



On march 12 2012 the new album by Soulfly entitled Enslaved saw the light of day world-wide, it is the eighth studio album by Soulfly and it also marks the fifteenth anniversary of the band. Hallowed was given the privilege to speak with Max Cavalera a living metal legend but also the main man of the band Soulfly.



WRITTEN BY DANIEL KÄLLMALM  
PHOTOS: SOULFLY PRESS  
PUBLISHED ON 21/3-2012

A lot has happened over the years with Soulfly but lets first focus on the newest addition to the history of this band, the album called "Enslaved" which seems to have the headlines aggressive and more extreme if we are to trust Max Cavalera.

- It is a really exciting record, it is more extreme than the other records, it got more death metal sound in the production, it is more brutal and aggressive and I'm very excited.

It is an album with cool guests like Dez Fafara from DevilDriver and Travis Ryan from Cattle Decapitation that does vocals, Max also worked with his kids on one of the tracks, the ending Revengeance which we will get back to later on. According to

Max it is another step in the career of Soulfly and a great album for them to have out, although for some this newfound aggression and brutality might come as a bit of a surprise.

- I think it's quite unexpected for I think not many people did expect our eight album to be so aggressive and so extreme, it comes with many real killer death metal influences and it's something I have wanted to do for a long time.

Much of this aggressive sound is down to the introduction of the new musicians in David Kinkade and Tony Campos on drums and bass. David Kinkade's more extreme drumming with blastbeats and all the cool drum stuff that he can do has made it possible for Max to create "Enslaved" the way he envisioned it along with the more extreme bass of Campos it has gone more aggressive and

extreme. The single *World Scum* was a good introduction as to how the album would sound explains Max and he also explains that the album is getting a good buzz around the internet and Max thinks that even with this new and brutalised sound the fans are going to like the album.

- Yeah, the new musicians are awesome because they give new blood to the band, we needed a change and I didn't want to make another record like "Omen" because it was already done, I wanted something different and "Enslaved" is totally different from "Omen" as it is much more extreme and much more death metal sounding.

More extreme seems to be the word of the day during this interview, I think that it would not be any chance of missing that and Max adds that thanks to the new members' backgrounds in bands

like Asesino and Borknagar helps to create this more extreme sound and he also points out that these guys are the perfect members to have in the band at the moment.

A famous quote is from one of these new guys, David Kinkade is that "Enslaved" is like "Arise" on Crack which is a quote that has been circulating the web for some time now and it is a quote Max does not completely agree with as he thinks "Enslaved" is its own album just like "Arise" is.

- I think "Enslaved" is it's own record, it does not sound like "Arise", I think it is more death metal than "Arise", it's got more death metal roots. It is maybe more extreme than "Arise" even, he really likes the record and I think that it was an excited comment that he made when we were making the record.

### Slavery & Aggression

In the chapter before we were looking at excited remarks and such but what about the feedback from the world outside the band, how has the feedback been from those who have heard anything from the album?

- It's been great man, the *World Scum* video came out on the internet and many people saw it and liked it, it is a pretty crazy video like a little movie with none of the band members on the video, it was like a little short film with this guy in jail and all these crazy things happening to the world like JFK, Auschwitz and the final battle between antichrist and Jesus and all these really cool hardcore scenes on the video.

They have also gotten a lot of good feedback according to Max and many seems to like the new direction into the more aggressive and extreme that the band has

taken. In Max's words it might be something of a commercial suicide on one hand but on the other hand it takes the band in a new, more extreme direction.

- I really don't give a shit about getting the big radio song or some big hit song, that stuff I don't care for, to me it is better to be extreme and go into a more extreme mode and enjoy the music. I love the fire of the music and the aggression and the extremity of it, I feel great when I play the stuff from *Enslaved* and it is going to be a great live performance for us to play it live.

And this newfound aggression lends itself well to the concept of the album which is slavery in most of its form, new and old. Already the cover artwork with a guy in a torture mask used in the days of slavery bear witness of this theme, the mask is a metal box that encapsulates the bearers



head completely and according to Max it is aggressive and crazy looking.

- The lyrics in the songs are different from each others, we have *Resistance*, the first one, the intro, a poem from a slave that I found in a slavery book then we move into *World Scum* which is about a hundred years of fucked up shit we've done to the world. Then we have *Gladiator* and *Legions* about

the Roman empire and slavery in the Roman Empire and then you have *Treachery*, *American Steel* which are really not much about slavery but goes a bit off the topic of slavery and *Plata O Plomo* is about Pablo Escobar which connects to slavery of all the people working for him doing his drugs and were like slaves of Pablo Escobar.

About half of the album is

about slavery while the other half subsequently is not and that is something that creates a dynamic feel to the album, It's kind of cool to have these different vibes going on in the same record, says Max.

Not many metal bands, if any, touches upon the subject of slavery and that is something that appealed to Max along with the heavy nature of the subject which



lends itself to finding heavier ways to express oneself.

- I thought it would be very great and original to touch on that subject. It is also very hardcore, you can really play heavy music around this subject because it's really a kind of heavy subject. Slavery is something heavy that happened, that still happens in the world right now and you can do some really heavy riffs and political lyrics about slavery.

- I thought it would be very great and original to touch on that subject. It is also very hardcore, you can really play heavy music around this subject because it's really a kind of heavy subject. Slavery is something heavy that happened, that still happens in the world right now and you can do some really heavy riffs and political lyrics about slavery.

Max also says that it surprised him that not many other bands has done albums on the concept of Slavery, maybe some blues bands has but none in the metal

world it would seem.

- I think that's cool because it keeps the record original and different from everything else out there.

And speaking of original, that is something that Max enjoys being and he is also proud to be touching upon a subject that not many have touched in the musical world before.

- I think creativity is important in a musician's life and if you get stuck doing the same thing over and over you get boring and don't go further in pursuing your career and I think in order to survive you have to let your creativity take over and try to be original as much as you can.

#### Family affairs

The ending song *Revengeance* is a song where Max worked along with his sons, a song about vengeance, about justice, and it is a really heavy tune that Max thinks turned out great. It is a song for their brother Dana Wells who was

murdered in 1996, Max and his three sons wrote their own parts of the song and Max, Ritchie and Igor sung on this track which has a raw, almost live kind of sound.

- Zeuss recorded everybody live and so it is like everybody is playing together like we were playing live and that gave the song some really raw feeling to it and when I heard it back I really liked and I decided to make the song be the last song on the record. I am very proud that I got to work with my kids, having the Cavalera family in the studio doing the song with me was a great moment in my life and I really enjoy that, so it was a great day in the studio.

It was a difficult album Max explains but it was worth it and he is proud of the album which he thinks has songs that will stand the test of time, *World Scum*, *Gladiator* and *Redemption of Man by God* are the tracks that Max mentions as being tracks that will stand strong even in the face of time.



<http://www.soulfly.com>  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/soulflyband>  
<http://www.myspace.com/soulfly>

- So it was difficult to make but worth it now that it is finally done and finished I feel very proud of it and really can't wait for the fans to hear it and to get the feedback from them because they are who I play the music for anyway.

And even if Max doesn't know if "Enslaved" is their best work to date he holds it as one of the five best albums of his career which would say quite a lot about the album for those knowing him and his career. And as already said earlier in the text it is an album that marks the fifteenth anniversary of the band, and about those years there is a lot to say with many collaborations with known musicians, but there is also the present where Soulfly has one of

the strongest lineups in their career so far.

- It has been great man, it's been great fifteen years in metal and Soulfly and putting Soulfly on the map in the metal world and sharing that with the fans. We did some great stuff with musicians, friends of ours, some stuff with Tom Araya of Slayer and Cory from Slipknot and many other great musicians that have collaborated with Soulfly making Soulfly's career into what it is. I also feel that it has been a great journey with different musicians, a lot of different people have played in Soulfly, have created this music with me and I feel very honoured to have played with them.

This time has yielded eight studio albums, all of which has charted in the US and also in many other nations, they have one gold certification in the US and ten members have been part of the lineup and added to that there are countless guests and a few touring members. And it is a time that Max is as he states both honoured and proud of.

#### **Tour & Ending**

The band is going on tour now for a while, starting in Mexico then touring the North Americas before heading over to Europe for both a European tour and also some summer festivals during their European stay. It is going to be a year of touring for the band

where they can take their music to their fans, something that Max says he enjoys and he also says that he interacts quite a bit with the fans as well, signing stuff, participating in photos and all of that.

- We really enjoy the time with them so it is great to see them and it is really, really cool that such an amount of people around the world like Soulfly and I feel very happy about this and if I can give some minutes of my time to them it is really great and for them it is cool that they get to meet me and I get to sign their stuff and take a picture with them it is no big deal at all and it means so much for them so it is great that we have this relationship and I really en-

joy going and meeting the fans and playing live, it is all part of it.

He does however not use any of the new technologies like facebook and explains that he is a bit of a cave man but the other guys in the band are more into this kind of thing.

- David, Tony and Mark all got their facebook and whatnot and all those things that they do, go on to see the comments and talk to people, not sure exactly what they are but I see them on the computer all the time.

Max himself does not own a computer and neither does he have a cellphone but he does have a CD-player where he plays his compact discs which he enjoys in full, with the booklet, the pictures

and all of that he explains that he is a bit of an old-school kind of

guy and new technologies does interest him a bit even though he doesn't really get caught up in them. Which is why you facebookers who reads our stuff should not be that surprised not to find Max Cavalera amongst the ranks of potential friends for your facebook profile. His focus is on the music and be sure to check out the band's website to know when they are coming to a place near you. Their album "Enslaved" is out now, it is more extreme and more aggressive than anything you have heard from Soulfly before, be sure to check it out and check our review which we will publish within the next few days.