

RAGE

Opus 21 by the german metal legends

Rage are releasing their 21st album this year, it is cleverly called 21 and deals with themes around death especially murder. However, the title track has nothing to do with that, the drummer of the trio André Hilgers explains that it is a song about the game of Blackjack which can be referred to as 21 sometimes.



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Before we look at the album and all of that, lets have a look at some other stuff. **Rage** is a band that was formed under the name of **Avenger** back in 1984 and is considered as one of the most important band in the history of German heavy metal, today a trio but they have been a quartet earlier on in their career which has spanned 20 albums so far and late in february they will re-

lease their 21st album which will be their twentieth as **Rage** which is a name they changed to following their first album "Prayers of Steel". They changed their name because there was a british band with that name already and in the beginning the idea was to call the band **Furious Rage** but it was quickly changed into **Rage**, the only remaining member from the start is Peter "Peavy" Wagner the voice and the bassist of the band. The latest one into the band is André Hilgers who handles the drums and he says he has been

well received into the band by "Peavy" and Victor Smolski, and as "Peavy" said when I interviewed in relation to the release of "Carved in Stone", he seems to be a good match for the band.

- We work very well together and I learned a lot more about my drumming, André explains.

André also explains that the guys have been good to him since he got into the band, Victor for instance praises his drumming in some quotes for the press information for the coming album 21. He says it is good for him to play

in the trio as well as they are good guys and they know exactly how to make the music for **Rage**, he says it is comfortable to play with the guys in **Rage**.

- I live my dream...that's it!

21

21 is as already stated the 21st album of **Rage**, the title track is about Blackjack but the album has a theme around death and murder and all of that. Musically it is bit different from the album before that was more orchestral, this time out the band is more

straightforward and heavy oriented, André says that they aimed to make a more rough and pure heavy metal album.

- Its definitely the hardest album for years and without keyboards and orchestration and we are very proud of the result. Its very hard and powerful with all the **Rage** hooks that the fans know (and love, editors note).

A clever formulation is from Nuclear Blast about this album saying that the lyrics makes it a real killer which is clever because of the thematic content of the al-

bum. But lyrics is something that "Peavy" takes quite seriously as he explained to me not in relation to this album but I doubt his mind about it has changed in such a short timeframe. He said:

- I think out lyrics are both important and interesting. I write about personal things and not bullshit as swords and dragons.

And for sure there are no swords and dragons in the lyrics on this album and it is a subject that can be seen as both interesting and important, same goes for the subject of gambling. As



the album is the heaviest one by Rage in a time and according to André it places in the same league as "The Missing Link" and "Unity" if he is to compare it to the other material in the discography of Rage.

When asked about his role in creating the music of Rage André explains that what he does is to work with and arrange the

drums.

- Its very easy to work with these guys and we arrange together till the song is finished, André explains.

He is very pleased with the album and also explains that as far as he has heard yet the album is considered very good and they have had a bit of response from friends and the press so he points

out that it looks very good for the album.

In our review we state that the band keeps performing at the highest level all the time, and that 21 is no exception to this rule. But how come the band manages to perform at such a high level all the time? is there a secret to it? according to André there is no secret to it just fun.



- We try every time to make good songs for us and our fans. And we have a lot of fun to write new songs.

The fun seem to work and they seem to have been well received by press as the ratings I have been able to find on this album has been rather positive on most accounts even some full scores has been awarded to it so as said the fun might actually pan out well and the album is often said to be a solid part of a fantastic career (often as in three times of the six or seven reviews I found).

Touring & Ending

Any album is being well sold by going out there playing and meeting the fans and so will Rage do as well, they will according to André tour all over the place. Europe, South America, Russia, Japan and more is set to host the stages on which the band will appear

according to André. Today a european tour with dates in Germany, Spain, Czech Republic, Italy, France and Switzerland as well as Japanese and some festival dates are confirmed on the band's website but more dates are to be announced on the band's website.

But how is it to tour with the guys of Rage? According to André they are great guys as he has stated before but to tour with them is something else.

- That is extreme sport, he explains.

But I guess you'll have to keep up with the band's website to find more information on upcoming tour dates so that you can with your own eyes watch this extreme sport in action.

And with that we thank André for taking his time to speak to us, the quotes from "Peavy" is from our interview with Rage from 2008. We leave the last words for

André after reminding you that Rage's 21st album 21 is out on february 24, if you want to know something about check out our review. With that over to André for the ending:

- Buy our album, and keep the metal flame alive!

Rage are:

Peter "Peavy" Wagner - vocals, bass

Victor Smolski - guitars

André Hilgers - drums

Useful on the web

Review - <http://is.gd/ComSQ0>
<http://rage-on.de/>