

GHOST BAD OBSESSION

Wpisany przez Oldchool Metal Maniac

sobota, 28 marca 2015 17:55 - Poprawiony poniedziałek, 30 marca 2015 16:58



'If you are possessed by death and can handle a speed/thrash band at 10000 kilometers an hour, Ghost is for you!' – wrote Adam Szulc from Butcher' zine many years ago.

Let's move back to the roots of Ghost. The band was formed around October-November 1998, yet Roman Pegza, Ghost's guitarist told Thrash'em All (issue 1/1989) that the group dates back to 1982: We've been playing under the name Metal Danger with the same line-up, the Ghost name came up in November 1988.

Ryszard Łakomicz, Ghost's bassist: Before Ghost was formed, we had another band with Roman Pegza. We were playing Kiss covers, mainly from the "Alive" and "Alive II" records. Later we started to make our own music. In the meantime the drummer left the band, then the second guitarist and it fell to pieces. Despite being stuck knee-deep in communist system, with no Internet available yet, we were listening to a lot of music from the radio, vinyl records and reel-to-reel tapes. Kiss' music was gradually replaced by Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple, Rainbow, Whitesnake, Rush, Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden and Metallica records... We've been heading

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towards heavy rock and metal, it was an inspiration to have a band of our own. Ghost was actually formed by three friends from district Orunia: Roman, Darek and me. I had the idea for a name and logo around autumn 1988, when we started to work with Staszek Wójcik.



Krzysztof Berlik: The forming of Ghost was a result of crossing paths with people with similar interests and musical – as well as non-musical – tastes. When we met, I was playing guitar and doing vocals in another band. Darek and Romek already had some material written for their band. At the time they were making music mostly in their apartments. Soon they were joined by a bassist Ryszard Łakomiec, who had returned from two-years-long army-sponsored “holiday”. The guys offered me a job as a vocalist, which I accepted reluctantly – the material and the sound have been solid, yet guitar jams and doing my own music seemed more enjoyable. We were good friends, absorbing anything that the world of music – as well as the liquor store – had to offer. My band fell apart and I joined Ghost full-time starting regular rehearsals with the band.

Krzysztof Jankowski, Ghost’s drummer: As far as I can recall, it was Darek Engler and Romek Pegza who formed the band. I joined them in 1989. A common friend told me they were looking for a drummer, but I never heard of the band before. I was only 17, they were older and experienced, and so it started.

Since the very beginning the Ghost’s manager was Staszek Wójcik: In the autumn of 1988 I met Darek and Romek for the first time. They were looking for a rehearsal room, though they didn’t have a complete line-up. Only during our second meeting we decided to work together. I came up with the idea for a name and they accepted it without hesitation.

At that time life was full of problems: lack of rehearsal rooms, concert halls and instruments, especially if you played such socially unacceptable music. It was due to young, determined musicians, Ghost members included, that underground activists appeared and started organizing first metal festivals in Poland.

Krzysztof Berlik: Looking back I think nobody would ever hear of Ghost if it wasn’t for Staszek. What he did for us during our early days is priceless. We asked for his help as he was already in the business. He organized the biggest metal festival in northern Poland.

He had contacts, experience, vision and the background we needed. Besides all that he was crazy, so we matched. When we met him in the Community Centre in Pruszcz Gdański, there was no option of cooperation. He simply said – ‘pack your stuff and come on over’, and the ball went rolling. Thanks to Staszek we had all the things that other bands at the time could only dream of – unlimited access to a rehearsal room, technical support and management. It was him who formed the machine called Ghost and made it run.

Ryszard Łakomiec: We were looking for a rehearsal room and couldn’t find anything proper in Gdańsk. I have no idea how we landed in the Community Centre in Pruszcz Gdański, but it was a bull’s eye. We must have impressed Staszek during our assessment talk since he offered us a room at once. We were so happy we finally found a place that the distance didn’t bother us. We

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used to take a bus or a train to Pruszcz and return with a night line bus. The deal was simple: we were playing and rehearsing, Staszek was taking care of business, as he had experience and better understanding of management. And it was working fine.

After only two rehearsals the band recorded the "Ghost" demo tape. Two weeks later they performed at the Opole Festival competition, where they were awarded for "a masterful craftsmanship in playing musical instruments".

Ryszard Łakomic: By the end of 1988 life was giving us a lot of positive surprises. First rehearsals, first demo, then the Opole Festival contest... It was a milestone for us. The demo was recorded off-the-cuff in one hour or two, as we had to finish it in time to enter the competition for the Metal Battle festival. As for the Opole Festival, it embraced anything from sung poetry to metal. We were honored by the award, but more concerned about the feedback from the audience. I can't remember who we played after, but people looked as if they saw a ghost (sic) – surprised, maybe shocked. It was our first gig with Marek Szczabel on drums and a warm-up for the Metal Battle.

Staszek Wójcik: I had been a Community Centre worker for two years and looking back I think I wasn't only prepared, I was also "waiting" for a band like Ghost. The guys already had some songs in their heads, all they had to do is record them and go on tour. Had they not been so skillful, it wouldn't be possible, I must add. The Opole competition wasn't really a place for us, but we were happy our craft had been noticed. Yet I remember I felt unfulfilled and that the band was not as unified as it should.

Krzysztof Berlik: The Ghost demo was actually recorded during our first rehearsal in full line-up. I remember us calling the drummer, Marek Szczabel, at 8 AM on Sunday to come over to Pruszcz. He wasn't aware that after a Saturday night party he would have to bang drums way longer than he was used to. Sweat was pouring, but we managed to record the material. Everything was done in haste in order to make it to the Metal Battle competition. As for the Opole Festival, for me it's a kind of "city-sponsored event". It was supposed to accustom us to the presence of the audience on bigger festivals that were ahead of us. I'll never forget the frightened faces in the first rows, who after a solid dose of reggae, shanty and sung poetry was being introduced to a thrash metal band for the first time.

Another achievement of the band is the Metal Battle gig in front of ten thousand people. It was preceded by a contest in Leśniczówka.

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