

The background is a dark, textured blue-grey color with a rough, torn-paper-like edge. In the upper left, there is a white compass rose with a star-like center. The title 'Zero Degree' is written in a large, white, gothic-style font across the top. In the lower half, there is a cityscape where buildings are melting into a pool of water, with steam rising from the melting structures.

Zero Degree

In from the cold into the comfort and protective hands of Massacre Records who took upon themselves to release the Surreal World to the entire world, now then let us tell you the story of the freezing point, Zero Degree.

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PHOTO: MASSACRE RECORDS
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The story begins in 2006 when three guys called Pascal, Thomas and Tobias from the booze and metal town of Nordhausen in the eastern part of Germany decided to found a band. The main target of these guys was to create music in a vein similar to the one we could hear from In Flames, Dark Tranquillity and even Iron Maiden. This kind of music was however so complex that the band needed three guitarist

to play the double or triple leads that is described as monstrous on the stage.

The band soon found themselves with a complete line up and in 2007 they played their first shows and went on to tour extensively and shared stages with many bands like Suidakra and Eisregen. In 2007 they also recorded their first demo 'The Storm and the Silence' which they promoted through Myspace.

Mentioned were the Gothenburg kind of melodic death metal infused with some heavy metal

stuff but those are not something the band themselves mentions as sources of inspirations for them. The inspirations are the same as they seem to be for many bands.

- Inspirations are mainly the modern world, movies and literature.

These are not uncommon inspirations for a band, and judging by their music you could imagine that other sources of inspirations might be the likes of In Flames, Dark Tranquillity, At the Gates and Iron Maiden. Their music can be described as a kind of melodic death metal, or as they themselves would describe it:

- It is powerful melodic metal

and orients itself to old school melodic death metal but still with a modern touch to it.

A Very Melodic Kind of death metal with catchy choruses is how it was described in our review and in the description of the vocals we touched upon it looking towards the more extreme as well.

Surreal World

'Surreal World' is the name of Zero Degree's debut album, it was released in 2010 by the band themselves and it was released again in March this year by Massacre Records a label rather good in pushing their bands. It is an

album the band's members are proud of as it marks a goal they had set out to achieve.

- It was necessary for us because it made Zero Degree a real band.

As usual with many bands we interview they do not admit to having a favourite but nevertheless this time there is at least a good explanation for not wanting to name a favourite song.

- I think they are all special to me. Every song has its own background and history. They fit perfectly together and make the album what it is; a diverse and interesting album.

As we have already been touching upon, this band made and released this album in 2010 so they had no backing from anyone back then and had to do it all themselves and the hardest thing about that was the problem of not really knowing if the course of action is the correct one.

- You don't know if what you're doing is going to be okay and if





you're following the right way. But in the end our work turned out great.

Now they are working with a label, Massacre Records which can help them get better promotion than they are available to provide themselves. The band describes it as a big opportunity for them to work with Massacre and have the hopes that this collaboration will be beneficial for both them and Massacre. And despite some saying that labels are not really needed these days,

this is something that the band doesn't completely agree with.

- I know there is a lot of talking about the need of record labels today. But a band still has its limits in reaching people. A record company with a professional structure is a huge help for us but that doesn't mean that it would be the only right way to do it nowadays.

Artwork, Tour & Future

'Surreal World' has a pretty cool cover artwork, something I do believe is important for an al-

bum and it would seem that it is a sentiment being shared by this band as well who explain that their part in creating the cover art has been bigger than what most bands can say.

- We did have complete control about it. Many sketches were thrown away by the guy who did it and it is really hard to work with our band because every member particularly perfectionist.

Hallowed wrote a positive review of this album but what about others and what about the

fans? According to the band the response has been very good.

- Simply overwhelming! The critics mostly liked it and not less important the listeners liked it as well. We didn't expect that and we are surely happy with this development.

Most metal bands sees touring as something of the reason to be playing metal music and the band does have some shows planned to promote this album that has now been released again but not a complete tour as it is not concei-

vable for a band of Zero Degree's stature.

- We are too small or unknown to get touring options and every member of the band is involved in his own job. So it would be very hard to get a big tour circle managed. Maybe we could do this for the second output.

Even so, they will be doing shows but not a tour but if you visit a show with Zero Degree, what can you expect. According to the band you can expect something very much interesting.

- Playing live is Zero Degree's essence! We are really into getting the metal on the stage and party with the people. Our singer Thomas is always looking for a connection to the crowd and then the metalheads who don't know us get really quick into our music.

The end of the story

We have been talking a lot about 'Surreal World' in this interview and I am not quite done with it yet, I was thinking about how much this release turned out

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the way the band expected. And what were their expectations beforehand?

- We didn't really expect anything. We knew that we liked our stuff but we didn't know how it would turn out. At this moment I also don't know how the record sells. Maybe it will be clearer in a few months.

With the first album done, twice, how does the plans look for the future of Zero Degree? They were speaking of a second album when we were talking about touring, and they say that they are in

writing mode for an upcoming album.

- This is one of the main goals we set for Zero Degree's future. Otherwise we're negotiating with agencies for help on booking matters, we hope to get some more shows with those guys in the back.

Those guys are probably Massacre Records who arranged this interview and released their album 'Surreal World' which is available now and if you prefer your albums as musical files you can buy it from the music player

in the review of that album. And with that we leave the final words to these cold fellows.

- Thanks to anyone reading this interview! It is always a pleasure for us to get recognised by people and without fans a band is worth nothing. If you want to get in touch with us just follow us on facebook, we appreciate every feedback.

Zero Degree on the web

Our review

The official website

Zero Degree on youtube

Zero Degree on reverbnation

Zero Degree on myspace

Massacre Records