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reach 'And... their new album is a 'Revelation'

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## THE MUSIC IS OUT THERE

By Nicky Baldrian

**DUST & BONES**, are an awesome high energy dirt rock quintet from Backnang, Germany. They have a new eleven track album out now called 'The Great Damnation Stereo Parade' which runs in at just under forty minutes long and is the bands third album.



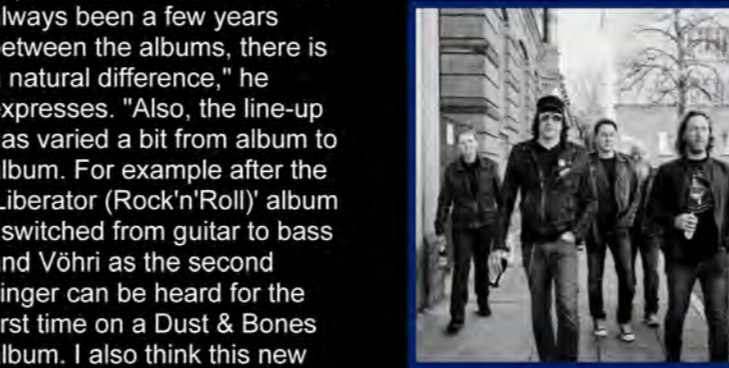
Dust & Bones are: Dirk Ertelt – guitars, Bernd Biedenbach – guitars, Thorsten Klöpfer – vocals, bass, Sven Vöhri – vocals, Jarle Boe – drums. It's Saturday August afternoon, it's raining lightly in southern Germany and singer/bassist Thorsten Klöpfer is sitting under his balcony in the garden. "I'm looking forward to partying hard at the Slayer concert in Stuttgart tonight. I feel a little sad as this is the final show in Germany of this incredible band that has had such an influence on my life, but you should never say never," he smiles. When Klöpfer was young, he loved to listen to The Beatles records from his parents record collection. "The energy and melodies of songs like 'A hard Day's Night', 'Can't Buy Me Love' or 'Twist and Shout' captured my imagination and showed me the power of music as a positive force in my life. Even now, as so much time has passed those classic tunes still have that power today. So that's what I decided I wanted to do. I started writing my own songs, messing around with chords, being

creative, rocking wild and bringing together others who felt the same. I still remember when my first 'guitar' was a tennis racket with a string as shoulder strap, just like millions of other young rockers. In my mind I was on stage bringing my music to the world and the sound out of my 'guitar' was incredible. Maybe even better than today," he tells me. Drummer Jarle Boe started playing his father's rock records as a primary school student. "One of my favourite records was Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Jesus Christ Superstar', with Ian Gillan. I found the songs very impressive in their melodiousness and drama. In 1979 Thorsten and I became neighbours and we immediately found out that we had the same taste in music. The Beatles and Elvis were our favourites. At the beginning of the eighties I started to listen to hard rock and heavy metal. After a short period of pretending to be playing along to the records of our favourite bands, first of all AC/DC's 'If You Want Blood', Thorsten and I formed our first band and started writing our own songs," he tells me. When guitarist Dirk Ertelt was young, he and his best friend discovered Metallica and it changed his world. "I was immediately infected by bands like Slayer, Megadeth, Pantera but also Queen. Dimebag Darrell inspired me the most and then I picked up a guitar and learned how to play the hell out of it," he tells me. When singer Sven Vöhri was a teenager, he used to listen to rap. "From rap I progressed on to heavy rock rap. At the same time the 'Neue Deutsche Welle' NDW



"So our music is always created with this in mind. It is for this reason that all songs on the album were played live before they were recorded in the studio just to make sure that they had the right sound and delivery. If a song did not deliver as expected, it was either ditched or further polished and refined until it met our high standards. It was also important for us to

create a crisp, entertaining, direct Dust & Bones album to which people could truly feel the emotion carried in the music," he explains to me. "Our songs have to have the right amount of variety and continuous kick ass power as this is what Dust & Bones is all about. From my point of view this was achieved when you say after the first listening you instantly have to go for the repeat button and have another listening. Many of my favourite albums from the seventies and eighties work the same way." Each of the bands albums have always reflected the characters, personal circumstances and influences and the time in which it was created. "They are mirrors of our lives and experiences since there have always been a few years between the albums, there is a natural difference," he expresses. "Also, the line-up has varied a bit from album to album. For example after the 'Liberator (Rock'n'Roll)' album I switched from guitar to bass and Vöhri as the second singer can be heard for the first time on a Dust & Bones album. I also think this new album is the result of an even bigger communal input of all the people involved in the creation process, which of course was a lot of fun," he enthuses. Klöpfer is inspired by everything that rocked in the beginning of the eighties. "From my point of view, this is still brilliant and unique for me: Motörhead, AC/DC, Rose Tattoo, The Ramones and the Sex Pistols and the many cool hard rock and heavy metal bands of that time like Ozzy, Rainbow, Def Leppard, Black Sabbath and Accept. Another big influence was the brand-new thrash metal movement with the first albums of bands like Metallica, Slayer, Exodus, Celt-c Frost and Kreator. The raw but controlled energy of all these bands was simply



stunning," he marvels. "As the individual songs on the album have been created over a longer period of time, there has not been a single source of inspiration for the album. Each song has its own story and influences. The title of the album was more of a gut feeling, when all songs of the album were finally completed. It should be as unique a title as possible that reflects the time and the feeling in which the album was created and that nevertheless spans a clear arc around the individual songs. And of course it should also clarify what the listener has to expect from the album. I hope we succeeded," he says with spirit.

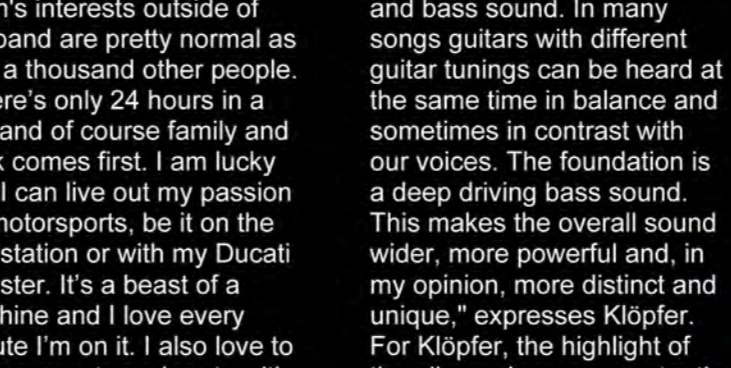
Jarle's biggest musical influence is probably AC/DC and generally hard rock and heavy metal of the seventies and eighties like Judas Priest, Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Ozzy Osbourne and Rainbow. "Over the years I have been focused on a lot of bands and different musical styles. I love listening to Godsmack, Motörhead, Rose Tattoo, Alice In Chains, Volbeat, Ramones and the old stuff from Metallica, Anthrax or Slayer. This is where I find the inspiration to create new music and progress the bands musical style," he explains to me. "Of all the drummers I like, Phil Rudd from AC/DC is probably the one who influenced me the most. I try to keep my

playing style acoustically simple, yet dynamic, interesting and close to the bass and guitars. My goal is always to get the listener to go with the music and to move with the sound, whether they like it or not." Dirk's taste in music has changed a bit over the years. "As with other people music is an evolution, an ever-changing muse. From Iron Maiden, Metallica or Slayer more to Rock like Danko Jones, Turbonegro or Mustasch I love them all. All these bands and their different stylistic influences and the musical tastes of all band members are the inspiration for Dust & Bones. Bringing a deeper tuned guitar sound in line with punk rock grooves and catchy hooklines with lots of fun and energy, all this can be found on our new album," he says with satisfaction. There are so many good albums that have always accompanied Sven through the years that he still plays today. "I think we did a great job with 'The Great Damnation Stereo Parade' and I am very proud of my part in its creation. It should be an album that is fun to listen to in any situations. No matter if I want to be alone or party with friends. There is always the right song on this album. For me an album is always a part of the here and now and reflects the current stage of life," he adds. Bernd's biggest influence and inspiration is for fast punk rock song writing is Dee Dee Ramone. "You can say everything you need to in just less than three minutes, I promise," he smiles. When he is not writing or performing, Klöpfer is into football. "I like to meet friends and go running. Since I have another creative profession besides music, everything that has to do with it and brings me a lot of variety and



record it gives me the feeling that there is so much creativity going on. I feel it is important to keep the spirit alive, be open minded and curious. It is always good to challenge oneself with new ideas and ways of thinking," he expresses. With Dust & Bones, a unique selling point is that they have two singers who have very distinct voices, and this represents the intersection between hard and punk rock. "Sven Vöhri's singing stands for the deep powerful, aggressive style and my singing is more for the higher melodic. This gives us a wider range of musical expression. Also the voices complement each other very well in my opinion. We also use this concept in the guitar and bass sound. In many songs guitars with different guitar tunings can be heard at the same time in balance and sometimes in contrast with our voices. The foundation is a deep driving bass sound. This makes the overall sound wider, more powerful and, in my opinion, more distinct and unique," expresses Klöpfer. For Klöpfer, the highlight of the album changes constantly depending on so many different things. "Depending on my mood and daily form, this can be any song on the album for me. I love everyone and they all have their time and place. The best way for me to express my feeling here is that the highlight is simply the whole album. For me these tunes never get old." Dust & Bones are currently booking shows for the upcoming 'The Great Damnation Stereo Parade Tour' These will certainly continue throughout the year 2020. "In 2020 we will also celebrate our twentieth band anniversary. This is an epic milestone in the history of the band. Our hope is to reach as many people as possible, to play as many shows as possible in as many places

as possible, to have fun together and to offer everyone an energetic, sweaty and entertaining Dust & Bones show. If it works out, we would also like to be touring together with other bands again," he tells me. "The Great Damnation Stereo Parade" was recorded at Klangmanufaktur Studio in Lud-wigsburg, Germany. Near the Rockfabrik Ludwigsburg. Like its predecessor 'Rock it deEP', the album was produced and mastered by Marc Ayerle. The recording process, spread over several sessions including mixdown, took about a month of pure studio time. Since Dust & Bones are constantly working on new songs, of course there will be another Dust & Bones album. "We also have a very good feeling about the cooperation with our new record company El Puerto Records.



He handles the majority of the instrumentation and vocals himself, however also on the album are: guitarist Sam Graves, and saxophonist Mark Holden (from the band Boulevard). Going back to his childhood singer and multi-instrumentalist Leon Robert Winterringham's Father played occasional Discos around Town. "So, there was always all the big hits from all the decades being played around our house. There was always a Guitar in the house too, and one day my Dad said to me "Learn these four Chords and I'll buy you a Guitar" - I learnt them straight away, got the Strat Copy, Guitar Lessons and played ever since. I didn't start writing Songs until I was 16

though," he tells me. 'To Love, Repeat & Wonder?' is Leon' debut album that he has self-released under the name The LRW Project. "It was basically a New Year's Resolution on the 1st January 2017 to start a proper album, so that is exactly what I did. "To Love, Repeat & Wonder?" is mostly about relationships, things not working out and just being positive. "I always try to write with the listener in mind, and I think (or I hope) that people can connect with any song on the album," explains Leon. Winterringham has always loved great melodies. "It would seem that almost all of the best melodies which I get with the most came from one era... The 80s! I'm a 90s Child, but there was always that crossover in my childhood (TV Shows/Films/Radio/What my parents listened to/What my Sister listened to) all that mixed with my Dad having a huge Music Collection (because of the above mentioned Discos) how could I not gravitate towards melodies," he explains to me. "My own personal influences didn't develop until I was around 16 and I discovered all the great solo artists... Richard Marx, John Waite, Jude Cole etc., all of which I subconsciously knew... I just wasn't a fan of them as a kid. The inspiration behind Winterringham's writing is always to be melodic, always to write so the listener can relate, and just always from the heart! Each song does mean a lot to me, but I do believe it's all relatable too," he adds. When he is not writing or performing, Leon has many interests. "I've always had a love for Cars (not that I own anything flash 'yet') but I'm always either watching something 80s, or some Car Restoration TV Show. Next, is my health and fitness... When I hit 26ish



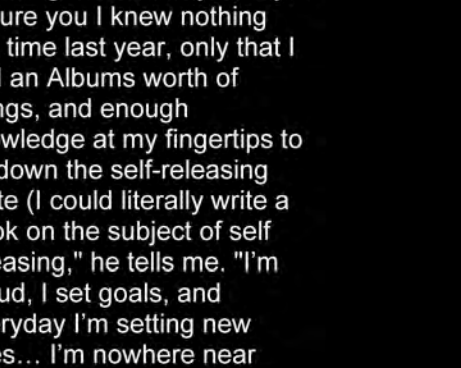
When Bernd is not involved with music, he likes meeting new people and finding new ideas and ways of thinking. "I believe that getting in contact with other people's ideas, points of views and reactions is a great thing. It doesn't matter if you are sitting in a local pub having a good conversation with a friend (or stranger), reading a book, or listening to an inspiring

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