



MIG Interview Cliff Jackson 02/2016

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1.

“Fire From The Soul” marks the bands 9th studio album; when you started out did you ever believe that you would still be releasing albums in 2016?

Back in 1969 we were one of the few German bands writing there own rock songs and performing these live. Polydor heard an Epitaph demo and we had a recording contract. We are grateful, that our fans stayed with us, so enabling us to keep recording and playing live. It’s a good feeling.

2.

Can you talk about the title of the new record and it’s meaning?

We played a small club gig in Brilon. After the show a good looking young girl came up to Bernie and myself and said: „Your music is like fire from the soul“ and that became the album title. The music on **Fire From The Soul** is very back to the roots incorporation alot of the elements that have influenced Epitaph from the last 40 years and as Tony Joe White said, if you don’t have fire from the soul -go back to pickin cotten.

3.

Can you describe how the EPITAPH of today typically writes a new album?

The songs are written in the head and practiced at sound checks, in the practice room and on skype in hotel rooms.



4. Looking back over the bands discography, what period stands out the most for either good or bad memories?

The period 72/74, when we spent quite some time in the USA, doing 3 tours and recording **Outside The Law**, what most people concide Epitaph best album. It was a helter skelter ride of emotions, that changed the band forever.

5. Back when the band started, there must have been a very tight knit scene between all the Hannover based „Krautrock“ bands such as JANE / ELOY / SCORPIONS. Was there any rivalry at all or did you all get on?

No at first, there was no rivalry - all very friendly. We were the first band with a record deal and the rest followed our lead. Later, everything changed and everything became more cut and run.

6. Having formed back in 1969, you must have seen so many different phases and genres of music come and go, but what we know as Rock / Hard Rock is still going strong, why do you think this is?

I think that rock / hard rock incorporates all the human emotions and feeling - bad and good. It's a bit like a mirrow reflecting the listeners - love & hate & anger etc.

7. What's been the most insane memory that you can think of regarding backstage antics from your time in EPITAPH?

After the Epitaph show backstage - Circus Kronen München, on the Status Quo Tour with 3000 fans screaming „Zugabe“ for a half hour.

8. How are things going in the EPITAPH camp these day's and are you excited about getting out on the road again and playing new material from "Fire From The Soul"?

At the momernt we are practicing for a acoustic DVD, which we will record in Hannover „Alter Bahnhof Anderten“ in March with the same lineup as we have on **Fire From The Soul**. The show will include 3 songs from **Fire From The Soul** (acoustic).



9.

If you could go open up for any artist on tour right now who would it be?

The bigger the better, but I think, we would fit into a USA Dave Mathews Tour. In Europe Iron Maiden.

10.

If I was to turn on your ipod right now, what five artists/songs would I see on your recently played list?

Chris Stapleton	Traveller
Rolling Stones	Exil On Main Street
Iron Butterfly	Butterfly Blue
Nektar	Remember The Future
Dave Matthews	Live At Red Rocks

11.

After more than forty odd years of EPITAPH existence, what's been the single biggest change in the music industry that you've noticed?

The Computer. We started recording on two track tape in Alster Studios Hamburg. Live in the studio, straight to tape. – Today, the producers and computer programers are the kings of music business.

12.

Have you any final words for the EPITAPH fans ahead of the release of „Fire From The Soul“?

Fire From The Soul is a musical sound track from Epitaph's last 40 years.