

KATANGA

From Germany hails the male-female fronted band Katanga with the same name as a debated region of the state of Congo or a mining company, a captain of a ship in Indiana Jones but the name Katanga for this band comes from neither of these suggestions.

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The band Katanga consist of Doreen and Mario on vocals and guitarist Michael along with bass player Wilko. The drummer Daniel left the band recently sending them on a quest for a new drummer.

"It is really hard to do so, because we create a rather unique crossover of Metal, Neue Deutsche Härte, Gothic Rock and Electronic Music. This makes us a mixture of Metallica, Oomph, The 69 Eyes, and Depeche Mode" is the answer to my question if they could describe how the band sound. A complex variation of musical styles throughout the music might be a good description if you do not recognise any of the genres or bands and as the band states: "we encourage people to take the time, listen in on our music, and make up their own minds."

They also add that they are not a female fronted symphonic me-

tal band even though their promotional picture might suggest it to be that way.

Inspirations

So where did the name Katanga come from, if not from the things mentioned before?

"The name Katanga is derived from a movie called Gattaca which premiered shortly before we named ourselves," is the answer, "we changed the sound of it a little and, hey presto, Katanga was born."

From the band's perspective it is an easy name to remember and it does not pre-label their music which seem to be something the band does not want to be done.

Since their start in 1998, the band has released two albums and before that one EP called Batflight. The albums are called Darkchild which was released in 2006 and the recent album Moonchild which was released 28/1 this year, since both these albums end their name in 'child' I wondered whether or not there was a reason for this. It was, as it turns out, both these albums are part

of a trilogy with what I guess the last part, somethingchild to come at a later date.

The band state themselves to have a bit different music, for which it seems to be many things to be inspired from, but what is it that inspire the band? According to themselves it is books, movies and personal experiences that influences the lyrics which is what they focus on when I ask about inspirations.

"Metropolis is influenced by Chaplin's Modern Times as well as, and this may come as a surprise, Lang's Metropolis. The title track 'Moonchild' deals with solitude."

Moonchild

Moonchild is the recently released second album of the band, an album that is a representation of the band's unique musical style, and with a lyrical content that reflect on the darker and more unappealing aspects of society.

"We start out with the cracking of whips and a woman moaning - this illustrates the following title which deals the fact that in

our society almost every taboo is broken and then commercialised, even emotions, love, sex, and every kind of intimacy."

"We are of the opinion that one ought to resist this trend and maintain one's own individuality and humanity instead of offering everything up to consumerism."

So making a stance for individuality against the youtube generation, the band deal with the selling out of all aspects of one's individual life in their lyrics. Still, it is not only that, lyrics of songs also deal with more traditional aspects of the more undesirable parts of life, like addiction and things like that.

"'Mörder der Erinnerung' deals with addiction to alcohol and 'I'm gonna die for you' with AIDS" they explain.

Dealing with all these darker sides of life it may seem like the band are an unhappy bunch just looking at the negative side of things. "Even if we try to think a little deeper sometimes we otherwise tend to be a rather merry bunch" they explain.

Compared to the album before it 'Moonchild' has a warmer and better sound and the lyrical themes are centred more around being critical towards society and more realistic if you are to believe the band.

More Moonchild

On this album there are three songs that originally was published on the band's debut. These songs have been re-recorded for this album with the added vocals of Doreen and added keyboards and of course an improved overall sound.

As always I find it fun to find out the favourite songs of the band themselves and for the interview for this article I made no exception.

"The songs in which we coo-





perated with Sven Friedrich are quite special to us all, he is such a great singer and professional musician and we fondly remember the time in the studio with him in beautiful Berlin." they explain and adds, "Wilko especially likes 'Schwarze Flügel', Mario's favourite is 'Mondscheinchild'."

The band confess that they are pleased with how the album turned out, sure they think they could have done some things better but that is probably a general thing since no album can be completely perfect. Still, that only gives the band some things that they can think of for the third

part of the trilogy and beyond.

"Generally speaking we like the way it sounds warm and mysterious at the same time."

Sven Friedrich known from Dreadful Shadows, Zeraphine and Solar Fake and according to the band this added three wonderful songs to the album.

"Sven's voice is deeper than both Mario's and Doreen's, making it the perfect addition to and enrichment of their voices."

They also state that they will try to get as many tourdates as possible in order to promote this album. The next show scheduled will be in april in Rostock then

there are a few more shows in Germany that month. Stay tuned on the band's websites in order to know more about this.

The Ending

"Dear readers, keep an inquisitive mind, stay open for new

things, follow your hearts, and keep on a-rockin'!" are the words from the band when I ask them to add a few words for our readers.

Katanga's second album 'Moonchild' was released january 28 this year.