

Attached you find the original Interview before the translation from english to german between Frank for Soundmagnet.eu and Rhett, Melissa und Andy.

Frank: I hope you are doing well, both healthwise and economically, in this difficult time, well? How do you experience the Corona time as a band?

Rhett: *We started rehearsal about a month ago. Started shaking the rust off and then lost our lease at our rehearsal space. We had to move to a temporary location till our lease at the new location opens in 3 months. So back at it again in another week! HAHA! We are doing our best under the circumstances, both financially and medically. We have been fortunate. Thank you for the well wishes, I hope you and your loved ones are doing well also!*

Frank: The feedback in Austria and Germany on your debut album is enthusiastic. Did you expect this success?

Rhett: *I really made no expectations, I try not to. Being of old stock, I do my best to stay positive but not set my hope's too high. The positive response has been really encouraging though!*

Frank: You have played in different bands before. How did you find each other? How did the contact with Melissa come about?

Rhett: *I've been playing with Jason (Bass) and Nelson (Guitar) in GRAVEHILL for quite a long time now. Andy (Guitars) is a friend from another band we all admire, MORBID ECLIPSE. Melissa (Vocals) is a close friend of a mutual close friend. Jason was friends with her as well. Our mutual friend (Bob Kassing) introduced me to both Jason and Melissa over a decade ago.*

Frank: How did you get your band name? What is the mythological connection between the name and your lyrics?

Rhett: *I came up with the name in tribute to 2 old bands of mine, KEEN OF THE CROW & MORGION. I also admired the imagery of THULSA DOOM from CONAN THE BARBARIAN, so I incorporated that as well. I took influence from Robert E. Howard's world of Cimmeria (STYGIA).*

Frank: One question for Melissa: I think your voice is simply divine. Did you have a classical education or is singing just your natural skill?

Melissa: *Thank you for the kind words! I have formal vocal training and a background in classical piano. Having a solid foundation in both has greatly helped me as a performer and songwriter.*

Frank: Your Arabic sound sequences reflect your mythological background. Who of you is interested in the history of the old world in this respect? Is there a certain age in which you would like to have lived?

Melissa: *The use of Middle Eastern scales, melodies and motifs is something that really stands out for me among bands that we revere, such Solitude Aeternus. This sound fit particularly well with our opening track "Devour the Dead," which focuses on the Egyptian goddess Ammit. I've been very interested in history and mythology throughout my life, so bringing these stories to life through music is very exciting.*

Frank: Personally I love your riffs, because they remind me of Bolt Thrower in their way. Was it foreseeable in the course of writing the song that this style would be chosen by you?

Andy: *Our initial writing efforts were designed to emulate traditional Doom riffs, but towards the end of the demo and into the full release, Nelson really started incorporating his death metal influence into the riffs. We maintained the goal of Epic Doom, however, so the death metal influences are supposed to remain subtle. I am really happy you can hear the Bolt Thrower influence. We have no intention of being a Death Doom band, but we are a Doom band that loves death metal.*

Frank: With Saint Vitus comes a doom legend from Los Angeles. How alive is the metal scene, especially doom metal in the City of Angels?

Rhett: *I think Doom Metal has seen far more respect as a genre in these recent years. It was pretty hit & miss in the 90s and 00s. Los Angeles has the luxury of being a hot spot for tours. So lots of shows, bands, gigs of all sorts. I think we've gotten to a point in time where bands of different styles could share a gig. Doom to Death to Black, etc...*

Frank: You probably can't wait to play live. Which concerts, should it actually be possible, would be coming up for you in the future?

Rhett: *We signed on for LEGIONS OF METAL FEST, HELL OVER HAMMASBURG FEST, UP THE HAMMERS FEST and HAMMER OF DOOM FEST. All but 1 have postponed to next year 2021. We hope that we can play all of them, this pandemic put everyone/everything on hold. Hoping for the best!*

Frank: The domestic political mood in the USA is very difficult at the moment. Is there a discussion within the band about the events and do even song ideas arise from it?

Melissa: *I think we're a band that loves playing music first and foremost, and while we all have our personal beliefs about what's happening in the world, it's never really been the focus when we're together. However, our song "Up from the Depths" is a heavily-veiled reference to the ways our political leaders drag us into places and situations where we do not wish to be, and how we fight to maintain our own identities. These are issues that are pretty much always center stage in the US.*

Frank: You are probably not only a metal band but also fans? Hence my final question. Can everyone tell me his/her craziest fan experience? That's what our readers are always interested in.

Rhett: *I met Ronnie James DIO at a signing for HEAVEN & HELL. I actually met Melissa at that signing. DIO was the nicest most generous Rockstar I ever met. Took both my hands and shook them, thanked me for being there. Hugged and kissed my wife on the cheek. A really great memory & experience.*

Melissa: *The Heaven and Hell signing is definitely a highlight for me as well. Seeing my heroes - Tony Iommi, Geezer Butler, Ronnie James Dio and Vinny Appice - all in the same room felt absolutely surreal. I had to catch my breath after that experience. I'm glad I made that trip to meet them that day. A year later, and it would have been too late to meet Ronnie.*

Andy: *I build guitars for a living, and a few years back I was building for the Jackson Custom Shop. I got to meet a bunch of my idols, but the best memory was helping build a gold Adrian Smith model for him to play on tour, and being invited to the back to back Southern California shows.*