VM-Underground monthly newsletter

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

Gates of Ishtar

Gates of Ishtar ready with new album called 'Murder the Light' after 30 years: "Not a lookback but a continuation built on the same foundation and spirit that defined us then and still drives us now."

Friends of Inanna! After nearly three decades WE HAVE RETURNED! In january 2027 we will release our first album since 1997. Not a lookback but a continuation built on the same foundation and spirit that defined us then and still drives us now. The new material stays true to the sound and identity that shaped our earlier work. While reflecting on the years that have passed and the experiences gained along the way now nearly thirty years later the fire still burns even brighter and more intense than ever.

Therefore we are now beyond ourselves to finally give thee...

REVIEWS REVIEWS

Desecrated Altar - Rites of Imprecation (Demo)
Sfigmos Records

What was once lost is found again. Desecrated Altar storms out of Florida with 'Rites of Imprecation', a 6 track 22 minute-long demo displaying some incredibly solid Death Metal calling back elements of many other classic Floridian bands. If you were missing the true old-school 'Altars of Madness' style, Desecrated Altar has resurrected it in a powerful and tasteful manner, even down to the guitar tone and drumming patterns. Even the band arrangement has striking similarities to early Morbid Angel, with the dual guitars and bassist-vocalist lineup. The drums, while they may not have their own Sandoval, demonstrate a complete understanding of the pacing and grooviness needed to take it back to the late 80's.

It is apparent that Death Metal is best understood and written by the minds of those who are young; these members are all in their very early 20's, and already unleashing mind-numbing abominations with no outsider BS. True to the source, but not a commercial rip-off. Safe to say this is a band to watch out for; these guys know how to make something fun, interesting, and truly evil at the core. (Rusty)





Terrestrial Hospice - Omnicide - Chapter I
Edged Circle Productions

'Omnicide - Chapter I' by Terrestrial Hospice becomes the entity that possesses the blade's edge or the barrel of a shotgun, through which freedom is relinquished and the misanthropic dissonance of Black Metal. Resonating in a similar vein to acts such as Funeral Mist and Craft, and even possessing the ritualistic proportions of Darvaza, Terrestrial Hospice chronicles in sound the very experience through which the soul erects its own Pand?monium from the abyss into which it has been cast.

The correlation between affliction and exhalation encircles the album as it heralds the consciousness towards the depths where the senses become lacerated as the consciousness descends through every level, feeling every sensation as the mind regresses into its primal state. Infesting the album's atmosphere with a sulphuric rancour, the vocals emerge more as an invasion upon the senses. 'Phosphoric Salvation' displays this, where the vocals do not flow in a linear current; instead, they coil around the mind, rendering the consciousness helpless as they become the dominant force.

A juxtaposition presents itself within the drumming, where its essence is clinical and precise, yet, at the same time, there is a level of chaos and hostility to the barrage. 'Depraven (Black Invocation)', 'Drowning Spirit' and 'Menace' demonstrate this consternation, while 'Serpents In The Grass' fosters a more physical intimacy with the album. From the desecration and consignment of the spirit arises a consciousness beholden neither to the golden light nor to false freedom. That which assumes the soul, in turn, becomes god in its own image. (Justin Joseph)

Blotskal- Afloat the Nocturnal Current (EP)
WolfKult Religion

Blotskal's 'Afloat the Nocturnal Current' is a cold, folklorie-tinged Dutch Black Metal release rooted in the northern Lowlands scene and crafted by two seasoned musicians: Nortfalke (all instruments) and The Specter (vocals).

'Afloat the Nocturnal Current' is built on a cold, urgent Black Metal foundation with folk-inflected melodic phrasing, echoing early Satyricon (Dark Medieval Times, The Shadowthrone) and shades of Arckanum and early Kampfar. The EP's character is defined by icy, rattling drum urgency, feral piercing shrieks, atmospheric, humming keyboards that carry the folk aura, and hook-driven riffs reminiscent of Darkthrone and early Norwegian minimalism.

From its first seconds, 'My Soul Is Fading' establishes the EP's drifting, melancholic descent. The title track, 'Afloat the Nocturnal Current', is the EP's thesis, the moment where the nocturnal current becomes a force rather than a metaphor. 'Towering Nebula Burst' is the EP's atmospheric apex, while 'Deep Fog, the Foresty Claws' is the EP's earthbound counterpoint. 'Striding the Spiritual Hills' is the moment where the nocturnal current becomes a path rather than a pull, and 'I Rest Upon This Pyre' extinguishes the journey. Quite simply, this stands as one of WolfKult Religion's strongest invocations to date; this EP feels like a nocturnal rite carved in ice. (LV)



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REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS

Bocc - Demolarium
Hecatombe Records, Night Terrors Records, Noxious Ruin



'Demolarium' checks a lot of boxes for me. It's filthy, it's groovy and it's ridiculously heavy but Bocc aren't just relying on one incredibly slow riff after the next to make it that way. There's enough variety in the band's approach throughout the album that when they do break into those slower stretches they seem that much more enormous.
It's all got a fat, almost swollen feel to it. The bass especially feels heavy as hell, and mixed with the down tuned guitars all just made the riffs sound like they're coming from deep depths. The vocals have that same feeling, I love the deep, full quality of them instead of being totally buried in the mix, which in turn adds yet another thick layer.
I can hear some Coffins in the approach Bocc are taking here. There's that same spot of intersection between filthy death doom and kind of a raw crusty edge that makes it all sound dirty but without sounding completely loose. Bocc will just sit on a grimy groove for a while and then suddenly shift gears and pick up the pace, which is what I think keeps an album like this from being exhausting. I also love that 'Demolarium' isn't overly polished. It's got that recording studio feel to it that really makes you feel like you're in the same room with the band while they're playing. (Jake (Grimwarning))

INTRODUCTION INTRODUCTION









For those who get a nostalgic or fond smile on their face upon hearing the term "Metal of Death!", there is a new act you need to keep an eye on; Cutthroat. The Irish one, that is.

What once started as a two-man Speed/Thrash band has now grown into a four-piece entity that fans of Merciless, Possessed, Slaughter Lord, Morbid Angel, and Necrovore should sink their teeth into. Can you take us through the short existence of Cutthroat?
Cutthroat began back in 2022 as a youthful expression of our combined love of metal. Since then, we have released two demos, signed to Dying Victims Productions, released a MLP and are now looking down the barrel of our debut album, hopefully to be recorded in the coming months. Since 2022 we have also gone through multiple lineup changes with B.MCG, B.M and C.S leading the charge of the band for the length of the journey, that would later become the lineup that recorded both our second demo and our debut MLP and the same lineup that now remains today. We also went through some musical changes as you mentioned, going from a Speed Metal band to a Deathrash band but ultimately this was very early within the bands existence when you look at the grand scheme of things. Besides that brief summary, the short existence of Cutthroat has been defined by spikes, sweat and Satan!

It is clear that, despite the young average age within Cutthroat, the attitude reflects how the scene used to be, with old-school flyers, tape-trading, fanzines, and so on. Where does that fascination stem from?
I suppose that fascination stems from our personal interest in physical media. For me as an individual, I collect records, tapes, fanzines and all other paraphernalia surrounding the underground, so that old-school mentality has just become the nature of the band purely due to the things we surround ourselves with. The underground is not only something that originated via physical media but belongs there; physical media IS the underground! Even looking at it from a logical standpoint, making something physical means you need to go through more effort in order to obtain it which weeds out the people who are not interested in legitimately supporting the underground by buying from bands and labels because now they have to buy something instead of getting it for free online. Last year we released a physical only demo tape, and it got a great reaction here in Ireland, proving to me that the fascination with the old-school way of doings things is still alive and not just limited to a couple of bands like ourselves.

With 'Invoking Terror', you released an EP shortly after your second demo 'Cutthroat', delivering raw Death/Thrash that transports the listener right back to a year like 1989. I think it's fair to say that was the intention and that you succeeded completely. What would you like to tell our readers about the EP? And how did the contact with Dying Victims come about, and what made you decide to release the EP through them?
Our debut EP, 'Invoking Terror', does exactly as the title suggests. If you like the first wave of Death Metal and have 25 minutes to spare, there is no reason why you should not like our first official release. Its violent, its filthy and it is pure manic aggression embodied! It was us who contacted Dying Victims at the end of last year when we began our hunt for a label after recording our debut EP and thankfully Florian took an interest and signed us to his label. The decision to release through Dying Victims Productions was a very easy one, not only is Florian one of the hardest workers in the underground but the label itself has great reach and promotion for its bands while also staying true to its underground qualities! In my opinion, Dying Victims is one of the most consistent labels going right now and it has been a pleasure working with them so far!

You're also making a name for yourselves live, where the music truly comes into its own. Having previously shared the stage with Abhorration, Necromaniac, and Morbific, you'll soon be heading out on tour with Sorcery. "A Cutthroat show is the pure essence of true audial torment" is one of your statements; can you tell us more about what people can expect from a Cutthroat show?
The rabid maniacs who decide to attend one of our vicious gigs will be greeted with nothing less than pure savagery! We try and put as much energy as we can into each show, with our last show in Dublin nearly resulting in the breaking of our own instruments! It can get loud and violent but if you aren't afraid of getting hurt it's definitely the show for you, especially if you are bored with how safe shows can be nowadays, because with how cushioned we are as a society nowadays it is important to let loose once in a while and go celebrate evil! So, to anyone reading, if you like studs, gore, bullets and war get down to one of our shows this November with Sorcery! Just like Destroyer 666 said, "will you leave your woman and fight?!".

Even though the EP was only released recently in June, and the Sorcery tour has already been announced, are there any other future plans you can share with us?
About a month ago we recorded our third demo which will be released only on tape, it contains three brand new songs that will appear on our upcoming album entitled 'Into The Endless Chaos', which will hopefully be recorded by the end of the year or start of next and then released through Dying Victims Productions. Besides that, we are about to embark on the Invoking Sin tour this November, taking our own brand of metallic violence on the road with Sweden's Sorcery to promote both of our new releases! But I am afraid that is all I can tell you for now, although I do assure you that a lot is going on behind closed doors so make sure to keep an eye on Cutthroat if you yearn for sonic terror!

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