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Photo: Ville Juurikkala/Spinefarm (Universal)  
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# Amaranthe

The Swedish-Danish band Amaranthe and their six men strong line-up had decent success with their debut album, released two years ago. Now they're back again with their second album and it's been a never constantly rolling journey ever since the debut. We decided to check the mood before the release with the creator of the band - Jake € - to see what we had to expect.

Amaranthe started about five years ago when Jake and the guitarist Olof Mörck (also keyboards) got the idea to do something different. At this stage the project was mostly a fun thing, as Jake remember it.

- Me and Olof started the band somewhere around 2008-2009. By then I played in a band called Dreamland and Amaranthe (originally called Avalanche) was just a funny thing me and Olof did together. It was pure coincidence that Elise and Andy later joined the band as the original idea was to have them as guests only. After a while the labels started to get interested in the band and finally we chose to sign with

Spinefarm/Universal and so far they've done an amazing job!

#### Plenty of touring

Jake and I speak in Swedish, but as he speaks a fair bit of English words sneaks in to his responses, which isn't that strange as he's been speaking plenty of English in the last two years following the international success of the debut. And it's been plenty of touring as well.

- It's been an amazing journey with 100+ shows and a couple of laps around the planet.

#### Anything particularly memorable?

- Well, we became a part of the revolution in Tunisia; then came

to Japan just a couple of weeks after the Fukushima incident and we've shared stage with everything from Hammerfall to Limp Bizkit - so it's difficult to pick anything in particular. But it's been a nice journey and we'll continue on it in 2013.

Most of 2013 is already booked with tours and festivals and it's starting in March with a tour alongside Stratovarius. I'm asking Jake what we can expect from this package if we decide to go see them?

- A great tour with two super excited bands and we'll do an amazing tour together! And perhaps some fireworks and explosions?





Amaranthe starts this tour by warming up in Ängelholm (Sweden) the third of March and then start the tour for real in Finland by the eight of March and continues all over Europe.

#### A New Album

The reason for going out on tour this time is of course a new album, an album we'll see in sto-

res somewhere around the 20th of March. In January we got the chance to get a little bit more familiar with the album as the band released the first single, called *The Nexus* - just like the album. But it was no clear cut decision to chose this song as first single.

- I had another song in mind personally, says Jake, but in the end we went for the title track.

In the end I think we absolutely made the right decision but it's always really hard to chose a first single. In the end it has to represent the entire album but still be a strong, catchy song.

The interest for the single has been big already from the day it was released and Jake is obviously very excited about this.

- It's absolutely amazing! We



had more than 20 000 views on the video alone after only two days and more than 300 000 after a week. It seems like most of these like it as well.

Neither the single or the album is very different compared to their debut album and instead Jake say they've put most focus on developing what they already had rather than finding a new

character for the band.

- We found our sound pretty good already on the first album so we've had the comfort to avoid most of the "hows" and instead focused on the bettering the song writing. I think Amaranthe fans will know their way around 'The Nexus' quite well. It's like 'Amaranthe' but MORE of everything.

The album was recorded with the same producer in the same studio and with the same band but Jake still found a couple of differences between this time and last.

- On the first album we had everything finished already as we went in to the studio but this time we decided not to finish the demos before going to the stu-



Which fictional character are the Amaranthe members most alike (acc. to Jake €)

- Elize Ryd (female vocals) - Garry (The Spongebob squarepants snail)
- Andreas "Andy" Solveström (harsh vocals) - Ior
- Olof Mörck (guitar & keys) - Legolas
- Morten Løwe Sørensen (drums) - The Hulk
- Johan Andreassen (bass) - Grinchen
- Jake E (clean male vocals) - Tigerr (Winnie the Poh)
- Thomas (manager) - Grampa smurf

dio and have some room left for changes we wanted to do once we were in the studio.

#### Cool video

Jake think it's been a dream to work with such a great producer as Jacob Hansen - not only once but twice. And he doesn't see

Hansen as just a producer.

- Jacob is amazing behind the mixing table. He's more of an engineer to us than a producer, still it's hard to find better productions than his.

And Jake also worked with the man behind the cool video for *The Nexus* before, the Swedish di-

rector Patric Ullaeus.

- Patric and I works incredibly well together and he's the best on the market when it comes to making videos! If this video don't get any prizes in some sort of contest I'd say something is very wrong, Jake say smiling and reveals that the video was recorded in "secret

locations" all over Sweden.

Unfortunately that's all we have time for today but before we round off our interview I ask Jake to help us identify ourself a bit more with the members of Amaranthe and what better way to do that than to know which fictional characters they resem-

ble? The answers are just above.

I think Amaranthe has just begun to conquer the world, 'The Nexus' is only the second step and what the future brings is just to sit back and watch. You'll find a review for 'The Nexus' in our review section and don't miss the band as they travel around the

world again this year. The three vocalists should make it interesting, but Jake thinks that it's only to the positive with three vocalists.

- I can only find advantages in having three vocalists.

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