



**"I guess veterans is not wasted on us"
says Dario D'Alessandro of Thy Majes-
tie when Hallowed has the pleasure
to ask a few questions about Thy
Majestie and their upcoming
album Shi HuangDi.**



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The history of Thy Majestie begins almost fifteen years ago in Italy, and since the start many things has happened, they have released four albums this far and a fifth is on its way. The band formation has also changed quite a bit during these years and only two members remain from the early days explains Dario.

- Today the only survivors of the original formation are Claudio (drums) and me (bass). Simone (guitars) has been playing with us in the last 5 years, since before the release of "Dawn", and Ales-

sio (voice) and Giuseppe (keys) have joined us a couple of years ago, while we were working on the new album

"Shi HuangDi" which is the title of the upcoming album is going to be released by Scarlet records to whom they returns after one release ("Dawn") on the Dutch label Dark Balance Records, they have been working with Scarlet Records for all but that album.

During their years they have seemed to have an affinity for conceptual albums which is something that is rooted in the beginnings of the band explains Dario and says that most of the band has a real passion for history and that their albums have more sounded like one long continuous

song rather than a combination of different songs.

- We have always tried to give the albums an uniform atmosphere, and for those two reasons the choice to make conceptual albums comes easily. It's not that when we start to produce new material we think that it will be a concept about this or that historical matter... it just comes natural during the songwriting process.

There are many different styles of music that can tell stories but most of the time they have this vague or floating sensation of being epic, like telling a story. And many today seems to be looking for a very precise and long definition of the style of a band adding more or less every little thing you

can find in it into the genre they think a band belong to, and so does Thy Majestie, or at least Dario does as he calls it "power-epic metal with some prog and film-score elements added to it". Our reviewer (who happens to be me) here at Hallowed called "Shi HuangDi" "symphonic power metal" to which you can add "pompous and majestic with some oriental touches" if you want a longer genre name.

The fifth album of the Italians is called "Shi HuangDi" and it is a conceptual album that tells the story of the legendary first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang.

- It has costed us 3 years of long

and hard work, and we are truly satisfied with what we came up with! It's composed of 10 songs and there are a couple of special guests. While everyone keeps talking about the great Fabio Lione's appearance, there's also the great lyrical singer and good friend Katy Decker (from the band Mena Brinno) singing in two songs.

The idea to set the sights eastwards was arisen just after the release of latest album "Dawn" and the previous singer Dario Cascio albeit at that time the idea was to set the story in an old Mongol empire or Japan, but what eventually triggered the idea to look to China rather than the rest was the silver screen.

- Relaxing one day after rehearsals, we ended up talking about movies and Giuseppe told us how much he loved this movie he had recently seen, "Hero", talking about the first emperor of China. By pure chance, Alessio had almost finished his studies in ancient oriental cultures and was an expert of the subject, so we started talking about whether it could work or not. Slowly but steadily we tried to insert some Chinese atmospheres in the material that was ready at the time, and we were content with the results.

Dario reveals that when they were starting with "Shi HuangDi" they were looking to go back towards the "Hastings 1066" and



Thy Majestie

SHI HUANGDI

"Jeanne D'Arc" albums as they figured that "Dawn" had moved them too far off those lands as he expresses it. Which is why they knew already from the beginning that they were looking to the past for the direction of the future.

- When we started working on "Shi HuangDi" we knew it was going to be a bit of a "back to the past" thing. I'd dare to say that "Shi HuangDi" sounds like a synthesis of what we have done so far: it has lots of choral and orchestral elements, like you could find on our first 3 albums, but the structure of the songs is "lighter" and the directness of the songs is similar to what you could find on "Dawn", with less prog elements.

And it is as good at it could be according to Dario.

- I honestly think that the album couldn't turn out better than it did. I'm not saying it's the best album one could have possibly done, but after all the hard work in the songwriting, in the arrangements, in writing the orchestral and choral parts, I can assure that each and everyone of us gave 100% of what we were capable. Production-wise, Simone and Dario at Wrec studios did a great job; at the mixing bench Giuseppe Orlando and Massimiliano Pagliuso did their usual best at Outer Sound Studios in Rome; and finally for the mastering we chose none but the best, Mika (Jussila) at Finnvox. We are totally satisfied with the final result.

Dario points out that the best song is either *Ephemeral* if he is

being somewhat partial since he wrote that song himself which is why he says he has to go with *Farewell* instead.

So, the band is satisfied with the album but what about the audiences? Fans and media, what do they think? As far as my research goes it looks good for the band having sifted through the first eight of the evil google's search results of reviews of which two was ours I found out that it has been very well reviewed and that our 5/7 was the lowest of the lot (for a change). Dario's view seconds mine and he cannot avoid smiling when saying that:

- The feedback by the critics so far has been overwhelmingly

positive, you guys are liking our songs a lot.

With such positive response I guess he can afford to smile, there is to little of that in the metal world otherwise. Speaking of smiling, what better place to do that than on stage. Touring is something most bands strive to do, although regular tours are getting fewer and further between for most bands, Thy Majestie are looking to come out and play some in Europe.

- We will, we'll be taking part in the 2012 edition of Brainstorm festival in the Netherlands and from there we'll move for more dates in Europe, the whole thing is building up!

What about it then? All seems to enjoy to go on tour and it would

seem that so does Thy Majestie and Dario, at least when I ask.

- Heh, who doesn't? It's totally the best part of being in a band, getting to know the people that like your music and getting to play your music in front of them is something really special, it gives so much adrenaline! If only my bandmates washed themselves more often.

Yeah, I suppose that personal hygiene might be suffering somewhat when on tour, at least if you are a smaller band that cannot afford the fancy hotel stops. Or maybe the guys of Thy Majestie are just people who doesn't like to wash themselves. But you know, it was a humorous remark so maybe they do wash on occasion.

Thy Majestie has once again signed with Scarlet Records meaning that they return to familiar ground after an adventure into unknown territory, meaning doing one album on another label. So what do they expect from Scarlet now that they return, Dario means that they expect that which they know Scarlet Records can deliver.

- Great professionalism, good visibility, great distribution, excellent promotion. Even a hand for some BIG open air festival, who knows?

The band of course knows this because they have a long experience with Scarlet Records, something that had an influence in them resigning with said label.



Their priority has always been to work with Scarlet, the adventure was due to them getting to do something they always wanted to do.

- The only reason why we decided to release our fourth album with another label was just because in the deal with this label we had included a substantial help with the touring around Northern Europe, which is something we wanted to do and something Scarlet couldn't assure.

Thy Majestie is coming up on fifteen years as a band, that is a

substantial amount of time and during such an amount of time you have plenty of time to learn things. So what is the most important lessons that Thy Majestie have learnt during these years.

- Well, 15 years is quite a lot of time, isn't it? As a band, we went through lots of turmoil, especially during the years between "Jean D'Arc" and "Dawn", and what we learnt is that no matter what happens, no matter how many people stop believing in you and tell you that you won't make it, if you try your best, you can get

anything that you want, you can achieve goals that seemed impossible at first.

Fifteen years is a decent amount of time as well, maybe not ten or twenty years but it is a small milestone anyway, so will the band do anything to celebrate this occasion?

- We have nothing in mind yet... but you never know.

And just so you know, Sweden is a dream for Thy Majestie, they dream of arriving here to our little nation far in the north and far from civilisation. At least that is

what Dario wants to add when I was finished asking questions.

- We are craving to come to Sweden, it's the only Scandinavian country we didn't manage to play so far!

Then let us hope the upcoming touring allows them the chance to get here, but also of course wish them luck with the release of "Shi HuangDi" which will be out from september 25. Also be sure to check out the band's website for information about touring and all that stuff, and if you haven't already do check out our review of

Shi HuangDi.

With that we say thank you to Dario D'Alessandro and Thy Majestie for taking the time to answer my questions.

Thy Majestie are:

- Alessio Taormina - Vocals
- Simone Campione - Guitars
- Guisepppe Carruba - Keyboards
- Dario D'Alessandro - Bass
- Claudio Diprima- Drums

Thy Majestie discography:

- 2012 - Shi HuangDi
- 2008 - Dawn
- 2005 - Jeanne d'Arc
- 2003 - Echoes of War
- 2002 - Hastings 1066
- 2000 - The Lasting Power
- 1999 - Perpetual Glory

Thy Majestie on the web:

- Our review of Shi HuangDi <http://www.thymajestie.com>
- Thy Majestie on mspace
- Thy Majestie on youtube
- Scarlet Records