

This is... **THE DYING**

Belgian neo-thrash

From Belgium in the European Union, or EU as it is called within the group. If you don't know, the EU is a totalitarian organisation where the bigger nations gets the opportunity to repress smaller states. The capital of the EU is the same as Belgium, Brussels, The Dying is hailing from Limburg in Belgium, therefore the references to the political stuff.

These guys are a new name in the genre and the album reviewed in our review pages is their first, under that name at least.

- We started out under a different name, Koen, the vocalist explains, Chimaera, but for obvious reasons that didn't work and we changed the name in 2006 when The Dying came into life.

He obviously refers to the band from the United States called Chimera, according to info on the band's website there has been some confusion about the band because of this similarity in name. The band have released records under its previous name, something I did not know when I made the interview.

- We recorded promos and eventually signed to a small Belgian label. Our first record, Triumph of Tragedy was released in January. And now the record is re-released with a bigger distribution which is good as we get more promotion, Koen explains.

Labeling

The release for more than Belgium is on courtesy of Drakkar records. According to the promotion info from these, The Dying belongs in a sub genre called the New Wave of Thrash Metal (maybe NWOTM?). But what is

this new wave, I have not heard about it before. Koen Explains:

- We were into thrash metal like Slayer, Metallica and Testament but when we started out we started out more like the metalcore but when recording the album we have been returning towards our roots but still it is not truly thrash. It is more of a mix between Slayer thrash, the Gothenburg Death style groove of At the Gates and modern, like Pantera.

The everlasting need to categorise everything, even though music is impossible to define (most bands in all genres has their own flirts with different genres) and in the end everything is usually a bowl of influences. Koen fills in a bit on this "labeling issue":

- People have a need to label things and nobody is better at that thing than you yourselves and our music fits in the description of the Neo thrash style, but saying the new wave of thrash is a bit too much, we are not that innovating, just a band that wants to do thrash metal.

Belgian blue

As stated previously the band is from Belgium, a nation that

stands for what is bad about this continent through the European Union, but it is also a nation of where there is a scene for metal. The scene however looks different depending on the nation you visit, and according to Koen the Belgian scene is rather large and there is quite a selection to pick from.

- It is not as big a scene as the one in Sweden, Koen explains, we have some big bands like Aborted and there are lots of bands and lots of shows, every weekend there are six or seven shows to choose from. It is a rather big scene with several good bands, we are spoiled.

It certainly sounds like they are spoiled those Belgian blue, sorry Belgian people I mean. Here in Östersund where I happen to live there is nothing like this, hardly any band does come here to the remote areas of the northern Swedish inland. Maybe these guys will honour us with their presence, but that is hardly likely.

Album

The album called 'Triumph of Tragedy' hit the Belgian stores in





January of 2008 and from there it has all happened with distribution from Drakkar and so forth to this re-release in December the same year. According to Koen this record was fairly straightforward and nothing odd or different in its creation.

- I think we did it like every other bands, we rehearse some songs and throw in some two to three rough songs and build around that. We did that for six to nine months, and then pre-production and rewriting the songs to make them better, Koen states.

Then two months after this procedure the band made their way into the studio to record this record, the first one by The Dying, but not really the first from the band. You know how the band sounds as I have already written that in my very informative and great review but if you are interested in a second opinion, you may read further, otherwise I suggest you skip this coming part and read below it.

- We have lots of thrash influences, Koen explains, we have some melodic parts and some people say that they can hear the influences from At the Gates, they are a big influence so I would lie if I said that they didn't influence our music. Some melodies may come from there and some Pantera like groove, all in a mixture. Still, the red line is thrash metal.

Next order of business

Alright, then let us move on to

the next order of business about this record.

I often tend to wonder how much the albums have turned out as the bands have expected or hoped, or if they are big compromises between what the band wants and what is possible. Here is what Koen says about it:

- We had another way of thinking in the beginning, we recorded the album in two different studios. We had much problems in the first, with corrupt files and things like that, so we went into another studio and recorded everything once again. To begin with this threw us off and we thought we would fail but we recorded it again and we are pleased with how it turned out. We wanted to have this very modern mix, very polished and heavy like Lamb of God and other newer more modern bands. But our producer said we should go for a rawer sound and gave an example that had us convinced. That mix gave us a harder and rawer sound which we are very pleased with. It turned out really well.

Judge for yourself when reading what Koen replied.

Still, there are always differences between being satisfied your-

self and having a successful record.

Reviews were rather good for 'Triumph of Tragedy' but still nothing really happened and the band was slowly giving up hope for a success with the album.

- In the beginning the reviews were all pretty good to very good but still we didn't get any recognition, Koen states, we didn't get to do as many shows as we had expected, we thought that it wouldn't really make it but then Drakkar showed an interest and our managers got us to support Slayer and it started booming two/three months ago. And soon we will tour Spain and in 2009 the rest of Europe, we had to wait for a while but I am very pleased with how it turned out.

Gotham best?

It turned out so well that Hal- lowed.se received one of these new Drakkar released promotion records which we have already reviewed with a very positive

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rating. There are some very good songs on this record and I was actually quite impressed with it, surprised as well as I didn't really expect it to turn out as it did (but you can read more about that in the review). As I already stated in this paragraph there are some good songs on the album and something I always tend to ask and also usually get an answer to is the question about which song is the best and here is the answer.

- *Slaves of Tomorrow* is probably my favourite, it is a bit softer and a little different for the record, I like it very much, Koen explains.

I add that I like the song called *Gotham* best.

- *Gotham* is also a very good song, Koen agrees, a heavy powerful song which is also a favourite of mine.

Slayer or Metallica

And now for what is usually considered the main reason to do

already stated by Koen earlier in this article, the band will tour Spain and Europe in the coming months. However, what is confirmed is the touring of the German-speaking nation and nothing about Scandinavia where we and most of our readers reside (even though we have a substantial amount of reader in the US as well), but the band will not get there either. Not as far as anyone can tell yet anyway. But when we are talking about touring anyway, which band would be the dream partner to tour with for The Dying, well Koen gives you the answer.

- *Slayer* or *Metallica* but we just wants to go on tour and it really doesn't matter who we will open for, Koen replies rather unsurprisingly, just that we get to do it, he adds.

Of course the company might not matter much but bigger bands gives more press and more fans

on shows, new fans but the main importance is to do as many shows as possible and one might not be able to choose freely.

- I don't want to be picky but if I could choose freely it would be either *Slayer* or *Metallica*, maybe *At the Gates* if they were to play something, Koen explains.

Ending

With that said we leave the issues and thoughts about touring with these or those and we will end on the high note with some comments from The Dying to their fans who reads this and of course to everyone else who reads this article.

- For the fans I just want to say: check us out, we have a website and a myspace and if you want - leave us a message as we always wish to be in contact with our fans.

And with those final words we leave The Dying and Koen with the wishes of the best of luck for the upcoming tours and coming record releases. Check them out, there are samples on their myspace site and read the review on this site, all important links can be found there.

Dir.K