

Sascha Beselt / MANDATORY Interview

Under The Hellish Plague Fanzine Chile

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(Nechroslaughter): HAILS MANDATORY !!!

1. FIRSTLY THANKS FOR AGREE THIS FUCKING INTERROGATORY! AND ITS AN HONOUR FOR OUR ZINE TO MAKE THIS INTERVIEW... FOR BEGIN...HOW ARE YOU DOING? WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THESE DAYS?

Hey bro! Thanks for this interview! I am doin' fine. Preparing for mixing the album.
(*UPDATE: It was later mixed at Sunlight Studio by Tomas Skogsberg*).

2. WELL, NOW ..IN LESS WORDS..TELL ME ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THE BAND...WHATS ARE THE MAIN PORPUSES WHEN US CREATED MANDATORY,THE INTEGRANTS OF THE BAND ARE INVOLVED IN OTHERS PROYECTS(ZINES,LABELS,BANDS,ETC?)

Well, as for our biography, please, have a look at our MySpace-profile www.myspace.com/mandatory1989 or our homepage www.mandatory-death.de. To tell you something that can not be read all over the internet: From the beginning we went for catchy riffs and song structures similar to what most people would call Swedish Death Metal with a bit of British Death thrown in. So main influences might have been bands like Unleashed, Grave, Nihilist, Cancer or Benediction. We definitely did not want those US Death Metal song structures.

Yeah some of us are also involved in other projects and you will get to know these projects in 2009/10. Watch out!

3. MANDATORY HAS BEEN REGARDED AS ONE OF THE BEST DEATHMETAL BANDS OF THE UNDERGROUND IN THE ACTUALLY,CONSIDERATING THE BAND ONLY HAS RELEASE 3 DEMOS AND A 1 COMPILATION FROM 2002 TO THESE DAYS,WHY DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS...?

Yes? Does MANDATORY really have that fame? Cool ! Haha.. Oh, yeah we only did 3 MCDs until today as well as a compilation entitled "Exiled In Pain" containing ALL of our songs so far PLUS 6 previously unreleased bonus tracks. Some of them were

meant to make up our first album in 2003 together with the tracks of "Divine Destruction" which we released a year before. Nevertheless, we got into problems with the mixing studio and lost interest in this album as we also had already written new songs which were then recorded for "Curse Of The Undead". So some of these tracks we finally used on "Exiled In Pain".

5. WHAT ARE THE MAIN INFLUENCES OF THE BAND TO MAKE THIS BRUTAL AND REALLY VIOLENT DEATHMETAL, THE INFLUENCES OF THE INTEGRANTS TOO IN THIS NEXT WORDS PLEASE?

Look above. Mostly we were influenced by Swedish and British Death Metal but also some Thrash. Godfathers like Razor, Onslaught or Exciter are a big inspiration.

6. GREAT..NOW TELL ME ABOUT THE RECORDINGS SESSIONS, HOW ARE THIS...ARE ALCOHOL,DRUGS IN THIS SESSIONS?

No not at all. Perhaps this may disappoint some people, but you are not capable to do your best when being drunk or stoned.

7. WHEN MIGHT TO BE THE POSSIBILITIE TO HAVE IN OUR HANDS

The album? Well, it will take some months. Expect it in summer 2009. But you will love it. I am sure!

8. THE FIRST MANDATORY FULL LENGTH...YOU ARE WORKING IN THIS?

Yes, it will be the first OFFICIAL album. As I pointed out before, we were in for our first album in 2003 but the circumstances made us cancel the album.

9. SOME NAME ABOUT THIS "FUTURE RELEASE"?

Working title is "Adrift Beyond"...

10. LISTENING THE FIRST DEMO CALLED "DIVINE DESTRUCTION" RELEASED ON THE 2002...IMMEDIATELY I REMEMBER AND RECOGNIZED SOUNDS FROM THE OLD AMERICAN DEATHMETAL BANDS (EARLY DEICIDE,ASPHYX) AND US COMBINE RIFFS A

MIDDELTIME WITH PARTS AND STRUCTURES TO THE OLD SWEDISH DEATHMETAL AS EDGE OF SANITY,DISMEMBER,NIHILIST,AND SO ON...HOW TO ARRIVES TO THIS RESULTS...

Well, actually Asphyx is a Dutch band. The American influence I do not see here but who cares!?! All that really cares is if you like it or not and if you bang your head to our shit. Yeah, Edge Of Sanity and Dismember are, of course, big influences, you are right!

11. YOU ARE REALLY INFLUENCED BY THE OLD SWEDISH DEATHMETAL SCENE?

Yes, of course. How could we not? Old Swedish and British Death Metal is the best stuff.

12. WHAT ARE THE TOPICS PLASMATED IN THE LIRICS OF MANDATORY;?

Back around the time of "Divine Destruction" we dealt with the classic themes just like death, zombies and revenge. "Curse of The Undead" was even more brutal as to be realized in "Flesh Possessed", definitely our most brutal lyrics so far. Today we still write about death but in a more psychological way. I do not want to tell too much about that. Everybody should make his own thoughts about them...

13. GO ON ABOUT THE FIRST FULL LENGTH...I LISTEN THAT THIS LP ARE CALLED "Adrift Beyond" IS TRUE THIS?...SOME DATE OF RELEASE?LABEL..WHAT ARE THE SOUND THIS...IN THE VEIN SOME PREVIOUS DEMO?...WHO MAKES THE ARTWORK!!!(THE ARTWORK OF "WHERE THEY BLEED" ITS VERY KILLER!!!)

Yes, the "Where They Bleed"-artwork is a killer, just as that of "Exiled In Pain". But believe me, our new cover artwork will blow your mind completely!

Yes, the album's title is "Adrift Beyond" and it will be released in some months. I can not tell you about the label now. Please, understand.

The sound is massive and deep as hell.. Classic Death Metal with catchy riffs and some nice melodies thrown in... The album will have a playing time of about an hour. So that's great fun for you, believe me.

14. NOW..TELL ME ABOUT THE GERMAN METAL SCENE...HOW IS THIS,ARE MANY PEOPLE INVOLUCRATED OR IT'S A SMALL SCENE..BESIDES THE MOST KNOW BAND...SOME HORDE THAT YOU RECOMMEND TO THE CHILEAN HELLBANGERSç?

Well, this is actually a question I do not like answering. Most people interviewing us ask for our scene. In fact, we are not much into our own scene. Most of our bands are into the American style of Death Metal, at least I get the impression. So we can not recommend a lot of bands - just because we do not know about them. Perhaps you check out the veterans Dead or some old Crack Up ("Blood Is Life" was a great record and it is extremely hard to find).

15. A LOT OF METAL BANDS AROUND THE WORLD SAYS THAT THEY ONLY LISTEN PURE EVIL METAL, AND SO LISTEN OTHER KIND OF MUSIC ITS FOR FALSERS AND POSSERS, MANDATORY'S INTEGRANTS LISTEN OTHER KIND OF MUSIC?OR THEY HAVE ONLY LISTEN METAL...?

Well, if you ask me, the biggest posers are those pretending to be "pure evil" and "true". Of course, we also listen to completely other music. I listen to a lot of Blues, Southern Rock or Fusion, some Jazz and Classical music. Some faves of mine apart from the Metal scene are Robert Cray, ZZ Top (my favourite band), Queen, Dire Straits, Chris Rea, pure old Elvis, Hendrix... oh just too many to name.. Anyway, it does not influence our way of Death Metal.

16. IN YOUR RECORDINGS IN THIS 5 YEARS YOU HAVE MADE 2 COVERS,CROSS ME FOOL FROM RAZOR AND SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENT FROM THE USA DEMONS REPULSION, HOW WAS THE EXPERIENCE OF THIS,REALLY YOU ARE FAN FROM RAZOR"?

Razor is the fucking best Thrash band ever along with Slayer, Onslaught, old Exciter and old Exodus. I mean you can listen to every Razor album - they are all good. Repulsion are killer, too. Yes, covering them was fucking fun.

17. IN THE ACTUALLY MANY DEATH "POP" METAL BANDS ARE APPEARS..THEY ARE WIMPS,POSSERS ETC...THEY NEVER CAN FEEL THE PASSION THAT GENERATES PLAYS A OLD DEATH METAL...WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS...TELL ME AND NAME THE POSSERS BANDS IN GERMANY...AND HOW MANDATORY EXTERMINATES THIS FUCKINS SHITS!!!

Well, hehe... Just to get sure we do not misunderstand each other: What is Death Pop Metal? Are you talking about bands like Sonic Syndicate, so female fronted Melodic Death Metal or do you mean "real" Death Metal bands with a poser ego??

As for the latter: There are really some popping up at the moment and I hate to see that a few of them appear to be some kind of arrogant. I see bands getting casted together by big labels just to have some "new thing" to promote. You often see more famous Death Metal musicians doing some new projects and then they miss a vocalist for example.

And some weeks later - tadaaa! - they suddenly have that great vocalist in their line-up, someone who has not been around in the music biz since the release of THE classic milestone album he did with his former band 18 years ago. And as we all know: These new projects do not have the same spirit as back then and most of these musicians have grown older and lost interest in real Death Metal. But as soon as the big labels ask them to do a project they return to the scene and pretend to be “really true”. I mean: Just promote new good bands and do not reanimate old names that lost track just to make some cash out of it! The really good ones are still around - Unleashed, Dismember, Grave, Entombed. They do not need any reanimation.

18. NOW...WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CHILEAN TRUE FUCKIN SCENE,SOME CHILEAN BAND ARE INFLUENCE THE INFERNAL RIFFS OF MANDATORY..ITS POSSIBLE SOME TOUR FOR THIS SIDE OF THE EARTH????IT WILL BAND YOURE LIKE TO PRESENT ON CHILE?

Uhhh.. now you have my back against the wall haha! No, to be honest, I do not know any big Chilean band although I know there are really killer bands in your area. And most important: They are all down to earth and not the kind of posers I see in my scene over here.

19. INTERNET AND THE MP3 ARE KILLING THE REAL FEELING OF THE UNDERGROUND...THE MOST BESTIAL ACTS ARE IN THE MYSPACE WORLD,BANDS AS BLASPHEMY,CONQUEROR,WATAIN,ETC.HOW DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS, MANDATORY SUPPORTS THE MYSPACE?

MANDATORY does not “support” MySpace - we USE it! Or exploit it! All bands are on MySpace. You just have to be there if you want to get a deal today.

But you should not compare MP3 with MySpace. MySpace is promotion, but MP3 is bullshit. I really appreciate people buying our CDs. I mean: We will never make a living out of it but get the fucking CD for those few Dollars..

What you should also consider: MySpace is the place to discover new bands! There might be hundreds of Chilean Death Metal bands that can not afford a CD pressing. But at MySpace they can at least show the world some of their music without having to pay. That’s what is really a good thing about the internet. Not everything is shit. Or let’s take all the netzines! Internet made a big Death Metal internet scene and you can discover a lot of bands and zines every day.

20. TAPES, VINYL OR CDS...WHAT ARE THE MOST PREFERRED FORMAT..WHY?

Vinyl: It looks the best - it sounds the best. But it always fucks me up to turn the fucking vinyl haha...

So if I had to chose, I would prefer the CD I think. Nevertheless I also own a lot of vinyls that I love.

Tape however is nothing... If I wanted to turn the medium I could take the vinyl as well.

21. THE 10 MOST BRUTAL LPS FROM US COLLECTION

Well, brutality never was the reason for me to buy an album. I can name my favourite Death Metal vinyls here..

1. Cancer - To The Gory End, 2. Entombed - Clandestine, 3. Unleashed - Victory, 4. Carnage - Dark Recollections, 5. Death - Scream Bloody Gore, 6. Entombed - Left Hand Path, 7. Dismember - Indecent&Obscene, 8. Tiamat - Clouds, 9. Benediction - Transcend The Rubicon, 10. Napalm Death - Utopia Banished

22. SOME TOPICS ...

NAZISM: Is something we should all have learned from. Those who did not have no right to live in our society. Fuck all Nazi shit.

NIGGERS AND BLACK PEOPLE: Are people like you and me.

GLEEN BENTON: Seems to be crazy in his head but makes some of the best music in Death Metal. That's all which counts for me...

TEXAS 80S DEATHMETAL SCENE: Helstar...

PENTAGRAM: Good doom band !

MANDATORY: ..for president!

DEAD(MAYHEM): A poor mind... If he found what he was looking for, then fine..

23. Mandatory was formed a whole decade later than the bands that have inspired your band. Have you ever been made to feel that you are not truly old school? Do you acknowledge the recent trend of newer bands playing old school death metal music? If so, what do you make of it?

When we founded the band, we did not think about if we had the right to play this music or not. We played what we wanted to play. I remember the first feedbacks we got from people that were much into old school stuff and they were like "hell yeah! Finally a new killer old school band"... There was no other band around at that time. At least in Germany..

As for the question concerning those retro-bands: That's what I hate the most about today's scene! Retro-bands! When we formed MANDATORY in 2001 there was no MySpace and we really had the feeling to be the only band in Germany to play that old school stuff. Well, indeed, there could have been other bands, too, but we had not heard about them. Today you can see hundreds and thousands of bands on the net - especially in the USA - that try to make this sound. I personally think the current American scene tries to force it.. they were too late and now they want to have their own try on old school Death Metal. And when you read those promo descriptions from their labels you get the feeling as if all that counts is to be "old school as fuck". Man, old school is just ONE school. It's a cool school, of course, but you can also find great music in the new school. So create your own mixture!

As for MANDATORY: We decided to set ourselves apart from this retro-scene. Of course we still sound old school but when you will be listening to the new album you will realize that it sounds like MANDATORY and nothing else.

24. ABOUT THE FEVER OF THE ORTODOX BLACK METAL ...WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS?IS ONLY A SEASON FASHION?

No opinion on that - I am not into Black Metal. I still have some of those records I call "real Black Metal" like first 2 or 3 Dark Throne albums, Marduk - "Dark Endless" or 1st Mayhem, but in general it does not work for me. I hate the high vocals and the shitty lyrics. I also do not care for that wimpy guitar sound..

25. There are currently cultivating new bands that sound old of death metal...which are bands pillars for you at this time ?... and you can give us some words of your relationship with these ...

Well.. I must admit, that I do not feel that comfortable about this retro-hype. When we started out in 2001, the old school was..well..just..old, haha. And bands like GRAVE or UNLEASHED had not released their comeback albums, yet. In the underground there were not too many old school bands around. In the last 2 - 4 years, however, there are popping up way too many of these retro-bands. It's their good right to do so but it's not that I say "Hell yeah, baby!!". Out of all these bands I definitely like DEATH EVOKATION the most. A band that creates great music and to which we have a friendly contact. Hails to Götz & Deathevokation!

26. This new wave of death metal bands, we can recommend one?

As I said before: I am not much into this new hype. I stick to the bands that have been around for years and years and not to those that got created after MySpace made it possible for everyone to show the world their songs without needing to press an album. What you get offered by those bands is just Death Metal fastfood !! Every second band used black/white covers at the moment and behaves just like they think it right in the old school. But the truth is: Where have they been in the last 10 years!? Have they been around in 1999/2000/2001 when old school Death Metal was out and not in ?! The

answer is: NO! They go with the internet and load up unmixed songs... rough versions, demo versions...Some of them even load up song structures and send around blogs where you can decide which part should be added to another. Or they let their "fans" (in reality they do not have more than 20) decide how to call the next album!! Pah !! They should upload stuff that has got released already! But now it's: "Hey I need a 2nd band member to create a song! And after 2 days of work we are a band and load our inferior songs up on MySpace!". Do not get me wrong: MySpace is cool if the right bands use it! It's a forum for really good bands that work their asses off. But please, get rid of all those newcomer-1-song-underground-"wonders", all these groups that only write one song a have a frined doing a cool underground artwork for them. Fuck man! Old school is not only about having a cool artwork which you can print to shirts! And it is also not only about spreading evil paroles and shooting pics with bullet belts! Old school - for me -is writing good music in the vein of a specific time around the late 80s/early 90s. And the overall produccion should be cool, too. So fuck all those posers, those wannabe-old schoolers! Go and learn your stuff, record more than one song, chose your album title ON YOUR OWN, and then press a fucking CD. THEN come back and let us have a listen!

27. Just as there are new bands, there are stamps that have helped make the eyes of bangers today point to the true Death Metal, you think the work of labels like Eucletion Recs, Blood Harvest Recs, Nuclear Winter Recs, etc ...

Oh well... of course, they work as hard as the bands, I believe. They truly believe in the bands. But let's get it right: Those labels are NOTHING without the bands! However, an underground band could release an album itself easily. It is possible. So to answer your question: Thanks to the labels and their hard work. - Kill on! - But I would not say that they are the reason for all those bands popping up. I truly believe that the reason for this is the internet itself and forums like MySpace which make it possible for everyone to share music with the whole world without needing to pay hundreds and thousands of Dollars or EUROS for production, pressing and promotion. The other reason, of course, is that sequencer programs like Cubase or Logic as well as plugins, are available as cracked and freeware versions all over the net. Nowadays you can easily record a song with a cracked sequencer software and mix it in the box so that it sounds at least as good as most of the early 90s Swedish or Finnish productions. Then go and burn it onto a CD and upload it on MySpace ! Then sit in front of the PC for 7 days a week and you get massive feedback worldwide. It's as easy as that.

Hail mandatory!!!hail death metal!!!!!!!!!!!!

Hail Under The Hellish Plague!!

Regards!!!

Spreading the pest prods.2009