

SEBASTIAN BACH

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*Dreams of being a rock star
works as a television star*

Sebastian Bach has been in the music industry for some 25 years now and after selling millions with Skid Row he came on a bad foot with the band and decided to quit. These last 16 years he's been doing his own thing making television appearances, working on Broadway and releasing solo albums. But his only passion is to be the rock star that everyone likes him as.





The story of Bach and Skid Row has been told so many times it's completely unnecessary to retell it again, but the four studio albums Bach did with the band has defined much of Bach's entire life. In March this year Bach released his first DVD with live recordings from three different shows and looking at the set-lists on these shows it's apparent he's having a hard time getting away from the Skid Row years.

Abachalypse Now

I was very negative about the CD-version of 'Abachalypse Now' (the new live album by Bach) because of the many Skid Row songs and the lack of solo songs and I've been longing for the chance to get an answer to why it was like this... well, here's the answer:

- When you're playing festi-

vals like the Hellfest in France or Download Festival or whatever and you get a 40 minute set, you can only have eight or nine songs in the set-list so it's not really possible to include the songs I want always. I mean if there's 60 000 people on a live festival they come to see me do the classic songs, they're not there to hear me do eight songs from

an album that's sold a few thousand when the Skid Row songs has sold millions so of course it's going to be songs like *Youth Gone Wild*, *Monkey Business*, *18 And Life* and those songs. So in a way it's the fans that chose the songs - it's not up to me, I didn't invent the music business but I know how to entertain a crowd. Just look at the reactions from the fans on

the DVD, I mean - that says it all. When I do headline shows and have a two hour set or something, then it's not like this but on a festival it's these songs they want, they go crazy and I know how to make them do that.

Frontiers idea

Actually, this is a very good explanation and it's quite logical.

The only problem then is why Bach then chose to record three shows like that and not a full headline show?

- Well, I don't travel around with a full film crew with several cameras and sound equipment and all those things. I didn't record these shows, someone else did. Like the LA show at Club Nokia was recorded by a television channel and the other shows



by others. I just used the filmed material I had available for the DVD and it was these shows.

But why release it at all then?

- It was Frontiers idea to release a DVD but actually I'm very happy that we did the DVD because if I die tomorrow then at least you'll have this great thing that shows how we did (do) our

live shows. I think it's a good document and I really like the final product because it feels really professional the whole package with the photos they've used and how they've presented it and all. I was very happy the other day when I held it in my hands and saw it.

No editing

Could you tell us a bit more about the DVD?

- I think it's a really cool thing to look at in your home theatre. It's a really high quality product with high quality sound and film job and it looks really cool. All three shows have quite similar set-list but they're so vastly different

with France being outside in the sun and really many people in the crowd and all. Then the Club Nokia show in LA, where it's all dark and inside and last of all the Graspop festival were it's a complete torrential downpour, which is something I've never seen on a live DVD before. I was just so

pissed that day with the rain and the show was scheduled so early in the day as well but when we looked at the show afterwards we just thought it was so funny and felt it had to be on the DVD!

Sebastian also say he's seen a few comments on the Internet about them editing the material

too much but that's not the case.

- There was no editing, no one did anything. What you see is what it was and no one even said to the band that it was recorded.

New material

I don't even need to ask Sebastian because he's so eager to tell

us about his current work recording for a new album.

- At the moment I'm recording, making demos and stuff, writing. I normally like making studio albums better than live albums, I think the work suits me better with trying different stuff in different ways. At the moment we're doing some work with John 5 who's an amazing guitarist and also Steve Stevens and our new guitar players.

Bach last album, 'Kicking & Screaming' was well received on *Hallowed* with a score of 5/7 and Bach himself is very proud over that album and has made it his goal to triumph it with the album he's working on.

- 'Kicking & Screaming' was amazing! And I really like to listen to it, of all my favorite albums I think it's the one I prefer the most - easily the best album I've released. Basically, what I'm trying to do is to top 'Kicking & Screaming' with what we're doing now. If I do that then I know we have a good album because I really see it as like if I only had one album I could listen to for the rest of my life, it would be 'Kicking & Screaming' at the moment.

Cover art

The only thing criticized in the review of 'Kicking & Screaming' was

the cover art, which Bach says is supposed to represent what the album is all about.

- The cover is actually based on the lyrics. In a way it's supposed to be a Bach-Destroyer, like the Kiss album 'Destroyer' but in a Bach kind of way. I think it looks a bit like that, then there's a Hindu look to it with Bobby (Jarzombek) portrayed like Shiva and the reason for that is that I've always been seen as a bit of a bad boy, like with a really bad reputation and the album is a bit here comes someone and drags Sebastian Bach to hell by his feet, kicking and screaming - you know like the expression when you're forced to do something you really don't want to. That's what it is.

If you don't know your Hindu like Bach does then Shiva is Sanskrit for "destroyer" and he's seen as a god of many things, one of which is death when he's Kali and as Mahakala he's supposed to destroy all things. The symbolism is quite genius actually going the full circle back to the Kiss cover.





Television

The past ten or so years we've seen plenty of Bach on television and many might believe that this is because Bach wants the attention and has an ego to feed but that's not the way he sees it.

- It's necessary for me to work to pay my bills and afford living, so that's why I do television work and that kind of stuff. I mean, I have bills to pay like everyone else and I don't know many people that can just deny this kind of work. It's not a dream work, I'm not making dreams come true by doing things like *Celebrity Fit Club* or whatever but life isn't always about making dreams coming true. Everything in life can't be that, you

know? But I need it to have a nice life so if that's what it takes to get it then whatever.

Bach even goes as far as saying he don't care about it - like most people do with their boring day-jobs - and says he has even forgotten about some of the things he's done already.

- Maybe it's because I don't care that people thinks I should be in their shows, I don't know. But I really don't give a shit about that stuff. Most of the things I've even forgotten about - like some guy saw me in a mall once and said he loved me in *The List* and I just went "what the fuck is *The List*? I seriously didn't know what the guy was talking about and it took

me quite a while to remember I'd done several episodes of this show for VH1 'cause I'd forgot that it even existed. That's how little I care.

And there are a few differences between being a television star and a rock star...

- People don't care about television that much. When a show is over, people don't really talk about it anymore and that's pretty much the opposite of rock 'n' roll. People never stop thinking and talking about rock. The biggest difference as I see it is that TV is work, rock is a dream. Being a rock star is my only dream.

Conclusion

Sebastian Bach is a controversial person and as he said he has been seen as somewhat of a bad boy with multiple arrests and plenty of controversial behavior. But he is also a really nice guy, I've realized that after talking to him and most of the things he's done actually makes perfect sense once you hear his explanation to them.

Before we end our conversation Sebastian thanks me for my support with 'Kicking & Screaming' and say that he'll go back to work with his new album after this day of interviews with a goal of selling 10 million copies of it! And I hope he does!

Keep your eyes open for it.

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Sebastian Bach official website:
<http://sebastianbach.com/>
Kicking & Screaming review:
http://www.hallowed.se/english/music/reviews/2011/sebastian_bach-kicking&screaming.html