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LEMMY FOR EVER!

The Wacken legend
comes home

40 YEARS OF DORO

The Heavy-Metal-Queen
about good old times,
friendship, and music

LEGEND OF WACKEN

What the Festival bosses
Holger & Thomas say

STEVE & GEORGE HARRIS

The Iron Maiden boss talks
pride of a father and
stubborn minds with his son

INTERVIEWS WITH: MAIK WEICHERT · TORSTEN STRÄTER · LEMMY ACTOR ANDY MURRAY

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COVER IMAGE

Our main image of Ian “Lemmy” Kilmister was shot by renowned photographer Pep Bonet. Bonet was an integral part of Lemmy’s circle from 2008 until his death in 2015, joining Motörhead on tour and getting as close to the band as few have. The images on pages 8 and 9 were shot by him as well.

For ten years now, Pep has also been gracing Wacken with his presence, creating, among other things, the photo book “We The People Of Wacken”. At W:O:A 2023, he will be hosting his masterclass for aspiring photographers for the second time.



IMPRINT

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GENDER NOTE: We are also aware of the diversity in our society and welcome it in every respect. Insofar as the editorial content in relation to natural persons uses the generic masculine, this is due to the valid German grammar and uniform readability. This makes it clear at this point that female, male and intersexual/diverse people are meant. A disadvantage within the meaning of § 1 AGG - of any kind - is not intended by the use of the generic masculine.



PHOTO: STAATSKANZLEI

Wacken’s population is about to increase to more than 40 times its usual size, the amps have been stacked and readied: It’s time to go faster, harder, louder!

Within five hours of the official start of ticket sales, Wacken Open Air 2023 was completely sold out – a new record. The special feature this year: For the first time, the metal spectacle will last four days instead of three. So this year, 85,000 Wacken enthusiasts will experience a festival for the ages. More bands. More music. More party.

I personally have been looking forward to returning for a while now and I am sure that countless fans from all over the world will celebrate this W:O:A in a truly special way.

Many thanks to Thomas and Holger and the entire team for their hard work and tireless dedication in putting on the world’s biggest Heavy Metal festival! Now in its 32nd season, Wacken Open Air firmly belongs to Schleswig-Holstein and its music scene, which – also thanks to the festival – ranges in diversity from Classical to Metal and offers something for all music enthusiasts.

I wish a loud and hard W:O:A 2023 to all Wacken fans, the artists, and the organisers!

Yours
Daniel Günther

Daniel Günther
PRIME MINISTER OF THE STATE OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

WACKEN ♥ INTERNATIONAL METALHEADS

We hope you enjoy the English version of Festival Today as much as we’ve enjoyed creating it for you. Each year, we generate 64+ pages of exciting content and work extra hard to deliver their English counterparts on time. Our secret: highly questionable amounts of coffee, a thankfully dry spot in Wacken’s press tent, and the odd Motörhead-fuelled all-nighter.

Translating interviews is always especially rewarding. Trying to convey the familiar bond between Steve and George Harris in German or doing German comedian Thorsten Sträter justice in English – you need more than AI for that. We’re glad to be back for another year, united with you in Rain and Shine.

TRANSLATOR: VICTORIA SCHAFFRATH

“WE WANTED TO GET ACROSS HOW AWESOME PEOPLE ARE HERE IN THE NORTH”

“Legend Of Wacken” started streaming at the beginning of July – and gained a loyal viewership immediately. Is a second season on the horizon?

Marshall

By Andrea Leim

Courage, love for Metal, community – more than 30 years ago, these three things led to a Heavy music festival making history. Nowadays, the name Wacken Open Air is known across the globe, especially among Metal fans like actor Aurel Manthei: “My agent at the time told me that there was an enquiry about Wacken. I heard the word ‘Wacken’ and immediately made it very clear that she was not allowed to cancel anything under any circumstances. I knew right away that this might be a project I would really enjoy.” And that’s precisely what happened: Manthei took on the role of Thomas Jensen and filmed a portion of his scenes during W:O:A 2022 – just like actor Charly Hübner, who had been cast as his namesake Holger

Hübner. “The absolute highlight of the shoot and probably of my whole professional life was the Wacken performance on stage in front of thousands of people. I will still be telling people stories about that in 30

years’ time. You go out there and stick up the horns, shout ‘Moin, Wacken!’ – and thousands of people cheer back. An insane feeling.” Hübner, too, was mesmerised during filming with the live crowd: “I loved shooting there because you only get one chance and you have to be very aware of what you want to happen at exactly what moment, but that makes it feel like real life.”

The series “Legend of Wacken” recounts the tale of Wacken Open Air and with it the story of Holger Hübner and Thomas Jensen; not as a documentary, but with a considerable element of fiction. “Not everything

“The scenes with Thomas’ mum were particularly intense! I knew her very well, and it was extremely tough when she died.”

HOLGER HÜBNER

is true to reality, of course. We knew that beforehand,” says Holger Hübner. “But both actors who took on my role did a great job. A lot of things looked very real. But after watching the first episodes, my mother commented: ‘Holger never smoked!’”

Thomas Jensen is equally happy with the six episodes and their storyline: “We wanted

to make a statement for the music, the community, and of course for the village and the region, and I think we did that very well. We wanted to get across how awesome people are here in the North.” Still, he was nervous before watching the first episodes, the Wacken boss admits. “Of course, we were quite curious and won-





Charly Hübner and Aurel Manthei in front of 80.000 festival fans at W:O:A 2022 on the Harder Stage.



Sebastian Jakob (left) and Sammy Scheuritzel as a young Thomas and Holger.

dered if everything had been well executed. We knew the script, but not the visuals. To that extent, it was very exciting."

In the end, everybody was pleased, though; even those who knew the real story from the beginning, Holger Hübner recalls. "Before we start-

ed streaming, we made it a point to invite over our 'elders' to watch the episodes before everyone else. That included buddies who lived in the village back then, friends, and old companions that were there

," Hübner explains. "For the show, however, he was given a different look." Adds Thomas Jensen: "It was necessary for the story, and Béla acts this version of Gösy really well. But it's not the real Gösy."

"I felt the same way about the scenes of Holger's car accident, because that, too, happened."

THOMAS JENSEN

when it all began. Their reactions were immensely positive, even though some aspects didn't line up with how they remembered things."

One person, however, wasn't quite as happy with the way he was portrayed: drummer Gösy! "Gösy was the one who looked truly Metal, dressing like Mötley Crüe: long, wavy hair, the clothes, the tattoos and so

scenes of Holger's car accident, because that, too, happened."

Fortunately, the funny moments outweigh the sad ones, such as Detlef Buck's portrayal of farmer Uwe Trede. "There is nothing 'fake' about it. Uwe really acted that way and said things just like that," Holger Hübner reveals.

The Wacken Open Air bosses and actors agree when it comes to the series' future: "There's a long way to go before we've told everything," says Hübner. "There's still so much left to say." Jensen adds: "There are many stories to tell." Aurel Manthei is game: "I'm totally up for a second season and hope that everyone watches the show so that we can keep going." Therefore, loosely based on Iron Maiden: Stream for me, Wackenfans!



The real Wacken bosses Thomas Jensen and Holger Hübner have enough stories to flesh out another season. PHOTOS: RTL/THOMAS LEIDIG, ICS



Charly Hübner using a scooter to get around on the grounds – just like his namesake Holger would.

“I LOVED SHOOTING IN WACKEN!”

As we all know, you don't get a second chance at a first impression: What was your first impression of Festival boss Holger Hübner, whom you play in the series?

Holger and I met a few years ago and my impression was that Holger is on top of things, observes things with an open mind, but doesn't sell out either. He is very protective of his child (the festival) and his friends and environment. I thought that was great.

Did you wear a wig or was that your natural hair?

That wasn't my own hair. There is less and less of it and not a single curl in sight.

Did you show Holger Hübner how you were going to portray him before the shoot or did he first see it during filming?

We met on the very first day of shooting

in Wacken and then talked, spent time together on stage before the onslaught of fans, and laughed. His comment: "Looks rather good".

How did shooting during W:O:A 2022 go? How much of the actual Festival did you experience and what was it like to be on the main stage in front of thousands of fans?

I loved shooting there because you only get one chance and you have to be very aware of what you want to happen at exactly what moment, but that makes it feel like real life. In terms of the lineup, I saw Behemoth, Slipknot, Judith Priest, At The Gates, and some others. And standing in front of thousands of fans was just wonderful for me.

You wrote a book about Motörhead, Lemmy is virtually ubiquitous at Wacken. Whose idea was it to have

him appear in the series as well?

Let's put it like that: As always, Lemmy just showed up.

In 2013 you filmed a documentary at Wacken Open Air and were already familiar with the Festival. How has your view of W:O:A changed through filming and also working with Thomas and Holger?

I am impressed by the logistics, the fierce, passionate effort, the humour that never left my side during filming, and by the feeling of being on another planet for 4-5 days a year.

Besides that, did you prepare yourself in terms of context, ie. the Metal scene, Fan community, and the Festival world in general?

I've listened to this music for a very long time and never stopped keeping up with the scene. So everything felt very familiar.



After W:O:A 2022, Aurel Manthei started his charity "Metal heilt", which translates to "Metal heals".

scene, the best moment?

The absolute highlight of the shoot and probably of my whole professional life was the Wacken performance on stage in front of thousands of people. I will still be telling people stories about that in 30 years' time. You go out there and stick up the horns, shout 'Moin, Wacken!' – and thousands of people cheer back. An insane feeling, I could get used to that. That moment makes you want to be a rock star for a minute – or forever.

Will there be a second season?

I'm totally up for it and hope that everyone watches the show so that we can keep going. Thomas told us that we haven't even covered ten per cent of what there is to say, so there would be enough stories left. And I would definitely be on board.

Before the shoot you only knew Wacken by hearing about it, now you have a much deeper insight and have visited the Festival yourself. What makes it special for you?

What was special for me was that amidst our stressful lives, 80,000 metalheads come together, wearing their vests and patches, leather jackets, and metal chains, listening to insanely loud and sometimes very aggressive music. But because of this particular medicine, these people are fully healed: Extremely polite and courteous, helpful, considerate to a fault. There is no complaining and no "I don't care if you stumble" attitude. Instead, even in the toughest mosh pit, there is an attentiveness towards all fellow festivalgoers. It's really amazing, and I'm convinced that this music heals people.

After your experience last year, you have started selling T-shirts with the slogan "Metal heals!" – it's your way of supporting the non-profit Metality. How did the idea and the cooperation come about?

It just hit me when I was on site. I saw that Metal heals and wrote down the slogan. Afterwards, I messed around with the design a bit and thought that I wanted to wear shirts with that message. I later contacted Metality because I really wanted to make a difference with this merch. From now on, parts of the proceeds will be donated to the charity, and at this year's Wacken Open Air, the shirts will be sold at Metality's booth.

"SECOND SEASON? I AM GAME!"

Manthei describes getting to perform in front of 80,000 Wacken fans as a career highlight.

PHOTOS: RTL/THOMAS LEIDIG, IMAGO / EVENTPRESS.

How did you learn about the project?

My agent at the time told me that there was an enquiry about Wacken. I heard the word "Wacken" and immediately made it very clear that she was not allowed to cancel anything under any circumstances. I knew right away that this might be a project I would really enjoy. Then I heard from director Lars Jessen: "You know Wacken, right? We're trying to tell the story behind it." I assured him that I wanted to be there, even though I already had other commitments. But I really wanted it to work out – worst case scenario, I'd have had to cancel something else.

And you got the role straight away?

Initially, I thought that I had already been booked, but that turned out to be a little bit of an awkward misunderstanding. Lars let me know that I would still have to go

through a regular casting process. That finally sealed the deal. I'm not sure why Lars chose me, but the music is right up my alley! Thomas is a mere seven years older than I am, we have a similar dialect, and I may have shown a bit more passion than the other contenders.

You've been into Heavy Metal since you were a teenager and are familiar with the scene. Is that why the role of Thomas Jessen included so many satisfying moments for you?

Yeah, totally. I only want to work like that now: with people and music that I like, and getting paid for it as a bonus – that's so awesome! Besides, suddenly Lemmy was standing in front of me. Not the real one, of course, but I still got goosebumps. There were so many great moments.

What was the best thing about the whole shoot, the best

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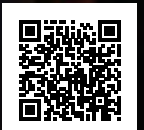
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“I HAVE EARS JUST LIKE HIM!”

Andy Murray is starring as Lemmy Kilmister in the show “Legend Of Wacken“. In our interview, he talks about how he discovered similarities between him and the Motörhead frontman and how he prepared to become him.

Were you familiar with Lemmy or Motörhead at all before you got the offer for the role?

Absolutely! 100 Percent. I was born and grew up in London, although I lived in the US for 35 years until I moved to Berlin. And everyone in my generation knew Lemmy, knew Motörhead. They were an iconic band, he was an iconic figure. Yes, I was absolutely familiar with him. All my friends as well, in fact. There's no one I know who doesn't know Motörhead.

Did you ever see him live or even meet him?

Unfortunately, I never have seen or met him.

And how did you prepare for the role?

There are a lot of videos of Lemmy on YouTube. There are lots and lots and lots of interviews with him and several pretty good documentaries filmed at different stages of his life.

How was people's first reaction when they saw you as Lemmy?

I think what they were amazed about was the incredible job the hair and makeup department did. I think my makeup was probably the most extreme because, in addition to the hair, I had the facial fibromas, the beard, and the tattoos. It was done so incredibly well that members of the crew wanted to have their photos taken with me as Lemmy.

Did you realise that you looked a bit like him before the show?

When I got the role, it just came out of the blue. I was thinking:

“How the hell did that happen?” It was only then when I actually started looking at Lemmy that I saw the facial similarities with my whole family. I have Lemmy's ears and he could almost be my father's son. It was very strange for me.

Were you familiar with Wacken Open Air before you did the TV show?

Even if you don't follow Heavy Metal at all, eventually, over the decades, Wacken would get mentioned somewhere. So I was familiar with the festival, although I didn't know a lot about it. I didn't know about the guys who founded it and the whole story behind that. But if I had been on a quiz show and someone would have said to name the great Heavy Metal festival in the world, I'd have been like: “It's in fucking Germany! It's Wacken.”

Can you explain to me what the difference was between playing Lemmy, a well-known, real-life Rock'n'Roll icon,

and playing someone fictional?

This is actually the first real-life person I've ever played. Certainly in television, maybe even on stage. The difference, for me, is that I'm not a natural impressionist or a mimic. I've never been good at that and never really enjoyed doing it. I thought: “Oh, God. The worst thing that can happen is that people that are sitting around, drinking a few beers to watch the show, think: ‘What the fuck? Couldn't they get someone who at least could do a halfway decent job?’” But you think about that for a minute and you just have to forget it. You just have to think: “This is my Lemmy, and maybe he changed a bit in the afterlife.”

// *Andrea Leim*



Andy Murray as himself.
PHOTOS: RTL/THOMAS LEIDIG; TERESA MARENZI

“LEMMYS SPIRIT WILL LIVE ON IN WACKEN”

The ashes of the legendary Motörhead frontman are to find an additional resting place. Lemmy's bandmates Mikkey Dee and Phil Campbell are also attending the celebrations.

By Andrea Leim

If you talk about the legends of Heavy Metal, his name comes up without exception: Ian “Lemmy” Kilmister! Few people have managed to leave such a heavy (and loud) footprint on all aspects of an entire genre as the Motörhead frontman. Now this icon of rock’n’roll will find another resting place – here, in Wacken!

“Part of Lemmy’s ashes will stay in Wacken forever!” says festival co-founder Thomas Jensen. “This is a real honour for us, and we wanted to create a befitting space for him here. As part of Wacken, the village, and – of course – the Metal community.” His partner Holger Hübner adds: “Apart from Doro, Motörhead is definitely one of the bands that have played Wacken the most. That’s why we are so close with them. The fact that Lemmy is now making one last journey from L.A. to Wacken fills us with great pride.”

On 2 August 2023, the legendary Motörhead singer will be honoured with an unforgettable ceremony at the world-famous Wacken Open Air. This is part of the “Lemmy Forever” festivities celebrating the musician’s life, his legacy, and his lingering presence in the world of loud and heavy music. His Motörhead compatriots Phil Campbell and Mikkey Dee will be joining the fun.

The festival has been closely associated with the band for many decades: In 1997, the trio played the Acker for the first time and returned regularly in the years that followed. “We always had a great reception at Wacken Open Air from the fans and everyone who organised it,” guitarist Phil Campbell recalls. “It was very special to us



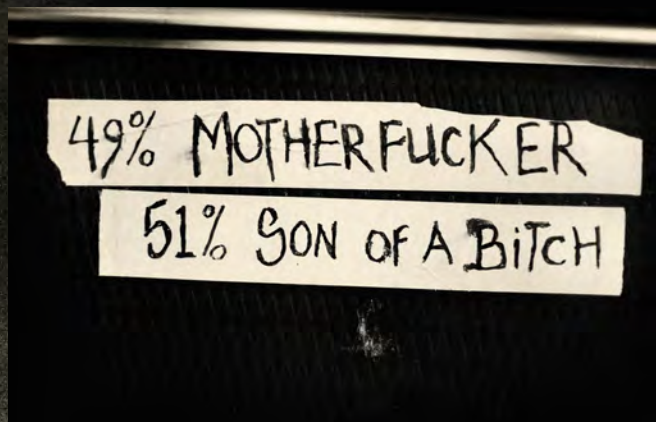
Holger Hübner und Thomas Jensen erweisen einem Idol und Freund mit dieser Geste Dank und Respekt.

FOTO: VOLL VINCENT

and felt like home. To be able to bring some of Lem’s ashes here now is great because we know he loved playing here.”

Motörhead always delivered unadulterated, incomparable rock’n’roll to the small village in Schleswig-Holstein – and sometimes also its wild sides, which were not necessarily standard practice in that part of the world. During Lemmy’s first visit to W:O:A, there was a rather special episode with a dressing room mirror: “Usually, a mirror hangs on the wall, but for some reason, with Motörhead, they lay flat on the table,” Holger Hüber smirks. “The lady who looked after the dressing rooms was from the village, so she wasn’t necessarily aware of musicians and their, ahem, habits. She came up to me one day and just said ‘Holger, I am so fucking done. This is the third time I had to re-hang the mirror and clean it. It’s always on the table and insanely dirty for some reason...’ We tried not to laugh, but kept the real story of why it looked like that to ourselves.”

Apart from this hilarious anecdote, there are countless other tales about Motörhead that are seared into Wacken’s eternal memory. This is why the two bandmates, who have been on stage with Lemmy since 1984 and 1992 respectively, won’t miss the opportunity to come to Wacken in person for the celebrations. “We’ll be there, of course,” Campbell confirms and knows: “Lem will be with us in spirit.” Drummer Mikkey also emphasises the band’s close connection to the whole W:O:A team: “The Wacken Open Air is one of the best festivals in Europe, and we’ve been part of it almost from the beginning.



100 % Motorhead; 100 % Lemmy.

FOTOS: PEP BONET

Over the years, Holger, Thomas, and his wife Ulrike became like family to us."

"Lemmy Forever" highlights how much Lemmy was a "man of the people", someone who connected with humans everywhere. A guy who always followed his own rules. A highly esteemed artist who was open to everybody, did not tolerate stupidity, and lived his life with courage, firm convictions, and a damn good sense of humour. There will be countless opportunities during Wacken Open Air to raise a glass to Lemmy with friends and the bands onstage. "Wacken represented a much-loved piece of home for Lemmy," manager Todd Singerman comments, "and we're delighted that he will find a place here forever." Some of Lemmy Kilmister's ashes and personal pieces will stay in Wacken from now, more precisely in the Landgasthof.

"After Lemmy died, we wondered how to keep going, how the band could still be discovered by future generations of music fans," Thomas Jensen looks back. "In Wacken, we promote new talent with projects like the Metal Battle, but at the same time, we want to keep the history of our music alive. Which is why what we're building here is so much more than a monument. We want to convey that Lemmy's spirit really does live on. Because Motörhead are not the past for me but continue to stay relevant. And I have a feeling that many fans feel the same way."

An impression shared by Lemmy's brothers-in-arms: "It almost feels like he's still alive," reports Phil Campbell. "People are talking about Motörhead on social media, playing our songs, and when you consider that we no longer exist in this way, it's great. The music and the idea live on." It feels like the fans don't want to let Motörhead go, Mikkey Dee confirms as well. "And I fully relate to that. They need Motörhead, they want Motörhead, and they still respect and listen to Motörhead just like they used to." Even on the Holy Ground, you can still feel the spirit of the band, and especially their leader, everywhere. "'Born to lose, live to win' is more or less our philosophy," Thomas Jensen points out. "There's no better way to sum it up than with these six words."

Up-to-date details on all "Lemmy Forever" celebrations at W:O:A can be found at wacken.com and imotorhead.com.

“LEM WOULD BE PROUD, TO BE REMEMBERED LIKE THIS”

In 1983 Phil Campbell took over the position of guitarist in the band Motörhead and played alongside Lemmy Kilmister and Mikkey Dee for 32 years - especially fond of the Wacken Open Air. For the festivities, he has traveled flew in from England.

Motörhead played at the Wacken Open Air a total of eight times. What meaning has and had the Festival for you as a band and for Lemmy?

Motörhead and Wacken kind of go together. We always had a great reception from the fans there and everyone that organized it. It was very special to us and felt kind of like home. We really enjoyed coming down every time. To now put some of Lem's ashes down there is so great for us because we know he loved playing there, loved all the people and the fans. He loved Germany in general, but he especially liked Wacken festival, like we all did. Even if we're not playing there as Motörhead, at least Mikkey and I will be there for the festivities, and Lem will be there in spirit.

What would Lemmy have said about that?

I think Lem would be very proud to be remembered at the big festivals. We always had a wonderful time playing these big stages, we have great memories. So we're happy to come along when we can.

Lemmy died in 2015 and Motörhead was put

to rest as a live band. However, in the Metal community, it doesn't feel like you've been gone. The Motörhead Fanbase is alive and kicking. Do you get this feeling as well?

It's almost as if he still lives. On social media, people talk about Motörhead, play our songs, and considering that we no longer exist in this way, it's great. The music and spirit live on.

And Fans still show their dedication...

I still see shirts everywhere, people show me their tattoos, they have flags with our Logo and everything. It doesn't seem to have gotten any less. To be honest, if anything, there's more of that now, which is pretty cool.

Did you keep anything as a memento of Lemmy?

He gave me five or six guitars over the years, these are really special to me. They're very nice, too. Also some books, bits and pieces here and there. But the memories are the main thing. Those you can never replace. We had more than 30 years of living together, so to speak, and had the best time playing our music. It doesn't get any better than that. //Andrea Leim



Lemmy with his band mates Mikkey and Phil.
FOTOS: PEP BONET



“IT’S MOTÖRHEAD EVERYWHERE”

Since 2016, Mikkey Dee has been touring the world as the drummer for Scorpions. Doing this job for Motörhead, however, is what made him a staple in Metal since 1992. After all, Lemmy Kilmister regularly introduced him as the “best drummer in Rock’n’Roll”. In this interview, he talks about being in two iconic bands, memories of Lemmy, and his close ties to W:O:A.

When Lemmy died in 2015 Motörhead was put to rest as a live band. But how have the Fans been since then?

I have this feeling that the fans just don't want to let go of Motörhead, which is totally understandable – I understand it. They need Motörhead, they want Motörhead. They still respect and listen to Motörhead. It's Motörhead everywhere!

You have been with the Scorps for quite some years now. But how much is your Motörhead heart still pumping and going?

I knew Lemmy for 34 years and played with him for 25 years, so we have a different type of history. Motörhead is just a different type of band, and there are different circumstances around it. 25 years is a pretty long time, it's something that's in my soul, really.

Can you tell me what the Wacken Open Air meant to you, meant to the band and Lemmy?

W:O:A is one of the best festivals in Europe, and we were a part of that since the beginning. We became like a family with Thomas and Holger, Ulrike, and everyone that ran our record company. It's a family, basically.

He will have a Forever place in Wacken now. Why is that something you guys support and help with?

We absolutely support it. We want to spread Lemmy's ashes to the festivals he loved most and where we had an amazing time, which – of course – includes Wacken.

Lemmy usually introduced you as the best drummer in Rock’n’Roll. How did that make you feel? Was that special?

It's just what he used to say every night. Sure, it made me feel great! I don't think I am or ever will be, but for him, I probably was the best. To me, he's still the best bass player, and we certainly had the best guitar player in Motörhead. One of my favourite bands is Rush, but none of us would have been very good with them. But Motörhead? We were the best in the world at what we did.

Is there anything that you kept from Lemmy, that he gave to you?

I have a lot of stuff (laughs). That includes serious stuff and joke stuff. A lot of funny stuff that he bought and gave both me and Phil. He was a jokester, and all three of us had that dry, nice, British humour. Lemmy was also always a very giving person. If he had 1.000 Dollars, he would give you 900, you know? So yeah, I have a lot of stuff. //Andrea Leim

LEMMY'S BAR

Landgasthof goes Lemgasthof! The inn on Wacken's Hauptstraße is turning into a special place for Motörhead fans, headbangers, and all those who still want to discover the band and its music.

Our goal is to give Lemmy an eternal resting place wherever he felt at home." These words by Motörhead manager Todd Singerman have been heeded by the Wacken Open Air team. Because now there is a place, in the middle of Wacken, where the legendary musician can be celebrated and remembered: Lemmy's Bar and his artist dressing room.

"Lemmy's Bar is a huge beer garden that extends all the way around the country inn and down to the fields," festival head Thomas Jensen explains. Parts of the beer garden will be open for the rest of the year and the whole area is decorated the way Lemmy would have loved it: with palm trees, lots of pictures of the musician, the biggest beer truck of the entire festival and, of course, L.A.-style food - just the way our favourite rock star liked it.

But there's more: A real treasure trove for Motörhead fans awaits in the Landgasthof itself. From now on, visitors can experience what the backstage area at Lemmy's shows looked like. "We have recreated his



Nobody out there who's cooler: Lemmy's Bar will celebrate the life and art of the Motörhead legend. PHOTO: IMAGO / MEDIAPUNCH

dressing room," elaborates Thomas Jensen.

"With guitars, amplifiers, his jacket, hat, and boots and, of course, a slot machine."

Some of the ashes of the late Motörhead frontman will also be placed here - behind glass, of course, to protect the precious mementos.

To inaugurate the bar and dressing room, Lemmy's bandmates Mikkey Dee and Phil Campbell are scheduled to join the festivities on Wednesday. "Maybe they'll even play a few acoustic songs. That would be great," says Jensen.

So from now on, Lemmy Kilmister will have his forever place, his backstage area, in Wacken, the festival chief explains: "Everyone who worships Motörhead, who loves Metal or who is yet to discover Lemmy and the band is welcome here. We are very proud to have created something that makes it possible for Lemmy to be with us forever, raising a toast with us and celebrating life."

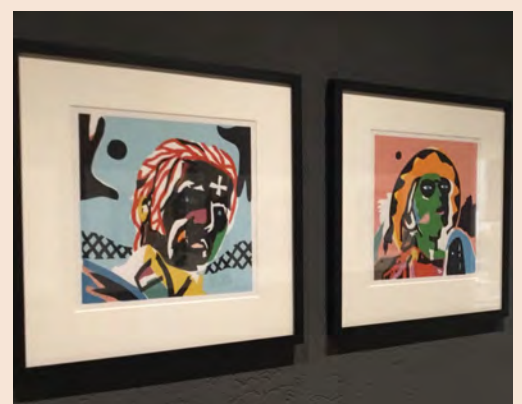
//Andrea Leim

WACKEN STARS IMMORTALISED IN WOOD

His works decorate churches, state galleries, and even the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Felix Martin Furtwängler is world-famous and respected for his paintings, prints, and woodcuts.

Now some of his works are on display at the Landgasthof - and will also be available for purchase after Wacken Open Air. "The artist came by a few days before the start of the festival and arranged his artwork at the inn himself," reveals festival boss Thomas Jensen.

Furtwängler modelled his work on artists from W:O:A, among others, and created woodcuts from their portraits. Anyone who visits the Landgasthof in the next few days and falls in love with one of Furtwängler's works can have it reserved in advance. After Wacken Open Air, the artwork will be available for purchase online. "And we have another calendar planned for 2024," Jensen says. "With pictures Felix Martin Furtwängler has created of the musicians."



Artwork by Felix Martin Furtwängler at the Landgasthof. PHOTO: ICS



LGH
METAL & COUNTRY CLUB WACKEN

TRIBUTE NIGHT



OZZY OSBOURNE & BLACK SABBATH
TRIBUTE

POWERSLAVE

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EINLASS: 19:00 UHR | BEGINN: 20:00 UHR

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“WE COULDN'T EVEN FIND WACKEN WHEN WE TURNED UP FOR OUR FIRST SHOW!”

As the first headliner to play this year, Doro will make the Holy Ground shake on Wacken Wednesday. In our interview, the Queen of Metal reminisces about her first time at W:O:A and announces which heavy hitters will join her on stage for this year's anniversary show.

By Andrea Leim

Doro, you were one of the first really big singers to perform at W:O:A. Do you remember your first show?

Of course! Back in 1993, I was in Hamburg and got a call from Sabina Classen, the singer of Holy Moses. She told me about this new festival in the middle of nowhere near Itzehoe and that it was all about Metal. That was rather unusual at the time because Grunge was all the rage. She asked if we would like to headline, even without much of a paycheck. Needless to say, I was totally game! I didn't care about the money and my record label and the band supported the project. So we accepted and drove off to Wacken with the band and crew in a double-decker tour bus.

What happened when you arrived on the Wacker?

What can I say... We didn't even find it at first! Our bus driver got lost in the countryside, with fields and pastures in every direction. None of us had a mobile phone or a GPS. At some point, we noticed a farmer in his field. I walked across the muddy field in my high heels, which I was already wearing for the show, and explained to him that we were a band and needed to get to Wacken because we were about to play a show. He didn't believe me at first. But then he ended up showing us the way by driving his tractor in front of us at 25 km/h.

It's been 30 years since then. What was W:O:A like back in the day?

I immediately sensed: we've got something here! This is real and brilliant!

The stage was still in the so-called Kuhle, where the Backstage Area would be set up eventually. Everything was much smaller, of course, and the audience was still modest – maybe 2,000 people. But there was already a really big stage with a huge PA – really massive. When it was time for the gig, we put on a really awesome show, the fans went wild, the atmosphere was amazing, just really Metal! We all noticed that there was a lot of heart and power packed into Wacken. It was just totally rad!

You've been coming back again and again ever since. What makes W:O:A special for you today?

I've visited at least 20 or 22 times, headlined nine times, and celebrated all our recent anniversaries here. I've also been able to experience a lot of other things here. For instance, I opened the Infield together with Skyline, Thomas Jensen's former band, many times. I really loved that because I was standing on the stage and could see the crowd rushing in. Now that there are about 80,000 fans it just looks stunning when the gates of the Infield are opened and the people run towards the stages.

Your show today will be a special one as well, you are celebrating 40 years on stage. For this occasion, you will be welcoming some top-tier guests – who can we expect to see?

I'm very much looking forward to today's show! My guests include Biff from Saxon, Joey Belladonna from Anthrax, Udo Dirkschneider, Hansi Kürsch from Blind Guardian, Michael Robert Rhein from In Extremo on his harmonica, Chris Caffery from Savatage, Uli John Roth and Mikkey Dee from Motörhead. In honour of Lemmy, we want to play "Love Me Forever". There will be lots of pyros and probably a surprise guest! I'm also really excited that the Wasteland Warriors will be part of my



Doro for the first time on the Wacken-Stage and the Poster with the Route to the W:O:A.

PHOTO: ICS



The metal icon is not only an impressive personality on stage.

PHOTO: RUEDIGER-KNUTH

performance. We've wanted to do something together for a long time, and this year it finally worked out.

They also show up in "Time For Justice".

Yeah, they have appeared in the music video and we will bring them out for this song in particular.

Will you introduce us to more songs from your new record „Conqueress - Forever Strong And Proud“, which will be released in October?

Absolutely. Today my second single "Living After Midnight" drops, which I recorded with Rob Halford from Judas Priest. Actually, I recorded two duets with him for the new record. The second song is called "Total Eclipse Of The Heart", and it turned out so awesome.

Two songs with Rob Halford?

I'm really happy about that. "Living After Midnight" has been a dream duet of mine for a long time, but Rob had always wanted to do "Total Eclipse..." with me. So after we completed the first duet, the record was finished and the vinyls were already being printed, Rob suddenly called me and asked about the plan for "Total Eclipse...". I didn't think he still wanted to do it, but then I pulled out all the stops so that we could at least put the song on the CD. Unfortunately, all the vinyl records had already been pressed. Rob Halford is simply one of my absolute favourite singers.

What is the bond between you?

During my very first tour in 1986, I had the privilege of supporting him and Judas Priest. We have seen each other many times since then and are good friends. Unfortunately, he can't come to Wacken, but he has sent us a great video message. David Coverdale and Gene Simmons too, by the way.

“40 years of Heavy Metal was one long dream. I’d never have thought that there would be so many moments of happiness, so many friendships, so much passion, trust and like-minded people.”

You’ve been a very important part of the music scene for many years. Which other artists are now friends rather than just colleagues?

I can truly say that I was lucky enough to meet many lovely people during my career. It started with Judas Priest, my absolute favourite band. After that I got to support another favourite of mine on tour: W.A.S.P. And we played the third tour with Ronnie James Dio. It doesn’t get better than that! Although there were only a few women in the scene in the Eighties, I was never uncomfortable. I always felt safe and well cared for in the Metal world. There was more of an extended family vibe on tour, and the friendships from back then have lasted a lifetime. The ones that meant the most to me were Ronnie James Dio and Lemmy.

What was Lemmy’s role in your life?

We were just the closest friends. I almost want to call it a bromance, because that’s the essence of it.

Nothing ever happened between us, but we had a deep and powerful connection. He was one of my closest confidantes. When he went to see the doctor in Germany and I was told he was doing really bad, I immediately cancelled all of my gigs and flew straight to Berlin to be with him.

And he, in turn, was by your side when your father died; a most difficult time in your life.

At the time, I had lost the will to live for a while. I was in a very, very bad place. Lemmy called me one day and I told him what had happened. He just said: “Come to LA right away. We’ll hang out.” I didn’t really want to do anything, but Lemmy told me to book a flight right away. I did and recorded my first duet with him, “Love Me Forever”. Afterwards, we recorded “Alone Again”, which Lemmy had written shortly before and which meant a lot to him. Lemmy real-

ly saved me back then.

He even offered you his bed to sleep in once - and you got into it in full gear, boots and all...

That’s right (laughs). At that time I was into wearing cargo pants, and often had my biker boots and a leather jacket on. On that day, Lemmy and I worked late in the studio. Usually, he didn’t want to go home afterwards and asked me to just drive somewhere. So we drove around L.A. for hours and talked. At some point, dawn broke, and we would have to be back in the studio in a few hours. Lemmy said: “Doro, you don’t have to go to the hotel. You take my bed and I’ll take the couch.” He had such a small, totally packed apartment, and I actually went to sleep in his bed. Fully dressed. Lemmy suddenly popped in and asked in bewilderment, “What the hell are you doing?” I declared that I always slept like that. Even on the tour bus. He just said that German women

(laughs). When I got up a few hours later, Lemmy was lying on the sofa wearing only a thong with a Union Jack printed on the front, reading a book. His hair was blowing in the wind of the fan – a sight for sore eyes. Simply unforgettable.

Did you have any friendship rituals?

When we used to work together in the studio, Lemmy always gave me a kiss on the forehead before I went to the mic to sing. I think about that a lot.

I enjoyed the time with Lemmy and with Ronnie James Dio to the fullest, and it also gave me a lot of inspiration, power, and courage. But one of my biggest sources is my fans, of course. They are so beautiful, good, and dear to me, they have always carried me, and I always give 110 per cent because of them.

„Legend of Wacken“, the TV series about the history of W:O:A, was released in July. You also have a cameo in it. Do you remember your first thought when the offer came in?

I said yes immediately. Of course, without a doubt! The day of shooting was super fun and exciting. I felt it was a great honour to be allowed to take part in the series. I like Holger Hübner and Thomas Jensen so much, and I think the feeling is mutual. There is always a lot of heart with both of them, they have always supported me. All that means a lot to me.

Did you get a chance to watch the show yet?

Yeah, it turned out great. I almost cried at the beginning. It is just fantastic what they created. I really love it.

When you look back on 40 years of Heavy Metal, what comes to mind spontaneously?

40 years of Heavy Metal was one long dream. I’d never have thought that there would be so many moments of happiness, so many friendships, so much passion, trust and like-minded people. The fact that I got to know all of them through Heavy Metal is just phenomenal, you can count on that, and it’s quite intense. Metal is simply divine!



PHOTO: OM_ICS

Running Order from Wednesday to Saturday: Works without charging cable!

HERE WE GO!

The best way to keep track of the programme is to detach the programme pages with the map. And so that you still know where you're going or have been after a few beers, you can mark your favourites!

WEDNESDAY 02.08.

FASTER

- 16:00-17:00 Holy Moses
- 17:45-18:45 Skindred
- 19:45-21:00 Broilers
- 22:00-00:00 Doro 40th Anniversary Show

LOUDER

- 12:00-12:45 Skew Siskin
- 13:30-14:30 Nervosa
- 15:15-16:15 Deine Cuisine
- 17:15-18:15 Ankor
- 19:00-20:00 Battle Beast
- 21:15-22:30 Beyond The Black

HEADBANGERS STAGE

- 11:25-11:45 Swartzheim MB Denmark
- 12:15-12:35 Black Tooth MB
Caucasia & Turkiye
- 13:05-13:25 Xaon MB France
- 13:55-14:15 Left Ovr MB Caribbean
- 14:45-15:45 Sable Hills MB Winner 2022
- 16:15-16:35 Omnivortex MB Finland
- 17:05-17:25 Strigampire MB Canada
- 17:55-18:15 0% Mercury MB Ukraine
- 18:45-19:05 Maltworm MB Bulgaria
- 19:45-20:45 Universum 25
- 22:30-23:45 Pentagram –
50th Anniversary Show

W:E:T STAGE

- 11:00-11:20 Misery Oath MB Sweden
- 11:50-12:10 Objector MB Belgium
- 12:40-13:00 NVLO MB Argentina
- 13:30-13:50 Sever MB Latvia
- 14:20-14:40 Aneuma MB Spain
- 15:50-16:10 Metternich MB Austria
- 16:40-17:00 Krownest MB Iceland
- 17:30-17:50 Erasing Mankind MB Egypt
- 18:20-18:40 Fadrail MB USA
- 19:10-19:30 Death In Taiga MB Lithuania
- 21:00-22:15 Phil Campbell and
the Bastard Sons
- 00:00-03:00 Metal Disco

WACKINGER STAGE

- 11:00-11:45 Wacken Firefighters
- 13:30-14:15 All For Metal
- 15:00-16:00 Ferocious Dog
- 16:45-17:45 Rauhbein
- 18:30-19:30 Ye Banished Privateers
- 20:15-21:15 Finntroll
- 22:15-23:15 dArtagnan

WASTELAND STAGE

- 14:00-14:45 CobraKill
- 15:30-16:15 Detraktor
- 17:00-17:45 Schizophrenia
- 18:30-19:15 Hidden Intent
- 20:00-20:45 Knife



Beyond the Black singer Jennifer Haben (WE, Louder). PHOTO: WACKEN

- 21:30-22:15 Bütcher
- 23:00-00:00 EvilDead
- 00:30-01:00 TBA

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

- 11:00-12:00 Metal Yoga
- 12:30-14:00 TBA
- 14:30-15:30 Mambo Kurt
- 16:00-17:00 Wacken – Das
perfekte Paralleluniversum
- 18:00-19:00 Uwe Bahn We Will Rock You
- 19:01-20:00 The Ukeboys
- 21:00-21:30 Alien Rockin Explosion
- 23:00-00:45 Movie: Motörhead:
The Wörlid is ours, Vol. 2
- 21:31-23:00 Maschine's Late Night Show

LGH CLUBSTAGE

- 13:00-14:00 Blind Man's Gun
- 15:00-16:00 Ivory Tower
- 17:00-18:00 Skepsis
- 19:00-20:00 Motörizer
- 21:00-22:00 Wolf Barsch

THURSDAY 03.08.

FASTER

- 16:00-17:00 Vixen
- 18:45-20:00 Hammerfall
- 22:00-00:00 Helloween

HARDER

- 15:00-15:45 Skyline
- 17:15-18:30 Uriah Heep
- 20:15-21:45 Kreator

LOUDER

- 12:00-12:45 Terror
- 13:45-14:30 Cemican
- 15:30-16:30 Dark Tranquility
- 17:30-18:45 Imminence
- 19:45-21:00 Pennywise
- 22:00-23:30 Amorphis

HEADBANGERS STAGE

- 11:25-11:45 Phantom Excaliver MB Japan
- 12:15-12:35 Forastero Western Metal MB
Uruguay
- 13:05-13:25 Ghetto Ghouls MB Norway
- 13:55-14:15 Middle Grounds MB
South Africa
- 14:45-15:05 Redeemed by the Blood MB
Phillipines
- 15:35-15:55 Horrid Sight MB Mexico
- 17:15-18:00 Whoredom Rife
- 19:15-20:15 Immolation
- 21:45-22:45 Carpathian Forest
- 00:00-03:00 Metal Disco

W:E:T STAGE

- 11:00-11:20 BlackSheep MB Romania

- 11:50-12:10 Tiansen MB Hungary
- 12:40-13:00 Mesmera MB
Ex Yugoslavia Rep.
- 13:30-13:50 Diesanera MB Italy
- 14:20-14:40 AndrelamusiA MB Israel
- 15:10-15:30 DepriVation MB
Australia & New Zealand
- 16:15-17:00 Koldbrann
- 18:15-19:00 Baest
- 20:30-21:30 Defleshed
- 23:00-00:00 Abbath

WACKINGER STAGE

- 12:00-12:45 Mutz and the
Blackeyed Banditz
- 13:30-14:15 Ad Infinitum
- 15:00-16:00 The Real McKenzies
- 16:45-17:45 Unzucht
- 18:30-19:30 Cellar Darling
- 20:15-21:15 Eivor
- 22:15-23:15 Faun

WASTELAND STAGE

- 14:00-14:45 Brunhilde
- 15:30-16:15 Drain
- 17:00-17:45 Marco Mendoza
- 18:30-19:15 Riot City
- 20:00-20:45 Screamer
- 21:30-22:15 Raging Speedhorn
- 23:00-00:00 Cypcore
- 00:30-01:00 Sir Henry Hot Memorial &
Elements Of Fire

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

- 11:00-12:00 Metal Yoga
- 12:30-14:00 Wacken Slam Battle
- 14:30-15:30 Heavy Metal Barpiano
- 16:00-17:00 Nico Rose Hard,
Heavy & Happy
- 17:30-18:30 Matt Stocks with
Jim Lindberg (Pennywise)
- 19:30-20:30 Cam Cole
- 21:00-21:30 Alien Rockin Explosion
- 21:31-23:00 Maschine's Late Night Show
- 23:50-00:40 Movie: Louder than Hell –
The W:O:A Documentary Part 3
- 00:40-03:00 Movie: Saxon –
Heavy Metal Thinder

LGH CLUBSTAGE

- 12:30-13:30 Metaverse & Gaming
- 13:45-14:45 Let Women do the talking
- 16:00-17:00 Supernova Plasmajets
- 18:00-19:00 My Own Ghost
- 20:00-21:00 Velvet Viper
- 22:00-23:00 Rage

KROMBACHER STAMMTISCH

- 14:35-14:55 Electric Callboy DJ Set

EVEN MORE >>>

THE HOLY WACKEN LAND



0 m 100 m 200 m 300 m





W:O:A 2023

02.08. - 05.08.

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Cashless Payment | 1 Gerolsteiner |
| | Drinks | 2 GP Joule |
| | Food | 3 Lifesaver |
| | Breakfast | 4 Skin Stories |
| | Merchandise | 5 Wera Werkzeuge |
| | Non-Food | 6 Krombacher |
| | Sanitation Facilities | Beerpong-Arena |
| | Shower | 7 Globetrotter |
| | Free Drinking Water | 8 POGA |
| | Wheelchair Platform | 9 Plug-in Festivals |
| | SafeBOXen | 10 Bundeswehr |
| | Collecting Stations | 11 #17 Ziele |
| | Park + Camp Area | 12 Bembel |
| | Camping only | 13 Burger King |
| | | 14 Nozem |
| | | 15 Deutsche Fernsehlotterie |
| | | 16 Nordbrief |
| | | 17 Bembel |
| | | 18 Alpine |
| | | Hearing Protection |
| | | 19 RADIO BOB! |
| | | 20 EMP Backstage Club |
| | | 21 Red Bull |
| | | 22 Eagle Lounge |
| | | 23 Oatly |
| | | 24 Volvo Trucks |
| | | 25 Krombacher Stammtisch |
| | | 26 Winstown |
| | | 27 Wavin |
| | | 28 Fallen Footwear Miniramp |
| | | (only Saturday) |
| | | 29 Metal Hammer |

FRIDAY 04.08.

FASTER

- 14:00-15:00 Amaranthe
- 16:30-17:30 Trivium
- 19:15-20:45 Megadeth
- 23:15-00:30 Wardruna

HARDER

- 12:45-13:45 Kärholz
- 15:15-16:15 While She Sleeps
- 17:45-19:00 Santiano
- 21:00-23:00 Iron Maiden
- 00:45-02:00 Lord Of The Lost

LOUDER

- 12:00-13:00 J.B.O. Frühshoppen Show
- 13:45-14:45 Caliban
- 15:30-16:30 Leaves' Eyes
Special Viking Show
- 17:15-18:15 Takida
- 19:00-20:00 Donots
- 20:45-21:45 Decide Legion Show
- 22:45-00:00 VV
- 00:45-01:45 Bloodbath

HEADBANGERS STAGE

- 12:00-12:45 Focus
- 14:00-14:45 The Good the Bad
and the Zugly
- 16:00-16:45 Depressive Age
- 18:00-18:45 Ghostkid
- 20:00-21:00 Dog Eat Dog
- 22:30-23:30 Legion Of The Damned
- 01:00-02:00 Sólstafr

W:E:T STAGE

- 11:00-11:45 The Raven Age
- 13:00-13:45 Employed To Serve
- 15:00-15:45 Dust Bolt
- 17:00-17:45 Get The Shot

- 19:00-19:45 The Vintage Caravan
- 21:15-22:15 Dying Fetus
- 23:45-00:45 Crematory

WACKINGER STAGE

- 12:00-12:45 Dezperadoz
- 13:30-14:15 Harpyie
- 15:00-16:00 Peyton Parrish
- 16:45-17:45 Twilight Force
- 18:30-19:30 Skalmöld
- 20:15-21:15 Havukruunu
- 22:15-23:15 Tanzwut

WASTELAND STAGE

- 14:00-14:45 Autumn Bride
- 15:30-16:15 Morast
- 17:00-17:45 Frozen Soul
- 18:30-19:15 Neverland In Ashes
- 20:00-20:45 Our Promise
- 21:30-22:15 Eyes
- 23:00-00:00 Konvent
- 00:30-01:00 Sir Henry Hot Memorial &
Megabosch

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

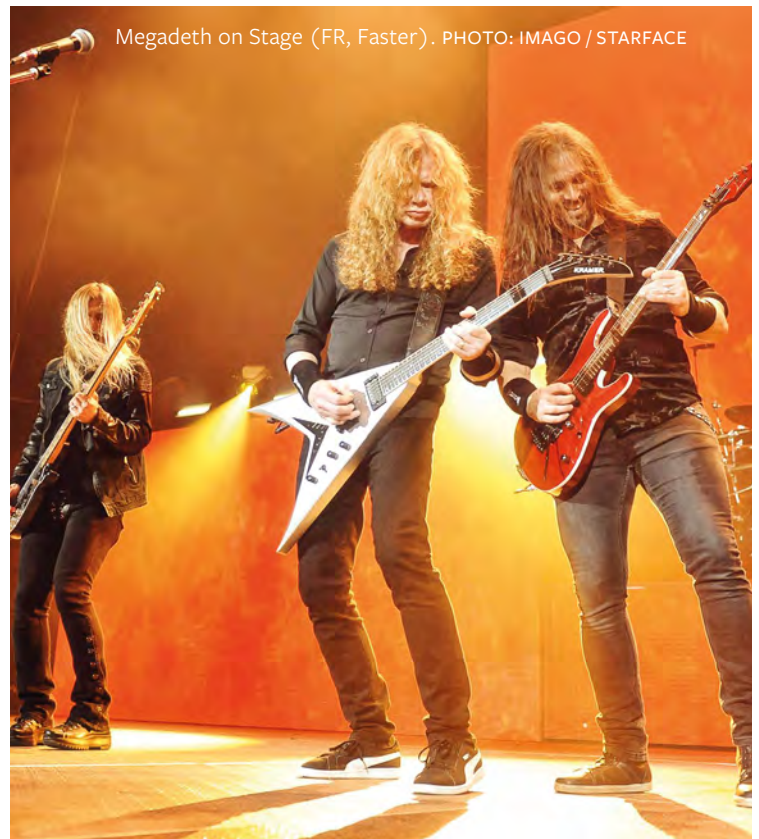
- 11:00-12:00 Metal Yoga
- 12:30-14:00 Wacken Slam Battle
- 14:30-15:30 Metaklapa
- 16:00-17:00 Krachmucker TV
- 18:00-19:00 Kay Ray
- 19:30-20:30 Torsten Sträter
- 21:00-21:30 Alien Rockin Explosion
- 21:31-23:00 Maschine's Late Night Show

LGH CLUBSTAGE

- 13:00-14:00 Victims of Madness
- 15:00-16:00 Taste of Greed
- 17:00-18:00 Hafensaengers
- 19:00-20:00 Chaosbay
- 21:00-22:00 Hardbone

KROMBACHER STAMMTISCH

- 12:20-12:40 Mambo Kurt



Megadeth on Stage (FR, FASTER). PHOTO: IMAGO / STARFACE

SATURDAY 05.08.

FASTER

- 12:45-13:45 Delain
- 15:15-16:15 Jinjer
- 17:45-19:00 Killswitch Engage
- 20:45-22:15 Heaven Shall Burn
- 00:15-01:30 Dropkick Murphys

HARDER

- 11:30-12:30 Masterplan 20th
Anniversary Show
- 14:00-15:00 Ensiferum
- 16:30-17:30 Alestorm
- 19:15-20:30 Saltatio Mortis
- 22:15-22:44 Promoters
Farewell / Announcement
2024
- 22:45-00:00 Two Steps From Hell

LOUDER

- 12:00-12:45 Brand of Sacrifice
- 13:30-14:15 Angus McSix
- 15:00-16:00 Biohazard – Exclusive
German Festival Show
- 17:00-18:00 Kataklysm
- 18:45-19:45 Possessed
- 20:30-21:45 Versengold
- 22:30-23:45 Beartooth

HEADBANGERS STAGE

- 12:00-12:45 Black Mirrors
- 14:00-14:45 Jag Panzer
- 16:00-16:45 The Answer
- 18:00-18:45 Be'lakor
- 20:00-21:00 Evergrey
- 22:30-23:30 Der W
- 01:00-02:00 Igorrr

W:E:T STAGE

- 11:00-11:45 Enemy Inside
- 13:00-13:45 Marty Friedman
- 15:00-15:45 Burning Witches
- 17:00-17:45 Empire State Bastard

- 19:00-19:45 Nestor
- 21:15-22:15 Voivod
- 23:45-00:45 Sleep Token

WACKINGER STAGE

- 12:00-12:45 Frog Bog Dosenband
- 13:30-14:15 Wacken Firefighters
- 15:00-16:00 Die beschissenen Sechs
- 16:45-17:45 Ereb Altor
- 18:30-19:30 Monsters of Liedermaching
- 20:15-21:15 Warkings
- 22:15-23:15 Mr. Hurley und die Pulveraffen

WASTELAND STAGE

- 14:00-14:45 Asrock
- 15:30-16:15 All Hail The Yeti
- 17:00-17:45 Heriot
- 18:30-19:15 Venues
- 20:00-20:45 The Night Eternal
- 21:30-22:15 Peter Pan Speedrock
- 23:00-00:00 Blitzkid
- 00:30-01:00 Sir Henry Hot Memorial &
Megabosch

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

- 11:00-12:00 Metal Yoga
- 12:30-14:30 Wacken Slam Battle
- 15:00-16:00 Matt Stocks with Jesse Leach
- 16:30-17:30 Pensén Paletti
- 18:00-19:00 Torsten Sträter
- 19:30-20:30 Mambo Kurt
- 21:00-21:30 Alien Rockin Explosion
- 21:31-23:00 Maschine's Late Night Show

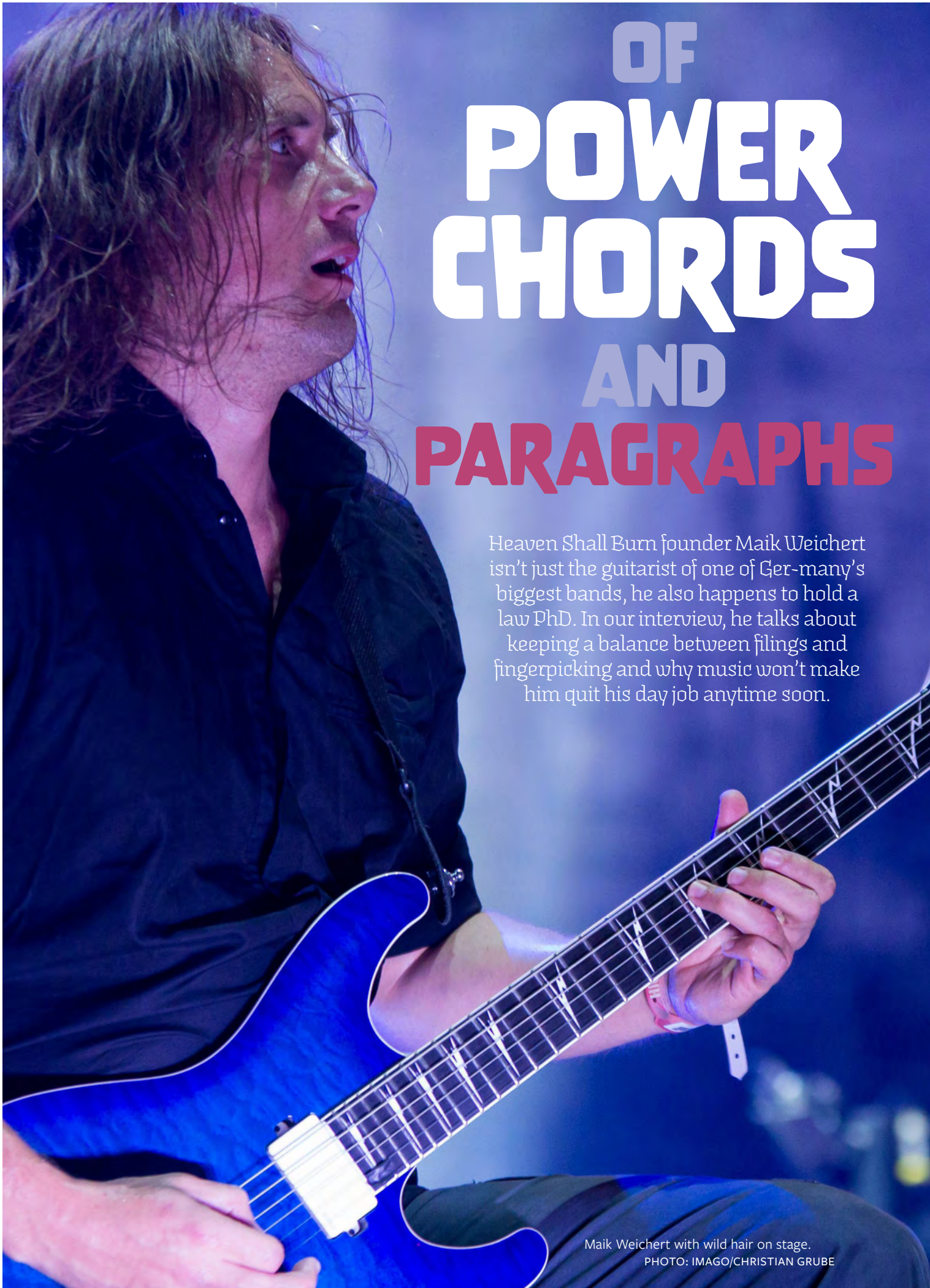
LGH CLUBSTAGE

- 13:00-14:00 Chuan-Tzu
- 15:00-16:00 Holy Mother
- 17:00-18:00 Sascha Paeth's MC
- 19:00-20:00 Ozzified
- 21:00-22:00 Adrian Kühn und Franzi Kusche

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



Vocalist Tatiana Shmailyuk from the ukrainian band Jinjer (SA, FASTER). PHOTO: ICS

A photograph of Maik Weichert, a man with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a black button-down shirt. He is playing a blue electric guitar and looking off to the side with an intense expression. The background is a dark stage with blue lighting.

OF POWER CHORDS AND PARAGRAPHS

Heaven Shall Burn founder Maik Weichert isn't just the guitarist of one of Germany's biggest bands, he also happens to hold a law PhD. In our interview, he talks about keeping a balance between filings and fingerpicking and why music won't make him quit his day job anytime soon.

Maik Weichert with wild hair on stage.
PHOTO: IMAGO/CHRISTIAN GRUBE

Most of us know you as the guitarist of Heaven Shall Burn. But there is your "smart" job, too - and it might surprise some people.

True. I work as an abstractor for nature and wildlife conservation law in Thuringia's state government.

What is it you do there?

I deal with enquiries from the lower authorities when it comes to legal questions: What should we do if we have found an injured lynx? How are the regulations to be applied? Is the hunter authorised to act or do public health officers have to be brought in? Something like that. We also assist with legislative projects. For example, we write statements and represent the Thuringian position when federal states participate in legislation via the Bundesrat. And we protect biodiversity and endangered species, such as the field hamster. It's really interesting work and not as dull as one might imagine law to be.

Is climate change mitigation also part of this?

That's another very large area we're working on. Because of climate change, there are many legislative processes at the European and federal levels, but they are not always without consequences for nature conservation and species protection. More sustainable energy technologies are being launched, but sometimes this happens at the expense of nature conservation and species protection, which is why we have to examine how this can be reconciled legally and what the best solution is.

Have you always had a soft spot for politics and law?

For politics, definitely; that's why I founded the band. I always wanted to make my political opinion known and at some point during my school years, I realised that no one was interested in the articles I wrote for the school paper. But when you have a guitar in hand, suddenly people listen to you. That's why I stopped writing articles and started writing song lyrics - and that's when everyone took an interest. Heaven Shall Burn attracts a lot of people because of our attitude and statements and not because we are such musical geniuses.

You are a fully qualified lawyer.

Sounds at least a little bit rock'n'roll...

When did you pass your second state examination, and how were things going with Heaven Shall Burn at that time?

We were pretty well known at that point.

Must have been around 2017 or 2018. However, it had been almost ten years since my first state examination, and I had already worked as a lawyer, for example in state parliament and in business, and I had also completed a traineeship and a doctorate. Additionally, I got to play around by checking and negotiating contracts for my own band and for bands I was friends with.

Did you ever consider not doing the second state examination to fully focus on Heaven Shall Burn?

No, the idea of just doing music never really crossed my mind. There was always a consensus in the band that that would not be our path. We enjoyed some success right at the beginning and were able to take a peek at the inner workings of the music business. It was quite clear to us that this was not our thing, that we wanted to stay in our little villages in the Thuringian Forest and not move closer to an airport in Berlin or Hamburg. We then agreed to take it as far as we could on a recreational level. But now we're headlining Wacken Open Air. So it's going quite well and much better than we imagined.

Are the shows compatible with your normal job?

It's a paradox: The better known the group is, the easier it is to do things part-time. Bruce Dickinson from Iron Maiden got his pilot's license on the side, Brian May from Queen finished his doctorate well after he became a legend. Without wanting to put myself on the same level as the two of them, the overall picture is similar: When promoters and the like adapt to you and your schedule, everything runs pretty smoothly.

Do you work as a lawyer full time and spend all of your annual leave on performing? And if so, what does your family have to say about that?

I only work at the Department of the Environment part-time to make sure that my family still gets plenty of attention in my life. It's very important to me that my two kids and my wife don't miss out. Still, a certain amount of free time is spent touring. My wife can certainly imagine a better time than me being on the road for three weeks straight while she stays home with the kids. On the other hand, there are advantages to this arrangement; like my wife getting to go on holidays with her friends and me staying behind to take care of our children. But yeah, life with a tax official probably offers a more stable routine, that's for sure.

Do you actually consider music to be more of a hobby and a pastime and law as your real job, or do you not differentiate between the two?

I've thought a lot about this over the years. I try to approach music as more of a hobby because that leaves room for a certain enthusiasm and naiveté. If you start viewing it as your job, you bring along this weird serenity that doesn't allow for genuine emotion. I don't have to suppress anything here. If you see me up on stage acting like I'm pissed off, it's because I am. If a photograph of me looks like I'm screaming into the camera, that's exactly what I was doing instead of doing the photographer the professional courtesy of miming. That keeps the music fresh.

On the legal side, on the other hand, it doesn't hurt to deal with matters in a professionally detached manner. On the contrary, it's good to have a certain level of objectivity and unaffectedness.

Does switching between the two jobs keep everything balanced, then?

Yes, both worlds perfectly complement each other. When I'm sitting in some conference as a lawyer, poring over files and writing reports for two weeks, I can't wait to get on a tour bus and let go. But after four weeks on tour, I'm also looking forward to meeting my colleagues at the Department and debating other issues. I really take the energy from one half of my life and put it towards the other half. And that, of course, also has a positive effect on my private life, because I simply have different sources of energy.

Do themes from your office job inspire you to write song lyrics?

Absolutely, absolutely. Honestly, when I get another report in the Department in which they determine the current situation with biodiversity and I then think of my two children and their future, I get in the mood to write a really aggressive Metal song.

Are there any other overlaps between the two topics?

I've certainly benefited from my music contacts in my work at the department. If I want to know something about a situation in South Korea, I still have old buddies who can help me out with information or contacts. It can also get you in the door if the guy from Heaven Shall Burn calls because the minister happens to be a fan.

“When I’m sitting in some conference as a lawyer, poring over files and writing reports for two weeks, I can’t wait to get on a tour bus and let go.”



Are you required to wear a suit and tie in your day job?

I actually wear a Wacken jumper from time to time. I might not wear that to meet officials from other Departments, but people rarely wear a suit and tie in my position. You’re more likely to catch me in a bit of light outdoor attire, maybe a plaid shirt.

Do your colleagues know about your hobby?

Yeah, all of them. It’s funny how many people actually are Metaladjacent. Especially those that don’t look like it. During my studies, I took a class with a judge and sat in on a hearing wearing a Morbid Angel shirt. After the hearing, he asked me to stay back and told me: “You really can’t wear this Metal shirt around here. A total no-go. That ‘Blessed Are The Sick’ record sucked. Wear an ‘Altars Of Madness’ one instead.” Like, what the fuck? He totally had me there for a second.

Music is essentially creative work; law and politics are primarily analytical. Is it difficult to switch between the two?

Well, in the legal profession, you use a certain set of tools and approach issues very systematically up to a certain point. But eventually, creativity and a variety of ideas are required. Especially when it comes to arguments, perspectives, or ideas. It helps if you can think artistically and creatively. Sometimes I have to write speeches for the minister for the Federal Council, and it doesn’t hurt that I can express myself somewhat lyrically or get to the heart of the matter within one sentence.

Be Frank: Which one is more profitable – music or law?

That would definitely be music. But my not working a fulltime law job might have something to do with it.

If someone put a gun to your head and asked you to pick law or music, which would you choose?

That’s something you think differently about once you become a father, at least compared to ten years ago. But if there was enough money in music to make a living, that’s what I would choose any day. At the risk of sounding stale, it doesn’t really matter whether you make 3,000 or 10,000 bucks a month. However, it does matter whether you have 1,000 or 2,500 bucks to spend. I don’t need much to feel happy. So I think I’d try to make it work in music.

CARRYING THE

Exclusive interview with Iron Maiden founder Steve Harris and his son George, who plays this Wacken Open Air with his Band The Raven Age.

By Andrea Leim

In the hallowed halls of Heavy Metal, few names command as much respect as that of Steve Harris, the visionary founder and bassist of this year's W:O:A-headliner Iron Maiden. For decades, he has been the driving force behind the band's legacy.

Talent obviously runs in the family, as his son, George, takes the stage with his band, showing off his own sound to the crowd and a dad who could not be prouder. We met the two of them for a rare double interview.

Steve, your son and his band have been joining Iron Maiden on tour. What's best about touring with your children?

Steve: It is just fantastic having your family out. My other daughter Carrie works on tour as a production assistant, Bruce's son also is on our crew. It's just nice to have them around, so you can see them and not be away from them so much. And it's great to have his band with us. I can go see them play, change, and then play myself.

And George, you then watch your dad on stage?

George: Exactly. Once we are finished packing all our stuff it's usually three or four songs into his set, but then I watch the show. It's great.

Steve: They are still at the level where they have to load all their stuff themselves.

Do you ask your dad for his opinion on your songs?

Steve: He has got so much good stuff. He writes such great songs, anyway, so he doesn't need my opinion on anything.

George: He is just saying that because I'm sitting here.

Steve: No, it's true. There are

think about what it would be like to be at that stage of your career again?

Steve: Oh, I am in a way with my other band British Lion. With them, I go back to playing clubs and smaller crowds and they allow me to get the best of both worlds. Also, I don't ever look back but always look

forward. Experience is important, but The Raven Age have that. They have been playing so many shows and festivals. Festivals are a whole different thing because you go straight on stage. No soundcheck, you just have to deal with what is going on and it's quite tough at times. The British Lion guys are learning all that as well because they haven't toured at this kind of level. So now they are playing dif-

"I always tell him the truth about what I think. I'm not brutal, but honest about it. If things are not so good, I tell him as well."

STEVE HARRIS

certain songs I really wish I'd written. Like "Grave Of The Fireflies" – it's one of the best songs I ever heard, I think. I would have done that in Maiden. It's just a great song!

How do you feel when your dad says stuff like that?

Steve: He gets embarrassed.

George: Yes! It's embarrassing. (laughs) No! It's a really nice compliment. He always tells the truth.

Steve: Sure. I always tell him the truth about what I think. I'm not brutal, but honest about it. If things are not good, I tell him as well. But that usually doesn't happen, because all their songs are good. I really haven't heard one yet that I haven't liked, which is pretty amazing, since they already have three albums out.

George: We are working on it! (everybody laughing)

Steve, do you sometimes watch and



IRON TORCH

ferent countries with different kinds of audiences and have to deal with all of that. For me, it's quite nice seeing everything through their eyes.

George, when you started writing songs, did you show them to your father?

George (looks at his father): I remember when I first started, I couldn't really play the guitar and I used to say to you: "How do you write music? I don't really understand how you do it."

Steve: I remember you saying that.

George: I started to work quite hard on songs, especially on the lyrics. Eventually, I had a few songs that came out quite well, but it's always a bit embarrassing to show people your stuff. (looks at his father) I remember showing you the first stuff I had written.

Steve: It was good. What are you talking about? It was really good!

George: I remember, one of the first songs I showed you, lyrically, ended up on our first album. It's called "The Death March".

Steve: Great song! You wrote that in Norway, didn't you?

George: Yes.

Steve: He was basically playing semi-pro football up in Norway and he was stuck in his hotel room on his own. There he started coming up with all these singles and the first one ended up on his first album, didn't it?

George: Yes. A lot of the stuff from the first album probably started in that hotel room in Norway.

Was that the time you realised you didn't want to do football but music?

George: Kind of. At some point, the football thing really needs to work and I started to wee away from it a little bit. I was on trial for a team that was really good and I remember I started thinking that I am not sure if I have the kind of motivation you need to be a professional footballer. I was more interested in getting my guitar out. I started writing some music and thought: "This is what I want to do!" I was so much more excited about music than about playing football. So, yes, I decided to pull out of football, I flew home and went to college to do audio engineering. I needed to know the basics because I had these ideas in my head and on my recording device but I wasn't very good at getting them down. I wanted to learn how to do that.

Steve, did you think that history repeated itself at the time?

Steve: Very much so, even though it was a bit different for me. I had already decided that I probably didn't want to be a full-time player before I started playing music. But still, it was pretty similar in a lot of

ways. Although I believe he had more chances to become a pro. But his passion wasn't there, I could see that. I was a little disappointed, but I never told him that he couldn't quit. Because what can I say? Now we get the best of both worlds: All along the tour we play football for fun.

Were instruments in your house just standing around so the kids could grab and play them?

George: That's essentially how I got into playing. He got a couple of acoustic basses laying in the house and one of my sisters had a small three-quarter-sized acoustic guitar. But I started playing the bass first just because it was there. I'd pick it up and start working out songs. I enjoyed figuring them out. I think you taught me a couple of songs like "Smoke On The Water", like pretty much everyone does.

Steve: I remember a story that was kind of funny: I took him with me to a Maiden show when he was still pretty young.

George: I'd say I was twelve.

Steve: It was right before soundcheck and George was with me playing the Maiden song "The Clairvoyant". He played the style just like me. The rest of the band was on stage just sitting around, so I whispered into his ear: "Just play it again". George did and I went up and stood next to the other band members. When they looked up, they realised I didn't have a bass in hand. They thought I was playing, but I was standing there next to them. And everybody was just really astonished. It was so funny at the moment. Priceless.



George Harris (re.) und seinen Bandkollegen von The Raven Age, die am Freitag auf der W:E:T Stage auftreten.

George, how hard was it for you to step out of your father's huge footsteps?

George: It may be strange, but I never thought about it too much, which I think was the key. Of course, I was influenced by my dad. But that was just what I grew up with naturally. We watch movies together, listen to music, and are interested in similar things anyway. So, of course, there are similarities between my band and Maiden. But if I would try or force myself to not sound like that, it would mess up my natural ability. So I just do what I do. If people like it, great! If not – great! (laughs)

And how did you feel at the beginning of your career about everyone seeing you as "the son of..."

George: In certain situations, it can be frustrating, just because people have a precon-

"I first went to a festival when I was sixteen and camped every year up until we started playing."

GEORGE HARRIS

ception about you or the band before they even listen to it. Sometimes you think: "I wish you would just have a clear mind and listen to our music and then decide if you like it." But this was one of the things I knew would happen. So I decided quite early to just roll with it and to not let it get me down.

What is the best advice your dad has given you?

George: I think it's probably to make sure to stick to my guns, essentially. At that young age, you start developing your own stuff of writing music and what you want your band to be. And the bigger you get, the

more people get involved. That means more opinions and you could quite easily end up pleasing people. So the best advice he gave me is...

Steve: Just ignore them! (laughs)

George: (laughs) Ignore all that and only take on advice if it's good. Just make sure that you don't stray too far from what you want the band to be.

Steve, if you would have to describe Wacken to anybody who doesn't know the festival, what would you say?

Steve: I can't remember how many times I've played at

Wacken but I think it is one of the best festivals in Europe. It has a great feeling, is well organised – well, it is in Germany, so of course it is well organised (laughs). There are other festivals in Europe like Hellfest that are really good, too, and to be honest, they put some UK ones to shame. Really, I mean that. They all should just come to Wacken and see how it's done.

One of the claims of W:O:A is "rain or shine". What's your take on the occasional mud fest?

George: I first went to a festival when I was sixteen and camped every year up until we started playing. If you had been there, it's been like mud up to your knees and all that stuff. I think it just goes to show how loyal Metal fans are because they still turn up. It can be raining, they are still jumping up and down and it's still a great vibe.

Steve Harris mit seinem West Ham United Gurt am Bass und Bandmaskottchen Eddie im Rücken. Mit Iron Maiden steht er am Freitag auf der Harder Stage.

PHOTOS: IMAGO



OF HEADBANGER AND LIFE SAVERS

Metalhead Emy Bernhard has donated stem cells to DKMS – twice!

When he walks across the Holy Ground, there is one thing he always has at hand: his high spirits. Emanuel “Emy” Bernhard from Romania is sunshine dressed in pitch black – and has already saved two lives!

Emy was able to give a young woman a second chance at life with his stem cell donation in 2016. DKMS approached him again at the end of 2022: Another life-threateningly ill recipient matched his genetic profile – a stroke of luck that occurs in only 0.5 per cent of all donors. Emy accepted immediately.

The Wacken team has been supporting the work of DKMS for almost ten years. More than 11,000 metalheads have registered since 2014. Emy, too, registered with the DKMS for World Blood Cancer Day that year and was accepted as a potential donor. Two years later he received a message: Stem cells from his body could give a leukaemia patient hope of survival. For him, helping was an honour: “You don’t want to be in the position the patients are in. That’s why it’s so important to show solidarity for others,” says Emy. He has high praise for W:O:A’s commitment. “Thomas, Holger, and the team are real role models with their efforts.”

When the then x-year-old donated stem cells for the first time in 2016, he was somewhat nervous. “It was uncharted waters for me,” he recalls, “but in the end, everything went well.” The person who received his donation experienced no complications, either. A few years later, Emy even found out who he was able to save: a young woman. “She was born in Serbia and lived in



Emy is committed to helping people who cannot help themselves and is a role model for practising humanity – horns up.



Sarajevo. She was 30 years old at the time. Now she is 36 and got married.” Would he and the re-cipient of the donation like to meet one day? “Not necessarily in the near future, but we have made plans to do so as soon as possible. I suggested meeting up if I’m ever near her place.” Having saved a life makes him happy, he remarks. To know whether or not his current donation did any good, he’ll have to wait another two years.

For those who haven’t registered yet, Emy has a message: “Let’s worry less about our own needs and more about the people who really need help. Think about how you would feel in their shoes. It’s so easy to do something! Start by registering with the DKMS. That doesn’t mean you’ll be selected, but it’s the first step. After all, you can’t win the lottery if you don’t play. And the moment you receive the news that you are a suitable donor is truly life-changing. Therefore: ‘Stäbchen rein, Spender sein’ – just take the swab.”

Wacken fans can register with DKMS at their booth. With a little luck, you might leave the Holy Ground a lifesaver.

// Andrea Leim



At the DKMS booth, you can meet both stem cell donors and patients.

PHOTOS: DKMS

Group photo of the artists in the middle of the Dechenhöhle, an 800,000-year-old stalactite cave near Iserlohn, Germany.
PHOTOS: MPS HANSEATIC

CASUALLY TOURING A STALACTITE CAVE WITH THE "GOD OF WAR"

On Set with Saltatio Mortis and Peyton Parrish: exclusive BTS from their video shoot for "God Of War"

Fire is glimmering, the walls are glistening, and the drums are echoing from the 800,000-year-old mountain walls. In a world hidden from human sight for millennia, inside a stalactite cave, the great warrior Kratos strides towards his allies through a rain of sparks... "Great! Thank you!" A voice from somewhere in the background brings everyone back to reality. Because what was happening right before their eyes was not the secret preparations for a battle against the gods, but rather a video shoot for the new song "God Of War" by Saltatio Mortis and Peyton Parrish.

"Everything looks really dope", the US artist raves about his project with the German Medieval Rockers. He wrote the song, inspired by the video game "God Of War Ragnarök". "The idea for the video, the filming location and everything else, however, came from the Saltatio Mortis team," says Parrish.

INFO

Peyton Parrish will embark on a tour right after W:O:A, playing Berlin on 7.8., Munich on 9.8., Frankfurt on 10.8., Cologne on 11.8. and Hamburg on 12.8. Saltatio Mortis begin their tour in November.

It's the first collaboration between the musicians, who had only known each other through their internet videos until recently. Singer Jörg Roth, known as "Alea, the modest one", says: "It's a pretty funny story. For a while now, my bandmate Falk and I have been following Peyton on social media. I should confess that I'm truly a fan of his. Some of his songs are on every day at my house, and of course, I've thought about collaborating with him once or twice." On the other side of the great ocean, Peyton Parrish, whose songs and albums have topped the Billboard charts several times, felt the same way. "I saw their

cover of 'My Mother Told Me', which totally spoke to me and ultimately inspired me to record the song myself. I messaged them shortly after and asked if they'd like to record one of my tracks with me."

A few months later, the social media star with more than 6 million followers found himself on a plane heading for North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. The Dechenhöhle cave near Iserlohn had been selected for a first meeting with the band and an excited Alea. "I hardly slept the night before and was really nervous. Meeting Peyton actually felt like somewhat of a fanboy moment. But I quickly realised that he's just as much of a weirdo as we are. Just a cool guy."

The only time this coolness briefly faded was upon entering the cave, Parrish confesses: "I've never been underground and I'm also slightly claustrophobic. But when I get to a place that scares me, I try to believe in myself, clear my

head and become conscious of the experience."

This was clearly a success: The video has already been viewed well over a million times, and the song entered the American charts – a first for Saltatio Mortis. And, of course, the artists will also perform the track for their fans at Wacken Open Air. "I'm really looking forward to that," says Parrish. "I experienced the collaboration with Saltatio as very special, simply because everything fit together so well. I thought they were great before, they liked me too, and when we met, we clicked right away. Fantastic!"

// Andrea Leim



Peyton Parrish going all out. He jokingly calls his wild moves Pey-Fu.

NEWS FROM WACKEN'S HOLY GROUND

SHOP AROUND THE CLOCK AT THE FAR- MERS MARKET

Our Farmers Market will be back at this year's Wacken Open Air – along with a great new feature: six vending machines will make shopping possible at all hours of the day and night. Shop around the clock! The vending machines are stocked with drugstore products, snacks, and meats, and operate with our cashless payment system. At the Farmer's Market itself, the range of products has been expanded but continues to focus mainly on regional products. You'll find every-thing a camper's heart desires, from baked goods freshly prepared on the prem-ises to fruits and vegetables, dairy products, drinks, and even plates and cutlery. There's everything you need for a delicious breakfast and, of course, the full range of equipment for proper barbecue sessions, even for vegetarians. The market is open from Tuesday to Saturday from 8 am to 10 pm.



**FARMERS
MARKET**

24/7
SHOPOCALYPSE



CROWNING BEER PONG ROYALTY

Are you Queen or King Pong of Camgroundia? Do you confound your opponents with your royally quick hits? Well, do we have intoxicating news for you: W:O:A, Krombacher, and the Beerpongbar summon you to the first-ever beer pong tournament. From Wednesday until Friday, the best 32 teams can compete for a place in the final. Apart from eternal honour, the unbelievable prices include tick-ets for W:O:A 2024! Sign up your team via beerpongbar.de for a participation fee of € 10, which is put towards the Wacken Foundation.



Farmers Market, Beerpong, fresh Water and Skater on Tour: A lot has changed on the Wacken field. To give you an overview, we have summarised the most important changes for you.

BY TIMON MENGE



WACKEN UNITED

Fancy a pint with the Rock & Leather – brought us all together! Psst: Word on the street is that there is to be a legendary party on Thursday night and that the Wacken founders themselves will be the ones serving the tunes from behind the turntables. Wanna come? Find all the information on Wacken United upgrades for either one or four days via www.wacken.com.



Wanna party well into the night? You can have all that and more within our Wacken United area, starting this year. It's a place where fans, artists, press, and people from all over the music business can mingle, party, and share ideas. Denim

GEROLT AND THE HANGOVER MONSTER

"Zwischen jeden Liter Bier gehört ein Zwischenwasser-Elixier!" If you translate, Gerolt, the mineral master and electrolyte alchemist's ancient wisdom, you get something along the lines of "please have some water every now and then." Gerolsteiner's limited edition festival flasks should make this task a lot easier. The 500 ml bottles will be given out on the Holy Ground or in Gerolt's village, a mysterious place in the middle of the festival grounds. If you can't procure this mythical item, there are free water fountains all across the premises.



ROAD TO WACKEN TOUR 2023

DESTROYING THE MINI RAMP WITH SKATE SUPERSTAR CHRIS COLE

Skating and Metal go together like Wacken and the burning Bullhead. Let's combine these two elemental forces! We have teamed up with the skateboard brand Fallen to send their crew led by superstar Chris Cole on a "Road To Wacken" tour, destination: Holy Ground – a perfect place for anyone with adrenaline pumping through their veins. Saturday sees

the team complete three 30-minute sessions on a mini ramp in front of the Louder stage with Biohazard and Kataklysm providing the soundtrack. Sessions kick off at 1 pm, 4:15 pm, and 8 pm. Don't miss it!



Bierkrug Horn
35,00 €



Lederbeutel klein
19,00 €



Wikingerhemd
35,00 €



Ledertasche
30,00 €



Hornhalter
13,00 €



Tunika
35,00 €



Wikingerschild 1
90,00 €

Wikingerschild 2
90,00 €



Lederarmschutz 2er Set
23,00 €



BANJOS AND HEAVY HILLBILLYS



Starting Wednesday, 30 bands from all over the world will compete in Wacken's Metal Battle.

PHOTOS: METAL BATTLE

It's Heavy Metal's biggest international band competition: Wacken Metal Battle! Beginning on Wednesday, 30 opponents from all over the world will compete against each other on the Holy Ground to win over jury members and fans alike.

Last year's winners know pretty well how that works. The Japanese band Sable Hills will return to W:O:A in 2023 to show off exactly how far they've come since their victory. Because a lot has happened in the past year, as Metal Battle organiser Sascha Jahn knows: "They've just released a new album via a record company and are busy touring, in Europe, for example."

While Metal Battle has barely changed since last year, more countries have been added, including Angola, Mozambique, Kenya, Botswana, and Turkey. All participating bands will perform on the Headbangers or W:E:T Stage on Wednesday and Thursday.

Here are three contenders we'd like you to meet in advance.

FORASTERO (URUGUAY)

Metallica may hint at it at the beginning of their shows, but Forastero pull it off in its entirety: The group from the Uruguayan city of Moldanado performs their self-proclaimed "Western Metal" in matching garb, mixing their music with plenty of

modern Heavy Metal influences. "What fortune in the far west!" the group posted to Instagram before the upcoming Battle. "It's off to Germany for us!" Cowboys, Native Americans, saloon brawls: Wacken's crowd can look forward to a posse that would have made Ennio Morricone proud.

LEFT-ÖVR (PUERTO RICO)



Striking a similar note are LEFT-ÖVR from Puerto Rico, which recently became part of Metal Battle's Caribbean recruitment area. However, the band follows a much more Hillbilly approach than Forastero. LEFT-ÖVR is equipped with a banjo as well as a double-necked electric guitar. Musically, the whole thing falls somewhere between Bluegrass and funky Nola-Metal. In the video for their song "Gator Season", the group can be seen fishing and barbecuing in true fashion, which is why W:O:A's audience should expect not just a great concert, but maybe even a barbecue recipe or two.

METTERNICH (AUSTRIA)

Austrian Metal featuring lyrics in dialect and topics like Tinder and appointments at the dentist? Granted, that sounds more than a little wacky. And that's exactly what Metternich from Vienna are. But as comical as the Austrians' lyrics may be, you can immediately hear that they take their dialect and their music seriously. In the tradition of old Austrian songwriters, these five musicians examine everyday situations and exaggerate them eloquently. Metternich describe their style as "Strizzirock", which roughly translates to "rascal rock". Will they be able to convince the Metal Battle jury? Schau ma mal!



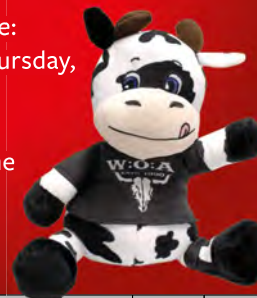
In addition to fame, fortune, and eternal "Holy Ground" glory, the participating bands can expect a particularly exquisite treat this year: Krombacher will provide each Metal Battle band with a 10-litre keg of beer – for the after-show party, for sure. Cheers!

Bier abfüllen	Struktur	Eingang, Tor		Seufzer der Erleichterung		blaue Alpenblume	hartes Metall	früherer österr. Adelstitel		franz. Schriftsteller † 1980	griechischer Buchstabe	behördliche Anordnung		japan. Kurzgedichtform		arabisches Grußwort	Stadtteil von Minderheiten		Ureinwohner Japans
						beliebtes Körpertaining								Schild des Zeus					
		5		Raumtonverfahren		Tanz auf Hawaii								ugs.: schießen		Fluss durch Pforzheim			
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OH, WOW! WIN A COW!

This year we limited ourselves to the crossword puzzle. Seems hard enough as last year's creative responses led us to believe. The cuddliest prize since the W:O:A has been waving again: Our Wacken plush cow! By the way: if you don't win it here, you'll find plenty of Wacken items in our store on Hauptstraße 82 in the village. During the festival the shop is open 24 hours a day. Sunday until 8 p.m.

Here's how you can get the price: Submit the solution word by Thursday, August 3rd, 2023 24 p.m. to gewinn@rockshow.de. The lot decides! Handed out "the beast" will be on Saturday. Legal process and cash payment are excluded.



CAMPING GETS A MAKEOVER



Porta-Potties, communal showers, raging neighbours: seasoned W:O:A visitor Kirsten Turner knows what festival camping usually has in store. She'd done it for years until she learned of Residenz Evil at the beginning of 2022. Kirsten knew right away: From here on out, it's glamping!

There's less of a hullabaloo than on the regular campground, but the vibe is the same," Turner summarises her experience. More and more festivals are beginning to offer a little comfort in addition to their usual camping facilities. Among them is Wacken's own Residenz Evil, where W:O:A fans can enjoy a number of amenities: a personal power outlet, rinsing toilets, and single shower units. "And a cosy lounge where we met lots of awesome folks," Kirsten recounts. In the evenings, Residenz residents would meet up at the area's fire pit to reminisce about another long day at the festival. "With this accommodation, the W:O:A team has accomplished a way to really unwind at the festival," Turner declares. "I think that's brilliant."

But there are more ways to upgrade your quarters, according to Greta Hoffman of W:O:A's glamping team: "There's the Moshtel," she begins. "It's made up of container homes and is located really close to

GREEN METAL: SUSTAINABILITY AT W:O:A

Everybody has this one friend who keeps saying Trash Metal instead of Thrash Metal, right? At W:O:A 2023, he will finally be right.

In cooperation with the campaign #Ziele for Sustainable Development, the W:O:A team is gearing up for its „Trash Metal Project". First song on the agenda: "Reduce. Reuse. Recycle." – and you can be part of the music video! Record your performance behind the mic or with the instrument of your choice at the #17Ziele booth here at Wacken Open Air. Application (as good as) complete! More info via



trashmetalproject.com.



PHOTOS: RETENT

Aside from that, there will be many other sustainability initiatives at W:O:A. The Hamburg-based association Hanseatic Help e.V. will once again accept your used tents, sleeping mats, and sleeping bags to provide to unhoused individuals in Ham-

Start-up Tentation salvages your broken tents and uses them to make new, high-quality products, such as raincoats or bags. And the company ReTent recycles broken tents and old banners and returns them to the Holy Ground in the form of new products.

burg. There will be even more drop-off stations this year!

//tm

It's the second time for Camper Kirsten at thd Residenz Evil!



the Holy Ground." She also mentions Camper-Park Island as another spot close to the stage. There, you can find a number of for-rent tents and lodges – not just a great option for those without their own camping equipment, but also a sustainable solution: "We regularly see leftovers on the ground that could furnish entire apartments, but in the glamping area, everything is re-used."

If you're looking for personal space, Bauer Uwes Garten offers individual lots for pre-booking. This should excite larger groups with different arrival times, as you can reserve your spot well in advance. Whatever the option you choose, the organisers care about your experience: "We ask our guests for constructive feedback each year," says Greta Hoffmann. "That's what all the signs and flyers with QR codes are for."

Kirsten Turner will be back at Residenz Evil this year. While she can kind of imagine spending another stay at the regular camping ground, she'd rather stay at Residenz Evil. Although one thing could be approved, if you ask her: "The bar should rethink its closing time. That way, everyone can wind down just a little longer." Kirsten, W:O:A is way ahead of you: This year, the Lounge's bar will be open 24/7. // Timon Menge

Maybe Kirsten Turner feels so comfortable at the Residenz Evil because it has a chill lounge. PHOTOS: KIRSTEN TURNER

JOIN THE WORLD'S LOUDEST MINUTE OF SILENCE!

W:O:A needs you! Because a new world record will be set in the middle of the Holy Ground on Wednesday: The loudest growl ever performed by a crowd! With this, we once more want to support the species protection project „Growling Creatures“ and raise awareness.

For the attempt to succeed, W:O:A and Krombacher need every vocal chord out there because we need to reach at least 100 decibels to set the record. Where, if not at Wacken, where bands like Cannibal Corpse, Jinjer and Deicide are part of the legend, can this be achieved? So growl along

for endangered species on Wednesday, 2 August at 9 pm in front of the Faster and Harder stages. The world record attempt will be monitored by the Record Institute for Germany. //tm

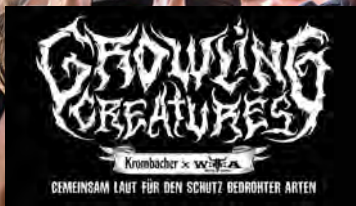


PHOTO: ICS

“SCREAMING IS THE REAL DEAL!”

Torsten Sträter is German comedy's "Man in Black" and is slated to perform in Wacken on Saturday. In this interview, he shares why he loves the "Holy Ground", why gets lost a lot and what it is about screaming that gets him going.

A couple of years ago, you stated that the only time you'd listen to Motörhead would be if you were trying to peel off your wallpaper, and even then, you'd be using earplugs. Has your stance changed at all?

Yes and no. It's not that I don't like Heavy Metal, it's just that I don't love Motörhead. I do appreciate the music, especially the more melodic stuff. But for me personally, Motörhead's approach is a bit in-your-face, which makes me uneasy when listening to it.

How about Iron Maiden, this year's headliner?

Absolutely! I'll take Maiden, I'll also take Metallica and the other commercially successful acts. And I'll happily be swayed by the rest.

Are there any other bands you'll be watching perform?

I'm really excited about Two Steps From Hell.

As a fan of movie scores and soundtracks, you should be.

For sure! I know all of their stuff and will be trying my best not to miss their slot. And I'd love to see Doro Pesch, she's amazing. Other than that, I'll just be enjoying everything like it's a theme park.

Meaning you'll be on the ground for the entirety of W:O:A?

Sure. Wouldn't it be weird to come to Wacken just for your little set? It's more like you visit – and on top of that, you get to perform. To me, that's what's exciting about W:O:A.

You don't normally visit events like this, though, do you?

Not really. If I'm being honest, Wacken is the only festival that I find even remotely enticing. It rivals a kid's birthday party in terms of allure and non-violence. And I don't mean to sound disrespectful, I love that about the festival. Others don't compare, in my book. What am I supposed to do

at an Ambient open air – or Reggae? Reggae almost makes me mad with its laid-all-the-way-backness. That's too much relaxation for me. I'd rather not do that.

When you're roaming the Festival, where do head to?

I have to have a destination, otherwise I'll get lost and won't be seen again. Ever. Somebody has to tell me to go from A to B, get a Bratwurst, stay a few hours, and be back by X. I need that.

Did you change your routine at all to appease the Metal crowd?

No, I'd find that disingenuous. I did write something specifically for this occasion, but it's not Metal-related. There are other areas of overlap that apply to all of us. We've all gotten lost on the road or stopped at a gas station. I'm not trying to conform to some imaginary style or impress with fake expertise. Either the crowd likes it, or they don't.

On stage, you don't shy away from topics like depression and you're the patron of Germany's "Depressionsliga" ("league against depression"). Why is this illness still such a taboo?

Don't know. Don't care, to be honest, because it's not a taboo to me. But it does need a little more education and awareness than more visible ailments.

Maybe "shame" is a more fitting term for it. Many people who experience it feel like something is wrong with them at first.

Yeah, that's what it was like for me, too. But ultimately, that is a reflection of the people you surround yourself with. I'm not being mean, but if your friends and family don't or can't understand you, you're gonna feel like it's all in your head. Which is why we need to educate and talk about this more – in a funny way, if at all possible. It'll probably take another ten years until somebody saying "you should get some therapy, that'll sort you out" becomes the norm. But

as you can imagine, someone who experiences depression usually has much more pressing problems than the lady from upstairs giving them side eye or their grandpa going "you need to get some fresh air and take a walk".

The "Black Dog" is internationally accepted as a symbol for depression. You wear a wristband with a black dog in cooperation with the non-profit Metality. How did that come to pass?

Metality reached out to me to see whether I'd like to support the project. The wristband does look pretty cool and I love whenever an item like this creates more visibility. It's a lot better than a shirt that says "fuck off, I'm depressed". I really don't mind decorating myself in a way that spreads a message.

Can music – whether it's heavy or gentle – help get oneself through a difficult time?

It can. But there are times that can't be helped with anything but straight-up medical intervention. Alas, we all know how well music heightens and softens certain moods, so that can be a helpful tool.

In Metal, screaming is a perfect release. Does that help you, as well?

Totally. Unfortunately, we as a society haven't been super accepting of that. But to wind down and get things out of your system, screaming is the real deal. Screaming is good! So is laughing, because technically, it engages your diaphragm and helps relax your entire body.

You're also a big fan of Batman. What about him fascinates you?

That started when I was about six years old. I used to visit Italy with my parents, and they had a bunch of action figures over there. That's where I first laid eyes on Batman and held a Batman comic. The storylines used to be a bit darker, and I couldn't get enough of it. I just related to

“Batman is probably the best character out of all of them. Not naturally skilled, has to learn and make everything himself, and the suit is just so out-of-pocket.”

that: If you're a man with way too much money, of course, you're gonna go wear your bat costume. You gotta relax somehow! Batman is probably the best character out of all of them. Not naturally skilled, has to learn and make everything himself, and the suit is just so out-of-pocket. I loved and still love everything about it. Most of us carry something into adulthood from our youth; even if that's just a casual interest for model trains. You end up driving out to the middle of nowhere once a year, just to check out some ancient locomotive. Others, like me, refuse to grow up and stick to comic books.

You're the proud owner of several Batman merch items, even suits. Have you made them yourself?

One of those, yeah. Others I pieced together from different suits, and one I bought in an extremely sorry state and ended up recasting some pieces for. I've got six or seven suits, all in all, so each of them has a different story.

Original ones from film sets?

No, who was the funds for that? The ones they made for the movies back in 1989 were made from latex foam. That's practical in the sense that it's light, but it's also not durable and has probably crumbled to dust by now.

But you had a Batmobile made.

True. Silly idea, but I did.

Do you take that for a spin every now and again?

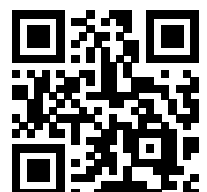
It's not approved for road service, so it's exclusively there to take up space. But I do... move it from time to time, let's keep it at that, traffic regulations and all. I had to have it, though, even if that doesn't sound particularly modest and zen. I just wanted to be able to stand in front of it and feel my childhood again. That's fulfilling to me.

// Andrea Leim



Torsten Sträter – the man who once dwarfed Lucky Luke to browse his three-volume comic book collection under Batman's warm wings has aWACKENed (yes, ouch!). And he is not only committed to the good cause on stage, but also with ribbons at metality.org (QR code below), among other things.

PHOTO: GUIDO SCHRÖDER



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