



A while ago we reviewed the band Start a Revolution and their album Survivors, and now a bit later we have had the fortune to ask them some questions. Vocalist Patrick Portnicki and guitarist Malik Aziz were kind enough to answer the questions we had.

**START A
REVOLUTION**
SURVIVORS



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Patrick tells the short story about the band called **Start a Revolution**.

- **Start A Revolution** was originally founded in 2005 as a solo project when I recorded some songs and gave away a handful of CDs from time to time when visiting clubs. Reactions were overwhelming, so I decided to start a real band. From 2005-2009 we played a lot of shows and released our first album "The Day We've Been Waiting For". Due to

a lack of time, cancelled studies and my very involving and exhausting apprenticeship the band had to take some time out.

- In 2012 we were asked to play a festival in summer and I decided to start the band again. The line up changed with Malik joining at the guitar/vocal position, there are only two members left from the original line-up (Jens and me). In 2014 Max replaced Tamon on drums and Ferdi joined the band on the guitar. Together we had two amazing Russia tours, one Poland tour and many shows in Germany and Netherlands. Besides that we recorded our second

album "Survivors", which we released just now.

The name speaks of revolution, a word that signifies many things, it could be change or something revolutionary and that sort of thing, so what is the story behind the name?

- **Start A Revolution** was not meant to have a political meaning. The basic idea was about a revolution in our minds. To overcome automatisms and live our lives with more consciousness. Just open your eyes, intensify your perceptions. Take nothing for granted, life can end so fast. In 2018 we are more flexible with

the idea behind the band's name, because today we also sing about social criticism, the wave of refugees and weapon exports.

Refugees and weapon exports, probably the two subjects that creates the most debate around the world, or at least the part of the world where this writer is located. The subjects are a bit revolutionary, but what about the music. Post-hardcore is often used to describe them and in part Patrick agrees.

- My mother says something between **Metallica** and **Scorpions**. If you ask me I would say Post-Hardcore or some kind of metal, I

am not sure.

What about inspirations?

- I am inspired of personal experiences and things that fuck me up. I must admit that I wrote the best songs when I was down. Otherwise I am inspired by bands like **Boyssetsfire**, which is my all-time favourite band, and **Ignite** for example and other bands I like.

Survivors

Patrick explains that they are hoping that their songs shall effect their listeners and especially that they should have a positive impact on whoever is listening. And

they do make positive impacts in a more tangible way as well.

- With our *Hellcome* video we started a campaign to support the integration of refugee women. The campaign helped to fund language courses for at least one month. Yes, that's a drop in the bucket and it will not help to end conflicts e.g. in Syria, but in our eyes it's also the small things that make a difference.

But not all songs deal with grand subjects like refugees, there are also more personal songs like *Anchor* that deals with depression but also has a vein of hope and the title track deals with more or



less the same subject.

- *Survivors*, which is a Singa-long-hymn about surviving hard times. If this can help to have a positive impact on people to survive their bad times, we have done a good and sustainable job.

So how would they describe their new album "Survivors"? Malik explains:

- It is definitively a step forward for the band and much more serious. Lyrically and musically. It is more metal, more grown-up.

We're extremely happy with the sound that Aljoscha Sieg (Pitchback Studios, he did also Eskimo Callboy, Nasty, Any Given Day, Vitja, WBTBWB, etc.) produced for us. It was a lot of work but it just sits perfectly with us. That guy just nailed it on the head! We couldn't be more proud of the outcome.

And it is an album that looks pretty cool according to our review; the black and green colour scheme was something that im-

pressed upon our writer. Some bands don't really care about the artwork and that stuff it is some artist that does everything for them, but in the case of this album Malik explains that it was their own idea.

- Yes, absolutely. I am a graphic designer by profession and there was a clear vision where we wanted to go with the artwork, especially diverting from the look of our old album, since the band has changed quite a bit

in that time. There is a great artist for Hamburg, Liz Hanke, who did the illustration and it was great working with her. Since I first saw her artworks I was intrigued, I went to Hamburg to meet her and I was very happy when she agreed to working with *Start A Revolution*. She perfectly nailed what I was looking for and I love how it all worked out.

And of course there is a story to tell with the artwork as well.

- Yeah, it heavily relies on the

lyrics of the album. I guess the songs that you will find in there most are *Survivors* and *Questions* where we talk about many forms of survival and all the challenges we have to go through - or some people have to go through. And also about the serpent, the snake. We also used the extra poisonous green neon colour to emphasize the different perils the heart is in.

Survivor can mean many different things explains Malik, like physical survivor like they cover

in the track *Hellcome* and there are several different aspects on the Survival theme throughout this album.

- In the *Hellcome* video where we show real refugees and tell some of their stories. You will find the dangerous waters those people had to go through on the cover. *Survivors* is also the English expression for the people staying behind when someone passes away, like the family or friends. We also talk about *survi-*

val of a very personal crisis that can severely impact everyone's life, like depression and anxieties. Unfortunately we've had to go through our share of those and there are several songs referring to this: *Anchor, Broken Heart, Sit & Wait*.

Surviving live shows

Anchor was a track that stood out for us in our review, but what about the band; do they have any favourite tracks? As with most musicians Malik has a hard time coming up with a single favourite.

- I guess *Hellcome* has a riff I

love to play the most live, Patrick wrote it and I fell in love with it right away. But there are so many great songs... phew. *Anchor, Broken Heart*, I don't know it might change tomorrow.

He states with a laugh, but what about the reception then? Has that been any good?

- When answering this interview the fans can only listen to 4 songs or so and so far they seem psyched. The first reviews from German mags *Rock Hard* and *Metal Hammer* are raving to say the least. We didn't expect so much positivity - especially since we're basically a newcomer, they

never get much love.

And according to Malik the reception is even better than they could have hoped for.

- Of course there are critical voices here and there, which is totally fine. We're not here to please everyone (and how can you?) but to speak our hearts and make the music we love. Basically it works very well live and that's what we're mostly about.

So if they are mostly about playing live, then live playing is the most enjoyable thing for the band but Malik likes both of these even though he points out that playing live is probably

more gratifying because of the feedback from the audience, but to play live you need to have the music as well and someone has to record it so that it is known to the crowds. And some crowds have already heard them playing shows to support this new album and there will be more.

- We just finished our first round of shows supporting (hed) p.e. and going into the summer we're still planning stuff. As soon as we know it will be posted online of course. Follow our <http://www.bandsintown.com/startarevolution> to be the first to know.

And are they a good live band?

- Absolutely, that's where we're coming from and that's what we're proud of. We have 3 singers and love to bring the choral stuff into the live show. We're just about to completely renew our stage equipment to make it even more powerful.

- We're not a band to preach to the choir, we sometimes get many people on stage and let them go mad. That's what the song *Unity Hymn* is all about by the way.

So check out the band's sites if you are curious about when you will have the chance to hear that unity hymn for yourself. **Start a Revolution's** new album "Survivors" is out now and comes in a very nice digipak release. And with that we leave the final words of this article to Malik and **Start a Revolution**.

- Give our album not only a good listen but also a good read. We've included a 24 pages booklet with all the lyrics in the digipak so be sure to check that out. See you at a stage near you soon.

Our review of *Survivors* startarevolution.de

