

Control MAG: The Sanctuary of Rock



Wolf
a.k.a. Anthony
Rezhawk
Frontman

Terrorizer was formed twenty-six years ago. However, there are people in Latin America that still hasn't heard about Wolf yet.

Sanctuary of Rock: Could you please tell us briefly about your beginnings?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Yeah, sure! I have been playing music since I was 13 years old or so. I have been playing with bands since then; it would keep me away from trouble and it's helped me in different ways as an artist and as a human being. I've been in a few different bands, some of them I don't really remember the names but the bands that I could definitely remember are the bands that have always been involved in Resistant Culture and Resistant Melissa. I was actually talking about this topic with

another interview and they were asking me about Jesse Pintado involvement with Resistant since he actually played with us before he was Terrorizer.

This was back in the day when Jesse used to do tape trading. He also had a scene where he would interview and review bands and stuff and he did an interview with us where he ended up playing with us for a little while but we lived really far apart from each other. We were teenagers at that time and couldn't drive yet so his dad had to bring him to the studio for rehearsals; however, that didn't work because of the distance. There is a lot of legacy and stories I could share and go on forever but yeah.

Sanctuary of Rock: Absolutely, it's awesome that Katina Culture is still with you even after many years after with Resistant Culture.

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Yeah, absolutely.

Sanctuary of Rock: So, what is going on with Resistant Culture?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Yeah, actually we have a new album that we have been working on and we also had Dan Swanö Mix 4 - 5 songs so now we're shopping around for a label to be able to put it out. As a matter of fact, this album will have Pete Sandoval on two tracks; since we're family and we're all connected one way or another, we have fun working with each other so we're definitely looking forward to this new recording for Resistant Culture.

Sanctuary of Rock: Sounds great, can't wait to hear it. Moving forward with Terrorizer, I would like you to clarify a point about the band.

All fans know about the separation suffered by the band of the release Darker Days Ahead because of the passing of Jesse Pintado.

Was it just time to let the wounds heal after the lost of Jesse or simply just a planned silence? What was the status of the band and the silence and why were there no official press statement?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Well, they asked for a statement when our brother Jesse passed away, you know; we basically explained where we were at that point. We were basically just mourning, we were devastated by such a great lost of not only a musician but a very great friend you know? Jesse was a very good friend of mine and of Pete's. So, it was one of those moments that just left you breathless and it's definitely something that is going to knock you out. You put out an album, you have all these wishes and hopes to keep doing more, it was just at the time to let everything just be what it was and to eventually come back.

Sanctuary of Rock: Well now it's the present, the newest release from Terrorizer is called "Hordes of Zombies". What does the title mean? Is the album art linked to the title?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Absolutely, the cover, the lyrics are definitely connected.

Sanctuary of Rock: Does it have anything to do with real stories that we hear in the news nowadays?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Well, it's basically depicting humanity as careless, empathetic and ignorant beings. Humanity doesn't really care about much except about making money, material possession and things that bring you instant gratification rather than creating a better way of life base on mutual respect or preservation on its self?? And all these different things that can make a better world you know? It's pretty much depicting the way we behave as humans.

Sanctuary of Rock: Yeah, we are slowly building up misanthropy all over the world.

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Absolutely, that was pretty much the goal, to use something as mundane as the Zombies as a metaphor. A lot of people when the link came out their reaction was "oh man, Terrorizer, Zombies, I don't get it!" But that's the point that most people need to

be fed, need to be spoon-fed, need to be told what something it is rather than read it for themselves. If you can't read the booklet or lyrics you will see that it's not your typical zombie story.

Sanctuary of Rock: Exactly, as Emmanuel Kant the philosopher said, "people don't dare to know" right?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Yeah, you know, someone ask me in regard to the new album saying, 'Are you doing this, it is a horror spooky theme?' I told them, "Well, life itself is kind of scary nowadays, you know? Things have changed considerably and these changes are downgrading, it's not necessarily upgrading. Everything is smaller; the air is getting polluted, in the food, polluted in the water.

Sanctuary of Rock: Sometimes what I would tell my musician friends, if you want to get inspiration to record an album, just watch the news and listen to the headline stories.

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: [laughs] yeah, exactly. Absolutely!

Sanctuary of Rock: Did you see the news about the guy in New York City, who ate his own flesh and threw it towards the cops?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Yup, I mean just recently, it's pretty weird, because this whole zombie phenomenon. It was 2 weeks ago, where there was a guy who was eating another guy's face, another guy who killed his roommate and pulled out his heart and ate it. There was also a woman who ate a child but I'm not too familiar with that story there but I do know it happened recently. I thought to myself, "What is this? Is this just a product of all this Zombie Marketing?" Part of my concept was that, we are all behaving like zombies, sort of like making fun of the Zombie Phenomenon, making

fun of people's mental poverty, but making fun of something funny but in reality it's not funny. It's happening on so many different levels.

Sanctuary of Rock: Which is ever sadder, though?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Oh, absolutely, but it's even better. [Laughs a bit]



Hordes of Zombies!

Sanctuary of Rock: How was the writing process for this album?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Well, the writing process was nice and smooth to tell you the truth. It all started when Pete asked me, "hey, you know, I've been thinking that we should put together a demo and record something". So then since we didn't have too much time because he was on the road a lot with Morbid Angel at that time, he would come up with some stuff and show it to me, he knows I enjoy writing, I mean that's all I do. I'm already working on some stuff right now to tell you the truth. He knew that so he told me, "hey do you want to work on something and send it to me" so I accepted and started working on some new material and at that time we had already had ask Katina to join us with this recording with 4 or 5 songs. But somehow, we had 13 songs!! When I sent them to Pete, he really liked what he heard, at that time we decided to write songs that doesn't really take too much time for him to do. One

thing he can always do is the blast beats? The guy has no problem. It's something that doesn't really require much time for him. We got together, we made all these songs and he really liked what we had created. A couple months after that we got together and he laid down all the drums because we knew that he was going to have an operation a few months afterwards so we wanted to track everything before the operation. We were glad that everything turned out ok; I mean it took forever to come out but we recorded and wrote all this music in 2008.

Sanctuary of Rock: Yeah, you did state that you left this project without finishing it in 2009, was it difficult coming back to it and finishing the record?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: No, not at all. At the time, the fire was there, and all we needed was the backing of Century Media but they weren't interested in working with us on a new album so we needed a new record label to work with. We found a new record label called Season of Mist. It wasn't that we left Century Media; it was more like they left us.

Sanctuary of Rock: Was it lack of support or the label not being on the same page with the band?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Well, yeah that had a little bit to do with it. For example our record Darker Days Ahead didn't really break any records or get positive input. It wasn't a bad recording or a bad album, something just wasn't there. It added fuel to the fire, as a band, Terrorizer was coming back with a new singer, new bass player, it was a little controversial and the fact that some people were lacking interest. That might have had something to do with the label not being interested because they possibly thought we were going to do the same thing (music).

Sanctuary of Rock: What's the point in recording the same sound album two or three times, you're not Iron Maiden in that sense.

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Exactly, yeah you know, it would be very easy for us to go and emulate and try to sound the same like World Downfall, it would be easy to



David Alexander Vincent recorded the bass as a studio musician.

just go in there and move some riffs around you know? But that's not the point you know? For us, we needed to do something that was relevant to our time today.

And we just pushed ourselves and stayed true to our philosophy. And if people liked or not that is something they are entitled to have an opinion

Sanctuary of Rock: Absolutely, everyone is entitled to their own opinion. Do you have any opinion on the reaction towards listeners who compare Hordes of Zombies to World Downfall?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Every now and

then somebody would say, "This is not like World Downfall" and personally I would say it doesn't really bother me at all, everybody has their opinions.

Sanctuary of Rock: Yeah, that's right!

David Vincent recorded bass for this record, correct?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Yeah, he recorded the bass as a studio musician. He just came in and played the bass.

Sanctuary of Rock: Did he do any backup vocals in this recent album?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: No, he just came in and did the bass playing and that was about it.

Sanctuary of Rock: So he was just collaborating during recording the new album at that time, not going on tour with Terrorizer?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: No; basically the record label (season of mist) were putting out the Morbid Angel album so there is

already that relationship there and well they thought it would be cool to get him in the recording because of his involvement with World Downfall. For me, I thought it was cool like alright, let's do this. The fact is David was really busy and the label asked us if we would consider and we were yeah for sure; but it was just a studio thing, very fast collaboration.

Sanctuary of Rock: You were the producer if I'm not wrong, right?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Yes, I produced this recording.

Sanctuary of Rock: What were the goals to work in this type of intimate circle in term of people's involvement?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Well, personally my goal was to come up with a brutal album (brutal, devastating, extreme, metal, extreme metal, grind core album). More than anything when we did Darker Days Ahead, I wasn't happy with the production, I didn't like the way they worked on my vocals, I didn't like the guitar sound. So I was very particular with the sound.

Sanctuary of Rock: So it was better to have you taking over instead of someone who producing a record you might dislike.

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Exactly, because for me, first album, it was like wow, I'm coming into this band, I'm filling in somebody's shoes and I have a vision of the way things should be, or the way I should sound but if somebody says well no, I'm the producer here, I know the way you got to sound, let me do it my way. So at that point I was put on to the side, I basically had to just stand there and watch everything crumble before me.

Personally I did not like the production from the beginning so what happened at that time was that I was giving them ideas then I was told by everybody that the next album, "you can do it, you can produce it, I like your idea but now it's too late because we got to release this album". So that's pretty much how I got this gig. I showed Pete some of my work with just some keyboards and he really liked the ideas I was doing, but as I said everything for darker days ahead was already set when I joined the band, so I didn't have much involvement in terms of the final result, but this time around I am in charge with Pete, and we take a brutal approach rather than a clean kind of sound, because to me darker days ahead had the hardcore metal sound, that late 90's early 2000's metal.

Sanctuary of Rock: What is the updates on Comando Health, what can you share with us?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Oh, he's 90% recovered, we've jammed already a few times you know when he's come by. When we did the Hordes of Zombie video we got together and pretty much jammed all the songs... and we are planning get back together, I can tell you, he is ready, or that he would be ready soon.

Sanctuary of Rock: Awesome, Any gigs in the near future?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Yeah, we're hoping to do some shows at the end of the fall in November but not sure of the details but we are definitely thinking of coming in slow. Come in just do 4 shows this year and if everything goes well this year then next year we will increase the shows and perhaps a tour.

Sanctuary of Rock: Have you personally been to South America?

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: No, never, I would love too though.

Sanctuary of Rock: You're going to enjoy it here.

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: [Laughs] can't wait man

Sanctuary of Rock: Actually Comando is a demigod over there! So you will love it!!

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk: Hahaha! Can't wait to go there!

Anthony "Wolf" Rezhawk

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