

For polish fans and KVLТ magazine Gökhan Korkmaz (Solacide) was talking with Mika Luttinen (Impaled Nazarene)

It has been almost 2 years since your latest album “Vigorous and Liberating Death” was released. How have the fan and overall reactions been during these years?

- Reactions were from average to very good. Some German reviews were not that good but overall it has been on the plus side. Fans seem to like it and we have sold more than we expected so nothing to complain.

What are the plans for near future? Any material written for a new release yet?

- Play this year all shows we have booked. Some nice festivals and cool club gigs lined-up. Everybody has been writing at home but we have not rehearsed any new songs. We take our time.

Two and half decades of Black Metal and hatred. What fuels this never-ending hate?

- This is a question I have answered lots of times and it is just normal daily life nowadays. Considering how the whole Europe right now is sinking into human cesspool, it will be very easy to write the next album. Or I may take a totally different approach to this, I have been toying around with this one idea I have but I am sure do I want to do it or not. I will see, you will see.

In 2015 you had 25th anniversary. Did you plan releasing box set or something like that with rare unreleased materials and extra stuff like badges, posters etc. or do you plan to release it for 30th year anniversary?

- We never really plan anything. I don't think there would be that much demand for a huge box set even though that would have been great. As for unreleased songs, we have absolutely nothing hidden in the closet. We have used everything we have recorded. We might do a special 7" ep this year but now that I actually said it loud, we probably won't.

Many bands change their labels continuously, due to different reasons. Unlike, Impaled Nazarene and Osmose Productions have been working together for very long years. Any particular reason for this long term union?

- It is pure friendship. We don't even have a written deal. We have a common ultimate respect and trust to each other. Herve (Osmose headchief) has helped us a lot and he is one of my friends. This is how we work, we stay loyal to the people whom we have seen we can trust. Osmose is THE perfect label for us because we can do what the fuck we want, when the fuck we want. He has never said “I need new stuff from you”.

You have seen many decades in metal scene. A classic question: How would you compare 90s to 2000s and 2010s as a musician? Do you miss anything particular from 90s?

- 90's were from recording point of view exciting because we recorded with analogue equipment first two albums and I am happy we had that chance. Not that it was easy or whatever but I am just happy we saw that period. Then came those fucking horrible ADAT machines and that was just pure misery to record with them. And before you knew it everything was digital. As a touring musician I can tell that clubs and how they treat bands have improved 666% from 90's to this day. Well, most of them. Finland especially was miserable place to play in 90's. So was east Germany. I don't really miss anything from 90's, well, maybe the whole heavy metal scene was more "healthy" before this rap/hip hop/nu metal shit started to pollute planet earth. I listened to some compilation cd that came along with Metal Hammer and for fuck's sake, what the fucking shit bands there were.

What is your favourite Impaled Nazarene album and why? Do you have any that you like least?

- I actually have three albums that stand above: Ugra-Karma, Absence Of War Does Not Mean Peace and Road To The Octagon. They all are different but personally for me they are the strongest albums for various reasons. I think Manifest is very boring album, we were in very dark period at that time and almost split-up and I think you can hear it.

Do you have any favourite countries that you love to play in most? Any unforgettable memories?

- Italy has been over a decade the best country for us. We played there first time in 1996 and it was just fucking horrible. Then suddenly in 2002 or so, the whole scene changed there and we have been growing a lot in popularity there. I guess it tells you something that we have played more shows in Italy in last 10 years than we have done in Finland. Or any other place.

There are so many new bands around. Do you follow extreme metal scene at all? If so which bands do you like?

- I can't say anything about new bands because I am not that interested. What I can say is that new Destroyer666 album kicks serious ass and one of the best black metal albums I have heard is Mgla's Exercises In Futility.

In 2006 you had problems with gigs in Europe, some of them were banned, especially in Poland, Germany and France. These kinds of bans happen nowadays as well. People talk about freedom of speech continuously but for a reason it seems to work only one way. What do you think about this?

- Yes, censorship rules today's "free" society. Be it political or religious, it is out there and always has been. It is really pathetic that in 2016 bands get banned because of blasphemous lyrics (Russia anyone?). This will lead into one thing: Bands start avoiding places where they can be certain they cannot perform. Fans will lose, bands will lose, promoters will lose and eventually it will go underground to wait for better times.

Impaled Nazarene has a lot of polish fans. When will you visit Poland again? Any plans?

- It took us 20 years to come for the first time so let's hope it will not be another 20 years again. I really don't know, this is a thing between promoters and booking agency, we have no direct input in these matters.

Do you know any Polish bands besides Behemoth and Vader? Have you seen them live?

- We have toured with Vader and played some festivals with Behemoth. I already mentioned Mglá. I know old-school bands like Emperor and Dead Infection and lots of others. Dead Infection I really would love to see, fucking great grind band.

Are you feeling fulfilled as a musician and having a well know band? What would you like to attain?

- I can't complain, we have done a lots of things and been to a lots of places around the planet. Seen and done things we could have never done without this band. We have made lots of friends around the globe and that is one fucking great thing. This line-up will hopefully last till the very end, we are like well-oiled machine. We have not played in South-America yet and there is a huge demand for us down there. Hopefully one day we can fix that, it is just not that easy anymore when all of have jobs and bank loans and this and that.

Have the idea of living without Impaled Nazarene ever come to your mind? What would you do in this case?

- Of course I have thought about it but at the moment I really cannot picture it happening soon. Hard fact is, of course, that none of us is getting any younger so who knows for how long can you play this kind of music. Then again, I take a look of Napalm Death and they are meaner than ever. Basically this is the question I don't want to think about.

When interviewing mighty Mika Luttinen, it is a must to ask. Could you please tell us your all times top 5 alcoholic beverages? Any Finnish drink you can suggest to Polish fans?

- 1. Jack Daniels. With ice, absolutely NOT with Coke.
- 2. Stout/Porter beers. Too many brands to mention.
- 3. Sortilege. It is Canadian whisky with maple syrup. You cannot find it anywhere in Europe. It is absolutely amazing alcohol and you would think that maple syrup+whisky combination is horrible but on the contrary.
- 4. Bowmore whiskies. My fave from Scotland.
- 5. Campari. Aka tour savior. When everything else starts to taste like shit and nauseates you, Campari is the cure.
- As for Finnish drinks, if you happen to find or are visiting Finland, make sure you taste Finnish Gin called Napue. They won world championship in Gin competition. I could not believe it is from Finland. It is unbelievable good. If you are in bar in Finland, take a gin tonic with Napue. Bars have special herb/spice mix that they mix on it.

What is the most strange meal that you had disagreeableness to eat during tour?

- We have had some really fucking horrible meals, especially in 90's. One thing that comes to mind, we were in 1995 in Germany, east of course. Very small horrible shithole club. They served us something that I still do not know what the fuck it was. It was white, like a vegetable but it was not. It was horror from other dimension. Or once in Spain we got seaweed lasagne...who the fuck serves seaweed lasagna to starving band. Everybody got sick as fuck.

Thanks a lot for the interview. Any last words for your Polish fans?

- Kurwa, Vodka and Metal till the bitter end!!!!