

CELEBRATION INTERVIEW

Wpisany przez Oldchool Metal Maniac

sobota, 26 marca 2016 22:33 - Poprawiony poniedziałek, 04 kwietnia 2016 21:01



CELEBRATION from the city of Białystok was one of these bands which, despite huge potential, didn't achieve spectacular success. What were the reasons? Hard to say. It was maybe their label at the time, which didn't promote the band sufficiently. Or maybe the band itself wasn't determined enough to overcome life's obstacles? In fact, CELEBRATION was active for only a couple of months. During that time, they performed very few live shows which, not surprisingly, didn't help promote the band to a noteworthy level. Anyhow, the band managed to immortalize themselves through their amazing music, and that, after 30 years, still remains seriously lethal. This deadly metal, played with finesse and relentless aggression is able to "knock down" many a present metal fan, indeed! So as to shed some light on this unusual band's history, I asked

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Jacek "Kacper" Kasperski a bunch of questions.



1. Jacek, before we talk about the history of CELEBRATION, I want to ask you a couple of questions concerning your music roots. During our last conversation, you mentioned you`d started your musical adventure when you were just seven years old. Can you please tell us some more about that important episode which, apparently, aroused your thirst for playing music?

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Well, it all began after my first grade. During my summer holidays, I and my other friends: Czarek "Mucha" Muszyński and Sławek "Milon" Cierpich (who later became SZAFOT's and CELEBRATION's drummer in the period around Beyond the Grave demo) hung out together. Mucha took part in my solo project while recording the material. A friend of mine was given a mandolin, a side drum, one piece of cymbals and an old bass drum by his grandfather, so in our second grade we started to experiment with music as well as tried to compose and play our first own tunes. Our band was called MANEWR. Certainly, we were heavily influenced by the bands we were listening to back then. We would record our music to my father's reel-to-reel tape recorder. We were active for three years. When we had some days off, we would hang out with each other, you know, just to play music together or simply putter. We were best friends in those days. We used to rehearse at our houses (mine, Milon's or Mucha's). We always had problems with our neighbours who didn't like the noise we produced, so that's why we had to rehearse at different places every time.

2. As a young fella you got interested in heavier music, didn't you? How did you manage to get music at the time? It was kind of hard in Poland back then, wasn't it?



Thanks to Mucha's elder brother who had access to new releases at the time, we were able to get and listen to such classic stuff as DEEP PURPLE Machine Head or KISS Alive II. The first riff I learned to play on my acoustic guitar came from Smoke on the Water (DP's Machine Head). Man, we were listening to this album all day and night long. We also liked some KISS stuff:

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Detroit Rock City, Making Love, Love Gun

and so on. We used to listen to a lot of radio too. In 1979 I heard AC/DC

Highway to Hell

for the first time. As far as I am concerned, that's the best album ever. When I try to compare this album to any death metal or any other stuff in general, well, this album is still number one. The first vinyl release I have ever bought was AC/DC

Back in Black

(in 1980). At the time, I used to spend all my pocket money on music. I bought and traded tapes. My folks thought it to be a bit weird. In my fourth grade I got acquainted with Robert "Khronoss" Jasieńczyk (who later became DETHRONER's vocalist) and dubbed plenty of his tapes. Thanks to that guy, I learned about DIO, BLACK SABBATH, and METALLICA. But, honestly, it was DESTRUCTION's

Sentence of Death

that impressed me most back then. HOLY MOSES, RUNNING WILD, EXCITER, RAVEN, GBH and this awesome RAZOR's

Evil Invaders

were the ones people listened to at the time. Yeah, these were our beginnings.

3. As I understand, your incessant and unquenched thirst for more brutal music resulted in SZAFOT, right?



It was Cronos who came up with the name SZAFOT. He was to do the vocals for this band but me, as usual, preferred to do everything myself. I formed SZAFOT in 1986 and that band was obviously heavily influenced by VENOM, BATHORY, and CELTIC FROST. We rehearsed in Czarna Białostocka and the line-up was as follows: I - Git & Voc, Kocik – Bass and Milo - drums. During its short existence, the band played live three times only. Still, those gigs were

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fun.

4. SZAFOT wasn't active for long, was it? But apparently it was SZAFOT you used to create solid foundations for CELEBRATION, huh? Please tell us some more about this band.

Before CELEBRATION, we had another band called DIOXIDE. We were rehearsing in Grzesiek Lis's basement and we were heavily influenced by CRYPTIC SLAUGHTER and NAPALM DEATH. CELEBRATION was formed three years later.

5. As any other band from back then, you must have had serious problems with your music equipment. Can you still remember what kind of equipment you used at the time to play your music?

Can't remember, really. But what I do can remember the equipment was shitty, that's for sure. Well, we used what was available back then.



6. The second part of the 80s is characterised by Poland's transformation from a communistic to capitalistic system. Indeed, the communistic system was still strong back then, yet people could feel the wind of changes. The Iron Curtain was not as impenetrable as it'd been previously. In result, more and more music "seeped" into our

country – both in the form of records and gigs. The city of Białystok had a strong crew who used to go to the Metalmania Festival on a regular basis. For many, this festival was a real holiday, in the true meaning of this word. What can you tell us about those times?

As for the access to music back then, I would like to say that it was easy to get albums. Later, when those so called "unlicensed" tapes began to appear and circulate, many metal music shops in Białystok got out of business. In 1984, IRON MAIDEN came to Poland. Sometime later, SAXON and ACCEPT did so too. Alas, I was too young to go see them play live. In my fourth grade, I went see TSA and their Heavy Metal Swiat live show. It was extremely impressive. I can also remember when our Białystok crew went see METALLICA back in 1987. I run away from home to go and see them. It was my first, important live show. I can still think of it as something really important to me.

7. Back then, Białystok, apart from Szczecin, was the city where people had access to contemporary bands, didn't they? I would like to know what bands were your influences at the time. When I listen to SZAFOT, I can hear a lot of HELLHAMMER and CELTIC FROST. Were these bands really important to you?

Szczecin had good access to music as it was and still is a harbour city. Therefore, many seamen used to bring Western music to sell it Poland. As for HELLHAMMER, I listened to this band in 1991 or 1992 for the first time, shortly after I was done with my military service. POSSESSED, CELTIC FROST, BATHORY ruled supreme back then. Yeah, these bands were very important back then, as well as S.O.D. and DEATH too.

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