

# Interview with T.F.T.A.O. Zine

1. Some words to begin the interview...
2. Give us a short story of your band! What does the name mean?
3. What can you tell us about your demo „**Altered Identity** When will be out your next work? Is any label interested?
4. Express the lyrical contents of your songs, relate them with the message that you want to give!
5. Have you played any gig lately?
6. If you could do a promotional video - how would it be? Which song will you choose?
7. Do you think that the European scene is better than the american?
8. What happened with the old german Metal gods as Kreator, Sodom, Helloween and Destruction?
9. Any last comments...
- 10.

1. Hi Allan, first of all we want to say hello to your readers and thanks to you for this interview - we're very appreciated!

2. Necrobiosis was formed in december 1993 by our bassist Michael Schipper and me (Uwe Hansen/guitarist). Our aim was to play music which we liked to hear such as Death, Morbid Angel, Bolt Thrower, Obituary and so on. We also liked Thrash bands like Kreator, Sodom, Sepultura and Slayer. The name Necrobiosis means the process of slow dying cells in the human organism as a natural thing. We compared it with the dying humanity in this degenerated world in which only success, money and might seem to count. And after we completed our line-up with Ulf Schraplau as the second guitarist, Hauke Peters as the drummer and Frank Jochke as the vocalist, we started our first songs/lyrics with a social-critical attitude - but we didn't want to take a message out in the world and of course we didn't want to tell someone how he has to live - this is done by religions and in my opinion every religion sucks (satanism is not an alternative!) because you will have to subordinate your own views to a so called higher dogma. Nevertheless I don't damn people who believe in a kind of god.

In this line-up we recorded in 1995 our first demo „**Last Time To Awake...** containing six old school Black/Death Metal songs + Intro & Outro and, one year later, our second demo „**The Gate** containing 10 raw but melodic Black/Death Metal songs + Intro. This demo achieved the attention of two german labels for CD-compilations (Deathphobia IV CD/Earth A.D. Records & Edamos Nacht & Nebel Records).

In October 1996 we had to replace our drummer Hauke because he was going to study and due to this he hadn't enough time to rehearse and play live. We continued with Enno Brockhoff as our new drummer and wrote some new songs which we released in October 1997 on our third demo „**Altered Identity** Again we did several CD-compilations to promote our new material (Megacustica Vol. II Riptone Records, European Deathphobia I Earth A.D. Records, Sometimes Death Is Better 5-9 Shiver Records and Tomorrow's Millionaires Toppling Colossus Records).

In february of 1998 we had to replace our second guitarist Ulf because he was going to study, too - but we soon found our new second guitarist Sven Stark. It took some time to show him all the songs we were playing live but he managed it and at the moment we're doing new songs for our next release. These songs are going to become more complex but we're open for everything what we are interested in - we'll see!

3. The songs appearing on the „**Altered Identity** demo are a bit more guitar-orientated, more melodic and also much more technical but still as brutal as our older material. Further on the sound on this demo is much better than on our second demo „**The Gate** and the inlay is really awesome for a demo production - do you agree? There were some labels interested in us so far, but some of them made a bad offer, that means that we (!) had to pay a lot of money for the production (not the label!) even these labels haven't big shares of the market and not much experience in that kind of music (so this money would be wasted), and another label was more interested in an image which is selling good than in the music - we don't want an image we can't identify with only for selling CD's, that's not true in our opinion. And so we're going to record a CD in 1999 on our own - without the pressure by a label in case of IIIou must do it like this, don't do that etc., if a label is interested in that CD it's good - but if there is no label interested in it, who cares? We're making music and not business! So it wouldn't mean our end.

4. „**Religion Of Achievement** is about the most important religion today: money (and how it turns us into heartless people without the view for the real necessary things). And so Our check-book is a sacrament to get our destination, compassion is a sacrilege to ruin your next means to serve the divine money and comply its expectation - pray to the shine of coins, financial heaven is in sight!

„**Offensive Retribution** is about the feelings of victims (the bereaved) of children violation. Here in Germany but also in Belgium there got a lot of children abused and killed by pedophiles in the last months. One of those pervert beings lived only some miles away from our hometown! The wounds in the hearts of the parents who lost their child will never heal - they feel of course hate and despair and perhaps they wish to kill the murderer of their child. These feelings are what Offensive Retribution is about - it is not an appeal to lynch criminals (even it would be better sometimes, but that is not up to us).

The title song „**Altered Identity** is about those legions of idiots who are living their religion in a fanatical way. They are called Jesus freaks Jesus disciples of the last day etc. and they all have one thing in common: they don't do anything what would make sense, they even let their children die when they are ill because they think god will heal them and so they mustn't take medicine and so on... so I ask myself: how far can stupidity go on? Is there a limit for those blockheads and is it justifiable what turned them into those stupid minded scum?

„**Drowning In Melancholy** is lyrically a bit different: it is about a person who is lost in depression - everything around him/her is cold and grey, and when heavy clouds darken the sun it is like balm for his/her soul. Okay, it sounds a bit strange - but every soul has a dark touch of evil.

We don't want to take a message out as I mentioned above, the lyrics aren't the most important part of Necrobiosis. We try to make lyrics which make sense and of course they shall fit with the music. So it often seems to be no fun in life - but be sure that we don't have a desire to commit suicide!

5. Yes, we lately played a gig together with one of Germany's best Black Metal bands: Impending Doom and one of Germany's best brutal Death Metal bands: Harmony Dies. This gig took place in Bitterfeld (which means translated: bitter field), which is the most dirty place in Germany (or even Europe?) because of more than 40 years of chemical industry without caring about the environment. So we played with lots of mud and trash around - an apocalyptic feeling! But if you believe it or not - we had a good time and we laughed a lot (mostly because our vocalist Frank did throw his stinking socks out of the driving car onto the front of the following car which nearly got off the road!). Besides it was great fun to play with Impending Doom & Harmony Dies - they rule! Late in August we are playing an open air festival and a week later a concert together with a band called Moronic who are playing a very dirty mix between Rock & Metal. That is going to be very exciting and we hope that it will be a great party, too.

6. That is an interesting question... well, if we had to take a song from our „**Altered Identity** demo I think we would choose „Drowning In Melancholy which is perhaps the best song on it. This song would allow us to create a dark and nihilistic atmosphere with a depressive person (perhaps a nearly naked and beautiful woman?) walking through the graves of a dark and foggy cemetery at night. We would climb out of some open caskets and together with the beautiful girl we would await the dawn of a new day and the sunshine would dry our tears and we would smile again (perhaps I will grip my hand between her legs - no, that is a joke!). On the other hand it is necessary to do something which wasn't done before - that could be difficult, but the main thing is to do what we trust in, what do you think?

7. I don't think that the European scene is better, perhaps the European scene is more important under commercial aspects - but we're not interested in those commercial aspects, we're interested in making music and we think our music is much more welcome in the American scene and it's much more fun having pen-friendships and correspondence with people like you or other guys coming from the American scene than with those spoiled people in Europe who are calling themselves underground (indeed they aren't underground because they meanwhile judge more about the low production quality than the music - is that underground??). In my opinion the under-ground attitude got lost in the European scene - what counts is a perfect production, an image which sells good and other crap, the music seems to be only the least important thing. Due to these circumstances many so-called fans aren't interested anymore in releases like demo tapes or self-produced CD's. Most of these idiots are buying CD's from bands who have to come from Norway (that seems to be important!), they must have a logo which you can't read and they must have corpse paint in their evil-looking faces - swords or battle-axes in the hands are welcomed, too. And then they're proud to have a CD from a band nobody else knows - is that cool or is it just ridiculous? In general I would say in Europe it's meanwhile only business and in the rest of the world it's still Heavy Metal spirit! We prefer the American scene.

8. Well yes, Kreator are trying to reconstruct the feeling of their old songs like Pleasure To Kill or Extreme Aggression after they had a period of trying something new with albums like Renewal. This album wasn't really bad but it wasn't Kreator or what you could expect from them. I don't know their actual album, but it seems to be close to their old material. It's a long time ago that I've heard their music but if I want to hear one of their CD's (or LP's) I would choose Extreme Aggression and not their actual album. Sodom got boring with the time - it's nearly the same like Kreator, but their old albums like Persecution Mania or Agent Orange are much better than their actual album and in my opinion Tom Angelripper does concentrate too much on doing primitive solo stuff which you can only hear after drinking a lot of alcohol (the lyrics are in that vein, too - so it's very suitable, but I don't like this style). What can I tell you about Helloween? They have had their best times, too. Their last attempts of creating great music were disappointing (not Heavy Metal but mainstream Hard Rock). I can't tell you a lot about Destruction because I'm not up to date about what they did / are doing. I even don't have any of their albums, so I don't know their music very good. I thought that they splitted up but a good friend told me that they recorded a demo CD this year - I really don't know, sorry!

9. Okay Allan, again we want to thank you for these very interesting questions - it was great pleasure for us to answer them. We hope that your line will be successful and many people will read it. We also want to cheer to the American scene and their great underground supporters - fans, bands, zines, distros & labels: feel free to contact us (tape trading or whatever), We're very appreciated about every letter. Dear reader, take care and try to listen to our demo „**Altered Identity**” Thank you very much for the time you spent to read this interview - have a nice day!