

AMADEUS

Street Warrior

Bob Katsionis is probably the best-known producer from Greece, at least within the metal genre. And possibly one of the better known worldwide as well. Hallowed have had the fortune to have a few questions answered by Bob, about Sweden, and many other things.



WRITTEN BY: DANIEL KÄLLMALM
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When the subject of Bob being one of the most highly regarded in the rock and metal, he doesn't quite feel comfortable with such a description.

- I feel I'm literally at the very beginning of what I want to do and every single day I'm struggling to make better music and help bands and artists reach their

dream.

Bob Katsionis gained some recognition with the band Firewind, but he has now left the band, for personal reasons you can read on Wikipedia, perhaps down to wanting more time for studio work. And then the ever-present pandemic was perhaps not as detrimental to Bob as it was to many other in his line of business, maybe even helpful.

- I toured the world, played

in front of great audiences, and made my dream come true. Then I was a bit tired, also seeing that this is going nowhere bigger for me, so I decided to stay home (like the rest of the planet was forced to do due to the pandemic-so my timing was right!) I built my first "real" studio and started working on productions and how to make a better sound for my clients.

And for Bob it might be that the touring isn't the same highlight

as some of the musicians I speak with claim. It can cause logistical problems for the one who produce and engineer music for other musicians.

- Being a touring musician, it was really hard. I had to pause my productions and studio work every now and then, so now I'm free to make my plan the way I want to.

Recently Warrior Path's second album "The Mad King" was released, it is said to be a bit dif-

ferent compared with the debut from 2019. And it contains singer Daniel Heiman (Lost Horizon), a man not very active on the music scene, and a very highly regarded vocalist. So how did that collaboration come about?

- We just had to ask and work on the terms of the collaboration, since he is a total pro. Maybe that's why he is not very active in the scene. Or maybe he's that picky and he loved our music, what can I say? So, in this album

we took a bit less Iron-maiden-ish path, we transformed a lot of melodies into riffs and we got rid of the excessive number of ballads. They might return, might not, this is totally up to Andreas' inspiration. He writes everything, brings all the ingredients and then I just have to cook them and bring the food to the table, explained Bob with a bit of a laugh.

But it is not only metal he does, Bob is an avid video gamer, and he did some 16-bit video-game



inspired music, we reviewed Amadeus Street Warrior some time ago here at Hallowed. We liked this nostalgic video game adventure, but what does Bob think about this odd sidestep in his musical adventures?

- I just feel like life is too short to over-think about creating music. Like, thinking what style and approach should I go, what's gonna sell or not. I had this urge

to make a retro-16bit album and I just did it. Made 2 videos for it to show my message and then I moved forward. To me the most important is to leave stuff behind, create something every single day.

Bob Katsionis has done a lot of music since his first albums around the turn of the century, many songs on many albums.

Some of the songs we have reviewed with Outloud has been quite good, but if Bob takes a moment, which is the finest one?

- I think it might be *Rendez-Vous In The Sky* from the "Rest In Keys" album, but that's an instrumental. Maybe *Edge Of A Dream* from Firewind, or *Head Up High*. Ah, tough question, next one please!

Okay, another easy one then, if you weren't in the music busi-

ness, what would you do?

- Hmm..perhaps I would be on the video game industry. Would probably make more money and play more games! Maybe not, who knows?

Don't ask me I would say, so let's return to the music and all those things. During the years Bob has collaborated with plenty of musicians, some well-known names and some less known.

When asked about what musician he would mostly like to work with, the answer is slightly unexpected to me.

- I would like to make an album with Jeff Waters (of Annihilator), my all-time guitar idol. And perhaps with my longtime friend George Kollias on drums. He is a monster!

Perhaps we can expect a thrashy Super Mario Bros inspired

metal album with some killer riffs and smashing drums. But that is probably something we have to wait for a while, the next project is something else.

- There's this new project I started working on, *Stray Gods*, it's a thing I did in like 5 days' time and it's more Iron Maiden than Iron Maiden themselves. Debut album comes soon, and I hope it can compete face to face with the



God's new album "Senjutsu". Or even if it isn't I think I wrote a bunch of really good songs on it.

Live shows might not be what drives Bob in his musical endeavours now, but he has been playing live quite a lot, and like most musicians he has some anecdotes to tell from the tours.

- I remember my keyboard stand breaking down during the intro of a show playing for Sep-

tic Flesh, that was terrible, very traumatic. Then, some crazy times with people going on stage for stagediving on our Greek shows, while the front bars were breaking in the intro of *Head Up High* or women showing me their tits in shows, or the last traumatic experience I had in Monsters Of Rock, CZ with Firewind when my keyboard overheated during the line check so I had to play the

whole set on the guitar. Except I had no clue of how the songs go on the guitar, so I was improvising and doing arrangements in real time.

So what about Sweden? As I am from there, could be fun to know...

- Are you kidding me? I love Sweden! Spent a month there during the recordings of "Alliance" then, "The Premonition"

with Fredman, crazy guy. Then working with Patric Ullaeus, these people are like Gods on what they do. But you guys are a bit wild on your night-life. We saw huge street fights between drunk people in the middle of Gothenburg, drunk girls pissing behind cars, pffff crazy shit!

Yes, Swedes are often heavy drinkers on the weekends. Lets see if we get to meet or see Bob

here in Sweden again for a show or anything. I think that it is safe to say that you should be on the lookout at Bob's channels as he always seems to have things going on, and therefore we thank him for taking his time to answer some questions for us.

Some links:

Hallowed Review of Amadeus Street Warrior
Hallowed review of Firewind's Few Against Many
Hallowed review of Outloud's Virtual Hero Society
Outloud web site
Symmetric Records web