

Hello Shining! Thank you for giving KVLTV magazine another chance to ask you a few questions. Since previous interview, conducted by my colleague Naird, focused on interpreting every song on your album International Blackjazz Society, explained by Jorgen, I would start with the latest news from Shining camp.

1. First of all, the "House of Control" music video. I believe it is the softer song of Shining. It's almost like a ballad. Why did you choose to set it as the hit single for the album?

The song "House Of Control" is definitely different than the other songs on our newest album. It's also a lot different than anything we've done since Blackjazz, so I think it's a great song to highlight with a video since it shows a new more melodic side of Shining. The song was an experiment and journey into a new territory for us, and we had no idea if it would work or not. But Shining has always been about trying new stuff and taking chances. And this time it really worked well, and the song has turned out to be one of my favorites on the new album. When we played it last night in Hamburg it was pure magic!

2. Has the premiere of the video been planned yet?

I'm waiting for a final release date, but I think it's going to be within a week from today.

3. We have seen a video on Mojave desert, and the one on Trolltunga rock (which was a complete madness!), and this time you opted for a fiction video. So, no more "Live on Location" videos? Still, I feel you won't just go for a typical fictionalized video production. Would you give away any details?

I think we'll be making more "Live On Location" videos, since I love that concept. But it's fun doing different things, so this time it's a fiction video. The new video is also partly filmed in the desert outside Los Angeles. It's a twisted little David Lynch type of setting that I think suits the song well. Hope you'll like it. I love it!

4. You are still in the middle of promoting International Blackjazz Society, but are already planning next album? Jorgen, when do you find any time to write new songs?

I work all the time, which helps. But yes, it's quite hard to find time for writing when you're in the middle of touring and promoting an album! But the new songs are coming out great! We played one new song yesterday, and it's awesome! We will probably play it in Poland too!

5. Have you ever thought of concept album? Shining's music is fairly ambiguous - on the one hand, free jazz combined with heavy metal, beautiful concert improvisations, on the other, you proved your ability to compose melodic tunes that are still locked in that unique blackjazz style. In fact, I am inquiring next album concept, is there any? When I think about Shining, I honestly do not know what to expect, and I believe the unpredictability has become a quality of yours, do you agree?

I've always felt that there was some concepts to our albums since Blackjazz. The concept for Blackjazz was a musical one. It was about how to mix jazz and metal. The concept for Live Blackjazz was to show Blackjazz in all its raw and physical beauty. The concept for One One One was to turn the Blackjazz style into a more focused form. And the concept for International Blackjazz Society was both musical and fictional. The musical concept was to take the best parts

from Blackjazz, the raw and sinister energy, and mix it with the best parts of One One One, the more focused song structures. On the fictional side the music, the lyrics and the artwork all was going to support the idea of the cult organization "International Blackjazz Society".

And yes, I agree that Shining has always been about being unpredictable!

6. So far so pleasant. Now it's time to get rough. :) I do not intend to ask what inspires your music. Jorgen, you have emphasized that the personal experiences of yours influence you in many interviews, and I do understand that. Nevertheless, there is one thing which puzzles me – as I am following your Facebook profile, I have observed that you openly post your political views, which are mostly not so positive – do you place your political frustration in music? There is a mass of bands which are politically exposed, and their lyrics promote a kind of behavior, in which they believe. Do you think artists should spread propaganda?

I do post my political views online. But I also think it's great that other people have other views, and I'm happy to have a civil conversation and argument about my views. On the other hand, I don't think my political views are that apparent in our music. What does affect my music more is personal stuff that happens in my life. It can be bad breakups, it can be living with mentally ill persons in my life, it can be people I love who pass away, or having my first child.

7. I admire your courage, since you did not cancel your concert in Divan du Monde (19.11.2015) after the terrorist attack in Paris (November 2015). Tell me about this concert.

Thanks! That was the most moving concert we've ever done! You could really feel the tension and excitement in the crowd. It was a mix of fear, relief, anger, excitement, sadness, joy and just pure energy in a celebration of life and resistance. We opened the show with playing the French national anthem, and from then it just exploded. People were flying around in the air, constantly stagediving from our stage. We had spontaneous dances from audience members climbing up on the stage, and we also stopped for a moment to give a big collective fuck you middle finger to the terrorists. It's a night I will always remember as long as I live, and I'm so happy and proud that we decided not to back down, and that we went on with the concert.



Shining concert, Divan du Monde, Paris

8. A question about your audience: what is it like? Do you see any regularity among your music fans?

We've got a very diverse audience! Young people, grown up people, old people, girls, boys, gay, straight, metal heads, jazz fanatics, prog people, you name it! They all seem to like our music, and I love that!

9. You are embarking on another tournee, and this time your stage partner is Intronaut. Would we see any music collaboration on stage?

That would be fun, for sure! But it's a bit too early to say, as we just started the tour and are still getting into the rhythm of it all.

10. Do you like collaborating your music with the music of a different band of musician? Any favorite partner?

I love collaborating when it works out artistically! But it can also be very hard sometimes, if the musical match isn't as good as you hoped it would be. So it's definitely a risk. I've collaborated with Ihsahn many times, with Marty Friedman, with Devin Townsend, with Enslaved and with Danko Jones, and I've love it all!

11. Jorgen, you have founded a web site, on which you lunched a request for a saxophone player to record a part with you. The idea is amazing! When did you get it from? Is the site popular? Who are the top competitors?

Thanks! I'm not sure where I got the idea from, but it dawned on me that I was the only one I knew of that has specialized in playing sax with metal music, and I kept getting emails and messages from all around the world asking me to play on their music. I always said no since I only wanted to play with people I knew personally or musically. But suddenly I felt like I wanted to open up for more people and especially younger bands, so made the website. Since then I've played on a whole bunch of songs, and I love it!

12. You have probably answered the following question millions of times, still I have to ask: do you like to return to Poland?

We absolutely love playing in Poland! The audience is just amazing! Hope we'll be playing A LOT in Poland in the near future!

13. Do you have any favorite memory from Poland? Any story which reminds you of our country?

I remember our first festivals we played in Poland, because they were so good! We played Off Festival and Assymetry, and from them I understood that there was a special connection between our music and the Polish audience. I've also always loved the Polish composers Gorecki, Penderecki and Witold Lutoslawski, so I respect the Polish musical heritage a lot.

14. Jorgen, you play many instruments, perform as a fabulous frontman, and design clothes (where could I buy them btw?). So, when do you clear your mind? When do you rest? I saw

you on stage couple of times, and I must admit you could bring three dead people alive with your energy.

I'm not sure if I clear my mind that much, really. To me it seems pretty chaotic all the time! And I sleep at night, but never really rest when awake, as I'm always working on something. Thanks for the compliment by the way! "Bringing three dead people alive with your energy" is a great expression! I guess it's a Polish expression, right? (I love the expression "not my circus, not my monkeys", which I also guess is Polish.)

At the moment there's no place where you can buy our specially designed shirts, I think. But they used to be on sale online. I might bring them back on sale soon, though!

15. This one about "three dead people" isn't a Polish expression, but I feel it that way and I know, that you know, what I mean ☺ What the other members of Shining do to clear their heads?

I'm not sure. They all seem to have their own routines. Our bass player runs very often, and have recently developed a love for Pokemon Go. Our drummer reads, works out and practices all the time. Our keyboard guy has all sorts of projects, and our guitar player constantly buys guitar stuff online.

16. The last question will reveal your musical inspirations. Which bands of heavy playing you value most, why?

My favorite metal bands:

- Pantera: The best metal band from the 90's. Super heavy, and most of a great groove
- Nine Inch Nails: Unique musical direction and amazingly interesting production.
- Marilyn Manson: Great raw industrial music with pounding production
- Entombed: My favorites from when I was young. Loved Clandestine, and also loved their change with Hollowman EP
- Sepultura: Loved Chaos A. D.!
- Death: Their mix of metal and more jazzy elements was super inspiring when I was young
- Dillinger Escape Plan: A cult band that will be remembered as a huge innovator!

17. Would you list Polish bands which you think are worth listening to?

Apart from the three polish classical composers I've already mentioned, I've listened to Thomasz Stanko and Behemoth quite a bit. I love Behemoth!

Thank you for the interview and see you at concerts!

Thank you too! Looking forward to see you in Poland!