



SEPTIC FLESH



As a Metalfan I've always followed the early bands that kicked my ass being Heavy Metal combos or lately Black Metal stuffs. I can remember I was playing "Esoptron" from SEPTICFLESH on a French radio show in 1995 and how would believe that I'd send interview to the same band 13 years later ? Actually "Communion" blown me away during a live in 2008 at Annecy. SEPTICFLESH simply did an incredible live show that brought me back images of darkness and chaos I hadn't felt since a lot. And once you've listened to their last album "Communion" you can't but be agree, it's a killer stuff. Read on excellent answers from Chris (guitars) - (July 2008)

Hail over there, are you today ?

I am fine thanks although I am very busy with the band our new-built studio and my work in England.

First of all, congratulation for the new "Communion" album, it's simply amazing. But what's your view now on this record has it's been out since few months ?

Thank you so much we are very satisfied from the result of "Communion". All of us believe that "Communion" is by far our best album with the most mature and inspired features till now. The reviews from the press and the fans also are amazing.

You just come back from touring, how was this tour ? Where were the best gigs ? Do you have some funny stories to tell us about this tour ?

The tour went really well especially France was full packed in all venues. I was talking to the other guys from the bands and had the same opinion French shows were the best. It didn't happen something special the common drunk nights which had some funny results but nothing extraordinary.

I've to admit that I was blown away by your live performance in France at Annecy. I don't know if you gave the same intensity and quality show during the whole tour, but the band had a real atmosphere, something utterly dark and malign in the way of delivering the compositions. What is your point of view of the show from your side ? I guess you'd worked a long time to get this result, hadn't you ?

Yes we worked really hard on the rehearsals about our performance. Playing "Persepolis" and "Lovecraft's Death" on stage helps you with an intense and dark aura and really boost your performance.

SEPTICFLESH spreads a message of darkness through live show. There's really something utterly evil and powerful behind your songs, it's not only for the sack of playing brutal music. But do you believe that the audience completely understand the message during your gigs ? I mean most of them just bang their head without understanding very true lyrics, do you agree with me ?

Of course there are people that they don't care about the deep meaning/message of the lyrics but we can't condemn them. They come to "relieve" their feelings is not bad. This happens to all the shows with all the bands that they something to "tell you". As long they have fun no problem.

Back in the early day, SEPTICFLESH features in many Black Metal fanzines. I guess you were pretty involved within this growing B.M scene and discovered thousands of new combos. What do you recall from this time and what were the bands that impressed you back then ?

I was not in the mail-exchange-letters "conspiracy". My brother and Sotiris had a letter-writing but not huge one. I remember we had contact with Sentenced and Orphaned Land. Regarding the zines now I think is much better the situation the internet help really on this subject. In 90's were few but really honest efforts and started the "fire".

The five first albums were released through Holy Records. From an external point of view, I feel like that SEPTICFLESH and Elend were the main priority of the French label, is that right ? Why did you part way with them and how would you judge their work for the band ?

It has been 10 years since our "exodus" from Holy. It came a point with "Sumerian" that couldn't follow our philosophy in many aspects and the only solution was to depart from them. We don't have bad any feelings I had "Chaostar" till now. We consider them and consider us as good friends. They did great job especially in France. They could do more in other countries also but anyway life goes on and we don't know what could happen if we were in bigger label or not. Even if we were in a bigger company we had and other things equal of importance with SEPTICFLESH. During all these years were times that we couldn't be so active especially for live performances. This was due to our studies and our work. Regarding your question about priorities it had also

Nightfall, On Thorns I Lay that supported them really well.



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The band split in 2003 after the release of "Sumerian Daemons". Was it something planned during the recording session ? Now that you've come back, was the five years gap a real split or a stand by ?

It appeared as a short break for SEPTICFLESH. We had many discussions and after mature thinking we decided to reunite SEPTICFLESH. We had 4 years break in order to cope with decisions crucial about our future. Let's take the things from the beginning. Our relations with Hammerheart. The company had financial problems. Then Sotiris and I had to take some crucial decisions regarding our future. I found a job in England as exclusive composer of a company that specializes in Video - games, my brother also took his path with his artworks.

SEPTICFLESH couldn't continue, if we did, it would affect our music. We didn't want to deceive our fans. It is really great to experience once again the atmosphere and entity of SEPTICFLESH through creative work, live shows and studio sessions. The circumstances now are better than before. We have our works we have a label that support us, we have an agent and the most important of all we are in our most productive period full of inspiration.

You recorded "Revolution DNA" in 1999 with Hammerheart Record, how did you get the deal with the Dutch label ? They had many troubles in the next years, changing name but also "forgetting" to promote their bands. How was the situation with you ?

We wanted to change to bigger label and Hammerheart convinced us with their attitude and enthusiasm. They offered us a very good deal but problems occurred after a while. They were really affected from their financial problems. Despite this we consider "Sumerian Daemon" really great album. We were unlucky with the circumstances that occurred. Season of Mist will release it again in August I think with a bonus track probably a live one or "Anubis" with only orchestra. We shall see.

Why



did you choose to change your band name from two words to a single one ? Does it mean the new SEPTICFLESH is more compact ?

It is not something important behind this move as the meaning is the same it looks just better. It is also a kind of statement that we are on phase two.

With "Communion" SEPTIC FLESH comes back a bit to the traditional Greek Metal. Early combos as yours, Necromantia, Rotting Christ, Varathron have a very macabre touch in their albums, which is

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the matter with "Communion", do you agree ? And by the way, how do you see the early 90's Greek scene

now ?

Yes you are right. During that time everything was different compared with today.

We had different music patterns to follow. We were true. Of course at that time many have dispute our "efforts". Now days everybody wants to be famous without a base and without hard work. This is the main reason behind that the majority of the bands haven't got any personality. Also many bands envy each other there is not a healthy atmosphere. This is the truth. I hope and I will be very happy if a Greek band will resurrect the Greek scene again. There are some good efforts but not many.

The seventh album is named "Communion". In Christianity, the number seven is linked to a sacred meaning, the seven day ends the work of the wee. The number seven is also closed to Apollon that took place of the seventh day of each month. Thence, has this seventh record something special to you ?

Actually is the sixth full release. "Fallen Temple" hasn't got many new songs. You know numbers don't have any meaning towards me. It sounds all these mystical issues but really don't affect our work especially our composition process.

"Communion" is special because it is our return release after our split-up and marks our new era of art.

Could you explain in deep the meaning of the last title album ? In religion a communion is a gathering of view but also of Christian and their spirit....

Man in the "company" of strange non-human beings often called gods or demons, is a very strong topic. This special "relationship" is something very dramatic and surely apocalyptic. You could say that the whole album is surrounded by this dark, occult aura that indicated on the title.

"Communion" has been unleashed by Season Of Mist. It's the second time you work with a French label, does it mean that you trust French better than other companies ? How many records will you do with them and what are the next plans ?

We knew Michael long time ago. We have good relations and he really believes on us. He got great expectations for our future. France it is our base and this makes the things easier. We have one more with them. Next plan is to tour as much as we can in order to promote "Communion" everywhere. We have the darkest filth tour with Cradle of Filth/ Gorgoroth/Moonspell/Asrai plus 2 tours in Greece and Russia-Baltic countries as headliners.

SEPTICFLESH used a Czech orchestra for the atmospheric and ambient parts of the new release. I read it was a 115 people philharmonic orchestra that is pretty impressive. Could you explain how you arrange the tunes ? Was it you who wrote each musician parts ? And how were their reactions once the album was out ?

Yes I was very lucky to collaborate with such a great musicians. Filmharmonic Orchestra consists of the best players from Prague. Their members are from Philharmonic, National Prague Orchestra and various other ensembles. Czech-Republic is a country with rich history on orchestras and classical music in general.

We used nearly 140 people ! Set Orchestra including Choir. The result was excellent their musicality and interpretation was

unique. I didn't have any problems everything was under control as they have done many film scores and video games. Of course many people worked for this project. We had a producer from England, contractor, assistants, copyists etc. I orchestrate the melodies giving them the score to the musicians and conductor.

The agent of the Filmharmonic Orchestra really likes the album although is not his style as he has a classical background he appreciates our work.

SEPTICFLESH is heavily influenced by Sumerian mythology and Ancient goddess. What does attract you the most in this topic? Is it because Sumerian writing is one of the oldest one? Have you ever thought of working in archaeology by the way?

Sumeria is the cradle of human civilization. It is therefore very important to start from there if you want to see how things developed through the ages. There are secrets to be found, there are questions to be answered. However it is not an easy task to seek for deeper truths. Most myths are more important than some people think. They are a perfect vehicle to say things in metaphor hiding the true meaning from the casual mind. Archeologist? Never. Sotiris is responsible for all our lyrics and he is more in these compared to us. You should ask Sotiris about archeology.

Do you think that with "Communion" you recorded the darkest work SEPTICFLESH is able of? I mean there's always a limit in a band, a borderline member can't cross either because of their ability, techniques or simply because they're at their top....

It is our darkest work definitely. In our entire career till now we had a very careful approach for our releases. Of course there is a moment that you reach the perfect form. The history will judge which release is the classic one. I think we are in top form right now. We are hungry for more music full of inspiration. I might say also that our absence was a big motivation to release an album of such a tension and primitive aggression. We were "hungry" to unleash our artistic fury and concerns again.

As an individual, how do you see your philosophic evolution since "Temple Of the Lost Race"?

What did you learn from SEPTICFLESH and what is your own conception about life and death now? Do you believe in re-incarnation?

Definitely, in all my music from symphonic to Metal and every aspect of my way of life I try to be myself. Through your artistic exploration you pass from many dimensions

And as an artist you need to express your esoteric world through your creations honestly. If you fake that doesn't work and your result will be poor. I would never do something that will affect negative my art. Thankfully SEPTICFLESH, Chaostar, art in all aspects has given me only positive moments till now. My point of view is to live for today and don't perish your inner self with unnecessary "issues". Life is too short. No, I don't believe in incarnation.

When looking through the different reviews that had been released all along your discography, we can noticed that you always received a great feed back on all full-length. There's no weak or useless album according to press and fans, thence how do you see this close to perfect evolution since the beginning?

Our philosophy was and it is to create always and only when you have the inspiration ready and in full force and NOT when you have to. You know art in general doesn't follow any rules and recipes.

We are really happy with what we achieved all these years. We formed the band in order to have a great time and create music. The achievement of SEPTICFLESH if there is any relies only in the quality of our music.

What is the next plan with SEPTICFLESH? Lot of combos release DVD now, is there such a project with SEPTICFLESH? If yes, what will be the content of the DVD?

It is in our plans to release a DVD but for the next album. Soon we will create a video-clip of "Anubis". We have some offers we will judge which is the best and we will act for the best of the band. We want to make something special. Regarding the plans as I told you as many gigs as we can and after that the preparation of the new album.

Thanks a lot for your time and answers, feel free to end this interviews by telling us which are/were your favorite French Metal combos.

If you mean bands Gojira is an amazing band. I would like to add that this album is dedicated to all our fans and their loyal support through all this time even when the band was inactive. Many thanks for the interview.

