

5 Star Grave

DRUGSTORE HELL

Four years has passed since the debut Corpse Breed Syndrome and now 5 Star Grave return with their second album which they have given the name Drugstore Hell which is a record that is supposed to disgust and annoy whoever still believe in political correctness. With a statement like that and with the many times absurd lyrics it would be strange not to ask around what is going on in the heads of the guys behind it.





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PHOTO: DAVIDE LUCHINO
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Claudio (Ravinale) the vocalist and Thierry (Bertone) the lead guitarist took their time to answer my questions, which not only was good of them to do but it also lead to some more info on the band.

The name **5 Star Grave** comes from a total disrespect of just about everything as Claudio explains.

- We laugh about the unlaughable, make fun out of people that

die and suffer, don't show respect to anything or anyone and in general don't give a damn fuck about morals, religions, politics and so on... Our name reflects this kinda attitude quite well, this is rock'n'roll and it's meant to be irreverent and excessive, a cocky smile against the seriousness of life... And death.

This means that we have at least one thing in common me and the band, the revelation that rock music is a bit of a laugh and not really meant to be taken too seriously. And this band is this archetype of what rock'n'roll is all about, not

really caring about anything but doing what they themselves enjoys and likes. Claudio explains that they are not doing it to impress anyone and that the band is their beast, they have fun doing what they do and what they do is for the fun factor of it. They have been getting some rave reviews explains Claudio and that is rewarding and something they are proud of but in the end it is the fun of it and the rock'n'roll that matters.

- No fun, no rock'n'roll, no **5 Star Grave**.

What Doesn't Kill You...

What doesn't kill you only makes you more annoying is the opening statement in the release into text for this new album, but how does music that is made by those more annoying sound? According to Thierry it is a bit of a crossover.

- A drunken car crash between 80's attitude, modern elements and a lot of street attitude.

This of course means that it is an extreme crossover between punk, rock'n'roll, heavy metal and industrial and according to Claudio the inspiration is Alco-

hol, women and blood. Thierry however has a more conventional line of inspiration in form of a number of bands.

- We love horror punk bands like The Misfits, The Ramones, classic rock'n'roll stuff like AC/DC, Guns'n'Roses, Hanoi Rocks, but also modern bands like Rammstein, Carcass, Murderdolls and so on. We've grown up listening to 80's bands like Slayer, Testament, Iron Maiden, Megadeth, WASP and so so, this is obviously a huge influence for us and always will be.

The latest album by **5 Star Gra-**

ve is called "Drugstore Hell" and that is extreme metal from the Heart according to Claudio.

- There's nothing planned about this record, each song has been rehearsed and recorded in an extremely natural way. We're writing songs just to have a good time, so of course we

wanted to put on record something that we'd actually loved to listen to as well. That's also why there are so many influences in this record, each of us brings a little bit of everything to the melting pot making the whole chemistry work perfectly.

"Drugstore Hell" is the second album of 5 Star Grave and according to Thierry it is a natural evolution in comparison to the first album "Corpse Breed Syndrome".

- We evolved as persons and musicians, focused more on our music and managed to

write more straight to the point tracks, mixing all our different influences together in a better way avoiding being stuck in any particular music style.

And the music can be considered quite striking, another thing striking is the cover art which conveys a sense of humour and has a bit of classic rock'n'roll look to it. And according to Claudio it is a bit of an homage to the music they loved as kids.

- Alessandro (our guitar player) is responsible for all the artwork and graphics concerning this band, he conceived this particular cover as an homage to the 80's metal cover artworks we all loved as kids, it's quite 80's metal oriented and reflects damn well our love for those years.

Drugstore Hell, Continued...

There is lot of death in the lyrical and song title content of this album, something that becomes very evident when I ask the guys about their favourite songs on the album.

- *Death Times Eleven* and *Love Affair With The Beast* are my favourite ones to play and listen to, says Thierry.

- Hum, I guess *Death Put A Smile On My Face*, *Love Affair With The Beast* and *Dead Girls Don't Say No* are my current

highlights from this album, says Claudio.

The album is one that lacks respect for many things and makes a laugh of things that by some are considered off limits for any kind of humour, I do not share such sentiments as I make fun of diseases that kills and compares music to those even though some might find it offensive but the reviews have been generally positive according to the guys, even to the degree that Claudio says he wants to have more negative reviews as he becomes pissed off by being liked by most. And Thierry explains that it is great, the reception by both fans and media.

- Most of the reviews are enthusiastic and kids really love the new songs, so we couldn't be more happy about it. It's rewarding to see that so many people appreciate our music even if we don't belong to any particular genre, this means that writing good songs with per-

sonality and style without caring about trends still pays off, if you're good at it.

For this album 5 Star Grave signed with Massacre Records, something that according to Thierry has led to an increase in people's interest for the band. According to him you still need a label to really make yourself heard in this world.

- For sure, a good label is necessary to promote your music in the best way possible. Let's say it's a good starting point to build our career on a higher level and to increase our audience. The more people listen to our music the better it is because they usually like what they hear, so at the moment is just a matter of spreading our music worldwide in the most comprehensive way possible.

So, are they

Happy with the release? Did it turn out the way they wanted? Claudio says they are.

- Couldn't be more happy about it. This record truly represents our actual sound and our true spirit: since the beginning we wanted to have a very powerful sound with a very rock'n'roll edge to it and that's exactly what you get when you listen to our latest album. When people listen to bands with scream vocals immediately think about melodic death me-

tal or stuff like that, but we've never been or wanted to be a death metal band at all. We're a modern and extreme rock'n'roll band and wanted to sound like the most powerful rock'n'roll band of the planet; thanks to Tobias and his huge production we finally achieved this goal.



I love the way this record sounds, it's very raw and unpolished, but damn powerful and reckless, like a dirt tornado.

Luxury Grave Live & the End

For many rock bands touring is a very important and 5 Star Grave is no exception to this rule, they are planning some live activities for autumn winter but as Claudio states they have already already started a bit.

- We're doing some warm-up shows and planning a more intense live activity for autumn/winter. There's still a lot of work to do but we cannot wait to hit the road and bring our music in places we've never been before.

When they visit those places where they never have been before, do you know what you can expect? Well Claudio explains in short words what a show with 5 Star Grave usually entails.

- A fast and furious show, with a lot of punk and street attitude.

Short and to the point, a little as the band is in general but are they a good live band? Thierry explains that they first and foremost is a live band and that their music is written mainly for the purpose of being performed on a stage.

- There are so many bands that sound huge on record, but when you see them live they completely suck, that's why we only record parts that we're able to perform live properly, what you hear on record is exactly what you get live from us. That's the way rock'n'roll is meant to be played.

With touring planned for autumn/winter and the album out, what are the upcoming plans for 5 Star Grave? well, it entails a lot of blood if we are to believe Claudio.

- More beers, more blood and more live shows, possibly. The release of this record is just the beginning, a nice step towards

the completion of a more refined monster. We have assembled the corpse, now we need a lot of new fresh blood to keep it roaring.

Lets hope that they find that amount of blood then and lets end with a last quote from Claudio.

- Why so serious? Have some fun goddamit! Life's a slut, fuck it.

While you go ahead and do that I thank Thierry and Claudio for their time taken for this interview and at the same time we here at Hallowed wish them the best of luck with their music and touring and whatever they are up to next wether it be blood or death.

Some 5SG on the web...

Our review of Drugstore Hell

Their official website

On myspace

On youtube

On last-fm

Massacre Records website

If you want to hear the band, check out our review, there is a widget where you can play the entire album there. And if you like it you can buy it from that same widget.

