

One of the band that really impressed me last year, was the Swedish quartet Stongriff. Pure and Heavy doom metal, the way Candlemass has taught it, with a lot of influences from the Black Sabbath blackness. “Come Taste The Blood” has won a lot of spins on my CD player, so that was a chance to talk to the band's mastermind and guitarist, Molde, in a very interesting interview.

First of all, congratulations for your second effort, “Come Taste The Blood”, an album that really made my last few weeks miserable, in the good sense. Having heard your debut album as well (“Prologus Magicus”), I must say that the band has evolved a lot. I cannot say that the debut appealed to me that much, but “Come Taste The Blood” simply blew me away. What was so different that transformed you into a very interesting band?

Thanks, it is cool that you find the album interesting. “Prologus Magicus” leaning more towards the 70's than “Come Taste the Blood” and is more underground in the way it was recorded. “Come Taste the Blood” have also more evilness than “Prologus” but the big difference between the two is probably that the songs on “Prologus” is from a period of about three years and the songs on “Come Taste the Blood” is written as a whole is a pretty short period of time. Of course the fact that we have grown as a band matters as well.

The album is out sometime now and I guess that the reception was really good. Did you expect something different from the reception that “Come Taste The Blood” got?

Actually we have got far better response than we expected. What is fun is that also regular Metalheads seems to like “Come Taste the Blood” which is cool.

Which was the composition progress followed for “Come Taste The Blood”? I have seen that you are is responsible for all the lyrics and music, however is there any co-operative work involved?

As for now I am the only Composer in Stonegriff but the whole band is involved is a way. Basically I presented a new riff or some fragments of a song and the other say yes or no, ha ha, naturally I and Jacob talks most about the content in a certain song and of course it is important that Jacob stand behind the lyrics since it is he who give them life. In the end we have what we thought was material for a full album and I am pleased with the outcome.

Jacob will probably co-compose and perhaps have one or two songs of his own on the next album but time will tell.

You have worked with one of the most known figures in heavy metal, as it concerns the production and the mastering, Andy La Roque. In what ways did he helped you in achieving such a great result?

Andy was really an asset when we recorded “Come Taste the Blood”. First and for most he was very easy to work with and really know his trade. He did not really change stuff but he added the small things contributing to the magic. We are very glad that he worked with us since he really understood what we are aiming at with this album and really got it spot on.

The title track is really great. Was that the main reason that you named the album as “Come Taste The Blood” or there is something else behind the title of the album?

Thanks, “Come Taste the Blood” was our main choice when we named the album, partly cause of the song but also for its own purpose.

One of the things that strikes me, is the chemistry between the band. That shows greatly, from the fact the each member of the band works for the total result. A great example is the singer Jacob that has an amazing technique and range, however he does not over doing it and he puts first the total atmosphere of the song. The same happens with the guitars as well. How do you achieve this? Do you believe this is what we call chemistry?

I certainly believe so. We do really see ourselves as a band and it is the overall Picture that is important for all of us. Jacob is really good to get the vibe of a song and Always make it his first priority to embrace that. When a song is complete we Always know at the same time and we do share the love for our kind of Metal.

What is the meaning of the front cover and what do you want to get across with it?

That nothing is what it first seems like. The cover is painted by the great Santiago Caruso and when we came across it we know it would be perfect for our album.

Ok, you are from Sweden and you play classic doom metal, so the comparison between Stonegriff and Candlemass cannot be avoided. I wrote on my view, that you guys sound like a mixture between “Epicus Domicus Metallicus” and “Chapter IV” filtered by the Black Sabbath attitude. Would that be a way of describing “Come Taste The Blood”?

Actually I Think it is one of the best description of our Music on “Come Taste the Blood” so far not at least due to Jacobs vocal performance and the relatively heaviness on “Come Taste the Blood”. It is true our attitude is more kind of Sabbath and we are certainly more of a rock 'n' roll band than Candlemass although we stand on very Heavy ground from time to time.

The lyrical content, from what I have seen, is fictional stories. Where do you draw your influences for the lyrics?

Well, the lyrics is only partly fictional since there is a certain amount of seriousness about them. The lyrics can be viewed in several ways and the fictional perspective is quiet fine with me. How ever there is more to them for those who seeks it.

Have you done any concerts to support “Come Taste The Blood” or are you planning anything in the future?

We played at Malta Doom Metal, Doom over Scania and some other shows last year. At the moment we do not have any shows scheduled and most focus is on song Writing but we will probably do a few shows in the summer never the less.

Is it too soon to talk about the new Stonegriff album? Are you going to plan the sound on the new album or is it going to come natural through the composition process?

Well, the sound will evolve natural in the composition process but I guess it will in a way follow the progression from “Prologus Magicus” to ”Come Taste the Blood”. Perhaps a few faster songs but you never know until the end, right? One thing is for sure though, it will be a Doom album.

Since -unfortunately- some of our readers might now know a lot about Stonegriff can you please give us a small biography of the band?

I (Molde) and Grand Magnus have been friends for quiet a while and used to talked about forming a

band. In 2009 we did and during a few years we played with a few other musicians. When Jacob joined 2011/2012 the band was complete and all members aiming at the same goal. We signed a record deal with Metal On Metal 2013 and released "Prologus Magicus" in the fall of 2013. Shows in Sweden and one in Austria followed and the band evolved both musically and in live performance. In the spring of 2015 Metal On Metal released our second album "Come Taste the Blood".

Guess this is the most essential but if you would like to know more please check out Metal On Metal Records page for a longer biography.

What made you guys form Stonegriff and play this particular style of music?

I guess we have been Doom ever since. From the beginning we start to play old school hard rock/Metal and as the songs became more and more doomy by the weeks we have no other choice than to follow the road that was pointed out for us.

I don't want to tire you anymore, so I will thank you once more for your time in answering our questions and hopefully we will see you live in Greece someday. Please finish off this interview in whatever way you want to.

No prob, it has been a true honor. We really would like to play in Greece so you will never know. We hope that more Doom and Metalheads found out about our Music since we will be around for awhile. Check us out on the internet and find out about our style, we do think we have something to offer the metal Community.

Thanks for the questions and Doom on!

Links:

[Facebook](#)

[Myspace](#)

Band Members:

Grand Magnus (Drums)

Molde (Guitar)

Jacob (Voice)

Peter Wallberg (Bass)

Discography:

Prologus Magicus - 2013

[Come Taste the Blood](#) - 2015