

LUCIFER

“Drifting off toward catharsis”

by Moloch

LUCIFER appeared almost out of thin air, last year, and struck me down with its incredible and hypnotizing music. Their debut album “Lucifer I”, being a blend of doom and heavy rock, made me an instant fan after hearing it the first time. Since then I was eager to ask the Lady behind all of this madness a few questions. Now the time was right. Behold, the mesmerizing Johanna Sadonis from LUCIFER!

First of all I would like to congratulate you for the astonishing album. “Lucifer I” made my top 5 releases for 2015 and that’s not only my opinion. How do you feel about that? Do you also consider it to be a full scale success?

You never know where the road takes you when you sit in your own four walls at first and start jotting down words for a new band. We enjoyed making this album very much and have the privilege to say now that the spark within us caught on to quite an audience with an overwhelming response. We are grateful for this!

I asked that because all of the sudden LUCIFER supported PARADISE LOST on their European tour and you had, judging on the reviews, a truly amazing touring experience. Could you elaborate on that a little bit?

Yes, we had a very good run so far following the release of the debut. We were blessed to support High On Fire throughout North America and Paradise Lost in Europe for seven weeks and then played Japan as a headliner along with some festivals like Roadburn, supported the amazing Pentagram in Berlin etc. We played somewhat around 70 shows by now. It’s been really a cool ride so far!

I’m sure it was... Both the performances and the band’s imagery draw attention. Could you tell us something more about the concept of LUCIFER? I know you were in a band called THE OATH before and that the band broke up some time before the creation of LUCIFER. How has that affected you and what you do in LUCIFER?

Everything in your life teaches you a lesson. The one thing I learned from being in The Oath was that Spinal Tap is real. But on a more serious note, I am grateful for the one great album we made with The Oath but I am also glad that the death of The Oath led me to start Lucifer. Lucifer means everything to me. Lucifer has a different concept to The Oath as nobody needs to hear the same band twice. Stylistically there is of course a common ground but while The Oath had a strong affiliation with NWOBHM, Lucifer puts the focus on Heavy Rock and Doom. Gaz’ amazing riffing lifts Lucifer onto a completely different level all together anyway. I am truly blessed to be able to write with him.

Do you have plans for making THE OATH whole again?

When Lemmy is resurrected.

Sticking to LUCIFER, I was wondering how did you come up with that sound and those great tunes? I mean the structures and everything. I know that Garry Jennings wrote some of the music but were you the mastermind behind all of the music, the image and the message behind LUCIFER?

Gaz and I write everything together. He brings all these amazing riffs. He is a crazy riff machine and sends me tons of songs that I have to sort through. Let me tell you, its not easy to decide what we ultimately work on because there is just so much great stuff. We then go through the structure together and agree on a certain length or if a bridge needs to be changed etc. I take the result and write lyrics and work out vocals. So the demos of songs are worked out between Gaz and I. But it is only until the full band plays these songs together and each member adds the magic to their individual instrument, that these songs are finished and in full bloom. Behind the music I do the dirty work for the band like overall concept, visually, image wise etc and yes, the message. I have a very clear vision of Lucifer BUT I am nothing without the band. That is the magic of a band. It is the unique chemistry between us all together as a collective.

So, with that said you like working in the studio more or prefer the stage?

I love working in the studio more than anything and used to hate playing live. However, we have been touring so much this past year that I grew very fond of being on the road and can't wait to roll again! Both moments in the life of a band are important, the creative process and the fruit of it, which is playing live and getting to share your music and literally live through it.

What truly struck me on "Lucifer I" were your vocals. They are very "classical". I mean there is no pretending in them to be somebody else; there is no mannerism in them. They are clean and very strong. How do you do it? I'm guessing you have some proper education in that field?

Self-trained through music obsession is all I can say. I've been singing my whole life. My vocal style in Lucifer is just what I naturally gravitate to.

Apart from how you sing it's important what you sing. Could you tell us more about the whole numerology, metaphors and the meaning behind the "Lucifer I"? Is it a path to enlightenment for you?

Magic and spirituality in every aspect of life matters a lot to me. The lyrics are very personal. In order not to reveal too much about my inner sanctum and also to keep a bit of room on the projection canvas of the listener I tend to wrap up the details of these personal stories with symbolism, imagery, metaphors. It is all entwined anyhow. The music serves as a catharsis for me but should also serve the purpose of taking you away completely. It should open up a gate for you emotionally, spiritually but also just be pure lust for good old rocknroll. It should be all that.

One more thing about the visual aspects. Are they important for you? Both the video to "Izrael" and shots from your gigs tell me that there is little more to it than only esthetics...

Of course the visual aspects are important. Who wants to see KISS in jeans and t-shirts? Lucifer's aesthetics are connected to the universal message of the band. It is all one.

If I were to find your influences I would say that you are a fan of BLACK SABBATH and that type of music. Which else bands have influenced both Johanna and LUCIFER?

Everyone in Lucifer is a music fanatic and we all have a wide spectrum of tastes. I could fill books and books of music talk within the band, especially on long tour drives. Gaz has a very heavy metal background. After Sabbath his favorite band is Trouble. He knows just about anything about heavy metal. The obscurest stuff you can imagine. Andy our drummer has a huge thing for prog. I love 70s heavy rock stuff like Sabbath, Purple, Heep, Blue Oyster Cult etc. I grew up on heavy metal, black, death & doom metal but also on classical music. I'm a huge Danzig fan but I also love old Stones, 70s Fleetwood Mac, 70s Heart etc. very much. We all grew up on heavy metal but the common influence in between the members of Lucifer is our passion for 70s heavy rock.

What are your next plans, what is the next move for LUCIFER? More touring, or maybe writing new material?

We are in full creative mode right now and have started to work on new material for Lucifer II and of course we will set out on the road at some point this year again. Plans to be revealed in the near future.

Lastly, do you have any last words for our readers? For Polish fans maybe? Any message?

We enjoyed playing Poland last year very much and hope to come back very soon! You've got a great selection of beautiful churches and cemeteries for me to sneak into!

Thank you for the interview.

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