

Attached you find the original interview before the translation from English to German between Markus for soundmagnet.eu and Madeleine Liljestam & Rikard Ekberg from Eleine.

Markus (Soundmagnet): Hello and thanks for the interview. On your third album "Dancing in Hell", you sound way more heavy than a lot of other Symphonic Metal Bands. Is this intentional or did it just happen during the songwriting process?

Madeleine: Hello! Well, it was a very natural process really. We write what feels true to us, and this sound is what came of that. We don't really sit down and compare our sound to other bands. I mean, each band has their own sound and that is something to be proud about.

Rikard: Thanks for having us! We write about what we know, what we feel and what we see. Both Madeleine and I have been through a lot. And this album reflects all of that without it being all too obvious so that others can relate to each track.

The message of the album is, among others, that you should smile while standing in your own, personal hell. Can you tell us more about the background and how you came up with this idea?

Rikard: It's not that you should just smile in your own personal hell. But that you have to learn how to tame the flames and not get badly burnt while you're there. But if the thought of you smiling when all things are at its worst gave you strength, then go with it!

Madeleine: This album is about inner demons, strength and loss. Both Rikard and I have been through a lot, and I know that many if not all have been or are in a personal hell right now. This album reflects all of that.

You released an EP at the end of 2019 and are already releasing another album. What gives you the creativity and energy to write new songs so quickly?

Madeleine: This album has been in the works since December 2018. The EP "All Shall Burn" was a bridge between our sophomore album "Until The End" and "Dancing In Hell". A sort of viewing of what's to come.

Rikard: Oh we didn't start to write "Dancing In Hell" after the EP "All shall Burn". As Madeleine said we started writing "Dancing In Hell" in December of 2018. So we just continued the writing process after the EP was out. Music takes time, and yes we have been working really hard since we have done a lot during the time we were writing. The answer to what gives us the creativity and energy is simply that this is our life. This is our passion and what we love to do. You have to be prepared for sleepless night, massive stress and anxiety when pursuing your goals. Nothing's served, all is earned.

In your songs, oriental elements can be heard occasionally. Where does that come from?

Madeleine: It just comes very naturally. We really like it and I really do enjoy listening to "world music" or what you call it. It's like Atmospheric music with organic instruments. We are also very inspired by atmospheric and monumental movie scores. It really comes, as I said, very naturally.

Rikard: It just feels right you know? Haha, I guess this will be the boring answer of "We like it".

Naggers in the metal scene like to dismiss Symphonic Metal as cheesy or sappy. What would you answer these naggers, what do you think are the strengths of this genre?

Rikard: Music is music dude. There are cheesy bands in all genres just as there are kick ass bands all over the place also. It's hard to say to others what they should like or not. I like good metal, and listen to whatever based on that.

Madeleine: Yeah, that's a tired cliché if there ever was one. As if there aren't cheesy bands in all genres haha. Each band has their own strengths, use them. I'm with Rikard on liking good metal. Doesn't matter which genre.

Because of Covid-19, European tours aren't really possible at the moment. How are you dealing with the epidemic and can we expect to see you live in Germany and Austria once this is possible again?

Madeleine: We have been staying focused and been working hard with "Dancing In Hell". We set November of 2020 as the release month early on, and stuck to that. We had talks about postponing the album, but we wanted to release this, for us and for our fans. Musicians all over the world are hurting right now, and so are the music lovers. We have to have something positive to look forward to when times are like these.

Rikard: Since we decided to release the album 2020 even though there is a pandemic, the only thing that changed in our focus was that we could do more music videos. Since we do them ourselves and don't rely on an outside source, it was a no brainer to do. So instead of just two music videos, we did four. Our fans really seem to love that initiative and so do we.

We are always looking for new music from all over the world. Which bands from your home country can you recommend that we should definitely listen to?

Madeleine: Rikard And I are going to name one each. I say Amon Amarth!

Rikard: I'm going with Arch Enemy on this one.

Thank you for your answers The last words are yours, is there anything you want to say to your fans and our readers?

Madeleine & Rikard: We look forward to meeting our fans when the world opens up again, we love all in the Eleine Legion! Right now, let's look forward to the release of "Dancing In Hell". Stay true, stay metal!