

DARKSEED

German Doom band Darkseed have been absent from the scene for five years which was a little bit of an enforced hiatus due to Stefan Herterich leaving the band, something that almost led to the end of Darkseed according to drummer Maurizio Guolo.

Article by Daniel Källmalm
Images from Massacre press

"When we decided to go on and play our reunion gig with Harry as a new singer, it was already late 2008" he explain when I ask them about the reason for this long break.

During 2006-2008 the members were all involved in other musical projects with Maurizio in Australia for a year and the other busy as well it wasn't until after the reunion gig they took it up again. "After our reunion gig it all went pretty smooth, songwriting and recording the new album. And now in 2010 we are back again with a new album, which made us very happy" Maurizio explain.

Changes

Before we look into the new album called Poison Awaits there are some other things, I mean five years is a long time between album and lot of things usually tend to happen in that amount of time, so what has changed for Darkseed? For starters there were a few more influences in the songwriting this time, before most was handled by Stefan, now it is a bit different Maurizio explains, "Now everyone is more involved into Darkseed in general. Tommy is doing the mainpart with his huge production and songwriting experience, Harry writes the lyrics, and even Tom and Armin wrote a couple of songs. That's why in my opinion "Poison Awaits" differs from "Ultimate Darkness" and the albums before."

The departure of Stefan Her-

terich wasn't the only departure and difference from the former album, "Martin Motnik our bass player left the band and was replaced by former Eisbrecher bass player Michael Behnke."

A lot has changed during the time of hiatus for the band that is called one of the most original bands in Germany. That is a designation the band think they can sign up upon as they always try to be creative all through their long career. "We still play Gothic influenced Metal, and we try to be as creative as possible. There are not many others around in our genre from Germany, which are still playing this kind of music. We are still here, because we love what we do and that's the engine which kept us alive" states Maurizio on the question about this topic.



Poison Awaits

Now this, one of the most original bands of Germany are now back with a new album, which I already have stated is called Poison Awaits and some information about this album have already leaked in earlier answers from Maurizio according to whom they tried to be as modern as possible without abandoning their musical roots. "It's still Gothic Metal, but mixed with groovy drumming, great choruses, guitar soloing and Harry made an awesome job on vocals, trying not to copy Stefan's vocals but just bringing in his own excellent vocal style." It is also due to this new vocals

that Maurizio states that this new album cannot really be compared to the earlier ones.

That the records cannot be compared is not a sign though that the band have changed but that Harry's vocals are more melodic but at the same time aggressive which is definitely something that is new for Darkseed if one is to take Maurizio's word for it. They still have their song writing ideas that's for sure states Maurizio when I ask him about the difference, according to him it is the vocal style that is the main difference between Poison Awaits and what the band have done before.

An album does, as we all know,

consist of a collection of songs and usually it is like this that the one listening to the album has a favourite song, in our review we stated Incinerate as a stand out track, but what does Maurizio think? "I like the Title Track, fast and still groovy, great chorus and very heavy. Another track is Incinerate of course: great hookline, very long song, almost 7 minutes and very dominating keyboards, which made the song very unique." It appears that both critic and musician thinks the same, that is actually more usual than you think, at least with this critic.



Incinerate, and more poison

Speaking of Incinerate which seems to be a good way to promote this album and is already featuring on compilations and things like that, it is a bit of a hit song for the band and according to Maurizio it was something the band had planned for. "It was planned but with a shorter version, about 4 minutes long as no DJ wants to play a song with 7 minutes." this short version is finished but the band has not cleared everything with the label so it is a little wait and see there, so as Maurizio says: "we will see what happens."

The band also have a new studio that really is not that much new as it is basically the same studio where they recorded Ultimate Darkness in 2005. A stu-

dio which has the most modern of equipment and a place where the band is at home, "Tommy knows how a Darkseed record has to sound and he is an absolutely professional in terms of recording and producing. It makes working very comfortable and relaxed for us. The studio has the newest equipment and recording gear, but you still need someone who knows how it all works." It seems like they know what they are doing so someone in the group at least know how it all works.

The review in Hallowed was quite alright with a good score but as I had not yet seen any other reviews that seemed to be a question to ask, how the reception had been for the album so far. "Most of the reviews were cool, they

liked the new album, and they did not believe that Darkseed will do another record. So they were quite surprised, when they finally recieved an advance tape with new Darkseed songs. The fans are happy as well, but you never can satisfy everyone, that's for sure. The most important point is, that you are happy with your album and the work you have put into it." The last part is something I can sign up on, the only one you really can satisfy is yourself, all other stuff is a bonus really.

Looking back to that last sentence again, are the band satisfied themselves with what they have accomplished with new album Poison Awaits. Maurizio states that they are all proud of the album and satisfied with what

came out. "When we started songwriting and brought all the ideas together we did not know how it will sound finally. We had parts here and there, no vocals, also some complete songs" he explains and also points out that the album turned out the way they wanted, "I think it turned out fantastic, and I am happy how Harry interpreted the songs." Maurizio also adds to the reply that he likes the artwork which he considers being something new for the band.

Live

What about live appearances for the band, is that something that is planned for the near future or

is it further down the line? It is the next step for the band, they are really wanting to get out there and play in front of their crowds. That is something they haven't done now since october 2008 and the urge to play live again is what has kept Darkseed alive during these years according to Maurizio. "That is the only way to promote the album and to make people aware of the fact, that Darkseed is still alive in 2010" he explains and goes on to say that the plan is to do something during autumn of 2010 and that it will in that case be more of single shows than a whole tour. That statement is something we hear quite often here at Hallowed nowadays, when we

were writing the magazine and printing it, many bands did do tours, now it just a festival here or single shows at a few locations, no national tours or anything, times seems to be changing.

And on that note with a blatant statement from the article writer we move on to the band again and ask them if they have something to add to our readers now that we have ran out of questions to ask. "Thanks for everyone who still believed in Darkseed. We are very thankful for all the positive reactions and look out for Darkseed live in 2010/11. We will definitely also hit the stages again... and not as stagedivers..hahaha"

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