

German band Marienbad has taken their name from a small czech town, maybe just a village with the same name that was flooded back in the sixties. This flooding was the result of a storage lake being set up in the location of the town. These events led to strange things happening, twelve of the villagers remained when the inhabitants were relocated. They chose death before relocation and their story and some other strange stories of this town is told in the album Opus 1 - Nightfall or as it is named in german, Werk 1 - Nachtfall.

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- The whole concept was written by myself, Yantit (my colleague in Eisregen for over one and a half decade) joined in and composed all the music, Michael Roth who is the vocalist explains.

This opus or werk if you prefer the german language is one in two different languages and it is a conceptual story as you already know, and it is about the town of Marienbad which was drowned in the mid-sixties, a town with a dark story which I will return to later on but first something more about the band. Besides Michael Roth (vocals) and Yantit (guitar) who are also known for their roles in Eisregen, the musicians on this album was Allen B. Konstanz of The Vision Bleak on drums and West of Hämatom on the bass. These guys were according to Michael Roth fascinated by the concept and did their

parts really well.

Musically Marienbad stand for a slower and darker tone than the two main character's main band Eisregen, Roth explains that he does more clean vocals and a slower tempo than Eisregen as well.

- The whole concept wouldn't fit to what we are doing with Eisregen, because its based on facts and Eisregen stands for fictional stories based on horror- /Splatter scenarios, Roth explains.

This darker tone is there because of the concept being dark and grim, that is why the chose a slow, dark and melodic metal style to transfer that concept into listenable music according to Roth.

- You can find many different structures on Nightfall, but the whole concept is very depressive, dark and full of surprises.

As we have already graced upon earlier in this article is the bilingual concept of this album which makes it into something that resemble or publication in

a way since much of the publication is bilingual. However, strange as it may seem, inspirations from Hallowed was not the reason for making it in two languages.

- With our main band Eisregen we always have the little problem that outside German-speaking territories there is a big problem in understanding what all is about. The lyrical concept always is a very important part for me, and so we decided to include a English-vocalised version as part of a 2CD-set, and so everyone interested in the concept has no longer the problem of understanding.

Roth still prefer the german version though since that is his mother tongue and also the language in which the concept and lyrics were written before being translated into english. Still, Roth explains that he thinks it was very nice to make the english version as well.





<http://www.myspace.com/frissische>
Eisregen myspace

http://www.hallowed.se/english/music/reviews/2011/marienbad-werk1_nachtfall.html
Our review of the Marienbad debut

The Concept

The lyrical concept is something that has followed Michael Roth for a long time, he first heard it from his grandmother who has now passed, who told Michael these stories as sort of campfire tales when he was a child. When his grandmother passed away he found a book called The Curse of Marienbad in her house.

- I read it, was fascinated by the whole stories and decided immediately to put this into a concept album, you can read an outline of the story in the preamble for this article.

There are some stories of deportations of people from Marienbad or Mariánské Lázně as the Czech name is, first the Germans deported Czechs and then it was the other way around. This is something being addressed by the band in the song Last Terminal on this album.

- WWII was the ugliest part in German history, and what happened to some deported people at the Marienbad terminal was gruesome and very depressing. The whole truth never can be revealed, but our song should help to make some persons think about what really happened there,

Roth explains.

This is of course one dark story and the concept of the album is mostly a very dark story and this is reflected by the album cover which has a very dark and moody feel to it, and it also reflects something of the story on this album, as Roth explains:

- The cover presents an old photo taken that day the main road of Marienbad stood in flames. The whole story you can follow in our "Night of Flames / Flammnacht"-song, by the way the "hardest" track on the album.

Production Reception & More

This album was produced by Markus Stock who has produced the latest of the Eisregen albums and become something of a friend for Roth and Yantit and is now always their first choice for these kind of jobs as they know what they will get and Roth explains that he did a very satisfying job for the album. He also explains that they are very pleased with how the album turned out.

- We worked hard for it for over a year, and this one was the first we completely recorded at Yantits

home studio, so this really a premier. We did the mix at Klangschmiede E, and Markus is always first choice for this job.

Michael Roth has a very philosophical answer to the question about how the album has been received.

- We got some very good reactions, both by press and fans. But there are many people that will never find their way to Marienbad, and this is no problem for me. If you are not willing to put some time and effort in understanding what the whole album is all about you may never find

the right path to this little sunken town.

Musically it may well be for a certain type of person but it is a fascinating story nonetheless and I am sure there is a lot more to be learned about it as well, maybe we will see a Werk 2 or Opus 2 down the line but until then we leave the last words for Michael Roth and thank him for answering some question that I had. So here comes the final words:

- If you're into dark, slow metal give us a chance and listen to Nightfall - perhaps this one is exactly for you