

Attached you find the original interview before the translation from English to German between Frank for soundmagnet.eu and Andy Thomas from Black Crown Initiate.

The obligatory question in times of the Covid pandemic, how are you all in the band?

Thanks for asking. We are all spread out across the country, but we are also all in good health and hanging in there!

Violent Portraits of Doomed Escape has become an excellent album. I even say your best so far. Of course every band always wants to release their best album. Have you noticed how excellent your ideas are while writing the songs?

Writing the songs was an interesting experience. We had no label, no management, and no team, so we really just wrote music for the fun of it. I think that led to a very good result.

With Ethan, an old friend is back in the band. What effects did the line-up change have on the songwriting?

Having Ethan in the band is great, as he is an insanely talented guitarist and writer. You could give him a box and a shoelace and he'd make beautiful music with it. We look forward to exploring compositions together in the future.

Your choruses are beautiful melodies and the progressive parts remind me of older Into Eternity records. Where do you get your inspiration from?

Cliche as it sounds, life is the best experience for channeling interesting music. It is important, however, to practice your instrument as much as possible while sharing this ride of infinite consciousness experiencing itself.

How did the collaboration with session drummer Samuel Santiago come about? Is it foreseeable in the future to have a drummer in the line-up again?

We would absolutely love to have a full-time drummer. It's just a matter of finding the right person with the right combination of talent, availability, and personality.

You mentioned on Instagram that you wrote the album in a difficult time for you. Your lyrics sound like a lot of pain and suffering that somebody has experienced and now tries to deal with it. What is the background of the lyrics?

I try not to dive into the lyrics too much, as I'd prefer the listener arrive at their own conclusions. I will say that this album was written during one of the most overwhelming periods of my life, and I'm extremely thankful to have survived and moved on.

You've probably been approached several times in recent weeks about the James story. I think the detailed statement of James sounds credible and shows character. How did you as a band deal with this topic?

As a band, musically and personally, we do not and have never backed any form of hatred, and James' statement adequately sums up how we feel.

I could see you live in Vienna and was thrilled by your intensity. Do you love to play live and which gig from the last European tour do you remember most?

Playing live is the most fun experience a person can have. That last European tour we did was one of the most fun experiences of my life, and I really hope to get to do it again someday

Let's look into a rosy virus-free future. With which bands would you like to share the stage or go on tour together?

Leprous, VOLA, Rivers of Nihil, The Ocean, Meshuggah, Opeth, Devin Townsend, Tool, Metallica, The Beatles

A personal hairy question. You are famous for your handsome beard. Do you have a barber of your confidence or do you take over your own beard care?

I've always cared for my own beard, but I do exclusively use Crazy Cactus Beard Balm. I have my own custom blend that you can purchase directly from my dear, bearded buddy Nick Okvath. Check out Crazy Cactus Beard Balm on all social media for more info!

Finally you can convince our readers to buy your album in 2 sentences.

I hate delivering pizza for a living, so please help me escape this grim, nightmarish reality. Hell, buy your mom a copy, too.