

CIRCLE OF SILENCE

German band Circle of Silence have just recently released their first album on Massacre Records called The Blackened Halo, it follows two self released albums released in 2006 and 2008. Riff-oriented power metal is how the band themselves describe their music.

They are five guys from somewhere near Stuttgart in the southern parts of Germany. In 2006 the focus changed from a hobby project into a real band explains Björn Boehm, the band's bassist and songwriter.

So what about the band, what have they done before The Blackened Halo?

- Before the release of The Blackened Halo via Massacre Records, we have released 2 self-produced albums in 2006 (Your Own Story) and 2008 (The Supremacy Of

Time), explains Björn.

The band describes their music as Riff-oriented power metal, others say that they sound close to bands like Wizard or Mystic Prophecy, a little heavier form of the power metal genre. Björn explains more what it sounds like:

- The basement is build up from Heavy Metal and Power Metal with a touch Thrash and some modern elements.

Different tastes make Circle of Silence quite unique says Björn when he is asked about the in-

spirations that shape the band's music.

- Our drummer Pit listens to a lot of hardcore or metalcore stuff. In contrast to this is our singer Nick more linked into melodic or european power metal. Our guitarist Chris is a big fan of 80s Rock like Journey but also of rough US Power Metal. Tobias and me we like also the Gothenburg metal style and of course rough power metal.

The Blackened Halo

As we have already established before, The Blackened Halo is the third album from the band, the first one released by a record label. It is heavier than the first ones and the band has reduced the use of keyboards to create a more rough sound than before. They have also gone towards a more coherent sound than before says Björn.

- On our first record the songs were too much mixed with other metal styles. The singing for example was not always clean, there were also some death vocals on it.

Björn describes the sound of the second album as the start of the current Circle of Silence sound but it was a lot more old school power metal than the sound they are showcasing today.

They worked with Vagelis Maranis who Björn says has meant

a lot to the sound of Circle of Silence's latest offering.

- We wanted to have a guitar orientated production that kicks ass and he understood exactly what we wanted. He created a really great sound and we are very happy with the result.

- Working with him was quite funny but also very professional, he knows exactly what a song needs to push it to another level. All in all I can say we had a great time with him in the studio.

And according to Björn the album was all that they could have hoped for and they are really happy with the album.

It is an album that also looks rather striking with a distinct cover artwork that is destined to be noticed in a crowd of album covers, it has a post apocalyptic style to it which is something the band has had on their earlier albums as well. This particular cover is inspired by the opening song

"Synthetic Sleep" and is made by canadian artist Vitaly Alexius. Björn explain that if you read the lyrics of that song, you will recognise the scenery on the cover.

Live

If I read the promotional information the band is stated to be a very powerful and energetic live band and to that Björn states, with some kind of irony:

- Yeah i think it is true. If you don't believe it, invite us to come to your town.

As it looks now, we will not have the possibility to see the band come out and play live as they all have time consuming jobs which makes it very difficult for the band to get away for some live dates, still the dream lives on for them.

- Maybe one day we can make this dream come true and do a



big tour, Björn explains.

So, as you see you have here a good incentive to buy the album since good sales will lead to the band maybe doing a tour and then you don't only have to take their word for it. They will have to show you that they are good.

Reception & Ending

As we have ticked the live box, lets once again return to the album. When I conduct this interview, the album has been out for a while and they have had at

least one good review in the one we published here at hallowed.se but what about other feedback? How has the album been received by the fans and the media?

- As a newcomer you hope to get some cool reviews or fan reactions. Some of the reviews were really enthusiastic with great ratings. We also got positive feedback from fans all over the world what we never expected and we really appreciate that.

And the Björn explain that they are pleased with the reception,

that it is always good to see that people like the music and that all the hard work has been worth it. However, to be successful it is all about being seen and noticed, good reviews and interviews is one way to do that, but it also needs good promotion to be seen in todays busy musical world.

Another way to be noticed is having good looking album covers and logos and that is something this band really has, both cover and logo are eye catching wether you like them or not. The logo is

designed Janne Pitkänen from Inferi Art, a company responsible for amongst other the Sonata Arctica logo.

- Before this release we had a regular font-logo but we thought we need a more unique logo. We wanted something that stays in mind of the people. I think Janne did a great job with the tribal symbol and the logo.

So, no tour plans, but a new and exciting album out there, so if allowed to freely say his mind for a while, this is what Björn says.

- Thanks to all of your readers that have taken the time to read this. Maybe you wanted to give our album "The Blackened Halo" a chance, you will not regret it. Join us on facebook: www.facebook.com/circleofsilence.

Circle of Silence's The Blackened Halo is available to buy now, if you like to know more about it check out our review in the

reviews section. We thank Björn and Circle of Silence for taking the time to answer our questions and we wish the band the best of luck in their coming adventures. Be sure to check out the band's web spaces for up to date information about tours and news.