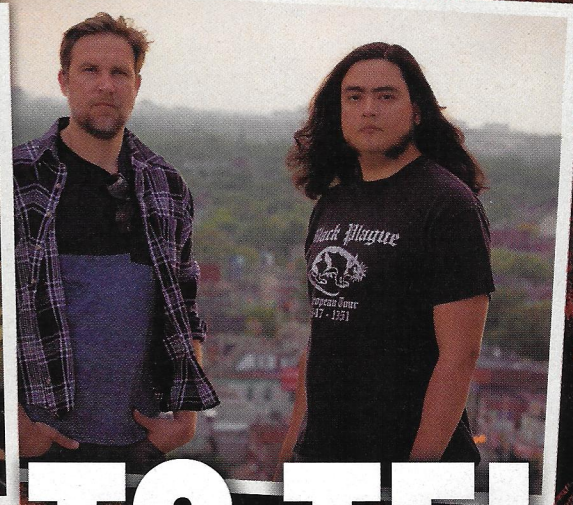
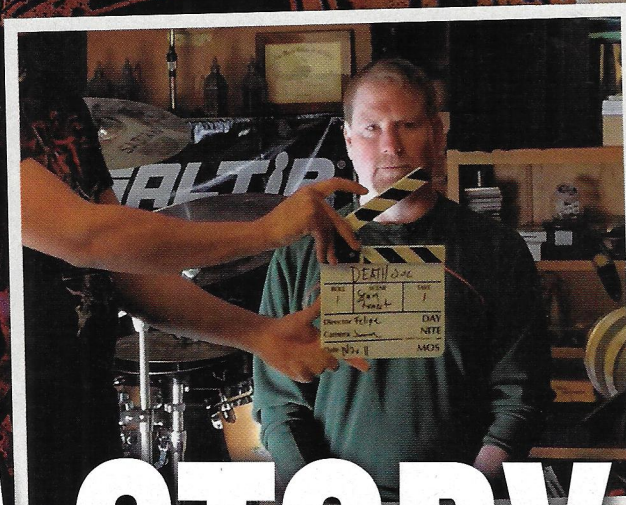


## The Sights and Sounds of Perseverance

Former Death/Cynic drummer Sean Reinert (l), art director Jaan Silmberg and director/editor Felipe Belalcázar (r)



## A STORY TO TELL

New documentary *Death - Death by Metal* lets the Chuck Schuldiner story flow

**O**n July 6, death metal's most important story, *Death - Death by Metal*, will hit shelves and be available for streaming (in full). While there have been other fantastic documentaries in metaldom—namely Cannibal Corpse's *Centuries of Torment: The First 20 Years*, At the Gates' *Under a Serpent Sun: The Story of At the Gates*, and, of course, *The Decline of Western Civilization II: The Metal Years*—the import of *Death* and the significance of *Death's* story remains unchanged. To have it compiled, composed and professionally presented is further proof that it is perhaps extreme metal's most important story. Expertly researched and directed by Felipe Belalcázar (formerly Banger Films), *Death - Death by Metal* takes viewers through *Death's* history and Chuck Schuldiner's origins via interviews with members of the Schuldiner family, Chris Reifert, Rick Rozz, Eric Greif, Jim Morris, Sean Reinert, Steve DiGiorgio, Gene Hoglan, Richard Christy and more.

"There were three things I went back to constantly," says Belalcázar. "[*Decibel* Editor] Albert

[Mudrian]'s book [*Choosing Death*], the band's archive [at Empty Words] and the *Decibel* oral history on *Death* [issue #77]. All were very helpful. The oral history was really helpful with dates. Most of the dates out there didn't match, but when I started to cross-check and ask around, the oral history was the most accurate."

Fully endorsed by the Schuldiner family and working in conjunction with Eric Greif, former *Death* manager and chief "Legal Terror" at Perseverance Holdings Ltd., *Death - Death by Metal* pulls no punches in detailing Schuldiner's ambition, the evolution of *Death*, the genesis of *Control Denied* and the personalities behind it all, as told by Schuldiner's former bandmates, friends, family members and colleagues. Throughout *Death - Death by Metal*, they paint Schuldiner and his music from various lenses, most favorable, some contentious, all agreeing that *Death* was (and still is) at the vanguard of extreme metal. There's a sense of genuine continuity that plays out as a result. Schuldiner was

generous, artistic, stubborn, agreeable, extemporaneous, difficult, but most of all he was just like us. A person. Musically, *Death - Death by Metal* is a fantastic view into *Death* itself, but it's an equally engaging window into the person behind it.

"I've had people come up and tell me, 'You're revisioning history,'" Belalcázar says. "To which I think, 'Well, you weren't there and the people I've talked to who were have a different take that aligns.' So, who do I believe? The random guy or people who worked with Chuck for many years? But I also get the opposite, especially from younger people. They come up to me, almost crying. A guy in Montreal came up to me, frantically speaking in French. I don't speak French, so I had one of the organizers of the screening translate. So, this guy who I thought was in serious trouble only wanted to thank me for allowing him to 'meet' his hero. He honestly felt like he got to hang out with Chuck for almost two hours." —CHRIS DICK