

D A N C I N G T O T H E D E C A D E N C E D A N C E
- "Decadence Dance", Extreme

[Podcast#: 29 - Individuality](#)

Posted in [Podcasts](#) on September 18th, 2007

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Are CDs less personal than vinyl? Tune in and find out as Genghis and Ragman discuss how the packaging enhances the product, follow by an interview with **Heaven and Hell** (AKA **Black Sabbath**) drumming legend, **Vinny Appice**. Vinny discusses his illustrious career, from the 'Sabs to his most current project, **3 Legged Dog**. Vinny's beat the skins for some of the most legendary bands in heavy music, so tune in and enjoy.

Guest Tracks: *Arch Enemy - Blood on Our Hands; Motley Crue - Too Fast for Love; Robert Plant - Ship of Fools; Cacophony - Desert Island; 3 Legged Dog - Frozen Summer & Dio - King of Rock n Roll*

- **Ragman** has been praying for a *Frozen Summer*...

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[Waking Up Dead](#)

Posted in [DVD Reviews](#) on September 13th, 2007



Ever wonder what it would be like to be a rock star? It is the dream of many of us; the glitz, the glamor and all of the killer parties. Sounds sweet doesn't it? Well, not if you're Phil Varone. Phil Varone is best known for his work as the drummer of **Saigon Kick** and **Skid Row**. *Waking Up Dead* takes you on a journey through four years of Phil's life. Emmy award-winning journalist & filmmaker Fabio Jafet documents the darker side of rock and roll and chronicles the rise and fall of one of rock's most promising drummers. This film demonstrates what not to do if you get in a band and "make it".

Waking Up Dead takes you behind the scenes giving a true portrayal of what happens back stage after a show. From drugs to groupies, this film lays it all out there and doesn't hold back one bit. It truly represents what can happen if you succumb to the excesses of the road. If you're looking for an eye-opener of a movie then check this out. Actually, every aspiring rocker should check this out, you might learn something.



- **Ragman** hopes Phil is on the way to recovery! Good luck Brutha!

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[Andromeda - Playing Off the Board](#)

Posted in [DVD Reviews](#) on September 13th, 2007



Feeling a bit proggy? Then get ready for the new **Andromeda** live DVD as it showcases progressive metal at its best! The quintet from Sweden offers up a platter of progressive metal that would satisfy any appetite. If you're not familiar with **Andromeda**, they were formed approximately seven years ago and have raised the bar when it comes to progressive rock. These guys play with emotion and passion and it shows in their performance. The DVD really gives you a feel for what these guys are truly about, whether it be the ripping guitars of Johan Reinholdz, or the soaring vocals of David Fremberg.

Even though they only have 3 studio records under their belt, they pack enough punch into this DVD to make you crave more.

The show was filmed during their 2006 tour in support of **Chimera**. The DVD spans approximately an hour and a half, and contains more than an hour of bonus video footage. This is a must have for prog fans, as these guys are picking up where **Dream Theater** left off. Check this out, it rocks!



- **Ragman** is reaching deep within...

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[Within Temptation - The Heart of Everything](#)

Posted in [CD Reviews](#) on September 13th, 2007



There's a growing number of metal bands that feature female lead singers, and truth be told a lot of them aren't that bad. I know that sounds like a back-handed compliment, but let's be honest; the numbers are against them when it comes to a straight comparison in terms of experience, longevity & even popularity. Remember Vixen? Phantom Blue? Right.

Well, luckily there are bands that have women singing for them that have a great deal more input than just the hot chick up front in the bustier. Case in point: Within Temptation.

This band out of Europe (where the history comes from) knows what they're looking for in terms of mood and sound and they hit their mark well. Yeah, they basically look like a Goth's wet dream, though they consider themselves symphonic metal - and to be honest, I can't decide who's right. And that's not to say there isn't anything to respect about Goth music from a metal fan's perspective. This is pretty good stuff in the vein of Evanescence (don't give me that look) but less commercial (for American radio) and more heavy. They're a little heavy on the keyboards, sometimes approaching cheesy, but they've got a nice big production sound and I've had more than one person overhearing it say "Hey who's that?"

Unfortunately (depending on how you look at it) there's just no escaping the obvious similarities to Evanescence. They even have a track like Evanescence's *Bring Me To Life* called *What Have You Done* which features a guest male vocalist trading off with Sharon den Adel in a quasi rap style a la Paul McCoy. Sharon may look like Amy Lee's mother, but she's been doing this longer and arguably better as the band's enjoyed multiple awards and accolades for their music in their native Netherlands for years now. She's earned some respect - even after hearing that silly high-pitched thing she does on *The Cross*.

Bottom Line: This is good music for fans of symphonic metal with a Goth edge and female vocals to boot. If you like bands like Evanescence or Lacuna Coil, chances are you'll like this too - just remember that symphonic part.



Tracks I Hear In My Head When I Watch [Blood & Chocolate](#): *Frozen, The Howling & What Have You Done*

- **Genghis** likes a good werewolf movie

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[The Absence - Riders Of The Plague](#)

Posted in [CD Reviews](#) on September 13th, 2007



Look, I'll be honest with you (cuz we're good like that); sometimes I put a new metal CD in my player and I feel like "if I hear ONE more band with the same sound with the drum beat that sounds like a dripping faucet on an aluminum pie plate and the cookie monster vocals about war or something, I'm gonna shit myself". I was kind of in that mood when I cued up **The Absence** ([Metal Blade Records](#)) and their latest disc. I mean, "*Riders of the Plague*? What is this, a death metal/thrash tribute to **The Doors**?". That's what I thought. There, I said it.

But once the CD [ed. See that, Rag? CD should be in all caps. QUIT MAKING ME REPLACE THAT IN YOUR REVIEWS!] got going I was very pleasantly surprised. This sounds like the American equivalent of classic In Flames. Sure, they're billed as torch-bearers of the neo-thrash movement, but there's such an obvious love of Scandinavian metal it can't be ignored. But that's the sweet part, as the melding of ballsy American thrash with the melodic transcendence of bands like **In Flames & Scar Symmetry** is certifiably BAD-ASS.

This is the Floridian band's second CD and already they have some crazy guest spots that belie the respect they've garnered in the few years they've been in business; notably, fellow Florida axe wizard Santiago Dobles (**Aghora**), semi-legendary James Murphy (**Testament**), Jonas Kjellgren (producer for **Scar Symmetry**, **Carnal Forge**) and Per Nillson (**Scar Symmetry**), with guest vocal work from Jonas Granvik (**Without Grief**, **Edge of Sanity**). It's a great CD and a hell of a sophomore release for any metal band. If there's any complaints, it's the mix. I don't tweak the hell out of my equalizer, but the generic "rock" EQ setting works for most bands, and with this CD the leads are kind of washed out for some reason. I know the producer knows his stuff, cuz the last Scar Symmetry album was near perfect. meh.

If you're a fan of ripping, melodic, harmonized guitars and neo-thrash, you should definitely check out this band.



Tracks I'm Still Air Guitaring To: *The Murder* (3:30), *World Divides* (3:01) & *Awakening* (3:03)

- **Genghis** *loves the thrash*

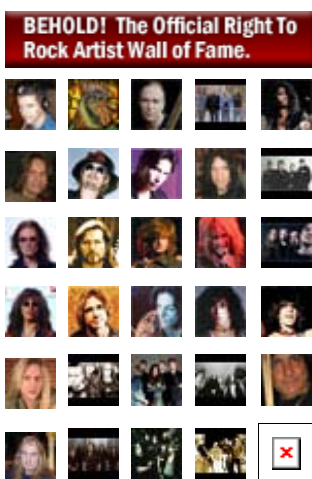
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- [Beer Recipes](#) (4)
- [CD Reviews](#) (32)
- [Concert Reviews](#) (4)
- [DVD Reviews](#) (5)
- [Interviews](#) (14)
- [Music News](#) (5)
- [Personnel](#) (4)
- [Podcasts](#) (29)
- [Poll of the Week](#) (2)
- [TRTR News](#) (27)

September 2007

S M T W T F S

1

[2](#) 3 [4](#) 5 6 7 8

9 [10](#) [11](#) [12](#) [13](#) 14 15

16 17 [18](#) 19 20 21 22

23 24 25 26 27 28 29

30

[« Aug](#)

• Archives

- [September 2007](#)
- [August 2007](#)
- [July 2007](#)
- [June 2007](#)
- [May 2007](#)
- [April 2007](#)
- [March 2007](#)
- [February 2007](#)
- [January 2007](#)
- [December 2006](#)
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