



Hail Costa, how is the day today ?

Hi Eric, pretty busy day, but that's ok, I am not a lazy guy and I am always into Metallic action, hehe. Hope you are having a good time, too

The last interview we've done lasts from 4 years, so how have been the evolution of your label since ?

Well, to be honest, I don't really know. IRON PEGASUS continuing releasing traditional Metal mayhem like always, no major changes, all on the same level, with the same attitude. Perhaps things are less "Black Metal" these days, although I still like it of course, but more the old school type of Black Metal and not many bands play this style...

How is your regard on IRON PEGASUS' evolution since the early days of the label ? I

remember that you were distributing few releases while you had Tales Of The Macabre fanzine and now you can produce the bands you've always enjoyed, do you think dream came true ?

IRON PEGASUS is more like an audio-version of Tales Of The Macabre, so in a way it all continues. You are right, lots of bands that were featured in Tales Of The Macabre later did something on IRON PEGASUS, too. Like Pagan Rites, Sadistic Intent, Mortuary Drape, Desaster, etc etc and it was a great feeling to work with those bands. The evolution of the label during the years I think is natural, going step by step but always rooted to the underground and style. I don't think the label has grown since 2001 or so... but that's alright since I never wanted to expand to a big label, because the bigger you become the more you have to deal with the business side and business guys who are only into business and nothing else... that's sucks. Today's so called underground is already very commercial so that's already more than enough for me. I'd like to keep it all small and independent."

Let's keep on this topic, what is your biggest satisfaction since the first release ? What was the most difficult band to produce and the best selling production ?

Well, that's all hard to answer, because in a way I liked everything I have done. But if I have to choose a great moment, then it must have been the release of Desaster's "Tyrants Of The Netherworld" album. Difficult bands you always have from time to time, dealing with so many different people it is natural. About the best selling product: it must be "Tyrants of the Netherworld" which now is like 8 years ago. And it is still a hell of an album !!!

IRON PEGASUS has always been very dedicated to bands you've signed. To be honest I've never seen or read any bad words about your label and many bands you signed in the debut are still among IRON PEGASUS' camp...I guess that's a real proof of quality for you, isn't it ?

Some bands come and go, and some bands are easy, some are not. The bands that I think will always be on Iron Pegasus is Sabbat and Metalucifer since they started it all. And yeah, with Desaster, etc I

am still in good contact, they are friends! I am even in touch with the old singer Okkulto who is a true brother.

I saw that you've released the vinyl edition of Desaster "Satan's Soldiers Syndicate" while the band has signed through Metal Blade. So how difficult was it to get the deal for the vinyl

edition and what do you think of the changing of label for Desaster ? Even though Desaster are on a major label now, they haven't changed the musical way that's really great...

Desaster now are on Metal Blade, but the band can decide on the vinyl which is still on Iron Pegasus, and I salute the guys for the loyalty. It is a good choice for Desaster, because the CD gets distributed and promoted through a big label and the vinyl is still spread in the

underground where the bigger labels are not connected to (since they don't trade but sell only... and underground distros hate to buy !). I always told Desaster that they cannot

become much bigger with Iron Pegasus because I don't have the network, work, contacts and the distribution that is needed to make an album a real megaselling success. So if a bigger label would be interested in Desaster, they should not hesitate to go for it. It would be bad if I held them back. Desaster will musically never be a commercial band, guitarist "Infernal" has a special old Thrash/Death/ Black Metal style that he won't be able to change, even if he wished, haha. I guess it's in his blood and he is one of the very few guys in the scene who is playing music for so many years but is still with his feet on the ground !

I'd like to explain how you got deals with Messiah and Massacra to release their old materials ? Was it difficult to find an agreement with them and did you re-master the songs before ?

Messiah I tried to contact like 2-3 times, without success.

But then, I don't remember how, I got in touch with Brögi and he liked the idea to put the demos on LP/CD. I always loved the old stuff, still think it is very extreme. So I was more than happy to be able to do it. It was more like a personal thing, to do a release of music that I listened to when I was a teenage headbanger in the 80

!!! With Massacre it was done with Frank Stöver's help (danke, Kollege!). He had done an interview with the old bassplayer Michael Borders, and Frank gave me his address. So I contacted Mike and he was in for the kill. This album did introduce Massacre to lots of new fans who never had heard the band before, so that's of course great. With Poison (you didn't ask but anyway, haha) it was Uli who contacted me and I was surprised that he asked me to do a CD/DOLP and I felt very honored to do it since Poison was perhaps the MOST extreme German band during their time.

You've never signed any pure Black Metal bands in the vein of Darkthrone or Dissection for instance through your label. Of course there's been Zemial and Sabbath but they are more on the edge of rock and Black Metal than Scandinavian B.M. Does it mean this

IRON PEGASUS RECORDS

There're not many labels today that raise the flag of hate pretty high and release awesome albums. One of them, is coming from Germany, the land of European Thrash Metal, and he's doing his activities through a fanzine and then a label since ages. This label is IRON PEGASUS, and the Metal head behind that, Costa, is fucking dedicated to the scene. He's never dropped the underground scene, and thanks to him excellent combos such as Sabbat, Desaster, Inquisition, Metalucifer got famous worldwide. Read this interview and buy his records !!!! Avoid downloading his work, as nothing is most better than a vinyl. (January 2008)



scene never really attracted you or that you simply don't find any forth band to sign ?
Hmm, usually I would say you are 100% right for one exception: Inquisition ! (yes, fuck !!!!-ed) IRON PEGASUS was the first European label to do Inquisition when they still were very unknown here. Inquisition always sounded quite Burzum-ic when it comes to the music. Inquisition for me are still a special band and it is a pity that our contact broke for a short period of time, because I would have loved to do more albums with them. But yeah, I never signed those typical Nordic Black Metal bands, which was commercially seen really stupid of me, because this stuff was the best seller when I started with IRON PEGASUS. But that was the reason why I didn't want to do such bands, because everybody was doing such kind of stuff, it was the trend and the big seller and it still is, especially if a band comes up with a strong image. I wanted to work with bands that didn't have a big name back then or didn't come from Scandinavia but still kick ass, like, as you said, Sabbath, Zemial or bands like Hadez, Impiety, Agatus, etc. I have nothing against Nordic Black Metal, I still think Darkthrone are one of the best around, but I didn't like to be one of many labels with the same kind of bands.

I was wondering if there were any plans to sign Bulldozer some years ago as you were really fans of their materials, offered interviews in your fanzine ?
BULLDOZER is great, no doubt about it. But is there still anything that can be released ? Don't think so. But if Bulldozer had unreleased material left, sure, I would love to do it. I am a Venom-Maniac and Bulldozer are on the same line.

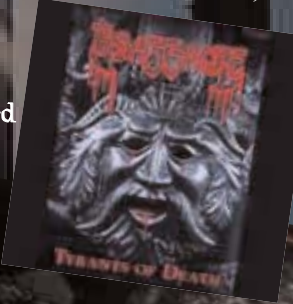
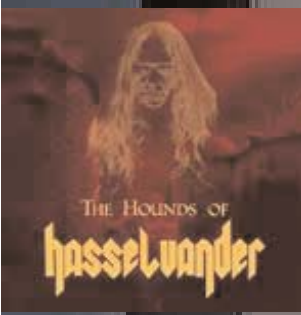
It seems that Nuclear War Now! And its die hard editions influenced you for the release of Massacra, am I right ? Don't you think that you could add stickers, pins, patches and/poster with each of your vinyl edition ? Of course they'll be a bit more expensive but not so much and that'd turn your production to something unique...
I know what you mean, but let's not forget that IRON PEGASUS was one of the first labels to do very limited PicDiscs inside an LP sleeve and even called it "Die Hard" and that was long before labels like NWN! (great label by the way) or Hell's Headbangers even existed. But when you are referring to the poster, then again that's not the first time I did this. Some Disaster "Tyrant Of The Netherworld" LPs and PiDiscs came with a poster, too. But I know what you mean, like doing more deluxe LPs with extras, etc which is of course cool. But although I think it is a great thing for the fans, I often ask myself if some guys who buy those Limited Editions really care about the main thing of an album which still is the music. NWN were one of the first labels to do real deluxe LPs, that's true. Yosuke is of Japanese origin and if you know some

of the 80s Japanese Import LPs, then perhaps you'll know where he has the ideas from. And it is cool. Japanese LPs were always more deluxe than European/ US Lps ! So NWN follows a Japanese tradition. Don't know if Yosuke has the idea from Japanese LPs, but I wouldn't be surprised. It would fit to his origin !

You've created three different labels that are IRON PEGASUS, Archaic Temple Productions and Rock Saviour. Could you speak a bit about the three different label's policy and why did you create different labels as I guess you're still the one behind all of them ?
Who is behind what is a secret, hehe, except for Iron Pegasus of course which is me only, but I am part of the other two labels and help distributing the albums. IRON PEGASUS is more Underground type of Metal label, Archaic Temple was for dark Metal jewels from the past and Rock Saviour is very open minded for anything that is heavy and rockin' ! Rock Saviour is independent from IRON PEGASUS' label policy, that's why they each march under their own flag. But both labels offer unique bands, at least in my opinion

What are the forthcoming releases on the 3 different labels ? Are there new bands that will join forces for you ?
IRON PEGASUS does new stuff like Hail Of Bullets (with Martin van Drunen/ Ex-Pestilence/ Asphyx), Taranis new album, Sabbath various Cds/LPs, Pagan Rites new album, etc etc etc. Archaic Temple is doing nothing at the moment (no money) and for Rock Saviour a new great band called Midnight Rider will astonish fans of old Black Sabbath / Judas Priest (70's era), and perhaps some more bands (but not sure yet) will be released. Time will tell

How do you find the new bands you'll sign such as Afterdeath, Taranis, Enforcer, Hoth, Dead To This World ? Do you receive many demo/CD-R from bands asking you to be signed ?
Well, sometimes I get a demo (not many though) and I really like it. Sometimes people / friends tell me about a band or I am searching for particular bands. After Death was because I talked with Mike Browning about Nocturnus, so it just happened and I am very happy that we did the album which was such an original release (not trendy at all and no best seller, but what the hell... it rulez!). With Enforcer it was that one guy told me about it and right away I noticed that this band has big potential (they now



signed with a US Punk label that is on a Metal trip). Taranis was because Bjorn (the man behind it) sent me one great song called "Teutonic Invasion", asking for a deal, and I really wanted to work with a total unknown band again, so Taranis was the perfect force. I feel that Bjorn has good songwriting talent and, very important, he is really hot to play music. The second album will be really great (in my opinion), a big improvement. Dead To This World was offered to me, and I couldn't resist. I like that Thrashy, Pentacle-ish Black Metal style !

One of your new production will be "Headbangers Metal Forces" that unites combos from your area . I don't know if you remember but that was something we spoke about in the previous interview in Franang zine paper edition. So, it seems it has been very long to establish this project. Could you speak a bit about this compilation as it's be the first Iron Pegasus comp ?

Yeah, it is a project that is very time consuming. You know, to gather like 14-15 bands is not that easy. But the longer it takes the better it gets, just like an old wine, hehe... I don't remember the old interview to be honest, but I can say that the idea behind 44 Compilation should show the musical creativity of the clubmembers. You know, some members play in Desaster, Metal Inquisitor, Har Shatan, Nocturnal, Witchburner, etc etc and there is also a Finnish version of the Hellbangers (TAMPERE) with guys from Urn, Flame, Evil Witch. So this compilation will show that a Hellbanger can be a Metalhead of ANY kind, no matter if you like Darkthrone or Judas Priest or Destruction or Beherit or even Ratt, etc... it is all Metal music and so are the guys in our club and the bands reflect this. Take it as a statement that bands can be so different but still be Metal ! Wait until it gets released. It should be worth the wait !!!

Many Metal heads are complaining the scene is not as exciting as in the 80's which I can't agree. Of course glorious years of Venom's and Iron Maiden live shows are behind us, but they are still combos that really kick ass and raise the flag of hate pretty high. What is your view on the actual scene ? And by the way, since 2000 what are the 5 best records ?

For me the 80's were the ultimate Metal years, no doubt about that !!! For traditional Heavy Metal or Thrash, this is the absolute best time ! Everything done afterwards will always be in the shadow of those glorious days. Also, creativity was better in the 80s, more unique bands or... let's put it this way, you had to be more unique than today to get a deal. Also, the musicians (generally) were better, perhaps because their fave bands were better players. The reason for better quality in the 80's was probably that it was quite expensive to release an album... now it is cheap and easy, home-done recordings, layouts, the internet, (myspace, ebay to suck money from collectors.... and releases especially created for ebay), etc etc but in the 80's it was hellish expensive to do an album. Today there are still lots of great bands, no doubt about it, but the market is just too full with too much standard (or real bad), unoriginal and uninspired music. When you take like old Metal Magazines (like Metal Hammer) and see the reviews of albums... it was like 20 -25 new LPs each month and that's all (and today 90% of them are considered total classics !)... and today you have like 200 (!) or more albums thrown on the market. That's the difference. More quantity than quality for sure. If you are into Black and Death Metal, sure, 1988-1993 were the great, innovative years !

The actual scene is ok, there are still lots of good bands etc but still we cannot get rid of all the posers, it seems to be a chronicle problem. haha. Too much ego shit as well because the internet helps people to promote themselves in an easy way. The best 5 LPs since 2000? Uh... very very hard question.... better like best 5 albums of 2007, that's better.... Darkthrone "F.O.A.D.", WASP "Dominator", Candlemass, MELECHESH "Emissaires", Nifelheim "Envoy of Lucifer" .

Scene has changed a lot since tape trading. Now everyone has its useless "myspace" page to be part of this circus, young fans are downloading all the records and Metal music is slowly turning to something "virtual". I fear that the next generation will only buy "MP3" files on line instead of getting their vinyls in hands. How do you see the evolution in Metal scene from your side ?

Music should be more than a "file" on your fuckin' MP3 player. The appreciation of music is going downhill the way, it is like fast food. But on the other side I should n't care because what else can you expect these days in our modern world ?! It is a sign of the times. I just feel pity for the bands who create music, record it and invest time, money and a big part personality into their works while the listener perhaps only gives it one try and listen and then, if he doesn't like straight away, sends it to hell.

A sign for this is this total exaggerated Die-Hard stuff you can buy now... this is one of the last ways to keep the fan interested in buying a product.... but, as I already said earlier, I am not sure if everybody who buys those things really is interested in the music itself. That's the problem. For some guys it is all about "I have to possess this upcoming rarity" the only reason to buy a record. And all the labels know this.

The last question before the end : I miss a lot Tales Of The Macabre that was according to me a fucking excellent fanzine to read. You were a major influence for Franang zine paper edition. I was wondering if you'd changed your mind and thought about publishing new issue of this "cult" fanzine ?

Thanks a lot for your words, really nice to hear, because it is loooong ago.. the last issue was done in 1999. So I am glad that at least some people remember it. I don't know if I should do it again, but I always said it is like a "crionic", waiting to be defroze again one day, so.... who knows?! Hehe.

This interview is rather short as I know you've few free time to spend on answering question. I wish you a fucking heavy and Metal future Costa

Cheers to you for inviting me again. Keep Metal heavy and the girls wet in France !!! (don't worry, there'll always be a wet chicks for you ! ed) Raise your Kronenbourgs high !!! Good luck with FRANANG ! You are doing the zine for quite some years now (9?!), right ? (actually for 12 years now...ed) Awesome ! I know how much work and times it takes ! Thanks for the maniacs who supported IRON PEGASUS during all the years. I won't let you down as long as people are still interested in the metallic mayhem that gets released through IRON PEGASUS !!! See you and stay faithful to the REAL Metal !

Check out:
www.iron-pegasus.com

for new releases and songs (rare and not so rare ones) that you can listen to while you are pumping iron or just beer or whatever!!!

