

GRAND MASSIVE

Grand and massive are words that can be used when describing Bavarian band Called Grand Massive who recently released their third album. That album called III was well received by us here at Hallowed, which is why we got around to asking some questions about the band.



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PHOTOS: GRAND MASSIVE PRESS PHOTOS
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Grand Massive is described as a band of friends by Jochen (Boellath, guitars), and not as the youngest but still enjoying playing together making massive riffs and massive metal. And for a massive band like this (not in terms of them being massive as in fat) there can't really be a much better name than Grand Massive, can it?

- We had a list with about 10 names and we wanted a name that shows the direction of the music. We started without a singer and we wanted to create something big on the guitars, something heavy, dark and mighty. So we

found Massive. And to make Massive bigger as it is anyway, Grand was the perfect part for the name. Double Massive if you want.

It is not Le Grand Massif that inspired the name and their inspirations is not that place either as it is life, the world and the music and speaking about the music it can be described as something massively heavy.

- We are a massive Metal squad, back with their third album full of heavy, doom-loaded riffs and head-crushing grooves

And on the subject of that third album, the band sees that as a big step forward for the band as the debut was a self-made project realised with some friends while the second one called "II"

was made using older songs that they had written shortly after the debut but never released. It was also the first with the new line-up and according to Jochen it turned out awesome, but this time they had a plan.

- The new album was the first time we had the band together, had ideas together and a real plan. It was important for us to get a heavy sound and chose very early well-known studios and a legend behind the desk. To work with Andy Classen, who did some of our favourite bands, was one of the first important decisions about "III". And that we wanted my long-time friend David Johannesson from Mustasch on the record was the second.

Darker and more violent than

their earlier album is one way to describe "III" if you slightly twist the words in the answer.

- It is more like a punch in your face and we hope that a lot of Metal fans will think the same.

Feedbacks and promotions

Many bands often claim that their latest release is their best and they are not very often correct in that assumption, but it is not the case with Grand Massive. But they also claim that it is difficult to say because they like every release they have made.

- I really can't understand musicians, who talk about the difficulties and problems to record and release an album and can't listen to it anymore or only years later. This is the music I love. This

is the music I want to hear. This is the reason to record songs, which I want to hear. Okay, we don't have so much songs so far, but I can say I love every song from Grand Massive. Every release has his story. I really like the power of "II" very much. And I love the more Metal inspiration from "III", because my whole life is dedicated to Metal.

And for that same reason the favourite song on the album is every song on the album, and they are good for different reasons from the heaviness, the aura, the power, and the atmosphere according to Jochen.

So far the interest for the album has been good with pre-orders that worked well and the feedback from the fans has been great

according to Jochen, something that means that the promotion must have been good.

- We are so happy to have Metalville. Our previous labels all did an excellent job for us and we were so happy with it; absolutely no bad words about it! But Metalville is one of my favourite labels since years and it was such an honour to become part of it. So far we are really happy with the promotional work and we hope that Metalville can put us on the next step to conquer the world.

The last he said laughing, but maybe they are on the way towards that domination. The media now know their name and they get great feedback so global domination may be the next step up the ladder for them.



On their way towards global domination they have a new album out and today all is perfect for them but Jochen thinks it is too early to answer the question if they are pleased with how it all turned out.

- I think that is too early to answer. The CD is available since two weeks and so far all is perfect. The huge print magazines like it, we are on the Terrorizer UK and Rock Hard Germany Magazine-CDs and the feedback is only positive so far. So – today – all perfect

Grand Massive Live

Records, interviews and kind words from the press and fans is one aspect of the promotion,

getting out there and performing the songs live is another and for many bands touring isn't easy as life often gets in the way. And Grand Massive is no exception to this rule as they have good jobs, families and those things that you have to handle when you are grown up. But the bandmembers still aren't strangers to playing some live shows when the opportunity arises.

- If we will get a good tour-offer, we will discuss it in the band and check out the possibilities. But so far we can only do single shows or weekend gigs. We have some shows coming up to promote the record and we hope to get some more shows in the near future.

And every show is special, as

they only play selected shows at the moment. That means that it is not only special for the fans but also for the band.

- We are happy if we are on stage. And have a big motivation, we try to bring the power and heaviness from our records on the stage. And we all play for years in bands and are no newcomers on stage; I hope the guys in the front row notice that.

But if we are somewhere not that near a place where they play, why should we buy their new album and visit their shows?

- Because the album is full of great songs with excellent vocal lines which will not go out of your head for hours. I think it is a good record besides all that

mainstream bands which calls themselves Metal. This is fresh and heavy and in my eyes good songs, and if you like that music, you will get a good and active live band with a mix of all songs from the Grand Massive career... sounds good, right?

It sure does sound good, especially considering what we wrote in our review about it being a very good album. And it is out now on Metalville, Jochen and Grand Massive suggest you get it as it is a great album with excellent vocal lines that will not leave your mind for a long time. With that I leave the final words of this article to the Grand Massive guys after I thank them for taking their time answering my questions.

- I think today it is important to support unknown bands. Who needs another Iron Maiden, Metallica or Anthrax record? Their best time is gone, right? (The editor agrees with this.) Some will hate me for those words, but this is my opinion. Try to find some fresh and new music and support the smaller bands. They work harder than some bigger bands, because they have to handle jobs, kids, wives, life, house, parents and many more and with their short time left they give all their heart to their biggest hobby: making music

Links and stuff:

The Hallowed review of III
Grand Massive on Bandcamp
Grand Massive on Daredevil Records
Deliver Me video

Grand Massive are:
Alex Andronikos - vocals
Peter Wiesenbacher - guitar
Jochen Boellath - guitar
Toby Brandl - bass
Minke Malte - drums