

DAGOBA



In the French charts, planning a big tour and riding some ship all over the world in their latest album, things seem to be going well for this French band. Hallowed decided it was a good thing to speak with the band in order to get some stuff to write down into an article about these guys. The one we spoke to was the bass player who calls himself Werther who took his time to answer our questions.

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The first thing any ordinary person comes to think of when it comes to this band is their name Dagoba of course. It brings the thoughts to the swampy planet where the little green man called Yoda lives in the second of the old Star Wars movies. And my suspicion about this was correct and Werther confirm to me that

the name derives from Star Wars and the residence of Yoda.

"We are big fans of the movies and we were looking for something short and recognizable" Werther explains. He also explains that they also were looking for something for the fans to remember and a name that was sounding metal. The question though would be whether or not the Star Wars movies really are metal with their commercial suc-

cess and style.

Maybe a flair for the dramatic is what the band has, look at the names, Werther on the bass, Shawter on vocals, Izakar on the guitar and Frank on drums. Those guys probably have other names but maybe in the vein of the metallic and flair for drama they like their artists names instead.

"It is a mix of styles, Symphonic music, Synths and Black metal but also classical metal like the likes of Metallica and Machine Head" is how Werther describes the style of the band.



The inspirations are found all over the place, not just in metal but in different kinds of music. "Bands like Mötley Crüe, Skid Row or Guns'n'Roses but also Symphonic metal like Rhapsody or classical music or symphonies" are named by Werther as inspirations for the band, he also adds that it is metal which is the main influence.

POSEIDON

Poseidon is the god of the ocean, the man with a trident who watches over the oceans according to mythology. Poseidon is also the name of the latest record by Dagoba, a record which the process was started a year ago during the tour for the Face the Colossus album. It was then writing begun, when the band were traveling on a big boat they found the inspiration for the story of Poseidon and they started looking for ideas on

that theme and the songs soon became points in that concept.

"It is also what Dagoba is about, Metaphores, a metaphoric position traveling on a boat around the world visiting different places along the journey" Werther explain and also adds that they added pirates to that theme. "It seemed to be a good idea as we wanted to make a more powerful, heavy album than the previous one."

By making Poseidon more powerful and heavy it is also something of a return to the roots, more similar to what the band made before the more melodic Face the Colossus. The predecessor was a different album for the band and with Poseidon they returned to heavier more powerful music of before.

"We wanted to make more powerful, harder music so it is back to the roots" Werther explains.

There is one video made from the record, Black Smokers is the song called but that is not the favourite song of Werther who states that his favourite song is I Sea Red. There will be more about the video later in the article.

TOURING

The release of Poseidon was a great success for the band with them entering the charts in France, something that is not very usual for metal bands in France which is a nation according to Werther not very known for its metal scene. Metal bands often have difficulty to reach the crowds according to Werther and it is often hard for metal bands to be noticed in France.

"There has only been two metal bands before making it the top 50 Trust and Gojira" Werther explains and also points out that the chart success do not change



anything for the band, they will keep doing what they want to do and create music that they like.

Usually metal bands do not really go on tour anymore, usually in interviews the bands always state that they will play some local gigs but it seems that going on regular tours is a rarity these days. Not so for Dagoba though, they have already started locally and later there will be tours all over the place.

"We will be touring in the Netherlands and Belgium in late early december Late November. Then we are planning to be support for a bigger band for a tour through Europe, that will be announced soon. In the beginning of next year we will be going to Australia, USA and Japan. It will be a long tour, but we like it and it is the main thing for Dagoba it is why we make music"

Werther also points out that making albums in the studio is good but it is better to be on tour. It is sometimes tiring with much

touring but never boring. "have only had two days off since the touring started in october but still it is what we love to do and it sits well with the families and girlfriends and such as well so it can be combined" he explains and also manifest themselves a bit like a rarity among metal bands these days with that much touring which seems to be more a thing of the past these days but maybe the making of music with a theme in the past keeps them living in the past.

BLACK SMOKERS

Something that struck our crew at this publication was how well made and how good the video clip for Black Smokers looked, it was a breath of fresh air in contrast to the many bands that stand somewhere and just play music, this clip has a story and is filmed beautifully, almost at motion picture quality really.

This videoclip was directed by Arnaud Lalanne, a well known director in France and a man



they have worked with before. Werther explains that the band wanted something different from their videoclip, not just them standing around playing their instruments, they wanted something more.

"We wanted something like a movie, photographic with some action a little in the vain of Clockwork Orange and with a little twist at the end" he explains, we did not however get a description of what the story in the videoclip is about but if you watch it inside our review of the band you can check it out for yourself and see if you can understand what it is about or just savor the mystery of it.

The band is also planning loosely for another clip, maybe of the song I Sea Red according to Werther but nothing on that part is decided yet and the plans for the near future is also mainly touring so it will have to be something that is squeezed in between tours anyway. "We will

spend most of next year on tour starting in LA and from what I see from the booking agency even the summer seem to be booked" Werther explains.

ENDING OF SORT

So, if you have the ways past a place where the band plays, be sure to check them out, they will be available at many places around our globe. According to Werther the plans are also to visit our regions here in Scandinavia, but I guess you will have to check the band's website for more information on tourdates and everything.

With that line pointing out that it is a bit unusual with metal bands touring around the world nowadays it is time to end this article, Werther had no famous last words for you readers but I can only say that if you like melodic death metal be sure to check Dagoba out, it is more than the residence of Yoda.



IMAGES ON THIS SITE FROM THE BLACK SMOKERS VIDEOCLIP.

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