

# SLAUGHTERAMA

ISSUE 45/DECEMBER 2019



VIVA LA

**CADAVRES**

**HORROR  
STORY**

RETURN OF  
THE STRANGE



+ FREE EXCLUSIVE BADGE



**RUSH**

**HAUNTED AUCKLAND**  
PARANORMAL RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION

Season's greetings everyone; welcome to the December 2019 issue of Slaughterama!

This issue we bring you an exclusive interview with the front man from Swedish rockers ECLIPSE, who are heading over to this continent (Melbourne to be precise) in March next year with loads of other legendary musicians for the Melodic Rock Fest. Check out the back cover of this issue to see more details; looks like one not to be missed!!!

We're also bringing you a Christmas present this issue in the form of an exclusive HORROR STORY badge that you can't get anywhere else! And we have an interview with the head monster himself (Nigel Toxic) about their recent release, "Return Of The Strange".

We have iconic kiwi band PUSH PUSH gracing our pages, as we catch up with the latest from drummer Scott Cortese.

Finally, in the realm of the paranormal, we have an interview with the ever-interesting and unique Mark (Bizarre) Wallbank of Haunted Auckland.

I wish all of our faithful readers all over the world a safe and happy Xmas and New Year. We will be back next month... there's already loads more great interviews being lined up!



Until next issue, Stay True!

Brendon Adam  
Editor



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# HORROR STORY



New Zealand's premiere Horror Punk band Horror Story have plenty to celebrate about. Not only have they just released their latest album of new studio content in some years, but next year will mark the band's 20th anniversary! Here is Brendon Adam's interview with Nigel Toxic!

Horror Story will celebrate 20 years in 2020. You must have enough stories to fill a book by now, but if you had to pick just one highlight from the band's career to share with us, what would it be?

The second show we did with the Misfits, looking out and seeing Jerry Only pogo to our song Frankenskull AD!

Horror Story are the undisputed pioneers of Horror Punk in New

Zealand. Back when you began, what was it that made you want to play music of this genre, and why do you think no other musicians in NZ were doing it?

When I started the band I had been playing in punk bands for 13 years and I wanted to get more theatrical. We loved horror and the Misfits. The horror punk genre hadn't taken off yet. We were just doing what we enjoyed. When the genre exploded it was a surprise. This country never caught on to that genre despite our presence. I think the country is too small and we were always bigger outside NZ.

Would you say being based in New Plymouth, or even being in New Zealand full stop has been an advantage or a disadvantage for the band, and why?

Being in NZ has been problematic because it is so small. That and our weak dollar, plus being so far from other countries, it is too expensive to tour overseas which means we can't capitalize on our main fan base. We have also missed out on record deals in Germany and USA because we can't afford to tour there.





**drummer Chory Von Creeper travelling to NZ to join the band. Can you tell us more about that?**

After playing our last show with the Misfits in December 2015 we decided to stop. We had lost our 6th drummer and the live scene in NZ was getting smaller with each tour. It seemed like time to stop. Von Creeper was a fan and Facebook friend. He convinced us to try making a new album. I said we have no drummer and he said if we recorded to a digital beat he could overdub live drums and mix and master the album for free in his studio in Argentina. I wrote 20 songs in a week. We recorded 15 and ended up with 10 we were happy with. There was no plan to play live until Von Creeper surprised us by flying to NZ to do a show! We still aren't 100% back to being a band. Former drummer Craig Psycho has helped out by filling in from time to time so we can do a



**If you had to put in the hands of a new Horror Story listener one song and also say to them one sentence, what would they be?**

I usually give people "Forever Night" from our 2012 album This Graveyard Earth. I'd tell 'em we have 8 albums.

**What do you love about Horror Punk most? And is there anything you're not so fond of?**

What I love most about the genre is the sound and style musically. Then the image. I don't like crappy bands claiming to be horror punk when really they are horrible punk. Around 2000 - 2005 most of the bands were great but when the next wave came a lot of it sounded more like pop punk and emo. I guess it got too popular.

**You guys made the local news earlier this year with the story of your Argentinian**

show but his job makes it impossible for us to tour with him.

**new studio material called "Return Of The Strange" which I have been lucky to have had a quick listen to. It is the first full studio album from Horror Story in some years I believe? Are you planning**

**The big news is that on Halloween Horror Story released an album of brand**



on touring NZ and/or abroad to promote this album and celebrate 20 years of the band?

Return of the Strange is our first album of new material since 2012's Graveyard Earth. We did an album in 2015 but that was an acoustic collection

of old songs. 2020 is our 20th anniversary so we will be doing a show or two. Looking forward to playing with Die Gruwel who are the first horror punk band in NZ to not feature a Horror Story member as both Cyclotrode X and Dr. Monster featured members of Horror Story. We are getting great feedback



Thanks for the interview, and can we finish with a final message from the band to those both within NZ and internationally who have been fans and followers either

since the beginning or have just recently discovered Horror Story?

This could not happen without the support of the worldwide horror punk community who help make things happen. Together we are strong. Keep punk rock undead! ♪



Swedish rockers Eclipse are getting ready to hit Melbourne, Australia in March 2020 as one of the many attractions at the Melodic Rock Fest, which is shaping up to be a not-to-be-missed event for every discerning hard rock fan in this part of the world (more details on the event are on the back cover of this zine and we also recommend following their Facebook page for updates). Meanwhile, here is Brendon Adam's exclusive interview with the band's frontman, Erik Mårtensson.



It's an honour to be invited back to your beautiful country again and fans can expect and will be delivered a high energy rock n' roll show! Lots of new songs of course but also "classic" Eclipse songs from previous albums. We always try to deliver the kind of show we would love to see if we were fans of the band.

I guess the Melodic Rock Fest can't come soon enough; many of the hard rock bands from the seventies and eighties are slowly dying out and there are still lots of fans of this music who need to see bands like Eclipse! Despite being around for twenty years or so now, are people still catching on to the band for the first time?

There's a lot of people just discovering the band and wondering how the hell they could have missed this for so many years. We did release our first album in 2001 so it's not quite twenty years yet but we're

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**What is the latest news from Eclipse? Paradigm just came out last month, so how has the response been?**

The reviews have been absolutely fantastic! Everywhere from Classic Rock Magazine to the smallest web fanzines. We just came back from nearly four weeks on tour in Europe and the response live from fans has been outstanding on the new songs. Viva La Victoria lifts the roof live!

**The big news for fans down under is that you are booked to appear at the Melodic Rock Fest happening March 2020. What kind of show can the Australian fans (and New Zealand fans travelling over) look forward to?**



getting there. The first two albums, (which you can't get a hold of any longer), were more or less official demos. No producer, engineers, mixers etc. and we had no idea what we were doing. We didn't start to tour until the fall of 2015 and boy has this band been growing since then.

**Is there one song (maybe off the new album?) you believe sums up Eclipse well? Something that you would give to the teenager who hasn't heard your music and is looking for something that will speak to them?**

I'd say that the song "Viva La Victoria" is like the whole Eclipse back catalogue boiled down to 3min and 11 seconds! Fast, melodic, heavy and catchy as hell.

**Your recordings are sonically rivalling (or even superior to) some of the big classic rock albums of the past. I suppose some of this can be somewhat explained by technological advances over the years. Because of technology making things cheaper and easier, can any corners be cut to improve the speed or lessen the expense of making records?**

Thank you. Well, we record and mix in a very classic old-fashioned way but we use a computer as the tape machine. And all is played with drums, old Marshall amps and speakers just like back in the day. But we don't play or sound like they used to. We have so many more influences and different ways of approaching song writing and that will change the way it sounds. All of us come from more metal music and that will

also change the way you approach song writing and production. Of course, modern technology speeds up the practical process and makes it less expensive to make an album but it will not speed up the actual writing and recording process. That is still the same.

**With seven albums now under your belts, do you ever find it difficult to find subject matter for an album?**

No, there is still so much to discover musically and lyrically. Just reading one newspaper about the state of the world today will give you inspiration for lyrics for a whole album! And we are still trying to find out what Eclipse can sound like and we always change the way we approach song writing.

**What are the future aspirations for the band?**

The upcoming year will be 100% focus on playing live. Tours and festivals and everything in between. Everything to make the band grow and promote our latest album.

**Do you have any final messages for readers of Slaughterama?**

Can't wait to be back in Melbourne again. I totally fell in love with the city when we were there the last time. And of course meet fans of the band and give them the best possible show! ♪



# PUSH PUSH

If you grew up in New Zealand in the nineties then you already know Push Push. At the very least you heard their biggest hit "Trippin'" on the radio. They only managed to put one album out back then, but came back in 2017 with an EP titled "Talk2Me". The band has been very active lately so that's exactly what we decided to do! Here is **Brendon Adam's** chat with drummer **Scott Cortese**.

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At the time of this interview the bad news has just come out that KISS have cancelled their Auckland show which Push Push had the opening slot on. Do you know if KISS will be coming back around on NZ later on, and if so will Push Push still be the opener?

That's a good question, news has just come through that unfortunately KISS have had to cancel the Australian leg of their tour which will be a huge blow to Aussie fans. There's a lot that goes into putting together a tour of that size so my guess is they will come back down this way at some point during their End of the Road Tour. But to be honest we have no more information than you, we haven't been contacted but we'd like to think if they came back this way Push Push would still be the opener.

I believe a couple of members of Push Push now reside in Australia... with this in mind, has a permanent NZ based lineup been established for the band going forward, or will you carry on with members in both countries?

The thing about Push Push and why we're still together where other bands that came up with us are no more, is that we're thick as thieves and always have been. We keep things exactly the same with the same 5 guys. It's a brotherhood so if it means we have to fly 2 of the members out to NZ from Australia for band practice then that's what we do. It's actually pretty cool.

The Auckland KISS show seems to have been somewhat of a catalyst for some new activity from Push Push since 2017's Talk2Me EP and a few live shows. Now the wheels are turning again, are we going to be seeing more from the band?

Yeah for sure, we're in the process of pulling together tour plans although we have no set dates as yet. We're about to start recording new music, writing and all that good stuff. We're playing the Friday night of a new music festival called Maki Festival at Auckland's Trust Arena next year alongside Blindspott and Racing. You can find out more about that from makifest.co.nz or their Facebook page. There's also talk of a Northshore Guitar Rock Festival so we may be appearing on that.

I think it is fairly safe to say that 'A Trillion Shades Of Happy' has stood the test of time and even ranks as one of New Zealand's best albums showcasing a pre-Grunge Hair Metal sound. Going back in time, who were your local Glam Metal contemporaries at the time? When I think back I can't recall many who were playing that style of music locally... most were just playing run of the mill rock / pop rock...

We tried to keep ourselves out of what other NZ bands were doing at the time. Whether people loved it or hated it everyone had an opinion about us which was cool. I guess we were heavily influenced by bands like KISS, Jane's Addiction, Mother Love Bone, Metallica, Motorhead, Soundgarden, Adam and the Ants, The Knack.... bands like that. We never considered ourselves to be a Glam Metal band, we always wanted to play groovy but heavy music.

What happened within Push Push during the Grunge movement catching on and riding high? I always considered you as similar, at least in visual style to bands like Ugly Kid Joe and I was surprised that even bands with a solid alternative edge like them had trouble navigating the industry once it was Grunge's time in the limelight.

Funny you should mention Ugly Kid Joe, we were actually supposed to go on tour with those guys. Push Push embraced the Grunge phase when it hit; we were into it. I think I'm wearing a Nirvana T-shirt in the Trippin' video.

As one of the bands to have ascended to a household name in New Zealand when songs like Trippin' were all over the radio, how quickly did the rise happen? Did you have to slog it out in bars waiting to be noticed by a record label, or did things just start happening for you from



## the start?

We have always been grafters, the band was playing tiny clubs and bars for a few years before Trippin' took off. We were approaching record companies for a while with our music but getting the same response from everybody which was there was no market in NZ for our kind of music. Kiwi bands like us weren't taken seriously by record companies in those days so we decided to do it ourselves and created our own record label called Tall Poppy Records which we released Trippin' under. It wasn't until Trippin' blew up that record companies started to take an interest.

## What moment in the history of Push Push made you feel most like a rock star?

Man there's been heaps but walking on stage in front of 40,000 people opening for AC/DC was pretty up there. Also remember being chased up Auckland's Queen Street by fans and getting trapped in a phone booth with my drum roadie while fans banged on the glass.



Thanks for the interview. Do you have any final messages to the fans of the band, locally and/or internationally that you'd like to share?

Just that we can't thank our fans enough for sticking with us over the years. It's all about them, they're just as much part of the band as we are. There's still more to come so keep an eye/ear out! You fuckin' rock!! ♪

**Haunted  
Auckland**  
www.HauntedAuckland.com

Slaughterama has been looking forward to bringing readers an interview with Mark Wallbank for quite some time. His talents and accomplishments in music, promotion, photography and writing (to name just a few) are jaw-dropping. He is also the founder of Haunted Auckland, a very well known organisation with roots going back to 1985! With so much to talk about we had to trim this interview down to fit in the zine, but if you enjoy it please keep an eye on Slaughterama's Facebook page for the full unedited text!

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I guess the first question about Haunted Auckland is, do you believe in the paranormal? Or are you sceptics? Or somewhere in between?

It really depends on who you ask in the team, as we all come from slightly different angles in our research. Personally, I tend to look at each case individually. I guess you could call me an open - minded agnostic, in all this. Some reports I am sceptical

of, or have enough experience that I can offer alternative possible explanations, or even recreate the effect to show it was in fact something quite ordinary, or naturally occurring and not paranormal. However, I have seen and experienced enough in my time to see that there is definitely something to all this and that my research isn't a waste of time and is worth carrying on with.

## How seriously does your organisation take itself?

I guess we are a bit different to a lot of the teams out there doing this. Many are really just enthusiasts and do it more as a fun, social activity. Some do it to gain celebrity status by plastering themselves all over the internet with Podcasts, Vlogs, Facebook live feeds, etc... it's more about gaining status and public attention, than doing actual research. I blame all these ridiculous faked and overly inaccurate Paranormal TV shows for creating this vacuum of shallowness, gullibility and ignorance. We do take our research seriously, but also do have a lot of fun doing it.

## How did the group come together?

Around 1985, I teamed up with a couple of adventurous mates and, armed with a torch, camera and tape recorder, set out to document and hunt ghosts. We were called, simply, 'Auckland Ghost Hunting Group'. I guess we might have been New Zealand's first paranormal investigation team, although this is something I cannot verify. We weren't really officially 'out there', but we did have business cards; well, more like flyers photocopied at the school library. After three or so years, we all separated to different schools, jobs, suburbs and lost contact. Fifteen or so years of solo investigations and research later finally led me to the decision that I was missing the interaction of being in a group situation. The

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FUR PATROL  
PLUTO | SOLA ROSA  
THE PHOENIX FOUNDATION  
VALKYRIE  
THE TRUSTS ARENA  
WAITAKERE // 2020



team we have now is the result of nearly a decade of filtering out those that are worthy, loyal and dedicated to the core.

**When I think of the supernatural, as an eighties kid I can't help but think of Ghostbusters (followed I guess by X-Files, then movies like Poltergeist, The Conjuring etc.) Have any moments happened during your activities similar to a scene from a particular movie or TV show?**

Straight up? Not really. Paranormal TV and how the paranormal is portrayed in movies is actually the complete opposite to what it is in reality. Yes, we do from time to time experience things we can't find answers for. The odd snippet of voice captured on audio recorders that appear to be in response to our questions. Out of place sounds heard with our ears; examples - footsteps coming

down stairs or down corridors, a piano being played in an old chapel when there isn't one in the building and the squeals of playing children. The sensation of being touched, or unusual "person" sized / shaped shadows, objects caught moving on camera (a torch was thrown with force down a stairwell once). Of course nothing like what you'd see on the TV and movies. Real paranormal activity (if such a thing truly does exist) is actually very rare, so we consider it a privilege to have been in the right place at the right time to have experienced it.

**How do you normally find and arrange explorations?**

It varies. Sometimes we will be sent an email or direct message from someone that is experiencing what they feel is activity in their home or workplace. They might be living in fear as to what they are experiencing, or they

might simply be intrigued, so call on us to look into it to see if we can capture anything on camera or come up with any answers as to who might be there or what might be causing the activity to occur. Sometimes people just want us to visit to try and get validation or confirmation that they aren't crazy or imagining things. Sometimes we are able to offer solutions via email or phone without having to go to a location, as the activity can sometimes be explained away as being a common natural occurrence. Much seemingly paranormal activity can be attributed to house movement, climate and atmospheric change or even possible health problems.

One thing we find we do have to clarify often with people contacting us for help, is that we are not spiritualists, mediums, or especially exorcists. We are also not ghost busters.

**What has been your scariest moment so far?**

I can't honestly say I've had a scariest moment. If anything, I get a rush of excitement when I experience something that I can't immediately rationalise. I think that when you've been doing this for so long, the fright and flight reaction just leaves you. When you've spent so much time sitting around in dark, dank locations, you begin to feel comfortable being in those types of environments. If anything, I'm more apprehensive about encountering unstable or violent squatters, than I am of encountering an actual spirit.

**Do you think it is**

**possible to actually clear paranormal activity from a haunted building?**

For me personally, no. Having said that I don't really know enough about that side of things to have much of an educated opinion on it. A couple of team members have helped out quite a few families by doing basic "clearing" rituals and one thing that stands, despite my non-believing take on it, is that it works.

**If a reader was to go and seek out a paranormal experience themselves, what is the one piece of equipment they should take with them, and why?**

You don't need to have expensive equipment in this field. Because the paranormal investigation field is mostly based on theory and hypothesis, there aren't any official pieces of equipment that can definitively detect or conclude whether a ghost is in the room, or even exists at all. In my opinion the best equipment you can use, are your eyes and ears. Visit the location, sit quietly and simply observe.

**Let's talk music, which is a big part of your life! Please give us a rundown on**



**your history in music and what you're currently up to.**

I started organising gigs and experimental music performances at age 15 in schools, garages and community halls. I also picked up an old Casiotone keyboard to incorporate some beats into my recordings. In 1986 I put out a cassette titled "Depression", of lo-fi experimental ditties under the name Vox Trot. I saw gigs by Fetus Productions, The Kiwi Animal, Tinnitus, The Skeptics, Headless Chickens, K4, Paradox and so many other creative local acts. By age 18 I was well immersed into the local band scene. Organising various Goth / Punk and "Alternative" gigs, hanging out with artists, poets and many dole-bludging creative types. Making noises under various names at house parties and warehouse gigs.

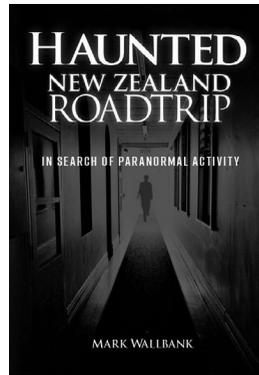
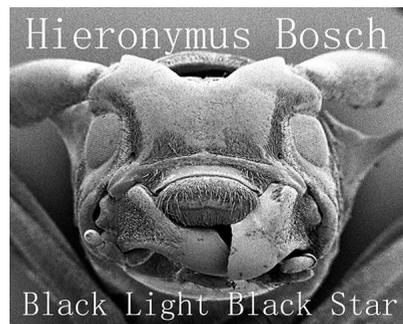
I started a tape distribution label in 1990 called Maximum Ego Productions, created a music magazine Visual Uproar with my good mate Derek Solomon; then stepped it up on another well received music magazine called Intravene. Around 1997 (I think it was), I published two issues of a Goth 'zine called Deadlines. I also started photographing bands. Hieronymus Bosch began back in 1985. An ever evolving project that has gone through many incarnations and influences in its time. It seems to have gone full circle at the moment. Starting with sound looping and experimental electronics in the early days; through to punk, Goth, Metal, dark ambient and back to experimental electronics and working with sound. For the past two decades Hieronymus Bosch has been a two-piece. Trevor Donaldson (ex classic Punk band Armatrak and experimental mid '90's outfit, Sudersuk) and myself. We've released three albums and a 7" vinyl. In 1995 I started Club Bizarre, a recording and event label to showcase New Zealand's growing Gothic / Industrial / Dark-end music scene. There were a good

many gigs created in the decade to follow; from the annual Vampyre / Nocturne Gothic Balls, to regular monthly Goth DJ nights, which often featured an act or two. Around 2008 I gave up organising gigs and started to direct my focus into my paranormal research again. Something I never had time to enjoy as I was always too busy working on events. These days I dedicate all my time to my research and my team, Haunted Auckland. However, I do venture out and do the odd gig here and there if invited. I try to squeeze in at least one Hieronymus performance per year, if things work out. I really enjoy live experimental electronic performance; watching and playing it. I'm sure it's something I'll never tire of. That and Paranormal Research. So much so that I also have a solo act that merges both themes. POLTER: GEIST. Check it!

**Thanks for the interview! Please let us know if you have any final comments, and let us know how readers can get in touch or stay up with the latest from Haunted Auckland.**

Thanks for inviting me into the pages of your zine. I have quite a few back issues in my archives here. It's a bloody good read, so it's an honour to be a part of it. If anyone is interested in my work, be it paranormal or music related, they can find me, my team and Hieronymus Bosch on Facebook. Come say hi!

[www.hauntedauckland.com](http://www.hauntedauckland.com) ♪





**AIRBOURNE**  
**Boneshaker**  
**Spinefarm**  
**2019**

Yeah, it's a fucking rock'n'roll record, alright. Just as the sticker on the cover suggests. And as always borrowing heavily from another Aussie band that should not be named in order not to offend Airbourne. Head-banging rock, hooks, solos, sing-along stuff. Great fucking shit actually!

These guys are all balls-out Rock, and I love it! And since the Band That Should Not Be Named virtually doesn't exist anymore (come on, Axl Rose for a singer? Really??), this is as close as you can get to... well... THAT band.

Good effort here. Really fucking good, actually. Good rock'n'roll to break the speed limit to!

7/10  
 Max Thrasher



**BURNING WITCHES**  
**Wings Of Steel**  
**Nuclear Blast**  
**2019**

Yes!!! Some very nice work here on the title track (and only studio number on this 4 track EP). You can't get much more METAL than performing a song called "Wings Of Steel" and delivering that feeling of soaring through the air as an apex predator!

This release debuts new vocalist Laura Guldemond (ex-Shadowrise). If you're after a comparison between her and former singer Seraina Telli, you've come to the wrong place. All I can tell you is that Guldemond is doing a great job here in her new role, and these Swiss women are doing Old School Metal just right.

The remainder of the disc contains three live performances from Wacken 2019 which all sound good. Here I guess is where hardcore fans will knock themselves out comparing the new voice to the old, and ultimately (hopefully) embracing the change, because I am not noticing anything broken or missing here. I'd gladly throw this disc on any day of the week, which is quite high praise being that I typically only listen to studio tracks, and this one is 3/4 live material.

8/10  
 Brendon Adam



**OPETH**  
**In Cauda Venenum**  
**Nuclear Blast**  
**2019**

I have never been a fan of this band. A lot of people are, obviously, since they sell shitloads of records and gather sold-out shows all over the world. But I never quite knew what to make of them. Is it Prog? Is it Doom? Progressive Doom Metal? All-in-all it was a little too much for me. Still is.

"Venenum" is totally a Prog album. As a matter of fact Opeth get further and further from "Orchid" or "Black Water Park". It's all over the place, just like a Psychotic Waltz album will take you a month to get your head around. Complex, yet very melodic, perfectly executed, yet very, very difficult to comprehend.

Bizzare time-signatures, lyrics from another dimension, the depressing sound and somewhat disturbing effects - unsettling to say the least.

I see what they're trying to do - messed-up piano-driven Doom-Prog Avant-garde Metal. I don't even know what to call it. And I don't want to classify it.

Clever - fuck yeah.  
 Appealing - well, you decide.

8/10  
 Max Thrasher



**ELUVEITIE**  
**Live At Masters Of Rock**  
**Nuclear Blast**  
**2019**

Part of me thinks if I can't pronounce the name of a band properly then I have no business reviewing their music. Let's see if that is true!

This is a live album, so I guess it also means we have the band's best stuff here. The recording quality is ok. Some of the male shrieks get far too 'modern metal' sounding at times for me, but the strings are nice (yes, this is Extreme-ish Folk Metal, folks!).

Give it a spin, especially if you like Folk Metal. It's not really for me, but I can think of plenty who would dig it.

6/10  
 Brendon Adam



**SLAYER**  
**Repentless Killology**  
**Nuclear Blast**  
**2019**

The titans of Thrash have suffered heavy losses and this is quite possibly the last we will hear of this awesome band. There will be no more albums, no tours, no new stuff. This legendary band calls it quits. But they leave behind a great legacy.

What can one say about a new Slayer live album? Well, it's a new Slayer album. It kills. It's heavy as fuck!

A collection of the most important tracks from Slayer's discography. Awesome sound, awesome performance, all-in-all ABC of Slayer. In my opinion these guys can do no wrong. And, hey,

It's fucking...  
 SLAAAAAAAYER!!!!!!

9/10  
 Max Thrasher



**AVATARIUM**  
**The Fire I Long For**  
**Nuclear Blast**  
**2019**

Avatarium are one of those bands who are by now very familiar with their own signature sound, and are enjoying making the most of showcasing it. Doomy, seductive, with a touch of fuzz / sludge in the guitars here and there, and very strong vocals from Jennie-Ann Smith (there's some magic in that voice!).

Personally I love it when a band finds their best sound and doesn't stray from it. If you want complete reinvention, exploration and risk on each album, look elsewhere. But if you know and like Avatarium's prior work, get this. And if you haven't heard this band, do yourself a favour and listen.

I recommend checking out "Lay Me Down" on a relaxing evening if you want a good example of how this band stands out. Enjoy!

9/10  
 Brendon Adam



**BLOODY TIMES**  
**By Metal, We Send You To Hell**  
**2019**

I had heard of this German project before, because Ross The Boss made a guest appearance on the album released in January called "On A Mission". However it was one of those releases I didn't get around to properly checking out. When Ross The Boss toured NZ recently, the bass player and man behind this project (Simon Pfundstein) got in touch with me to say he was going to be in NZ attending the Wellington show and he wanted me to grab a CD off him.

I hit the Auckland show instead so that didn't happen, but I appreciated his eagerness and enthusiasm to approach people and discuss his music (and Metal in general), so I figured if his music was good enough for Ross to guest on, that it was time to check it out.

To keep things current (and quick to review... only two songs!) I listened to the brand new release which only just came out, called "By Metal, We Send You To Hell". The title track features none other than Tim "Ripper" Owens on vocals, and is fast, epic and of high enough quality to stand proudly alongside his work with Judas Priest and Iced Earth.

The second track, "Memorial" was impressive too (think of this CD as a 2 track EP rather than a single with a B Side...)

Oddleif Stensland (vocalist and guitarist of Norway's Communic) does a great job on the vocals here but what stood out to me right from the start was Pfundstein himself, channeling a classic Joey DeMaio bass tone and really driving the song on his 8-string. The track is about the death of a loved one, and if you listen closely you may actually hear the gates of Valhalla opening...

Simon and company are not trying to create a revolutionary new music style here. Rather an homage is being paid to True Heavy Metal, while encouraging a new wave to begin.

Over the years I have had contact with snakes, fakes, phonies and frauds aplenty; those who are involved in Metal for the wrong reasons, not just band members but publicists and beyond. So I'm always happy to hear music which is still True Heavy Metal from the heart, played by people who are actually living the message they deliver.

8/10  
 Brendon Adam



MELDICROCKFEST  
AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA | MARCH 6, 7 & 8 2020



ECLIPSE



KIP WINGER

(ACOUSTIC)



TONY  
HARNELL  
(ACOUSTIC)



MIDNITE CITY | WHITE WIDOW | BB STEAL |  
SERPENTINE SKY | THE RADIO SUN | TEARGAS |  
RAGDOLL | MADMAN'S LULLABY | CASSIDY PARIS |  
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SATURDAY

FINAL HEADLINER TBA



TONY HARNELL (ACOUSTIC)



the radio sun



'ON THE RISE' FRIDAY AFTERNOON

MADMAN'S LULLABY  
KVLTS OF VICE  
TERRAMAZE  
DANGEROUS CURVES

SUNDAY



KIP WINGER (ACOUSTIC)



FRIDAY V.I.P ACOUSTIC EVENING

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