



Mercury Tide

Dirk Thurisch, the voice of Angel Dust recently showed himself again with his band Mercury Tide. This after ten years of silence, ten years without any release just one or two rumours of Angel Dust returning to life again but none of it ever really materialised. What did materialise was Mercury Tide who released their debut album Why? a year after the latest Angel Dust release and now almost ten years later the second Mercury Tide album Killing Saw sees the light of day and we here at Hallowed have been fortunate enough to speak with Dirk about this new release and more.



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The story of Mercury Tide begins about a decade ago, at that time the line-up was rather different than today. The members have all been exchanged since then as the Mercury Tide of then was more of a project than a band with members mainly from other bands while the band of today is a band rather than a project. The debut "Why?" was released in 2003 and according to Dirk it was a brilliant album with a different line-up than the one today.

- It was Anders Iwers, you know him from Tiamat, he played bass guitar. Stefan Gemballa played the drums and my cousin Dennis (Riehle) he played the keyboards and I played the guitar and did the vocals. And we star-

ted with the first album "Why?" We recorded it in Germany and had a great time and this album was brilliant I think.

Following this debut album Dirk took a bit of a break for almost a decade before work begun on the next Mercury Tide album, with a new band and later on a new album.

- We went into the studio with a new line-up consisting of friends from Germany. Then we got a deal and a new album.

Besides a new line-up which means different faces another difference is the sound which according to Dirk is a bit harder today than it was back in the day but it is also a bit more rock than it was.

Angel Dust?

For you who recognise the name of Dirk Thurisch and Angel Dust a band we have not really seen

anything from since the release of the "The Human Bondage" album which was released in 2002 and in the press information following this album it was stated that Angel Dust was a closed chapter for Dirk, but is it really? Well, he was a bit sketchy on that although he indicated that it most likely was a finished chapter on his part.

- The guys from Angel Dust and me checked it out again two years ago, the drummer asked me "hey do you want to play with Angel Dust" and I said "okay, okay, okay" and we wrote new songs for a new album and the first time was great, like the first two months but after this time we felt that it was not the same like in the early days and the drummer and guitar player had a bit of stress so we put that on ice again.

And they would not try it again

for a thousand years or so Dirk says and laughs. But he reckons that Angel Dust is dead now as it seems difficult to achieve that same feeling as it was before and Dirk is working with Mercury Tide now instead so he thinks that maybe it would be better to put Angel Dust in the grave, but still he left a little opening somewhere there.

- Maybe we write new songs some time in the future, I don't know. But Angel Dust is a long story, we split up ten years ago and sometimes there are some ideas but it is not the same like in the early days so I think we stop Angel Dust and it is better for us and for the fans.

In a way it might be sad to think of Angel Dust crumbled to dust but their albums of course are still there and you can hear Mercury Tide play *Bleed* during their live

shows and the albums they made will not get any worse. And for those longing for more such material there is Mercury Tide who has the same voice and seems to be very active at the moment so maybe we can expect a few more albums from them.

Killing Saw

The second album of Mercury Tide goes by the name of "Killing Saw" and it is an album of a dozen tracks which starts with an intro that has some brilliant melodies if we are to believe what Dirk Thurisch told me. This intro then leads into the title track *Killing Saw*.

- This is a great song with a good chorus and it is a good rock song.

Following this title track comes the track *Searching* which according to Dirk is a great metal song

while the rest of the album is in a similar vein to the first Mercury Tide album if you look at the song styles but a bit harder and a with a slightly more rockish sound than that first album.

When asked about the favourite song on the album Dirk answers *Lord of Memories* without any kind of hesitation, although when I say that my favourite was *Killing Saw* he admitted that the favourite track varies a little from Time to Time and at a certain point in time it might be the title track as well.

The cover artwork of this album is a striking one with a sort of horror theatre look, but is there any meaning to this cover? Dirk explains that he was inspired by the movie *Seven* and wanted something in the same sort of style and imagery as that movie. It was made by an old friend of Dirk's



whom I assume is Carsten Drescher at Media Logistics, at least he is credited for the art and graphics for the album.

- I asked him if he could make me a good cover and booklet and he said okay and asked if I had any idea what. I said no, but I like the style of the symbol for the movie Seven. I said that I would like the cover a little bit dark and a little bit horror and stuff. And he asked me for the title and I said "Killing Saw" and he said "okay, I'll call you in three weeks". Then he worked on it and showed me the cover and it was great.

The album was released in late may 2012 and it has been rather well received by the medias, for example the Hallowed webzine awarded it a 5/7 rating and it has gotten more reviews that has been similarly positive towards

the music of Mercury Tide. Also the fans seems to like it according to Dirk who says that the response for the sound and everything has been generally positive, even old Angel Dust fans says that Mercury Tide is a good idea for Dirk. And those same fans do get some Angel Dust nostalgia if they visit the live shows of Mercury Tide explains Dirk and says that they play the song *Bleed* which was originally done by Angel Dust on the album "Bleed" from 1999.

Touring? & the future

So when they are playing old classics like *Bleed* and of course their own stuff like the songs from "Killing Saw", are Mercury Tide a good live band? Dirk thinks that they are.

- Yes we are a good live band, we have the same sound live as

we have on the album.

And they have a new guitar player named Johnny who is a second guitarist and according to Dirk he does a very good job so far. The writer has no idea what Johnny's last name is, or if he even exists as there is no mention of him on the website, the label's site or any other information site.

They will play some shows in support of this album and Dirk hopes for the possibility of a tour and for that Scandinavia seems to be a desired target.

- We have shows in Germany, we have two release shows then we have some more shows in Germany, only in Germany so far but we hope to be playing in Sweden, America or whatever. I have not played in Sweden before so I would want that, we played with Angel Dust in America and Euro-



pean tours but not in Sweden or Norway and stuff. I hope we can play in Sweden or wherever. And I like Scandinavia, my first favourite band when I was young was A-ha.

Aha, there you go, probably something you didn't know, Dirk Thurisch was a fan of A-ha (from Norway) when he was young. Well, they are brilliant aren't they? Moreover, Dirk explains that the band is hoping to be able to do lots of shows now but they are also already working on the follow up to "Killing Saw" so you can expect not to be kept waiting for another ten years for the next life sign from him, according to Dirk you will see that one a lot sooner than that.

- I have some new ideas for songs and in the wintertime we started with a new record so next

year we will have a new album. In my little home studio I have a lot of ideas in my computer and the drummer has a studio so when we are finished with the writing we go into the studio.

And with that Hallowed thanks Dirk for his time and for speaking to us about the "Killing Saw" album, Angel Dust and Mercury Tide. To keep up to date about the next endeavours of Mercury Tide check out the band's website where you will find all you can hope for about the band. Also, be sure to check out our review of "Killing Saw" if you want to know more.

Further reading

Our review of Killing Saw
Mercury Tide.de
Mercury Tide on youtube
Mercury Tide on Reverbnation
Mercury Tide on myspace
info on Limited Access Records