

ALBUM REVIEW: SECRETS SHE KEPT - "LA FIN ABSOLUE DU MONDE"

You know how sometimes you just find an album that makes you think "ah, all is right with the world" and "human beings are a lovely bunch"? Well, this isn't it. This album reaffirms what most of us know anyway - most human beings are idiots and they make us angry. Thank f**k for extreme metal!

Nah, I jest. I don't hate the world... well, not THAT much... most days. But on the days where I could quite happily shun the human race and become a full-time cat lady, albums like "La Fin Absolue du Monde" will be providing the soundtrack.

Secrets She Kept are from Florida. Florida has this reputation of being a shiny, happy, sunny place and yet a wealth of Death and Black Metal bands have been spawned from it. Maybe that was bound to happen... For every ying there must be a yang... Or something like that. Whatever the reason, I am incredibly glad that this is the case. Secrets She Kept's brand of Blackened Death Metal is particularly pleasing. They have a 'take no prisoners' approach that knocks you off your feet from the very start. "La Fin Absolue du Monde" is the perfect example of this. It doesn't let you get warmed up first, it doesn't ease you in... it just goes straight for your throat. "Legion 666" kicks things off and is a frantic aural assault and things don't let up with "Carriion Soul" either. In fact, things don't really let up at all. I'd like to give a special nod of respect to the drummer (who seems to have a neverending supply of energy!) and the lead guitarist - both of whom put on blinding performances. The vocals are captivating. They sound tortured, yet powerful. Musically, the instrumentation tends to focus on the Death Metal side of things, while it's the vocals that take us into Black Metal territory. This is a superb clash of genres that really works to Secrets She Kept's advantage. Overall, this is a supremely enjoyable extreme metal album. My advice to you is this: Buy this album and give yourself whiplash. Also, it'll piss off your neighbours.

Rating: 90%

Read the full review: <http://luciferspeaks.com/2011/04/14/secrets-she-kept-la-fin-absolue-du-monde/>

More info about Secrets She Kept: www.secretsshekept.com



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We've abandoned MySpace now... It smells funny.

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1. World Wide Vulture
2. Motionless Torrent
3. Introducing The Dominance
4. A Child Called Shit (Two Minutes Hate)
5. The New Consciousness
6. Where Dead Children Feed The Street
7. One Size Fits All
8. Victory Mansions

Remember, if you are a member of the Lucifer Speaks forum, you are entitled to a discount on ALL purchases from the Lucifer Speaks Shop.
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LUCIFER SPEAKS

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"ZINE-ETTE"
ISSUE #1

The little beastie that you're holding in your hands at the moment is, what I hope to be, the first of many little 'zine-ettes' that will be gracing the bars and tables of various establishments in the months to come. Before we launch full throttle into a multitude of tasty metal nuggets, I'd like to take a brief moment to explain to you what Lucifer Speaks is. Lucifer Speaks is a Metal / Rock (web)zine, forum and shop. We feature interviews and reviews concerning bands from around the world, we talk about said bands (and other subjects) on our forum and we have sell fantastic items in our shop. If all this sounds awesome to you, and you'd like to kill some time online by checking us out, please head over to www.LuciferSpeaks.com

Horns up!
Lou



Photo of András Nagy (Sear Bliss)
from searbliss.hu

SEAR BLISS INTERVIEW

I have been a fan of Hungary's Black Metal legends Sear Bliss for quite a few years, so when the opportunity to interview mainman András Nagy arose, I jumped at the chance. Here is an excerpt from that interview...

Lou: Hi András, thank you for taking the time to answer my questions - I really do appreciate it. Before we get started, how are you?

András: Hi Lou. I'm OK, though I've been a little bit exhausted as we are in the middle of the writing process of our new album plus we worked hard on the first full-length album of a project I'm involved in (Nefarious). So, I'm quite busy at the moment but I was on holiday for two weeks, visited some really beautiful places, so I'm back again with full power.

Photo of András Nagy
(Sear Bliss) from searbliss.hu



Lou: Just for the benefit of anyone who hasn't had the chance to listen to Sear Bliss yet, how would you describe your music?

András: It's extremely powerful and harsh, yet very emotional in some ways. It's a mixture of the feelings of five lost souls. It's difficult to put into words what we feel, so we'd rather express it through our music. I'd like to believe that our music speaks for itself.

Lou: Where do you get the inspiration for your lyrics from?

András: Anything can inspire me in some ways but mostly

it's only a feeling or mood which creates something in me and I try to express it with words. My lyrics are born after the music is created. I listen to the actual songs and write down what comes to my mind and what emotions the music conveys. This is how I write my lyrics. This way it fits perfectly to the music. This method is very similar to writing the bass lines for a song for example. You have the base of a song, you have the melodies played by the guitar, whatever and then you write the bass lines which fit exactly to the melody. This is how I write my lyrics. Therefore in our case, lyrics play a role equal to the instruments.

Lou: The name Sear Bliss is very intriguing. Where is it from?

András: I found a phrase in a poem of Charles Baudelaire and I translated it to English, this is how the name was born. At that time I was into poems and I wanted to give a unique name to the band as I was sick of the so many typical names at that time. Now I'm not sure it was a good choice but it's too late to change it now, haha.

Lou: The use of the trumpet really makes your music stand out from other Black Metal bands. At what stage did you decide to use wind instruments in your sound? I know it's been in your recordings throughout, but I was just wondering if it was something that you had in mind when you first formed the band.

András: We used wind instruments since the very beginning of the band. When I formed Sear Bliss, at the end of 1993, I wanted to sound unique and fresh, I wanted something unusual. A friend of mine played in a brass band and he was a metal head too, so I asked him to join. I remember how surprised I was when he came to one of our first rehearsals and we tried to implement the trumpet into our music. It fit perfectly. So, we decided to give as much creativity as possible to him. I love the sound of brass. It fits perfectly to metal as it has such a harsh and powerful sound. Actually, brass fits much better to metal than stringed instruments like violin or cello.

Lou: Are you working on any new music at the moment? Will we have the opportunity to hear a new album soon?

András: Yes! Actually we are working on the new album right now. We plan to record it this summer. If everything goes well, you can listen to the new album at the end of 2011.

Read the full interview at <http://luciferspeaks.com/2011/04/12/sear-bliss-interview/> and find out more about Sear Bliss at www.searbliss.hu

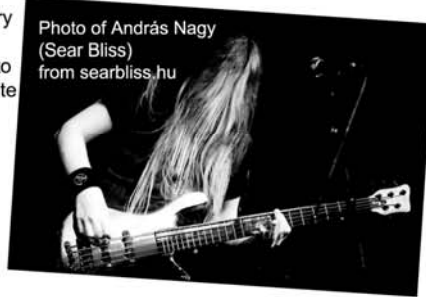


Photo of András Nagy (Sear Bliss) from searbliss.hu

IDLILICAH GIVE FREE DOWNLOAD TO FANS!



Idillicah are offering a free download to all fans who sign up to their mailing list at

www.reverbnation.com/idillicah. Marcos Codas, Idillicah mastermind had this to say about the track: "We wanted to reward our fans and we'll be having more fan-exclusive content in the future as we keep on working on the next album. The song is an acoustic cover of 'Hope Leaves' by Opeth, with me on vocals and Laura Pinto on guitar. She's a top-notch guitar player and a good friend. Hope you like it!"

The UK version of Idillicah's "Rebirth of the Future" album is currently available from the Lucifer Speaks Shop. Check it out here:

<http://luciferspeaks.bigcartel.com/>

More info about Idillicah can be found at www.idillicah.com

IMPERIAL CONQUEST IPHONE APP

Florida's Black Metal masters Imperial Conquest have released an iPhone app that's FREE for fans to download. Visit the following link to grab the app: <http://met.al/1236>



You can also pick up the band's latest CD, "Omnipotence", from the Lucifer Speaks Shop. Check out this link: <http://luciferspeaks.bigcartel.com/>

NEW WRAPPED IN A SHEET ALBUM



One man Black Metal project, Wrapped in a Sheet will release a new album on 23rd May 2011. As with Wrapped in a Sheet's EP, this album will be available as a FREE download. Check out this link for more info:

www.wrappedinasheet.co.cc

ALBUM REVIEW: NERVECELL - "PSYCHOGENOCIDE"



Nervecell have quickly become one of my favourite new (well, new-ish) Death Metal bands. They somehow manage to retain everything I like about old school Death Metal and still make it sound fresh and exciting. Their music is technical, but without ever sounding over the top. Their use of middle-eastern melodies remind me Nile, but I never feel like I'm listening to Nile (or a Nile clone for that matter). Nervecell are very much their own beast.

"Psychogenocide" is the band's follow up to "Preaching Venom" – an album I purchased from CDBaby ages ago, but that still manages to find itself on my playlist at least once a week. Since I rate "Preaching Venom" so highly, "Psychogenocide" had a lot of live up to. After my very first listen to the album, I knew that Nervecell had cracked it. They've really aimed high with this one. The album opens with "Anemic Assugency" – a track that pretty much acts as an introduction and that straightaway reacquaints the listener with those Middle Eastern melodies that were pretty prominent in the last release. It's very easy to imagine that I'm not in the UK when I listen to this. Then "Once Upon an Epidemic Scheme" kicks in and the calming melodies are all but forgotten. Complex riffs, deep vocals and insane drumming all spill out of the speakers and before you know it, you're immersed in Nervecell's highly addictive form of Death Metal. Not to mention the fact that these guys know the importance of a killer guitar solo. The one in "Once Upon an Epidemic Scheme" really cuts through the rest of track and makes you grab the nearest air guitar. "Shunq (To The Despaired... King Of Darkness)" is where Mr Karl Sanders (of Nile) lends the band his vocal stylings. The track itself features vocals in both English and Arabic (don't these guys know I have a hard enough time growling along in English?). An incredibly enjoyable track from beginning to end. If you've never listened to Nervecell before, try to listen to this little beauty – you'll be an instant convert. Does "Psychogenocide" surpass the heady heights reached by "Preaching Venom"? Yes – without a doubt!

Rating: 99%

You can read the FULL review at: <http://luciferspeaks.com/2011/04/18/nervecell-psychogenocide/> Find out more about Nervecell at: www.nervecell.net

EP REVIEW: THE FURIOUS HORDE - "INSTIGATION"



The Furious Horde are a Symphonic Dark Metal band from deepest, darkest Essex and "Instigation" is their most recent work of art. Featuring 3 tracks, this EP proves itself to be the perfect gateway into the band's music and has left me wanting more. Does anyone know where I can pick up the rest of their discography? "Dogma I" is a dark piece, full of heavy guitars and creepy melodies. It drags you through a bizarre nightmare-esque soundscape. More than once I found myself thinking of evil clowns. Evil undead clowns. With knives. And a taste for human flesh. "Nevermore" wanders slowly, yet with intent, into your consciousness. It builds up gradually, never feeling like it needs to rush. But, when it does kick in, it takes no prisoners. The riffs here seem to be more ferocious than in the previous track and the whole thing just invites you bang your head. Wonderful stuff. Oh, and it's still nice creepy. The clean vocals make you feel like you're being serenaded by an undertaker. Or a corpse for that matter. "Possession" grabs you by the throat, sucks your blood and makes you want headbang in the process. All in all, The Furious Horde have succeeded in combining the right amounts of heaviness, atmosphere and melody to create an EP which I (quite rightly) described as a 'work of art' at the very start of this review.

Full review: <http://luciferspeaks.com/2011/04/04/the-furious-horde-instigation-ep/>

Rating: 93%

More info: www.myspace.com/thefurioushorde