

WIZARD



Back in 1995 some Germans released an album called *Son of Darkness*. These Germans were of course a band called Wizard who have just recently released their ninth album which is called *...of wariwulfs and blutwarves*, an album that according to drummer Snoppi is the most varied album they have ever made but at the same time it is the same as ever.

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- We are Wizard and we are not able to make other music than we did the last 20 years, says Snoppi and points out that he is okay with that.

This opinion is something he shares with our assessment in our review of this album, better and

a step forward while maintaining what Wizard have done before is what we said and that is what Snoppi said as well.

This new album is according to Snoppi not as heavy as Thor since the guitars are not as heavy, or as loud as they were on Thor.

- The drums are more in the foreground and loud like hell. I like the sound very much, Achim Köhler really did a very good job,

Snoppi replies when comparing *...of wariwulfs and blutwarves* to the album *Thor* which preceded it.

He points out that he also likes the sound of *Thor* and that he is always surprised over what Achim (Köhler) does to their songs and laughs.

A distinct feature of this new album is the cover, it has a quite distinctive look which is made by



Steve Argyle and was supposed to be the wariwulf on something like a book which according to Snoppi it does not really look like anymore, this to highlight the fact that it is a concept album.

- Now you cannot really imagine that this is a book, but in the end it doesn't matter, Snoppi explains.

- I hope that we can work again with Steve on the next album again. I do think, that you sell more albums if the covers are good. It makes a good album a touch better, if you know what I mean. The total package makes more fun if the painting is good. And of course you can do great t-

shirts and other merchandise out of it.

CONCEPT

The concept of this new album is a fantasy themed one derived from a trio books written by Andre Wiesler. The books are about a character called Hagen Von Stein and are called Hexenmacher, Teufelshatz, Wolfsfluch. In these books there be witches, vampires, werewolves and so on. This story appealed to the band and they approached Andre with the suggestion to which he agreed and wrote the texts for the album together with Volker (bass) who was the guy who

came up with the suggestion for this concept after reading the books.

- It's a very strange story with unusual "Vampires" which starts in the middle age and goes till the year 2007. There is one person, Hagen von Stein, who is the main figure. Wariwulf, Hagr, Blutvarwes etc. are often very old german words or from the nordic countries, they are no typical english names, Snoppi explains when asked about this concept.

Don't you now think that this is all about the concept and that the album doesn't work without immersing yourself in the concept or that this concept effect the

style of the music that much, according to Snoppi it doesn't.

- But the good thing is, that if you are not interested in the story, you do not have to study it. The music also works without knowing anything of the concept.

So, how do the band select the themes for their albums? Before this it was about Thor, one has been of Odin another called Goochan was also based on a fantasy story which was co-written with the author of the book William B. Nuke, also this time it was the idea by Volker who according to Snoppi reads a lot of books, which he himself does as well.

- We like to do concept stories

because it gives you more room to write about an exciting theme. If you only have one song for a theme than you cannot place very much in it, he explains.

THE ALBUM

In the press release for this album they state that this is the most perfect album from Wizard so far and because of that one obvious question for me would be what is it they are most satisfied with when it comes to this new album.

- I like the sound very much. And also there is a very good variety between hard riffs and very good choruses, Snoppi replies to

my question.

According to Snoppi the song Taste of Fear is a great example of this.

- In the text part Sven sings like Mille Petrozza but in the refrain there is a very melodic part which I also like very much. The new album has very much very great refrains without beeing too soft, too childish. You know what I mean?

There is nothing on this album that the band are less satisfied with and Snoppi says that it will be very hard for them to top this album next time around.

I had a little feeling that this band was quite into the viking/



nordic mythology thing as they have done Thor and Odin but also some more albums with themes looking a bit like they are being nordic mythology. Because of that I asked if this fantasy themed album is signifying that they are leaving the nordic mythology thing now, but according to Snoppi they have never really been into any certain theme and that these nordic mythology themed albums were made because it is Volker's religion and nothing more.

- We did not do it to be "cool" or because it is modern. We always tried to write interesting stories, starting with the four Thunderwarriors on "battle of metal", "bound by metal" and "head of the deceiver" and founding the strange story about Goochan. I have nearly finished writing the texts for the next album and it will be a completely different theme again, he explains.

The favourite songs on an album is my ever present question and I asked this one for this inter-

view as well.

- I like Heart eater very much, it is very dark and evil. And also Taste of fear because Sven sings so fantastic thrash metal like, Snoppi replies to that question, a question that is usually ducked by many musician but here I had a straight answer which was great, thanks for that.

RECEPTION

Wizzard's new album got a good reception in the Hallowed review with a five of seven rating



"I would say that the Wizzard manages to create some magic with their new album and it also creates some great atmosphere for all the little demons and wizards that will buy and listen to this album" is what was written in our review, but how about other media, has the album been as well received there?

- In germany it seems that the people like the album very much. The view reviews I read from foreign countries are not as good as the german reviews, Snoppi explains but also adds that it does not mean that the "non-writers" will not like the album.

- So what germany concerns I am very satisfied with the reactions. Let's see where this ends.

Snoppi explain that they have just been to Ireland playing to promote the album, then there are gigs in Germany, Czech Republic and Slovenia and they will play with among others Gamma Ray and Mr. Big. A bigger tour however is not anything that is planned yet.

- We were offered a tour with another big german band, but we could not confirm that because the time to realize it was too short, he explains and adds that this is because they have to get holidays from their normal jobs and that can be quite difficult for four weeks.

- Thanks for reading all this. Would be great if you (and the

fans out there) would support us a little bit. You are also invited to look on our homepage for news, downloads (the first two albums are complete online) and so on.

That is what Snoppi or Sören van Heek as he's real name is says when I ask him to add something for you readers. So to help you out there, buy their album, it is according to a review I read at hallowed.se a really good album. It is available now and has been for a few weeks now, ...of wariwulfs and blutwarves is the name of this album and it is released through Massacre Records. And with that we thank Snoppi and Wizzard for taking the time to answer our questions.