



All things must run their course.  
A fine wine needs to be bottled up and stored for  
ages to reach its full potential. Subtle prose is not  
the same if not produced by anxiety-ridden poets,  
through years of despairing in their chambers, and  
many American actors only seem to grow more char-  
acter as they age. The same concept, of course, can  
also apply to death metal. At least when we're talking  
about Skellefteå's Terrortory.

**On the web:**

Our review - <http://is.gd/BVJQsx>  
<http://www.terrortory.com/>  
<http://www.myspace.com/terrortory>  
<http://terrortory.bandcamp.com/>

# TERRORTORY



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That is what is being said about this band that has been around since somewhere around 2001, when they got to know one another by visiting each other's shows as they were playing in different bands in Skellefteå in the north of Sweden by that time, explains Johan Norström who is

the singer of the band.

- At that time we noticed that we had a decently mutual taste in music and that's how it is, Johan explains.

From the beginning it was Johan who handled the bass in the band but in 2005 when they finally found a bassist who stuck around as Johan describes it, the band its finished shape.

- And then we have gone at half speed since, as everyone have had

his thing and we have worked in different cities and it has been a bit difficult to get everything working in one context. We have had quite low pace, more or less until we went into the studio to record the album.

The first six-seven years the band has been something of a side project for all involved and other bands were higher in the priority lists explains Johan and that is one of the reasons for the

debut album taking such a long time before seeing the light of day and Johan explains that some of the songs are as old as from the beginning of the 2000s. Nowadays there are still parts of the band busy with other bands, Johan is in a band in Umeå and the drummer of the band is a country drummer and the bassist is actually an actor.

Terrortory is something of a clever band name and it comes from

them to begin with was thinking that it would be more of a joke than it finally ended up being and because of that they never put any real effort into the band name but thought that it was a funny little play on words and that is how it was.

- And when it got more serious the name stayed as it was already worked in so it remained.

It is a name that is short and to the point which according to Jo-

han can be a bit difficult to pronounce for some but still a name most seems to remember.

**A**round 2007-2008 Johan and his comrades in Terrortory figured that they were too bad selling themselves and to take matters into their hands. That is why they decided to take matters into their own hands and do it on their own, they rented a studio and recorded



a bit. The plan was from the beginning to release the album on their own as well and that is another reason for it taking its time.

- Of course we could not afford everything in one and the same time so partly from economic reasons it took its time.

In other words there are two reasons for the album taking its time before seeing the light of day, the economic factor and that the band was not a high priority in its infancy. During the recording Johan moved to Umeå where he met Kristoffer Bäckström who runs Discouraged Records and made a deal with him to release the album on his label.

- I asked him if we couldn't release the album on his label but paying for it ourselves but just having a label on it would give a better impression. And it is also good to have someone outside the band who believes in your product.

It is also better from a marketing point of view to have a label behind the product, medias like us always prioritise bands on a label ahead of those who send their own material and that is something I think is true for all similar medias, Johan also thinks it can be seen a little as a quality stamp with a label.

- Then it of course means a lot that they have a distribution and promotion deal with Sound Pollution, it is so good not to have to do that work ourselves.

Speaking of marketing and all around that, with help from Sound Pollution in Sweden and whatever channels used in other nations the album "The Seed Left Behind" has reached many medias and the reception has been good, something that Johan admits to being satisfied with. He also says that they have often gotten to hear that they sound a lot like Gothenburg death metal and hasn't had much of an own

sound but it has been more positive on that front as well.

- It is something I can agree with to a certain extent that we have drawn lots of inspiration from the Gothenburg scene. But it still feels as though the reception says that it is a bit like that and many Gothenburg bands are mentioned but that we still have an own identity and own legs to stand on.

But how does Terrortory sound if they are not typical Gothenburg styled death metal, melodic death metal mixed with a touch of "groove metal" is what our review describes it as, Johan himself says that Gothenburg style death metal is a keyword in a description but that they usually do not talk about genre when writing music, that they try achieve some kind of aggression while still remaining very melodic.

- I think it is in foundation very much death metal but with a lot of atmospheric elements I would say.

They have also decided not to polish their sound too much and that it can be kept a bit untight to keep the groove in the music, and find this genuine feel they have decided not to fiddle too much in the production and put it on the millisecond perfect Johan explains. He also adds that they want it to sound as it sounds so that the one visiting the band at a concert will get what they got on the album.

Inspiration is something that is the foundation for all creative work, in one way or another, so what inspires Terrortory in their work? Johan explains that the inspiration has changed over time, it was to begin with a musical inspiration but over time they have established a frame of reference for their sound and now inspiration can come from other places. Now inspirations comes

from the band members inspiring one another rather than someone listen to an album and gets inspired explains Johan. I asked the question if they together built the songs and Johan answered:

- Right now I don't really know how we do since we all live in different cities so we send some riffs between us and tries to answer these. So it becomes like the riffs we send becomes the source of inspiration.

Our reviewer didn't want to single out one track as a favourite track but mentioned the intro as very interesting and for Johan the favourite is the title track *The Seed Left Behind* which according to him summarises the album in a very good way even if it isn't the track he would play to sell the album, it is not the single in that way he says. But it is the track that lasts in the very long run.

On the question about if they are satisfied Johan answers:

- Definitely, I thought that I would be very tired of it since it has been finished for about two years, but when I go the finished records and put one in the player it was like christmas day. I am really happy.

The plan for the band is to hit the roads for a smaller tour Johan explains but also that they will have to figure out how to solve the practical side of it. After all they all have works and all of those everyday undertakings that might make it a tad difficult to find the time for it but for Johan there is a hope to get out there and they was to have a meeting about that anytime late february to decide how to continue their work.

- The hope from my side is that we shall actually play something somewhere during the autumn, a few weeks so that we can reach some people and sell off the records we have bought.



A tour is of course a big investment, something that is also linked with an album release, something that is also true of "The Seed Left Behind" which has costed some money for the band and Johan explains that if anyone would like to buy it it would be brilliant. However, the album has not sold particularly well which might be due to the band not being out playing live which can be an advantage to sell much.

- Then of course we share it on Spotify or Soundcloud for anyone

who wants so we have no goal of earning money in that sense of the way.

Johan explains that the album was mainly for their own sake and that a coming album release night well be a digital such.

Otherwise the hopes and the views on the future is something without grande dreams to become something like Metallica or the likes of that, but rather that they maybe can increase their listeners so that they can keep going and perhaps also get out more and play live so the goals are not to be the biggest or even big Johan explains.

- It is more that we think it is damn fun to do it, most of all it is darn fun to play live so the hope is to get to a point where we can play live without needing to

pay for it or abstain other income and such.

But it is hard to be noticed and Johan points out that it is a very hard job working with music today and that because you get a bit lazier with age you might not be willing or ready to make the necessary sacrifices needed to get out and play, maybe like selling all the furniture and sleep of the floor as Johan say, more or less.

So, we have to wait and see when we get to see Terrortory on the roads and a venue nearby. "The Seed Left Behind" is out now and is available both for buying and to enjoy without cost for those who wants it like that. So you can decide for yourselves if they are copies of the typical Gothenburg death metal and lacks an own identity or if they have something to bring.

And with that we thank Johan for his time and wishes Terrortory the best of luck in their coming adventures. And don't miss our review of the album "The Seed Left Behind".