



Twenty Questions With...Ravager
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Twenty Questions With...Ravager!

1. First of all, thank you for taking the time to do this interview with me. Before we really get rolling, please introduce yourself and can you please give us some information on your band and its background?

First off we'd like to say hi and thank you for your interest in our Band.

RAVAGER is a five-piece Thrash Metal Band from Walsrode, Germany, members are: Marcel Lehr and Dario Rosenberg on guitars, Justus Mahler on bass guitar, André Sawade on Drums and vocalist Philip Herbst.

The band was founded when Marcel asked Dario if he was in for playing some music together and eventually start a new band. After two or three rehearsals in Dario's room at his Parents' house André (who had played bass guitar in a band with Marcel before) and Philip (with whom Dario had been in a band before) joined. After we found a rehearsal room we started writing our first songs but playing turned out to be tricky without a drummer.

Since we could not find someone motivated and André had just started taking drum lessons he took the chair.

After a short time of searching for a bass player a friend told Philip and Dario that Justus (whom they knew already) was playing bass and eventually he joined to complete the line up.

2. Please describe your band's style. Genre, similar bands, etc. What should a potential new fan expect upon hearing your music for the first time?

The best way to describe our music probably is to say it is Thrash Metal with some Death- and Black Metal influences but Thrash is definitely dominating. You could compare our style to those of bands like Exodus, Kreator and maybe Death Angel from the '80s/'90s. It is hard to say to be honest because our inspiration comes from so many more - not only (Thrash) Metal bands.

Our music lives off its heavy and driving riffs during the slower passages combined with the high speed action that is happening in between - or the other way around.

3. What other bands have you played in previously?

André and Marcel had played in a Death/Grind/Thrash Metal Band called "Excavator" in their youth and Philip and Dario had played in a Thrash Metal band called "Destruction Overdrive" before.

4. What are some of your musical influences both in metal and maybe in other styles of music?

Musically our main influences are all the great '80s Thrash Metal bands we all love and Marcel, who is doing most of the songwriting is also really into Bands like Death and Vader so you might be able to spot some riffs that are influenced by those bands. When Philip started singing in a band when he was still in school he listened to bands like Murderdolls a lot which led him to a singing style heavily influenced by that of Joseph Poole (Wednesday 13).

5. Can you please share with us your band's recording history and any interesting stories and experiences from the studio?

After we recorded our first record ("Alarm Clock Terror" EP) together with Basti in late 2015/early2016 (who did all the recording and mastering) we knew that we wanted to work with him on our album aswell. He is a nice chap who pretty much lives around the corner and that made it easy for us to coordinate everything, we always could get together on short notice to record or to work out changes. We could do most of that in our rehearsal room which was very convenient for us. Unfortunately there are no really interesting stories from the whole recording process probably because it was done over a span of a few months and when we were not recording we all led our everyday life.

6. How about your bands live experiences? Any amusing or memorable shows you would like to share with us?

Unfortunately we have not played as many shows as we would have liked to but there were a few that stick out.

Like our first show where we did not know how people would react to our music but the place was packed and everyone really liked it. Unfortunately there was no light show, the stage lights were on all the time and Dario - who was standing right below a floodlight - almost died of dehydration.

Then there was a show where the stage was too small to even move back and forth a bit and Dario - who was standing right below a light rig again - almost died of dehydration again and dropped sweat all over his floor board which cut it short.

Our gig in Luxembourg - our first show outside of Germany - also was a memorable show especially because Philip - to not almost die of dehydration - drank loads of water which, combined with his exhausting performance, caused him to throw up backstage during an instrumental part in one of our songs.

7. We have all heard of the big 4 of thrash. Metallica, Megadeth, Slayer and Anthrax. It has been talked about in the past and critiqued quite often. In your mind, what are the

Big 4? You don't have to just list thrash bands, lets open it up to all metal genres, past or present, what is the big 4 in your mind?

Marcel:

Death, Metallica, Testament, Kreator

André:

Slipknot, As I Lay Dying, Accept, Testament

Philip:

Judas Priest, Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Motörhead

Justus:

With all the great bands there are/were/will be for me there are no "Big 4"

Dario:

Ozzy Osbourne, Judas Priest, Iron Maiden, Exodus

8. What would be your dream supergroup? Again lets open it up to past or present musicians, what would be the dream band lineup?

Marcel:

Chuck Schuldiner and Alex Skolnick on guitars, Jason Newsted on bass guitar, Dave Lombardo on drums and James Hetfield as the vocalist

André:

Vocals: Corey Taylor. Drums: Jordan Mancino. Bass: Rvan Martinie. Guitars: Dimebaa

Lombardo on drums and James Hetfield as the vocalist

André:

Vocals: Corey Taylor, Drums: Jordan Mancino, Bass: Ryan Martinie, Guitars: Dimebag Darrell and Phil Demmel

Philip:

Michael Angelo Batio and Paul Gilbert on guitars, Wyatt Anderson doing vocals, David Ellefson playing bass guitar and Marc Reign on drums

Justus:

I like the lineup of "Legion Of The Damned" a lot. For me it don't have to be "legends" building the perfect lineup but people I like personally.

Dario:

Guitarists Glenn Tipton and K.K. Downing, Ian Hill on bass, Simon Phillips on drums and vocalist Rob Halford

9. Now if you were to be a member of any band, who would you love to join up with?

Marcel:

Tankard. They drink loads of beer and seem to be funny guys.

André:

Slipknot

Philip:

Overkill or Exodus

Justus:

To be honest I'd rather stay in RAVAGER because I'd probably mess up my favorite bands by joining them.

Dario:

Nuclear Assault with their super fast, super high-energy '80s shows

10. Now it's time to get philosophical. What IS heavy metal?

Marcel:

Heavy Metal is going on stage and having a blast even though you're hungover as hell.

André:

Heavy Metal is freedom, friendship and an attitude.

Philip:

I don't know.

Justus:

For me Heavy Metal is rather about the music than anything else. Of course it goes along with a lot else but the music is the core of all that.

Dario:

A music genre. Unfortunately it sometimes seems to have turned into a business, a fashion and a scene in which too many people think they have to act and look a certain way to "fit in".

11. What has heavy metal done for you this far both in music and in your personal life?

Marcel:

I've been listening to Metal since I was 12 or 13 Years old, of course that shapes you. I then started playing guitar and got to know a lot of new people. You always have something to talk about, that gives you a lot of opportunities. Metal will always be a part of my daily life.

André:

Heavy Metal has brought me many new friends, fun and the desire to play music

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Metal will always be a part of my daily life.

André:

Heavy Metal has brought me many new Friends, Fun and the desire to play music.

Philip:

Music always played a big role for me. I started listening and singing along to metal early and this is still my passion.

Justus:

Heavy Metal inspired me to play an instrument myself. I first started playing guitar but when I had the chance to join RAVAGER I started concentrating more on playing bass. Heavy metal brought me good friendships and music one can hear in every situation in life.

Dario:

Apart from being one of the weird kids in school Heavy Metal has brought me many friends, many good stories to tell and many hours of sheer enjoyment.

12. If you were not playing in a metal band, what do you think you would be doing currently?

Marcel:

Then I would ask André, Dario, Justus und Philip if they wanted to start a band called RAVAGER.

André:

Going to more concerts I guess.

Philip:

Sitting in a bar and drinking beer.

Justus:

I would probably be searching for a band.

Dario:

Hanging around in a bar with Philip, also drinking beer.

13. What is your heavy metal dream? I am not talking about goals here, I am talking about going to bed and dreaming...what is the dream you are having? Or is it a nightmare?

Marcel:

My Heavy Metal dream is for RAVAGER to play festivals and tour across the globe together with other cool bands whilst having a lot of fun.
It doesn't have to be in our own plane - a bus with an integrated pool, good music and a bar would be alright.
My bandmates could possibly make it a nightmare but I don't think they would.

André:

Tour the world together with the "big" bands and maybe fly aboard the "Ed Force One".

Philip:

Playing on stage in front of a few thousand people who all sing along to our songs and of course a decent after show party.

Justus:

I don't have any "Heavy Metal" dreams.

Dario:

Something like being Judas Priest's "Painkiller". Riding the Metal Monster and devastating evil in a surreal post apocalyptic world whilst my soundtrack is omnipresent.

14. What is your view on the current state of heavy metal?

Heavy Metal is still there and still standing strong. It may have gotten more and more out of focus of the main stream media recently but that is just the way the media work. So there is nothing to worry about - especially if you have a look at how many motivated fans there are all around the world and how many good new bands are around today.

15. What are your thoughts concerning the digital era of metal. I am curious what you think of digital downloading, recording in the modern era and anything else that has changed since the early days of the industry.

It is very easy nowadays for fans to get music, whether via streaming or (illegal) download. At first sight that is not really conducive to record sales but on the other hand it may help a lesser known band to become a bit more popular and gain fans who will want to buy their stuff and go see their shows.

Also music has changed, is and will be changing all the time because society does and people do. Much of today's "chart" music is rather a consumable than a true form of art but that may have already been occurring since the '80s when record labels pushed

bands to alter their songs, sound or appearance to being able to sell to a bigger audience.

We like to think with young Metal bands being out of the focus of big record companies it is easier for them to find a label that supports them doing what they really want and not tries to sell them at any cost. Of course that means it is nearly impossible to become a "superstar" by playing Heavy Metal music nowadays but that as the only motivation to play music is stupid anyway.

16. Heavy metal has gone through some changes since the early days. New movements have come and gone as has its overall popularity. With that in mind, what direction do you see heavy metal going in the future?

That is hard to say because we can't look into people's minds. Heavy Metal as a scene probably won't change a lot in the next couple of years, the scene's significance in society might. But that is also just a guess.

Sure thing is the stars of the genre(s) will remain (to metalheads) what they are for many years to come plus there will always be a young generation having an ace up it's sleeve every now and then.

17. Several musicians have gone on record to say that the full length album is dead. That with the digital age there is no need to produce a full length release. What are your thoughts, is the full length dead or still viable?

We as fans still like to buy a physical copy of a cool album every now and then and we don't think we are the only ones.

From an artist's perspective we can't really tell, because we're lacking experience but we are (hopefully) about to gain some.

18. Okay time to talk and promote your band some more. What is the current news coming from your camp. Any new music, tours, festivals or anything going on?

First of all we can't wait for the release of our debut album! Soon we will also release a music video to our song "Dr. Mad" to promote our record.

There will be some gigs to play in the near future and in the meantime we are writing some new stuff. We almost have five new songs ready and they are really kicking ass...

19. What are the immediate short range goals for your group?

Doing all of the above with a lot of fun.

20. What about ultimately any long range goals?

Everyone of us probably has his own (secret) dream goals for RAVAGER but the long range goal we all agree on is to never do what we do without passion.

21. Finally if you have any last words you wish to express to your fans and the metal community in general please do so here.

A big thank you to all who like our music and support us!
We are looking forward to see you somewhere along the line!

Thrash on!
RAVAGER