness. The coverartwork is again done by Aran (LUNAR AURORA) and it fits the album perfectly. GRABNEBELFURSTEN are not an accidental phenomenon and are going to show even more from their specific art to the world. A great piece of news is that they are already working on their third opus. I can't wait to hear it! Stefan Stefanov.....8,5

**CIRCLE OF DEAD CHILDREN**  
"Human Harvest" CD  
DISPLEASED  
Wow, "Human Harvest" is as brutal and heavy as a 20 Megaton nuclear bomb - incomparably more brutal and powerful than the previous strike "Genocide Machine", especially the deranged vocals of Joe Horvath can lead you to insomnia least. As a whole, CODC have achieved an exceptionally heavy and dense sound with numerous unpredictable tempo changes expressed in the alternation of hyper slow passages laced with guttural inhuman vocals and ultra speed attacks. I'm having the impression that the new drummer Mike Rossow is a real beast behind the kit, so incredibly versatile he plays, and I won't be surprised if I learn one day that the guy has been involved with other bands before, be it non-Metal related even. If I have to compare CODC to another band, I would say that they partly remind me of DEVOURMENT, but I will definitely note that still their style is less standard and is abundant in untypical moments and devilish brutal, noisy performances. "Human Harvest" contains 19 tracks, that in my opinion will appeal to the most brutal freaks, especially those who have been also yearning to hear something really versatile, not only sheer brutality and primitive performances. Definitely "Human Harvest" is worth hearing! Chavdar Tzatchkov.....7,5

**ABORTED**  
"Goremegeedon" CD  
LISTENABLE  
After the brutal debut "Engineering The Dead" since 2001, the Belgian pathologists ABORTED belch their second CD "Goremegeedon". As in the first album, the brutal Death / Grind sound is on a high level - blasting furious drumming, heavy riffs and sick voices. The music is tight without unnecessary improvisations. Of course the cover art is like a poster from a clinical horror movie - blood and entrails splattered around by an evil surgeon. Special attention deserves the advertising sheet - a medical list describing all symptoms of the ABORTED disease. "Goremegeedon" ends with "Carnal Forge" originally made by the godfathers of Gore / Death Metal - CARCASS. Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

**TORTURE KILLER**  
"For Maggots To Devour" CD  
KARMAGEDDON MEDIA  
Finland's TORTURE KILLER are the perfect proof that you don't need to spend 2-3 months in studio to create something really meaningful or influential. "For Maggots To Devour" was recorded literally at one breath for...30 hours only, but despite that I liked this album much better than the ones of many other bands; some of which with far bigger studio budgets. Yes, this is tucking catchy old school Death Metal, sensibly influenced from SIX FEET UNDER and OBITUARY. The musicians themselves know very well that it was not them who found America with their 9 compositions... but at least created them with a great deal of desire and passion - something not really frequently met nowadays, as the Scene seems to be a place full of musicians who do not play what they exactly want. So, if you like the entrancing guitar riffs of SIX FEET UNDER, the double-bass drumming of MASSACRE and the mid tempo of OBITUARY, then this album is just for you. I will ultimately state that in my opinion "For Maggots To Devour" is one of the best releases for 2003! Chavdar Tzatchkov.....9,0

**LOST SOULS**  
"Ubermensch (Death of God)" CD  
OSMOSE  
LOST SOULS are created in Poland in 1991 and already have one full-length debut ("Scram of the Morning Star") released via Relapse. Year 2003 brings LOST SOULS a new deal with the cult French label Osmose and a new album. "Ubermensch" is aggressive Dark / Death Metal with excellent sound and enviable musical skills. Very strong drumming-blastbeats almost all the time. My only complaint is that as a whole LOST SOULS sound too close to BEHEMOTH. The music in "Ubermensch" could have easily been taken by Nergal & co. If you're crazy about BEHEMOTH, you'll like LOST SOULS too. All other fans have the chance to hear another qualitative Death Metal band from Poland. Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

**FAIRYLAND**  
"Of Wars In Osyria" CD  
NOTHING TO SAY  
FAIRYLAND display their ability of composing in the field of symphonic, epic Heavy Metal. The style is almost copy-pasted from RHAPSODY and I say "almost" only because the music of FAIRYLAND is more orchestral, mellower and devoid of the speedy passages in RHAPSODY's albums. The sound is great and so is the fantasy... inspired cover artwork. "Of Wars In Osyria" is obviously a concept album with its more than 10-minute long title track as a culmination. If fantasy Metal is your cup of tea, look no further... FAIRYLAND will surely live up to your expectations. However, it is not my preferable style of Metal and I think the Scene is now overcrowded with this kind of bands. Stoyan Tzonev.....7,0

**SKYFIRE**  
"Mind Revolution"  
KARMAGEDDON MEDIA  
In case you hate CHILDREN OF BODOM and their pretentious guitar-tech Heavy / Black Metal, you'd better not read this review. In their "Mind Revolution" SKYFIRE offer melodic and technical combination of Power Metal and Swedish Death / Black riffs mixed with keyboard sounds. I can't say there's something "revolutionary" in SKYFIRE's music, they're skilled musicians for sure but the whole album reminds so much of COB's works that I just can't take it seriously. Less technical but more original next time, guys! Tsvetan Rachev.....6,5

**DARKTHRONE**  
"Hate Them" CD  
MOONFOG  
Hell yeah, with their 10th album Norway's Second BM Wave coryphael truly raised Hell in its entire splendour! Both denigrated and praised, "Hate Them" appeared to be the CD that split both reviewers and listeners as severely as never before... Anyways, I shall admit for myself that the very first riffs after the intro made me feel rather perplexed, as they strongly reminded me of SATYRICON! No wonder, on the other hand, since Satyr is a co-producer there... Nevertheless, I merely left the CD spinning to hear what was to come further and you know what? I did not need to hear the first song till the half even to realize that DARKTHRONE has actually returned AS GRIMLY UNPOLISHED AS ALWAYS!!! The same old(school) vortex swept away like an autumn leaf to drag me for about 39 min up and down the helix of suicidally vehement drumming and delightfully plain riffs, the latter reminding me of the good old Motormeadays in moments ("Det Svarner Na"). Yet I could sense a new, darker shade added, ever since Faunaz and Nocturno Culto started exploring new paths by releasing "Ravishing Grimness" first in "Hate Them". I could feel that mood obscure which helps you sort things in a way somehow inexorable, regardless the others like it or not! At least I myself felt both contented and kind of (dis)missively tranquilized now, when I finally got my eardrum balsam against all that cacophony built by pompous synthesis and vociferations a la ripped off leprechauns... Vanya Marinova.....9,5

**FOREST OF THE IMPALED**  
"Forward The Spears" CD  
RED STREAM  
From the darkest forests of USA come FOREST OF THE IMPALED, one of the few qualitative American Black Metal bands. The first song "Forward The Spears" grabs the listener by the throat and throws him into a whirlwind of spite and aggression. The vocalist's voice alternates all the time from evil screams to deep growls. The bass lines can be heard clearly, something not so usual for the oldschool Black Metal bands. The bass is solidly supported by the grinding swaths of the drummer. As most of the US Black Metal albums, "Forward The Spears" has a solid dose of DEICIDE-influenced Death Metal. The production is raw enough to please all Underground mongers. "Forward The Spears" is one of the best Black Metal records emerging from USA lately and deserves your attention for sure. Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

**NATTEFROST**  
"Blood & Vomit" CD  
SEASON OF MIST  
This, I was finally given the opportunity of hearing the project of CARPATHIAN FOREST's Nattefrost as well... Honestly speaking, the "Blood & Vomit" CD left me kind of dizzy and in the very first moment I couldn't decide whether it appealed to me or not! What I was (and still am) sure of though was that this release would be extremely INADVISABLE for the coddled ears of all the ones addicted to sympho-Black effusions! Starting with euphonic chants, "Blood & Vomit" then transits to an undescrivable vortex of primitively severe riffs, insanely hostile vociferations and (certainly) moves excerpts of female lustful moans and sounds drawing visions of mindshredding desolationspaces... In brief, this very release left me completely groggy and I definitely needed some time until I eventually started liking these relentlessly unpolished oldschool Black Metal tracks, the one of which turned out to be a blasting cover of BEHERIT's "Gates of Innana". Embrace the Hate, if you dare!!! Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**LEX TALIONIS**  
"Inhuman Violence" CD  
DEADSON  
LEX TALIONIS is a one-man band playing ultra fast Death Metal. The rhythm is made on a drum-machine, it is grinding speed in all tracks. The guitar riffs are played tight, there's some Black Metal influence in them. There are keyboards as a background in every song. The voice is predominantly deep Death Metal growl. The problem is that all songs sound similar due to the tempo that is one and the same in the whole album. The sound isn't on a very good level either. "Inhuman Violence" isn't anything special but check it out if you want. Tsvetan Rachev.....6,0

**EERIE**  
"Eerie" MCD  
BRUTALICA Records  
EERIE is actually a project of 2 members of MORTAL REMAINS (dearly Doom Metal), and this MCD is their first outcome of the collaboration of the guys. What it deals with is 4 tracks of old-school Death Metal teeming with remarkably original ideas and atmospheres responding fully to the band's very name! The mini album is yet to be released, by the way, and I have the songs on an MP3 format; what I can basically say is that I'm incredibly thankful to Chavdar for entrusting exactly myself with figuring this review out! I will admit that in my opinion the Bulgarian extreme scene, even if appearing to be too big for such a small country like ours, doesn't offer many decent bands. On the contrary, I think that we are yet to grow up so much that to make our own contribution to the World Scene! EERIE, anyway, along with bands like BLEEDING BLACK and EMBRACED BY DARK, definitely helped me watch on the future in a more optimistic way! I'm to go even further by stating that this band sounds much better than many acts hailing from countries with more respected scenes!!! Vanya Marinova.....8,0

**YEARNING**  
"Evershade" CD  
HOLY  
With "Evershade", Finland's YEARNING make a serious attempt to reach the class of OPETH and KATATONIA. Melancholy is the prevailing feeling in all songs. The voice is clear and filled with emotion, at places there are also Death Metal growls. Very good balance between all instruments - guitars, synth and rhythm section. The sound is on a high level. The songs are memorable and emotional, pleasant for listening. In case you're fan of melancholic qualitative OPETH-like Metal, I highly recommend you YEARNING and their "Evershade" CD. The trip in the gray world would worth your time for sure! Tsvetan Rachev.....8,5

**LUNARIS**  
"Cyclic" CD  
EARACHE  
Norway continues to give birth to some really excellent Metal bands. The ability of these people to compose high-class extreme music is undeniable. The second album of LUNARIS is the next amazing release from Norway. The first album was called "...The Infinite" but "Cyclic" is the first thing I hear from them. It is not easy to define the style of this band. LUNARIS play Black Metal with very progressive, multi-part song structures, both screaming and clear vocals and crushing Death Metal riffs and rhythm section. "Cyclic" has some minor style similarities to EMPEROR's "Prometheus" or MAYHEM's "The Grand Declaration of War", but it has its own style. There are some interesting guests on this album: Steve Diggorigio plays bass on one track, Asger Mickelson (BORKNAGAR, SPIRAL ARCHITECT etc.) plays drums on another and even Eric Peterson (TESTAMENT) appears somewhere! "Cyclic" is an excellent innovative extreme Metal album and really deserves your attention. You can find it in Bulgaria in the S.M.F. music shop. Stoyan Tzonev.....8,0

**ENTWINE**  
"Diversity" CD  
SPINEFARM  
I'm aware of the existence of ENTWINE for at least 3 years, but "Diversity" is the first ever album that I hear from this Finnish band. Well, far from bad, I would say... if you are into acts like ZERO-MANCER, TO/DIE/FOR or THEATRE OF TRAGEDY's latest works, you will even love that album. The 11 tracks on it are just faultless construction-wise and additionally attract by their thickness laced with discretely dismal shades. "Diversity" is recorded at Asia-Studios (CHILDREN OF BODOM, TO/DIE/FOR) and finished at Finnvox (NIGHTWISH, LULLACRY), so you can be a 100% certain that the production is excellent. Vanya Marinova.....7,5

**EMPEROR**  
"Scattered Ashes: A Decade of Empetal Wrath" CD  
CANDLELIGHT  
Sad but true! One of the greatest Black Metal bands is no longer active. The extreme music scene will never be the same without EMPEROR... the band which composed and wrote such timeless classics as "In the Nightshade Eclipse", "Anthems To the Wretch At Dusk", "IX Equilibrium" and "Prometheus: The Discipline of Fire & Demise". Samoth and Trym are now in ZYLKON and Ishahn continues with PECCATUM. So, this release here represents the whole career of EMPEROR into two CDs. The back disc includes 13 songs and is some kind of a "best of" collection. The more interesting one is the silver disc, which has 14 rare and unreleased tracks. Here are the covers of BATHORY ("A Fine Day to Die"), DARKTHRONE ("Dromlech"), MERCYFUL FATE ("Gypsy") and MAYHEM ("Funeral Fog"), two rare songs: "Aria Descant" and "I Am" and a remix of the song "Sworn" made by ULVER. Tracks 8 to 14 are the legendary "Wrath Of The Tyrant" demo! Everything in the second CD is worth hearing and you shouldn't miss this release. Long live the emperors!!! Stoyan Tzonev.....10

**CARINOU**  
*"Bound" CD*  
 CODE 666  
 A perverted mix of Electro-Pop, Black Metal misanthropy and cold Swedish Industrial music... that was the definition of "Bound" that I read in the press-sheet. To be honest, I'm apt of agreeing with the first half of this description only; the thing is that I see neither BM misanthropy nor cold Swedish Industrial music here, despite the fact that the one member of Sweden's 3-piece CARINOU is actually F. Soderlund (PUSANACE, OCTINOMOS, ALGAION). What "Bound" is all about in my opinion is average Electro / Gothic / Metal with vocals strongly reminding you of... PET SHOP BOYS'. The release is not devoid of some dark shades though, but they are basically meant to feed more ordinary fans, whereas truest sonic inbreds will find these 10 tracks rather backslid. Let's say that I'm somewhere in between, then...  
 Vanya Marinova .....7.0

**DRAGONFORCE**  
*"Sonic Firestorm" CD*  
 SANCTUARY  
 lately it becomes harder and harder for me to be impressed by a Heavy or Power Metal band. Bearing in mind the fact that there are only a handful of qualitative bands that are able to compose original music, it is more than obvious why I am skeptic. From the new wave of Heavy / Power Metal bands, that have released their debut albums after 1990, only ICED EARTH, NEVERMORE, KAMELOT, EDCUY, BLAZE and EVERGREY deserve attention. Well, DRAGONFORCE from England is an exception to the rule and managed to surprise me pleasantly with their second full-length "Sonic Firestorm". The music is melodic, speedy Power Metal with lots of ultra-fast keyboards and guitar solos. The 8 songs are all quite long, with the shortest one at 5:10 min. It is good to mention that none of the songs gets boring even for a second! There are numerous tempo changes, catchy choruses and moods throughout the album, which makes it much more interesting and varied than SONATA ARCTICA. The musicians in DRAGONFORCE are not at all newcomers to the Metal scene: the two guitar players Sam Totman and Herman Li have been in DEMONICAC and drummer Dave Mackintosh has played in the last two albums of BAL-SAGOTHI! So, connoisseurs of good, varied and melodic Power Speed Metal can check this out. You will not regret! By the way, fans can see DRAGONFORCE live very soon as they are special guests to the W.A.S.P. tour this year! Bulgarian fans can buy this CD from the S.M.F. music shop.  
 Stoyan Tzovev .....8.0

**ENID**  
*"Gravwanderer" CD*  
 CODE 666  
 This is the 4th album in the discography of Germany's ENID and what it impresses the listener with in the very first moment is the awesome production coming from Patric Damiani (FALKENBACH, VINDSVAL, ORDO DRACONIS)! As for the music itself, I could distinguish elements from several genres woven in here, namely Doom, Gothic, Metal and even some folkish and atmospheric moods suggesting associations with WELTEBRAND and BLACKMORE'S NIGHT. The tracks are very well constructed... even TOO well, if you ask me, and probably for that reason I tend to regard the "Gravwanderer" CD as a bit monotonous and pre-

dictable. The album cover artwork, on its turn, fits the release aura just fine with its coldly clear lines.  
 Vanya Marinova .....7.0

**TAROT**  
*"Suffer Our Pleasures" CD*  
 SPINEFARM  
 Killer album from a killer band... that's what my comment on "Suffer Our Pleasures" by the four-piece TAROT is about in short. The two brothers Marco Hietala (voc, bass & acoustic guitar) and Zachary Hietala (guitars), along with Janne Tolosa (keyboards) and Pecu Cinari (drums), offer us one heavy, strong and uncompromising album that you're going to listen to in one breath literally. After hearing the very first track "I Rule", I realized that I was going to hear a serious band. Next, with no excessive ceremonies, comes "Dyer of Gods"... a song meant to confirm that there is nothing accidental, and this is maybe the strongest track in the album, at least I remained very impressed. "Rider Of The Last Day" is slower and more psychedelic and it's immediately followed by the nailing "Follow the Blind" track. The more I listen, the more convinced I feel that there are no weak songs here. TAROT sound aggressive, clear and classical... I think you could hardly take this band for another one. Everything in "Suffer Our Pleasures" is in its place and the vocals of Marco, both aggressive and melodiously versatile, are just perfect. The guitar riffs are deep and hard, and the majestic keyboard parts do not soften the album sound at all. Pure Heavy Metal!!!  
 Alanas Kostadinov .....9.0

**UNJUST**  
*"Glow" CD*  
 COPRO RECORDS  
 I haven't heard the previous 2 releases by this band from San Francisco, but "Glow" definitely appealed to me for its gloomy atmospheres. What's captured in here is an interesting blend of melancholic Doom sounds and some FAITH NO MORE touches. If you are looking for revolutionary approaches you will not find any for certain, but at least this CD is your chance for having your 50 minutes of relaxation. At any case, I believe that the album will receive a lot of positive responds with no problem, especially if you take into account that the wheel turned in UNJUST's favour, ever since the band's "The Thin Line Emotions" debut was released (1999), to be praised on the pages of such magazines as Kerrang! or Terrorizer. Additionally, "Glow" is meant to be released simultaneously for the US via Kocodollar... the label of FAITH NO MORE's Billy Gould.  
 Vanya Marinova .....7.5

**DREAMTALE**  
*"Ocean's Heart" CD*  
 SPINEFARM  
 "Ocean's Heart" is a rather ambitious project of the DREAMTALE six-piece. The fabulous theme and the excellent cover artwork just cannot remain unnoticed. The album starts very promising with the "Chosen One" track a la STRATOVARIUS, which is then followed by "Angel Eyes"... probably the strongest song in the album. And here seems to end the positive part of my comments on this release, I have a lot of remarks about the band's overall sound. The resemblance to STRATOVARIUS is way too obvious and at the same time there is not a trace of the mag-

netism of Timo Tolki's band. You actually start getting bored of DREAMTALE at the fourth-fifth song and you inevitably start asking yourself why the hell this album should be SIXTY MINUTES long! Still, I forced myself to give the entire CD a listen (that's what I was expected to do, after all) and eventually discovered another intriguing song, namely the seventh one "Tears", where the alternation of more brutal male vocals and female singing brings some diversity but not for too long, really. Quite a monotonous and hard-to-remember Speed Metal is what DREAMTALE is basically about. Apparently, this band needs to work harder in the future...  
 Alanas Kostadinov .....4.0

**ISOR**  
*"Post Mortem Peep Show"*  
 COPRO RECORDS  
 I've been feeling sick of all those angry-with-the-world Nu Metal / Core bands lately, but still this duo from Chester, UK did manage to intrigue me with some unconventional ideas, to start from the very album title event! ISOR themselves are formed back in '99 and, save "Post Mortem Peep Show", their discography also features 3 EPs and a 6-track CD. What I can say about the new album, though, is that it sounds rather versatile and vivid, and you can truly feel the scum mundane around you... Plus, the production is very good, so if you're a fan of the aforementioned genres, just get in touch!  
 Vanya Marinova .....7.0

**TOMORROW'S EVE**  
*"Mirror Of Creation" CD*  
 SOURCE OF DELUGE  
 WOW, I haven't heard such a qualitative Progressive album for ages! I simply have no remarks of whatsoever kind and I'm sure that even the pickiest fans would agree with me! "Mirror Of Creation" is a conceptual, 70-minute long release uniting in itself the very best of the genre, namely the instrumentalism of DREAM THEATRE, the melancholy of FATES WARNING, the aggression of SYMPHONY X, the lyric of VANDENPLAS and the routine of QUEENSRÛCHE. Every single composition here is a small masterpiece, and what is even more fantastic is the way the tracks in "Mirror Of Creation" are conceptually linked to one another. Some of you may think that I'm going too far with my superlatives, then I'd simply recommend you to hear TOMORROW'S EVE! I'm very glad that this young band shows so much depth and preciseness in making music, and I will definitely keep observing the guys' development, as they do have a future in my opinion!  
 Alanas Kostadinov .....9.5

**CONSPIRACY AD**  
*"Humanity = Destruction... The End Is Near" CD*  
 CRASH MUSIC INC  
 Funny how the cover artwork of an album can disorient you about the music sometimes! What I expected to hear from "Humanity = Destruction..." was some morosely futurist Black / Electro mayhem in the vein of ABORYM or ANAAL NATHRAKH even... instead, this CD turned out to feature 11 tracks of average Death / Core with some BM influences. Still, my intuition partly led me to the right direction, as Italy's CONSPIRACY AD turned out to have entrusted the layout work to Neon Tinty Kill (ABORYM, ARKHON INFASTUS, KONKHRA, etc). Anyways, what I can say about this very album is that it offers nothing new basically, but this is generously compensated with the great work of the producer

Paso, who is also known for his collaboration with HANDFUL OF HATE, EPHEL DUATH and more. The bands that CONSPIRACY AD has shared the stage with go as follows: VADER, MORBID ANGEL, KRISIUN, ABORTED, DEFORMITY and CATASTROPHIC.  
 Vanya Marinova .....7.0

**SCARVE**  
*"Irradiant" CD*  
 LISTENABLE  
 Killer AT THE GATES / MESHUGGAH blend is what will be rushing upon you the moment you insert this CD in your player! SCARVE, however, hail from France and the album I'm writing a review of is the third full-length in their discography thus far. Recorded at Dug-Out Studios in Upsala, Sweden with the help of Daniel Bergstrand and Orjan Omkloo (ex-MISERY LOVES CO), "Irradiant" literally blows off with its top-notch sound, and this combined with the band members' extraordinary musicianship can assure you that it's worth skipping several binges in the pub and saving some money for the CD instead which, by the way was guested by members of MESHUGGAH (surprise, surprise...) and DEFLESHED. The album is additionally notable for its aesthetically simplistic layout, the work on which was entrusted to Dennis Sibejn (ABORTED). Furthermore, 2004 is the year that marks SCARVE's 10th anniversary, so unleashing such a sonic monster is an act far from "Irradiant" in my opinion, especially when it comes to celebrating the first decade in your career!  
 Vanya Marinova .....8.5

**TWILIGHTNING**  
*"Delirium Veil" CD*  
 SPINEFARM  
 TWILIGHTNING is another very good band from Finland, and its line up is as follows: Heikki Poyhia (vocals), Ville Wallenius (guitar), Tommi Sartzanen (guitar), Jussi Kainulainen (bass), Mikko Naukkarinen (keyboards) and Juha Leskinen (drums). That's a very young but still rather talented act, and what I can point out as another plus here is that "Delirium Veil" is recorded at Finvox Studio and was mixed by Timo Tolki and mastered by Mika Jusela. TWILIGHTNING offer us melodic Heavy Metal with some Power and Speed elements. The music is diverse, and the vocals are very good. I was fascinated of the tempo changes and the whole dynamics of the songs themselves. I would pick here "At the Forge", "Delirium Veil", "Under Sombre Skies" and "Masked Ball Dances" as greatest tracks. The band members show a great deal of musicianship with guitar and keyboard solos, and the vocals of Heikki Poyhia are really of a high class. "Gone to the Wall" is my most favourite track of the "Delirium Veil" album... a release that definitely deserves your attention!  
 Alanas Kostadinov .....8.5

**ASTERIUS**  
*"A Moment of Singularity" CD*  
 CRUZ DEL SUR MUSIC  
 ASTERIUS is an interesting Black / Gothic band with a rather unconventional sound. The group is founded in 1997 and in '99 releases its first demo CD ("A Decadents Of Stars"), which receives very good responds both by the press and the fans. The band plays at a lot of concerts and participates in such prestigious festivals as Wave Gothic Treffen (2 times), Summer Breeze Fest, Ba Dia Rocks (Italy), Skeleton Bash

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(Austria), etc. ATERIUS' current line up is as follows: Sir-Uss (guitar, vocals), Andrah (vocals), Sataar (guitar), Arctur (bass, programming) and Cain (drums). "A Moment Of Singularity" is an album of the extremes: philosophical lyrics, a great deal of aggression, darkness and melody. The contrast between the clean singing of Andrah and the brutal grunts of Sir-Uss against the Black / Gothic background makes the album sound very modern and intriguing. I would advise you to turn a special attention to the following songs: "Gemini North" with its versatile and progressive sound, "The One Perspective" (the absolute hit in the album) and "Another Me" that sounds slower and more Heavy Metal-oriented. With "A Moment of Singularity" ATERIUS appear to shine really bright on the Extreme Scene, as what they give us is something really fresh and different. Atanas Kostadinov.....7.0

THE MEADS OF ASPHODEL

"Exhuming the Grave of Yeshua" CD SUPERNAL MUSIC It was not long ago when I became aware of the fact that UK's THE MEADS OF ASPHODEL released a new album. And I hoped really much that we would be receiving a promo copy to review too, as the band's "The Excommunication Of Christ" debut had left me with great impressions for its authentically Oriental mysticism! Now when my wish came true, I can say that "Exhuming the Grave of Yeshua" definitely cannot beat his elder brother, when it comes to taking possession of the listener's senses. Still, the new CD does have its own values... the sound is tighter, more obscure and the guest list this time features such celebrities as Mirai (SIGH), Vincent Crowley (ACHERON), Paul Carter (THUS DEFILED), as well as Lloyd Langton and Alan Davey (HAWKSWIND). Apart from that, the first 1000 copies of "Exhuming the Grave of Yeshua" go with a bonus track ("Book Of Dreams"), so most zealous collectors must act fast! Vanya Marinova .....7.5

JEZABEL

"Legiones Del Sur" CD CRUZ DEL SUR MUSIC With their "Legiones Del Sur" album JEZABEL offer rather good and melodic Spined Metal, but the lyrics are not in English, unfortunately, so this will be a certain barrier for the fans to comprehend the band's essence thoroughly. Otherwise, the sound of JEZABEL is rather classic, and here is the line up: Leonardo Coronel (vocals), Nestor Rodriguez (guitars), Del Rio (guitars), Omar Liste (keyboards) Gustavo Florio (bass) and Guillermo Saccomanno (drums). "Legiones Del Sur" sounds epic, almost each song is a potential hit, and the main contribution to this is the specific vocals and guitar riffs. I personally would define JEZABEL as a STRATOVARIUS equivalent but still a bit harder in sound, and the songs I liked the most were "El Tiempo Dirá", the "Legiones Del Sur" title track and "Sigue Un Passo Mass". Atanas Kostadinov .....7.0

THE MEADS OF ASPHODEL / MAYHEM

"Split" CD I cannot believe that I'm FINALLY listening to this split album!!! It dates since 2002, so it should have been featured in the lists of most zealous collectors by now. Thus, it is UK's THE MEADS OF ASPHODEL who go first with their " Jihad" concert mini album inspired by the terrorist attacks in the US on September 11. Although I'll always consider these events as some of the most tragic and barbaric moments in the history of mankind, I would not deny that " Jihad" appealed to me a lot for its realistically apocalyptic atmosphere woven by the Oriental mysticism known from TMOA'S "The Excommunication Of Christ" debut, samples of muezzin cries of religious ardency and such of Carl Orf's "Carmina Burana" classic... 2 of the 6 songs are bonus tracks actually, and the one is a cover of HAWKSWIND'S "Assassins Of Allah". AND, prepare now to encounter the cold winds from the North, namely MAYHEM'S "Carnage" and "Freezing Moon" classics! No need to discuss them, I guess, what I'll only state is that they filled me with boundless nostalgia for the 90's first half, when Black Metal was yet to lose its power and magic... Remember the GODZ!!! To end this review, I will only say that this CD appeared to be the perfect proof of how opposites attract each other simply because they are much alike deep inside... This is where Conflagration Madness encounters Suicidal Frost, both to unite in sculpturing the Wrath of Armageddon! Vanya Marinova .....8.5

PECCATUM

"Lost In Reverie" CD MEMMOESYNE / VME I don't know... I'm still with impressions way too contradictory to describe what I've heard... The thing is that "Lost In Reverie", #4 in the PECCATUM discography, offers something completely different from the previous releases! A KING DIAMOND / ATRIX hybrid was the definition that popped up in my head first, but I'm eventually going to admit that I am seriously helpless about dragging whatsoever up from the bog of my mind that might serve as any clue of what the reader should be prepared for... Colossal depression and nocturnal earnestness spread from each of the 7 tracks, to cobweb your soul with the velvet moisture of autumnal fog and the scorching desolation of just conflagrated fields. "Lost In Reverie" again offers amazing performances and ideas, but they somehow seem to be adumbrated by the overall sense of woe and loss, additionally stirred by the freaky fly-buzzing here and there. Definitely this is a CD that I'm not going to throw away just like that after 2-3 listens... being aware of all PECCATUM albums thus far, I'm a 100 % certain that the Tweetan family did hardly spend an year on a half at their own Symphonique Studio just for the pure and simple fooling around! Vanya Marinova .....8.0

CORPORAL RAID

"Xenophobism" CD BIZARRE LEPROUS Another Gore / Grind offer of Roman from Bizarre Leprous. This time it is the Italian sonic terrorist of CORPORAL RAID. Fucking extreme and monotonous Gore Grind with poor guitar sound and best drumming + one of the most disgusting vocals I ever heard. Lyrics? Better forget about them, unless you are not a devoted patho-fetters freak... So, if you like hyper sick and extreme Gore / Grind then you can check out this 26-minute CD. I don't think it is something extraordinary, but I'm sure that there are fans who will love it. Chavdar Tzachkov .....6.0

W.A.S.P.

"The Neon God Part I - The Rise" CD SANGUARY Blackie Lawless strikes again!!! This time with the second concept album in the history of W.A.S.P. after the legendary "The Crimson Idol". There has been much anticipation of this new record and very high expectations. I wondered if "The Neon God" could equal the quality of "The Crimson Idol" and secretly hoped that it would be even better. Blackie has proved many times that he is a genius songwriter and composer and there is no doubt that the long-time followers of W.A.S.P. will not even read this review. They will simply pay the money for the new CD once it is out. This review is for the people who either have never heard of this band before (what a shame!) or haven't bought anything from them after "The Crimson Idol". I was shocked to find out that some "fans" didn't even know of the band's existence after "The Headless Children", which came out in 1989!!! Well, back to the new album, "The Neon God" will be a two-album release and its second part will come out sometime in late summer. I received a complete libretto, with the storyline behind the concept, but I think you should read it yourself; I will not spoil your pleasure. "The Neon God Part I-The Rise" contains 14 tracks, five of which are short intros or preludes to the next full-length song. Frankly speaking, this is one of the best albums in the history of W.A.S.P. It took Blackie as long as 10 years to make it, but the first part of the final result is more than satisfactory. There are some monumental, mega-epic songs like "Sister Sadie (And The Black Habits)", which reminds me a lot in overall feeling of "Chainsaw Charlie". "The Running Man" with its unbelievable chorus and energy; the power ballad "What I'll Never Find" with tons of dramatics; "Asylum #9" and "XTC Riders", which are typical W.A.S.P. anthems with forceful vocals, but the culmination of the whole CD is the final track "The Raging Storm"!!! It combines in one some magnificent lyrics and terrific guitar melodies and vocals. When I heard it, there was one thing that came up in my mind: only Blackie Lawless and Steve Harris can compose such songs!!! Special attention should be paid to the otherworldly drumming of one Frankie Banali! What a drummer! He adds a whole new dimension to the songs and makes them literally "thunder" in my speakers! And this is only a rough mini promo copy of the album! In conclusion, I will say that W.A.S.P. is still an institution with a capital "I" in the Metal world. If you have been suspicious towards this band, this is the time to check it out. Great Metal music is what you'll get. W.A.S.P. FOREVER!!! Bulgarian fans can find this CD in the S.M.F. music shop at a great price! Stoyan Tzonev .....10!

PANIC CELL

"The Bitter Part of Me" CD COPRO RECORDS Ok folks, pot time! Sit back, relax and let this Stoner Rock vortex take care of your thoughts at least for a while... "The Bitter Part of Me" is the debut full-length of PANIC CELL, and it sounds like a pure delight for the ear with its entrancing rhythm, brightness, thickness and eternally nostalgic moods. Additionally, I could sense slight PANTERA influences here and there, and even the vocals reminded me of Anselmo's at places, so I inevitably associated PANIC CELL with DOWN in the very first moment... Still, I am by no means viewing these guys from the UK as copycats, as they are naturally turned out to sound more atmospheric and more to-the-point, when it comes to portraying the 70's vibe! Vanya Marinova .....8.0

LEGEN BELTA

"Insanity" CD CRASH MUSIC The first thing that grabbed my attention when I received this CD was the fact that it was mixed by Jeff Waters. "Insanity" is undoubtedly a Thrash album, but there are also some slight Hard Core influences (in the second track, for example). However, they are not so irritating and there are some great guitar solos and speedy passages in the album. I don't know why exactly, but the vocals are a bit irritating and unsuitable to the music. Perhaps this is because of the "shouting" Hard Core manner of singing. I don't like this shouting type of singing. Anyway, LEGEN BELTA offers a good album with a variety of influences like ANNIHILATOR, MEGADETH ("Dying"), KREATOR ("Black Star") etc. Fans of Thrash Metal will not be disappointed. I hope this band will find its own identity in the future. This will surely lead them to better results! Stoyan Tzonev .....7.0

ATROCITY

"Atlantis" CD NAPALM It is always great to see a band returning to its roots. ATROCITY did just exactly that with their new opus, "Atlantis"... very tight and compact, yet symphonic and multidimensional Gothic Death Metal. It is truly a fascinating effort that will grow on you with every listen. If you love the CREMATORY mid-period releases ("Illusions", "Awake") you ought to give it a spin. I can certainly guarantee you won't be disappointed!!! 8.0

PERSUADER

"Evolution Purgatory" CD SANGUARY What? Is this a new BLIND GUARDIAN album? It's amazing to find out that "Evolution Purgatory" is just the second album of a young band called PERSUADER. Their name became popular after the guys won the "Young Metal Gods" competition and now they unleash their second full-length under the same banner with bands such as W.A.S.P. and QUEENSRÛCHE. This album is just what I expected from BLIND GUARDIAN after the "Nightfall In Middle-Earth" CD, and it was released by PERSUADER instead. I admit I didn't like "A Night At The Opera", because it was too complicated and blurred and lacked the catchiness of the previous record. The second PERSUADER album offers great Speed Power Metal with punchy choruses and good guitar work. My only complaint here is that they have tried to incorporate some complex song structures. Simpler songs like "Fire At Will" are the best ones here. All the fans who have been disappointed in the latest BLIND GUARDIAN album can dig out "Evolution Purgatory" by PERSUADER. Bulgarian fans can do this at the S.M.F. music shop in Sofia. Stoyan Tzonev .....7.5

EXHUMED

"Anatomy Is Destiny" CD RELAPSE I've never been into idolatry or stuff like that, so do not expect to glorify whomsoever, especially in the music field. Yes, I like EXHUMED very much and "Anatomy Is Destiny" is for me the best and the most mature and well played album, which totally entertained me for its perfect combination of precisely composed and performed compositions as well as with its crisp sound and professional production. Obviously the skills of the producer Neil Kernon (his name stands behind albums of CANNIBAL CORPSE, NEVERMORE, MACABRE, etc) has helped EXHUMED a lot and the 11 tracks included in "Anatomy Is Destiny" are a proof for that. Despite EXHUMED's toughness about being compared to CARCASS (see the interview), it would be a lie if I deny the resemblances between these 2 bands, but still EXHUMED are not fully devoid of individuality. What's so bad with calling EXHUMED simply CARCASS followers. I don't think that carries a negative message, especially when you bear in mind that CARCASS split up in 1996. The biggest advantage of EXHUMED, as compared to other Gore Death Metal bands, is the diversity in their ideas from the beginning to the end expressed in fast passages skillfully combined with numerous Grind attacks and some slow passages where you can have a breath of air before submerging into the mad tempo again. The 2 types of vocals (remember "Symphony Of Sickness") also contribute to the diversity in this album. You can also hear masterly played guitar solos that may not appeal to some of the more extreme fans, but trust connoisseurs will love it. What impressed me was also that EXHUMED is obviously a rather extreme band with numerous gory images and lyrics presented in a rather artistic way, maybe it's the photographer Alex Solsa's merits for this. What more can I say? A perfect Death Metal masterpiece strongly influenced from the best works of CARCASS, which will be a real pleasure for every Death Metal connoisseur. Chavdar Tzachkov .....9.0

AMARAN

"Pristine in Bondage" CD LISTENABLE What a cool whiff of fresh air! I haven't heard about this band before, but "Pristine in Bondage" (album #2 in AMARAN's discography) simply kicks ass with its classic sound and nailing production. Style-wise, AMARAN deal with Heavy and Speed, as well as some Power Metal touches. The vocals are solely female (Johanna DePierre) and their slightly MADDER MORTEM-esque clarity makes them stand out as a bright shining star in the night sky, against the background of dense riffs, planks and ponderous drumming. I cannot say that "Pristine in Bondage" is notable for any innovative ideas though, but you check this release out... sometimes the ear needs simply catchier stuff... Vanya Marinova .....7.5

PIGSTY

"Spiders" CD BIZARRE LEPROUS The Gore / Grind anvil of my good friend Roman Bizarre Leprous and his new offer PIGSTY - a maniacal noisy band coming from the Czech Republic. The guys, who sound like escapees from a distant psychiatry and have just ended up in a studio, have created 9 tracks that you could easily kill your grandmother with (that's just reminded me of a freak that I know - the guy was used to awake his grandma around 3 am and to urge her listen to MOTORHEAD, ha-ha). Ultra fast and extreme Gore Grind with some Hard Core influences. The Gore vocals are ultra deranged but also ultra-monotonous, I could barely endure them. The Hard Core vocals are a little better, but sound like the guy is scolding the listener for no reason. I wouldn't say the production is that good - it lacks power, the mixing is not very good, the guitar and especially the bass parts sound feeble, but it's not bad for an Underground band, as a whole. The song lyrics deal with subjects related to spiders and their grandeur, song titles such as "Spider Cannibalism" and "Spiders Functions" sound like odes to spiders, I don't know where that love for these creatures comes from. "Spiders" is not a very memorable album really, despite the not bad moments here and there. But it sounds monotonous as a whole and is devoid of whatsoever agency, the catchy moments are just a few and I don't think I will play it again soon! Chavdar Tzachkov .....6.0

ROMPROPOP

"Rompop" CD BIZARRE LEPROUS Finally something fresh from Bizarre Leprous. ROMPROPOP are totally unknown to me, but when I saw their CD artwork I was sure this would be a very funny band. And I was right - this is groovy but ultra guttural porno Gore / Grind seriously influenced from bands such as GUT, IMPETIGO, COCK AND BALL TORTURE, etc. The music is very heavy and powerful with a great massive sound - a real pleasure for every Gore / Grind head-banger. That's how a Gore / Grind band must sound - sufficiently heavy and brutal, with a lot of ultra fast Grind attacks and some deep slow guttural, catchy moments. I could notice that the guys have a great sense of humor, just see the cover artwork and you will be convinced of this. ROMPROPOP is a band which could be remembered for their funny and entertaining extreme Metal, but be sure that this is quite an extreme band and only devoted Gore / Grind fans will find it funny, especially all fans of the above mentioned bands! The pleasure is guaranteed! But the CD is only 23 minutes long!!! Chavdar Tzachkov .....8.0

PANZERCHRIST

"Room Service" CD MIGHTY MUSIC PANZERCHRIST should be known for their great Death Metal albums that made them be considered as one of the hardest and most qualitative bands coming from Denmark. "Room

Service" is actually their 4th album, with 10 tracks of utterly violent Death Metal strokes, including a cover version of the METAL CHURCH classic "Metal Church". I suppose many of you don't know that the drummer of PANZERCHRIST Reno Killehrich has won the title "fastest feet in the world" with more than 800 hits on pedals in one minute at the NAMM Music Convention, USA. Called with more simple words, he is the fastest drummer in the world on double pedals. In the whole album the double bass drumming is predominant, it seems that Reno has improved his own record, his drumming are super fast and make the music of PANZERCHRIST exceptionally powerful. Unlike the previous album, "Room Service" has a more diverse tempo, expressed in the alternation of moderate passages with fast eruptions. Here and there you will be pleased with some guitar solos. Undoubtedly "Room Service" is an eligible album for every Death Metal connoisseur, especially those who look for a combination of extremity and skill with melody and imagination! Chavdar Tzachkov .....8.0

ARISE

"Kings Of The Cloned Generation" CD SPINEFARM The new album by ARISE was certainly one of the most enjoyable ones to listen to during the last few months. I have always been a fan of Thrash Metal and ARISE offers a solid slab of Swedish-style Death / Thrash in the vein of AT THE GATES and THE HAUNTED. There are even some CARCASS influences here and there, for example "I Stay Above Life". The CD layout is great and so is the artwork. This is a very promising band, which is yet to release its greatest album. The sound and production of "Kings Of The Cloned Generation" are among the best I've heard and the guys' instrumental skills are impeccable. This is surely one of the best Thrash albums of 2003 and I am eager to hear the next release of ARISE. Fans of Thrash and Swedish Death Metal can blindly buy this CD. Stoyan Tzonev .....9.0

COLLISION

"Romantic Display Of Love" CD BIZARRE LEPROUS Pure Grind Core that can smash your brain with its ultra fast attacks. Yes, the Netherlands' COLLISION offer 21 ravaging tracks where the most important detail is the unbelievable skills of the drummer Job G - this guy is beating the skins with the speed of light, an ultra fast animal! The vocals are mostly screaming, which you hardly will escape from in your nightmares (it seems that Wouter V is a very angry man). No doubt, COLLISION is a damn mature and solid band playing old school maniacal Grind Core with simple but strong guitar riffs, unbelievably fast drumming and psychopathic vocals. Not bad! Try it out!!! Chavdar Tzachkov .....7.0

SUSPERIA

"Unlimited 2004" CD TABU RECORDINGS SUSPERIA did it again! After an almost 2-year silence since their excellent "Vindication" album, SUSPERIA are back with full vengeance! This time around, though, they sail under the full wind of Thrash Metal more than ever. In fact "Unlimited 2004" is so tightly within the style definitions you can play it to your friends as the new TESTAMENT album and they will fall for it, no doubt about that! The only drawback for me is that the vocals are slightly on the angrier side, drawing a bit too much close comparison to Phil Anselmo's voice, but that's really no big deal after all. If you have been striving for crunchy Bay Area 80's Thrash recently and the new EXODUS and TANKARD haven't been enough to satisfy your thirst, then you definitely must go for "Unlimited 2004"! Jordan K. ....9.0

APOSTASY

"Cell 666" CD BLACK MARK This is quite an enjoyable album to listen to. APOSTASY have taken the style of Black Metal performed by DIMMU BORGIR in "Enthroned Darkness Triumphant" and brought it to the next level. "Cell 666" is perfectly crafted, with beautiful musicianship, heavy guitar riffs, interesting song structures and lots of keyboard melodies. I usually don't like too much keyboards, but APOSTASY have used them the right way. The atmosphere in their album is unbelievable. What I liked the most is the double-bass drumming, which makes the music heavier and denser. "Cell 666" relies on mid-tempo compositions, so there aren't so much blastbeats here. This surely doesn't mean that the music is less extreme! Definitely you must hear compositions like "Icon" or "Beauty Of Death". This band has the potential to become the next big name in today's Black Metal. Stoyan Tzonev .....8.5

DECEMBER

"Praying Hoping Nothing" CD EARACHE This is the reissue of DECEMBER's debut album. If you haven't heard this band before, the style is extreme Metal Core with plenty of blastbeats and "shouting" vocals. "Praying Hoping Nothing" is a very aggressive piece of music, there are even some Noise influences in their music. The album contains 10 tracks, but this re-released version also has 4 bonuses. These are covers of SKUNK ANANSIE, DEATH ANGEL and MOTORHEAD plus another DECEMBER song. I should also mention that the cover artwork is really awesome! Stoyan Tzonev .....7.0



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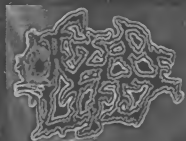
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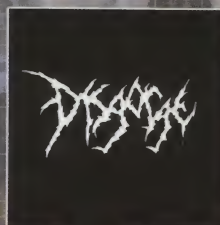
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*OBP 054* Torturing dose of intolerable hot sperm and menstrual blood - nothing else you should await!!!

spermetal ::

**SQUASH BOWELS** for dead god-international devastation CD



goregrind ::

http://www.obscene.cz/mp3/053\_1.mp3  
http://www.obscene.cz/mp3/053\_2.mp3

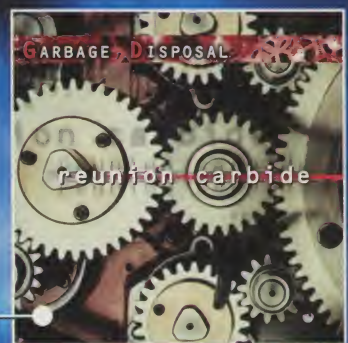


**DEAD INFECTION** the lethal collection CD

*OBP 053* Kings of grind are back on scene & we're here back with reedition of their cult 7"EP's & amazing "The Greatest Shits" MCD on one CD "The Lethal Collection"!!!

goregrind ::

**GARBAGE DISPOSAL** reunion carbide CD



death/grind ::

**www.obscene.cz** **OBSCENE EXTREME festival 2004**  
8.-9.-10.7.2004, Trutnov, Na Bojišti, CZ

:: UPCOMING IN 2004 **SQUASH BOWELS** no mercy CD, **OBSCENE EXTREME 2003** DVD  
**LYKATHÉ** CD, **CRIPPLE BASTARDS** DVD  
OBSCENE productions, P.O.Box 28, 53341 Lázně Bohdaneč, Czech Republic \* www.obscene.cz \* curby@obscene.cz