| Most Recent | Most Popular

Sign up for free stuff, music info & more! | Log In | Help





Search City Pages





Share 54



Features Romantica's Ben Kyle reflects on creative life



Curtiss A prepares for his 31st annual Lennon tribute

y favorite. Flipping



Helena Thompson's Purest Spiritual Pias



Most Popular Stories

50 Reasons to love Minneapolis/St.

Like 54

4 retweet

0

Impaler's Bill Lindsey shares memories and holiday greetings

Longtime frontman comes a-knocking

By Danny Sigelman Wednesday, Dec 22 2010

Comments (3) A A A

Knee-deep in my parents' basement, what was once an after-school hangout is now a thrifter's paradise, a mélange of '80s teenage artifacts. Stacked high among the old art projects and school books are shoeboxes full of cassette tapes; one has Van Halen II recorded on one side, Metal Health on the other.

Remember those old handheld Mattel games with the little hockey, and baseball games nestled in that basement, along with dra Vic 20, and Nintendo cartridges. Yar's Revenge w pictures of old friends and relatives, shots of my ball games and in the backseat of the station wago stills from, all things, an Impaler concert my older brother had taken.

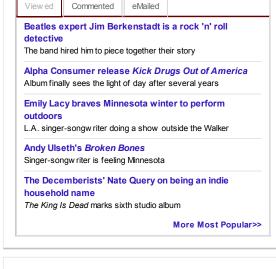
The killer shots were from an '86 show the Twin Ci First Avenue Mainroom. There was a shot of guita glide, and another of someone's studded shoulder and were close-ups of singer, fire-breather, and body-muti hand groping a blood-drenched microphone, looking the camera straight in the eye.

"Hey Bill. You don't know me but I have somethin after finding him online. "There're some old pictures I found at my folks'house of

Impaler."

'That's really kind of you. I'd love to come by and pick them up," he quickly responded.

The first "punk-metal" record ever made in our frosty state, Impaler's Rise of the Mutants EP, was released on national label Combat Records in 1985. Putting Minnesota on the map in the expanding world of metal, Impaler blended the two sounds, wrote their own









songs, and put on insane displays inspired by their obsession with zombie horror movies.

A few days after my correspondence with Lindsey, my phone rings. I don't recognize the number on my phone so it must be him.

"Can I park in front of your house or is there a snow emergency?" asks a voice with a thick St. Paul accent.

Lindsey pulls up and gets out of the car, his long hair waving in the cold and snowy wind, and I start to get a bit nervous. I don't really get nervous around rock singers. But in this case I'm thinking maybe I should hide my pets.

He's spotted me at my door so it's too late. "Should I take off my shoes?" he asks.

"Oh no, don't worry about it," I tell him, running over to the music room to find my Impaler records.

"Your wood floors are so beautiful, I think I really should,"he insists.

As we pour some green tea, Lindsey starts telling me some of his favorite memories from his 28 years in Impaler. "At that time what was big with hard-rock and metal bands was to play covers," he says. "But I really wanted to play original metal. There was a thriving punk scene with Hüsker Dü and Rifle Sport putting on their own shows and playing their own stuff, and I thought, 'Why can't a metal band do that too?"

Impaler stabbed the hearts and ears of punk and metal fans alike, garnering huge exposure due to controversial lyrics and an ingenious album cover. With Lindsey in spandex, spikes, and heavy eyeliner, devouring a woman's corpse, the album frightened wigs off religious leaders and a gaggle of Washington, D.C., wives who annunciated Rise of the Mutants, along with albums by Twisted Sister and another of Tipper Gore's Minnesota favorites, Prince, as music that would incite outrageous and sick behavior.

"After the whole P.M.R.C. thing these evangelists, the Peters Brothers from Lake Elmo, started picketing and reading the bible at our shows," Lindsey remembers. "Eventually they hired us to be in one of the videos for their church," he smirks with pride. "As unpolitical as I was at 21 years old, I thought that was really just posturing. Seven years later Al Gore was on MTV to get the vote from young people."

Still performing with Impaler almost three decades on, Lindsey continues to horrify crowds with continuous releases and the band's legendary show. Blistering eardrums and tearing up bodies of diehard fans across the country, they really make a killing on the European metal festival circuit, where this type of music was never just something the kids were going

Impaler's Bill Lindsey shares memories ...



Slideshow: Impale

Related Content

Double Bird's Dave Storberg talks beer, bands, and the Rockin' East Side July 22, 2010

Impaler's Bill Lindsey: The extended interview December 22, 2010

13 songs for Egypt February 3, 2011

Top 10 Christmas weekend shows and events December 23, 2010

Impaler through the years: A look back at the local metal band's 28-year history December 22, 2010

More About

Bill Lindsey

Iron Maiden

Atari 2600

Metal and Hardcore

Arts, Entertainment, and Media



for free stuff, music info & more!

enter email

Slideshows



Mr. Zero's: A music lover's shop from another era



Lyle Lovett and John Hiatt at the State Theater



Get Cryphy Warms up for Their 3 Year Anniversary

More Slideshows >>

Minneapolis Classifieds

buy, sell, trade (4,388) musician (873)

rentals (1,779) jobs (470)

personals (136) adult entertainment (6,600)

Entertainment



Mayslack's Restaurant View Ad | View Site



Famous Dave's BBQ & Blues

View Ad | View Site

Mcnally Smith College Of Music View Ad | View Site



Yoga Center Of Mpls. View Ad | View Site

through.

Lindsey's son, better known as "Dr. Corpse," is now part of the act. "He does backup vocals and stage antics," Lindsey says. "He hits me with a folding chair, pro-wrestling style, and split my head open not once but twice!"

The teakettle is empty. My cat crawls out from under a pile of coats and mittens in the hallway. I ask Bill about his family and the holidays. We talk about shows we've seen, all the metal bands we both really love, and spirituality.

Bill tells me he works in physical therapy at a hospital in St. Paul. He helps people get back in shape and get their arm and leg muscles working again, quite a contrast to what he does with Impaler. He laughs, telling me some of his patients have come to watch him play in the past, and how he loves what he does at work and with the band.

1|2|Next Page >> Check out this week's featured ad for Music Famous Dave's BBQ & Blues Club View Website More Ads >> Share 6 9 9 9 F 6 7 F Add New Comment Sign in with an option below or if you don't have an account, please enter a comment and click Post As to comment as a guest

Showing 3 comments

Sort by Newest first ▼

Real-time updating is enabled. (Pause)



Mark O 1 month ago

Impaler was by far the best band of the night 12/26. Blew away lcarus Witch and Di'Anno. Long live Impaler!

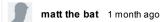
1 person liked this.

1 person liked this.

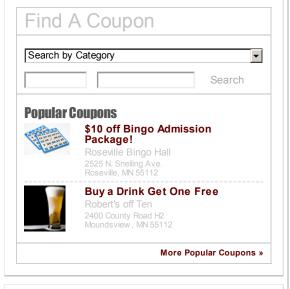


Randy Engebritson 1 month ago

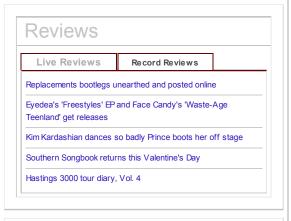
The pride of Mn. Metal!!! You rule, Bill!



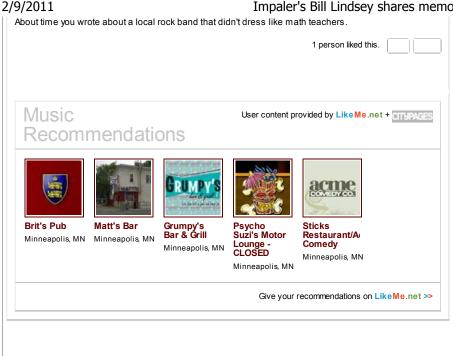


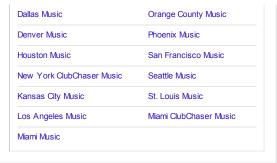


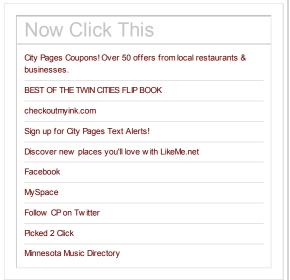




Music Across the Nation Brow ard/Palm Beach Music New York Music











 $About \ Us \ | \ Work for \ City \ Pages \ | \ Esubscribe \ | \ Free \ Classifieds \ | \ City \ Pages \ Advertising \ | \ National \ Online \ Advertising \ | \ Mobile \ | \ Privacy \ Policy \ | \ Terms \ of \ Use \ | \ Problem \ With \ the \ Site? \ | \ Site \ Map \ | \ Problem \ With \ Problem \ Prob$

© 2011 City Pages, LLC, All rights reserved.