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-Hello. Let's talk about your beginnings. What was your main inspiration to create a band like Repent?

In the fall of the eighties, 12 years old, I started to hear Heavy Metal because I liked the sound of distorted guitars and heavy riffs. The first record I bought was the first Warlock album, I still like all songs of this record, but I preferred the faster songs already to that time. When I heard the first time Riot's "Thundersteel" I started to nod with my head and this speedy sound gave me the creeps and this is still the same up to this day. A bit later in 1990 I discovered ones like Overkill, Testament, Exodus and Forbidden and the staccato Bay Area thrash riffs fascinated me absolutely. Then the Thrash wave died, because of the upcoming Death Metal wave (I also like, of course) and the new records to this time of Metallica, Megadeth, Testament and Exodus disappointed me totally. But, in my opinion, two of the best European Thrash records: the first Channel Zero's and Accu\$er's "Repent" motivated me to form REPENT in 1992 to play this kind of Thrash Metal, nobody wanted to publish or hear anymore obviously - just for me and perhaps some die-hard-thrashers out there.

-You begun during the times a large number of people claim thrash is dead. Did you agree with this opinions? Did you consider to play other genre of metal?

Of course I do, because it was exactly like this. Just one example: ask how many people came to the 1991/1992 shows of Dark Angel?!?!? Come one - they're Gods! Well we also played cover tunes of Candlemass, for example, and I personally like all kinds of Metal, except Black Metal and Grindcore, but when I play guitar, only Thrash comes out, so I actually tried to play different styles, but never managed to do this successfully, ha, ha.

-Philip is the only original member of the band. Did all line up changes during your history had a real meaning for your music?

Yes, I'm the only survivor (this was never my intention, ha, ha!). If you mean that the famous musical differences where the reason for the many line up changes, I must answer: no. The main reasons were in most cases that they lost interest in playing music, as opposed to me, who was always very focused I guess. It seems that I keep this band together for that reason.

If you mean that the line up changes had influence to the musical direction of the band, I think no, because it's still thrash, but perhaps we became a bit more melodious because of the abilities of our guitar player Heusi and by the way, he can play much more better guitar solos than me, ha, ha!

-Your old member Alexander Raab came back to the band in 2015 how did you convinced him to do it?

He left in 1999 because he came in just to help us out. We wanted to keep him but he had his own band "16 Hell Ventilator" running and had unfortunately no more time for us. When we were without bassplayer again, he just wanted to come back again, so I had not really to convince him. In my opinion he completed the best REPENT line up of our history, musically and personally! So I'm very grateful that I don't have to look for new people anymore, with that I have lost already years, just have a look to our discography: four albums in 27 years - only Sacred Blade (to their lifetime) were lazier!!!

-Repent exists for 27 years but you released only four full length albums. Do you feel a little insufficiency?

Just look to the answer above: searching for and finding new people, who want to and simply are able to play this style of Heavy Metal was hard and is the only reason for this apparent "insufficiency".

-What happened with the band between 1992 when you formed the Repent and 2000 when you released your first album?

Well, just what bands do after their founding: we were learning and improving our instruments, were writing songs, were playing concerts, were recording and publishing demotapes and trying with that to spread the name "REPENT", unfortunately without the nowadays possibilities of the internet! Everybody is invited to listen to our complete discography on bandcamp.com!

-Your new record titled „Condemned to Fail” is your second album released by High Roller Records (HRR). How did you get to this records?

Before Steffen Böhm of HRR had his label, I often bought second-hand vinyl from him and over that I knew him before his label. So when we had finished the recordings of "Vortex of Violence in 2012, I just asked him if he can distribute our record on HRR, because he had better possibilities and contacts to the scene than us and he luckily said yes. I'm not sure that he makes any money with us, probably not, but he gave us the chance to release a second album on his label again, and for that I'm very grateful - he treated us fair and he is really metal.

-Between the albums „Vortex Of Violence” and „Condemned to Fail” is difference of seven years. Did you feel any pressure from the label to work faster?

It just took five years because of line-up changes again, so we could not work faster. No, there was and is no pressure at all. We do not sell a lot of records in spite of mostly good reviews, the scene is just overcrowded: too many bands and little possibilities to play live. Nevertheless we try to run this band as professional as possible, and as long as it makes fun, we don't give up, no matter how many records or downloads we sell.

-Let's talk about your new album. Who is the guy in the centre of the album cover?

He stands for the modern humanity with all its scientists, religious leaders and politicians who is pictured a short time before he realizes, that humanity will fail and destroy itself, because of arrogance, ignorance, corruption and greed.

-Lyrics of song titled „Theo-crazy” are full of criticism of religions. Do you think the world without religions could be better?

Probably not, it seems that most people have an inner desire to believe in something: in a life after death or in a higher form of existence, call it whatever you want. That's ok, because it's in us. The world would be at least better with tolerant religious people, who stop thinking they have the right religion - there is no right religion, it's just the question of time and place you are born. But what I really despise in context with religions is for what they are abused: religious leaders are interpreting religious lyrics how they need it to brainwash people, to justify crimes against people, who think different or believe in something different, to start holy wars which no religion wants. In most cases, just look at the past, religions or ideologies (which is almost the same) were used to keep the people stupid, to scare them through superstition, just to preserve their own power.

-Another interesting lyrics are „Hypocrite's Tears”. Who is the titled hypocrite?

He's the last American President. The tears he cried after the last gun rampages during his mandate were certainly honest, I believed him. Probably they were a sign for the helplessness he felt, because he knew that he neither cannot stop these senseless killings nor alter the laws, which could limit it. Perhaps it's hard to call him a hypocrite because of that, perhaps it's the dilemma of politicians, that they cannot say the truth even if they want to. This is the point where I ask myself sometimes, how long can this work?

-In your lyric's you touch more social problems. What is your main inspiration for writing?

Just the news every fucking day, most make me sick!!!

-Listening to „Condemned to Fail” I hear a lot of Death Metal influences. Are you big fans of this genre?

Most of us are Death Metal fans, yes. But for me there's no big difference between Thrash and Death Metal, Death Metal evolved from Thrash Metal, they belong together. The biggest difference are the vocals, not really the riffs, aren't they? Listen to "Reign in Blood" you will find some Death Metal riffs as well.

-Now we have a big wave of large number young thrash bands all over the world. Do you think you are the successors of Slayer and Kreator or between them?

Of course we are the successors of Slayer, Exodus, Forbidden, Overkill, Death, Accu\$er and Channel Zero, not Kreator. But we are too unknown to could have influenced the new bands, so we are of course also between them.

-Thank you very much.

I thank you Bartek for your interest, for reading our lyrics and last but not least through that - for your support.

Thrash on - forever.

Philip (REPENT)