

2012

An Orwellian story with the band Hate Gallery

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He is at that moment being watched by several cameras, some with modern facial recognition software that later can connect him with that place.

A cold day in the winter half of the year, Janne Jarvis walks with his hands in his pockets to keep his warm. The cars passing behind him, everywhere the security cameras watching his every move and tracking him on his walk through the city. The eyes of the billboard burning in his back as well, everywhere the signs of him being watched and yet no one seems to notice. For Janne the only thing missing is the posters with the face saying Big Brother Is Watching You.

Only in Great Britain the number of so called CCTV-surveillance cameras are estimated to almost two million and they are present everywhere, in public transportation, parking lots, parks, public places like squares and such, in stores and other buildings. They are according to the home office in the UK being used to track suspici-

ous behaviour, keeping track of people and such, all in the name of protecting the everyday citizen from terrorists and crime. In 2009 they introduced an "Internet Eyes" website where the UK government pays people to watch CCTV cameras to detect crimes something that civil rights movements see as distasteful and a worrying development.

Janne Jarvis of Hate Gallery, a band who's name is a wordplay on the Tate Galley name, is a very big fan of George Orwell who back in the forties wrote about such a world that our is evolving into, with no privacy and always watched no matter what we do. This message is one that Janne Jarvis is telling us on his latest Hate Gallery album "Viva La Resistance". With music inspired by bands like Killing Joke, Black Sabbath and such bands that stay true to their kind of music and completely original, Janne is trying to spread his message and tell these stories.

- I'm a big, big fan of George Orwell and I think he was the last great true prophet that walked the Earth and I think that a lot of those things he spoke about are slowly happening.

One of the things Orwell prophesied in his book 1984 was the telescreen, a two way device used to spread propaganda but also to watch over the people in their homes. This device actually exist today and a very big number of people are using it, and by their own free will. Chances are that you already have this device and voluntarily so, you have no objection to having your privacy invaded. This is what "Viva La Resistance" speaks of, of the world we live in today.

- It is about surveillance, about control, it's about the lack of freedom, it's about people's lack of understanding of how little control they have over their world and how they are willingly kind of giving up their information and their freedom without even thinking about it. You know I'm talking about everything from your iPhone applications to the cameras in the streets.

When looking at loss of freedom it there is not only surveillance in the way we see, several organisations are set up to listen



to phone calls and read emails. In Sweden we have the FRA Law that allows the state to wiretap all phone calls and all internet traffic within the Swedish borders without any kind of warrant, kind of like the NSA does in the USA and what is happening in many other countries as well. The "Viva La Resistance" album looks at this and it is an angry record according to Janne Jarvis who is the main mind of the band.

- And it is about opening up your eyes and fighting back while you still have the chance. It is angry, modern culture is worthless, music is worthless, what people consume musically has no value so it is a reaction to that I suppose.

But the government's or organisation's grips of private lives are quite strong now so the question

is if it isn't too late already, in EU we have the Data Retention Directive which forces internet service providers to save IP-numbers and also email providers to save email data for a period of six to 24 months which can then be demanded from the provider by police or security forces. Janne Jarvis wants to raise awareness and galvanise people with his music, because when looking at what rights the governments have to control its citizens within its laws even in the so-called free world it is quite obvious according to Janne that we do not have much that can be called freedom anymore and governments have more control over us than we think and the Orwellian ideas are more true than most of us would like to think.

- It is a rock'n'roll album and it is about getting a reaction and about where people hear it they think "yeah, I agree with you", you know galvanising, bringing people together towards a common goal and that to me has always been the essence of great rock'n'roll anyway.

The subject of privacy and loss of freedom is a too big a subject to cover in one article about a rock band and it is a subject that Janne dwells upon. Not to a degree

Janne does not want to patronise people and does not think he knows more on the subject than anyone else and believes that most people have a vague idea of what's going on and says that he doesn't want to preach his ideas to anyone and says that it is a rock'n'roll album.

that he loses sleep over it but he explains that it is worrying him, he worries for his future but also for future of his eventual children and says that it is one of the reasons for living in Sweden, he feels fairly safe there. But if we move away from the loss of freedom for this article now and look into the music of Hate Gallery and what we hear on the "Viva La Resistance" album which may be about the subject of the Big Brother states that we all live in but it is also a rock music album.

- There's some very heavy eighties influences on there's synths you know, but it is more rock'n'roll from a punk side of things than bluesy. There's not many bluesy big riffs on there, Janne explains.

There are also some Pink Floyd

ripping off on the album according to Janne who says he is allowed to rip them off a little but there are also Led Zeppelin influences as well but it is mainly rock from the punkier side of things if one is to believe Janne's estimation, but it is not his favourite question to describe his music.

- I hate that question, you have to ask it but you know you end up always having to compare yourself to somebody else but Killing Joke was an influence for this record and I hold my hands up and say that loud and proud.

Compared to the debut album it is a more mature album, it is not naive like the debut album was and "Viva La Resistance" is a more focused album as well. The debut "Compassion Fatigue" was more of a punk rock album

done in a very short space of time and "Viva La Resistance" is something completely different and it has something to say. Without comparing the music Janne compares the evolution between his two albums to the one between the Metallica's "Kill 'em All" and "Ride the Lightning". But according to Janne there is a slight problem with the album being a bit atypical.

- Because it does not fit into a category and I am very proud of that fact, it does confuse people. They hear some of the tracks and then they hear the ballads and I don't think there's many rock bands out there now that can actually, would do a ballad like *Love Shine On* and would do a track like *Viva La Resistance*, I don't think they would put those two

Common types of surveillance cameras that you can see everywhere these days.



BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU!

types of songs on one album. It is not fucking Five Finger Death Punch it's not a linear album, its got lots of different soundscapes to it.

Despite this the album has been playlisted on several big radio stations in England, and Janne explains himself being quite happy with the "Viva La Resistance" album.

- I think it is a very good album, it could have been better but who wouldn't say that? I think that people either love it or they hate it, so far most people seem to love it and I am very happy.

It wasn't an easy birth for "Viva La Resistance", Janne Jarvis explains that it was a highly unpleasant experience to record the album and that he felt massively let down by the people around him. One reason for difficulties like this can be spelled as money, there isn't much money in music today and only finding the resources to record an album can be a difficult task. Still, according to Janne a little pain and suffering is good for the art but at the same time he would have been finished faster.

- Time is very precious to me

and I like to be creative and I don't like to hold up the creative process because of other people's bullshit if I can speak very honestly. At the moment the band is... you know I'm still debating how I'm gonna play live and how we're gonna do this but I'm going to put together something very special for the next time that Hate Gallery performs live.

Janne explains that these problems were internal within the band, that one of the guitar players who is also his cousin didn't commit and left the band which was very painful for Janne.

- It was just a difficult record to make and it only now that I'm starting to feel positive about the thing. I think you have to step back and I have done that for a few months and I am pretty proud of it, as a piece of art.

As stated earlier, this album has received some playlisting on radio station but what about the other medias like reviewers and such? according to Janne the mainstream media has been begrudgingly positive while more specialised rock magazines has given some great reviews and that there has been a very healthy buzz around the album. He also

states that he wants people to hear the album as he thinks that it deserves to be heard.

One way to hear the music is otherwise to visit a live show and that is something that Janne and Hate Gallery is going to offer to their fans during the early parts of 2012. One show in Stockholm is already booked, for february Janne thinks but I have not been able to find any information on this on the band's websites so you'll have to take his word for it. They have started organising for shows in the UK as well and didn't want to play anything in

between the releases of the album in the different countries. But according to Janne the upcoming show will be something special and he also express a desire to play some other places in Sweden, other than Stockholm and Gothenburg which are the usual towns to play in for visiting bands but Janne says that bands play every shithole in England so why not play every shithole in Sweden as well?

The album is out now both in the UK and in Sweden and it tells a story of what this articles speaks about in the

first chapter, all information there is easily accessible by using a search engine on the internet but remember that when you do, google or the search company saves your data which can be connected to you in a very easy way. Facial recognition data at the locations of those who monitor the surveillance cameras can recognise any face that passes by a camera and trace that person's whereabouts, social networks sells your personal information to whoever is interested in buying it and they also plant trackers inside your computer that keep trace of what you do even when you aren't logged into those networks. The list can be made longer but that is for you all to find out for yourselves if you care. Do you think we live in an Orwellian society? Janne Jarvis thinks so and that is what he tells with the album which he thinks you have to get.

- Get hold of "Viva La Resistance", I don't care if you steal it from a shop or download it or steal it by listening to it on Spotify. Make the effort to try and locate this music and listen to it because I think that if you like rock music then you will love it. It's very simple, that's it, make the effort and stop watching television it's evil!

And with that we thank Janne Jarvis for his replies and also for attempting to raise some awareness of this issue. So enjoy the album and maybe start making a conscious choice to start thinking about these issues, facts about about these issues are quite easily found on the internet.

Then I will also take the opportunity to tell you of Janne Jarvis project with Linnéa Olsson from Sonic Ritual which is called Crucifix in a Death Hand, which is a name taken from a Bukowski poem so a pretentious name for an experimental kind of music.



A criminal taken by the police, when will this be the fate for all with a difference of opinion?

Hate Gallery on the web:

- <http://www.hategallery.com/>
- <http://hategallery.bandcamp.com/>
- <http://www.myspace.com/hategallery>
- <http://www.youtube.com/HateGalleryBand>
- <http://www.reverbnation.com/hategallery>
- http://www.hallowed.se/english/music/reviews/2011/hate_galley-viva_la_resistance.html