

1984 Aardschok (D.N.A.)

Earthquake Festival Review

Last year, we became acquainted with the Earthquake Festival for the first time. Then the following bands played in Kaatsheuvel: Trance, Killer, Picture, Highway and Chile Vandale. (See D.N.A. No. 5.) Because of the big success the management decided to make it an annual event.

On Saturday, April 7 the following bands performed: Crossfire, Vengeance, Bodine, Sortilege, Pretty Maids, Satan and Tokyo Blade. Pretty Maids could not make it. A week before the festival they had to fire their guitarist Pete Collins out of the band because of his abundant alcohol abuse, which caused quite a few problems. They've found a replacement and hopefully, within a few months they're hoping to do a mini-tour in the Netherlands. (We will keep you updated.) As a replacement, Warlock from Germany was recruited. What strikes me about the choice for 5 foreign bands, that they have recorded one (mini) LP. Therefore, these bands are known to the audience and yet affordable for the organisation. All bands (except for Bodine) were reported on in DNA over the last six months. Assuming that you guys buy each single copy of D.N.A. (wha...?), I will limit myself to a few referrals [to those articles, JR]. This is why I only interviewed Crossfire, Bodine, Sortilege and Satan about what happened since the last time they had exposure in DNA.

The festival was held in a horse riding school. To my surprise the sound was not too bad at all (except for Crossfire). Only in the back of the hall there was a lot of echoing going on. The organization was okay, just like last year.

[...]

VENGEANCE

BODINE

Dutch Earthquake.

After the Belgian band Crossfire it two Dutch bands' turn to perform. These bands had one thing in common. Both bade farewell today to one of their guitarists. Leo Beecmen is leaving Vengeance because he could not combine his duties for Vengeance with his family life.

Bodine played with Anthony Lucassen for the last time. He is joining Vengeance.

Vengeance showed this afternoon why they are considered to be one of the most promising Dutch acts. In D.N.A. No. 9 you can find out more about Vengeance and I am convinced that there you are likely to hear a lot more from them.

Bodine did not take me by surprise this afternoon. I just know that Bodine are a good live act. Bodine have a lot of stage experience. The collaboration between singer Axel and guitarist Rheno struck me most this afternoon.

Axel is very dynamic (moving around a lot). While Rheno acts very static. Axel needs little effort to set the audience and bass player Jeronimo in motion. But Rheno plays in one and the same pose. Only his fingers move about the 6 strings. From the album 'Three Times Running' Bodine played 6 songs (only the last songs of side A and B were left out). From the second album Bodine only played 'Heavy Metal Heart'. Furthermore, they played 'Freight Train',

which is on Bodine-1 and the greatest hits album 'Hard'. After the act I had a chat with Bodine drummer Gerard Haitsma.

On 'Three times running ' Armand van der Hoff is replaced by Jeronimo. Why the substitution?

GERARD: Armand quit the band and joined a Pentecostal Church (a religious community). Axel knew Jeronimo already for a while. After trying out many bass players Jeronimo turned out to be the best.

Your first albums did not come out in the U.S. A greatest songs record was supposed to be released. Did it come out after all?

GERARD: I don't know if it is or if it will be released. 'Three Times Running' will be released in the U.S. (at Elektra). It has already been released in 20 countries or so.

There were plans for you to tour the U.S. with Accept. Why were these plans cancelled?

GERARD: That's right. They even had the posters ready. Accept had done a tour with Judas Priest and thought they could do a tour with us in the same manner. They insisted on having Marshall towers flown in. Then it all became too expensive, and everything was cancelled.

Who will be the new guitarist?

GERARD: It's going to be Henry van Manen (formerly in Picture). Herman Frank (formerly in Accept) is probably going to be guest musician on the next album.

How many records have you sold?

GERARD: The first one sold about 12,000 times (it was well promoted). The second one was released in more countries and sold 20,000 times. We still don't have overall figures from the third record. 'Three times running' was sold 8,000 times in Japan, 5,000 times in Sweden and 9,000 in the Netherlands.

What has Bodine been doing in the past year?

GERARD: A lot. We have done about 40 gigs, most of them in the Netherlands, a couple in Germany. Our problem is that we don't have a production company investing in us. This makes it very difficult to play outside the Netherlands. We really have to do everything ourselves!!!! The problem is that we only signed to WEA Netherlands. Vandenberg, for example, is signed to WEA U.S.A. and there's a lot of money behind them.

To many people, you appear on the stage like if you are gay. Are you gay?

GERARD: No, what do you mean?

In particular, it's the way Axel moves about and the lipstick that Rheno is wearing?

GERARD: We want to be different from H.M. other bands. That is why we play different music and we do not wear steel belts. (It's just a part of our act.)

In D.N.A.'s popularity poll (issue no. 11) you find yourself on a modest 39th place. Picture and Highway Chile are even lower on the list. What do you make of that?

GERARD: The Netherlands are small. Bands become quickly 'bloated' here.

If someone suddenly goes crazy about one or the other English or American band then suddenly everyone goes raving about them. Furthermore we think the Dutch are narrow-minded about their own acts. We have no international recognition yet. You have to make it abroad first to break through in your own country. Bands like Judas Priest, Thin Lizzy also made many albums before they reached the top. Bodine is musically a lot better than many a

famous band. We'll make it, it's just that our road to the top will be longer, because we still haven't met the right people and our music is not commercial (like e.g. Vandenberg's).

Are you jealous at Vandenberg's success?

GERARD: No, they play in a more commercial style and their music is made for the American market. Furthermore, they have the luck to meet the right people (WEA America). Bodine has its own image and its own musical style, so you cannot compare us with Vandenberg. They are just good colleagues of ours. If Elektra releases our album in America, probably a tour will follow. This will become a major step to the top for us.

What can we expect the fourth album?

GERARD: We're going to record it July and it should come out in November. The style of 'Three Times Running' will be continued but the new song will sound much more perfected.

(Anthony Lucassen joined and sat down with us.)

Why are you leaving Bodine for Vengeance?

ANTHONY: There are two reasons. The first is that the music of Vengeance is closer to me than Bodine's. Further, Vengeance is a bit of a gamble. It's a band that could make a very quick break to the top. It is my ambition to live on my income as a guitarist. I don't have to be rich. Last week, we recorded 7 songs in 3 days for the debut album.