

INTERVIEW

WICKED PLAN

1. **Please, introduce your band to croatian audience, and how the band was founded? /**

Predstavite nam svoj bend ukratko, i kako je bend nastao?

Dan: The WICKED PLAN founders are Natali and myself. In 2012 we decided to build a high-caliber melodic metal band. Natali is responsible for the vocal melodies and lyrics. My part is the song writing. And while Natali is mainly inspired by male singers like Bruce Dickinson, Dio (R.I.P.) and Rob Halford, my musical influences are a mixture of Yngwie Malmsteen, the Baroque music and 80ies heavy metal and hard rock. Then we have Yanik Allenspach, our drummer and youngest band member. Yanik is laying the rhythmic foundation for the wicked riffs. He is playing a very explosive drum style, e.g. inspired by ex-Primal Fear power drummer Aquiles Priester. And the latest Wicked member - since 2016 - is Ed Cuennet on bass. Ed brought a new tone to our sound, more drive and presence. We were very happy about Ed's decision to join us.

2. **How long have you all known each other? How did you meet? /**

Koliko dugo se poznajete i kako ste se upoznali?

Natali: Dan and I know each other for more than 20 years! In my early days when I was recording a couple of songs, I've invited Dan to play some riffs and solos over my songs. This was when we first met. Soon we started to write songs together, and this is what we're still doing, currently for our band WICKED PLAN!

Dan: We met Yanik when we were looking for a drummer for a jam project from our music school. As soon as Yanik realized that we were also looking for a drummer for our band Wicked Plan, he was on fire! A couple of weeks later we had our first rehearsal and since then he's the Wicked Drummer.

With Ed it's a very short story! Simply because we were searching for a replacement for our prior bass player Seb, and one of the first advertisements was the one from Ed. We felt immediately that this is it. And now, only a couple of months later, we're touring together. Isn't it cool?

3. **Who is the chief in the band? Who is in charge for music and lyrics? /**

Tko je šef u bendu, i tko je zadužen za glazbu i tekstove?

Dan: We have splitted the song writing task between Natali and myself. While I write the music, Natali is writing all the lyrics and vocal melodies. We're working this way since many years and we're very successfull with this way of working together.

4. **Tell us about lyrical themes and inspiration in your songs, where do you find inspiration? What inspired you to make music together? /**

Koja je tematika i inspiracija vaših tekstova, gdje pronalazite inspiraciju ? Što vas je nadahnulo da stvarate glazbu skupa?

Natali: I like to write about mystical stories, often about dragons and I like the ancient Egypt. There are several songs where one can find Egyptian elements.

Dan: My personal inspiration comes from somewhere inside of me, finally. But of course everyone is inspired and influenced by other musicians, other music cultures - hopefully - and styles.

5. **Which are your favourite (own) songs, and why? /**

Koje su vam vaše najdraže pjesme i zašto?

Dan: My favourite songs from our current album are Wicked Plan, Dragon Eye and Paganini. And of course there are many many great songs from Yngwie Malmsteen, e.g. most of the songs from the album Facing The Animal, but also Yngwie's Concerto Suite is awesome for me as a neo-classical inspired composer and guitar player.

6. **I won't ask who are yours influences (it is obvious ☺), I will ask you – what are you listening to lately? /**

Neću vas pitati koji su vaši uzori (to je očigledno ☺), pitat ću vas što slušate u zadnje vrijeme?

Natali: I currently listen songs from Battle Beast, Jutta Weinhold, Iron Maiden, Dio and different Hair Metal bands.

Dan: I do mostly listen to Malmsteen and Baroque music, but also all kind of 80's Hard'n Heavy, Hair Metal and so on :-)) I also like a lot of Iron Maiden's stuff.

7. **And now, what kind of music you don't like to listen at all ? ☺ /**

A sad, koju vrstu glazbe uopće ne volite slušati? ☺

Dan: I don't like Techno, River Dance songs, or children's choir ;-)

Natali: Jodel!

8. **You have already done some gigs and tours outside of your country. Where was your best gig? /**

Već ste odradili koju turneju i svirku izvan CH, gdje vam se najviše sviđjelo svirati?

Dan: For me one of my best gigs was in Munich (Germany) in the "Garage Deluxe" club, which has an awesome and very stylish ambience!

Natali: For me the gig in Rostock in the "Kutscher" club was very cool, with great people and a super light backwall!

9. **You've probably had some bad experience with gigs? Would you share some of that experiences with us? /**

Vjerojatno ste imali i neka loša iskustva na koncertima? Želite li podijeliti s nama neko od iskustava?

Dan: Sad but true, but many - mostly small - clubs do not provide a backstage room where the band members can really prepare for the gig. Not enough space, dirty, not enough seats, and sometimes not even food or something to drink!

Natali: And often club owners do not provide timely information about when to be in the club or the time planning for sound check.

Dan: Yeah, and without time planning the band has a lot of waiting time. It's lost time! And sometimes essential parts of the monitoring system is not working, because they use old and crappy equipment and do not care about the conditions the bands have to deal with.

10. **What was the most bizarre/weirdest thing that happened while you were on stage? /**

Koja je bila najčudnija stvar koja vam se dogodila dok ste bili na stejdžu?

Dan: My index finger got stiff and I was not able to play for ca. 1 minute or so. Only after an intensive finger massage I was able to restart playing and was ready right before the guitar solo in Two Minutes To Midnight! I was a lucky man!

11. **What has been your biggest challenge as a band? Have you been able to overcome that challenge(and how)? /**

Koji je bio najveći izazov u bendu koji ste imali? Da li ste ga svladali, i kako?

When you have found good, supportive and reliable musicians with a professional work ethic (challenge #1, quite happy at the moment, otherwise it's a killer), and when you have written good songs, then the next thing is to convince bookers (challenge #2 - we're currently looking for a booker, again!) and also to get gigs by yourself (challenge #3 - works quite well as soon as you have good and personal connections). A key point is: You have to deliver a great show, every single time, even if you just see 10 people in front of you, you really want to give all! Oh, and did I mention money (challenge #4)? This one is a permanent challenge. You have to

invest a lot of money - beside blood and sweat.

12. If you could tour with any band, which band would it be? /

Da možete ići na turneju s bilo kojim bendom, koji bi to bend bio?

Natali: To play with Primal Fear would be very cool. I'm in contact with the singer Ralf, a very nice guy, and who knows...

Dan: To open a show for Iron Maiden or for Yngie Malmsteen would be on my list!

13. What are your future plans? And where would you love to play? /

Koji su vam daljnji planovi i gdje biste voljeli zasvirati?

Dan: A couple of months ago I have started writing new songs. We plan to record the next album in 2017/2018. Beside that I'd like to play more on festivals and in bigger clubs.

14. I assume that metal scene in Swiss is very richly with gigs, but is it too much saturated with the events?

Actually, tell us how is the scene there and does smaller bands are supported? /

Pretpostavljam da je metal scena u CH bogata koncertima, no je li previše zasićena sa događanjima? Kakva je scena, i da li se podržavaju manji bendovi?

Dan: Switzerland's most prominent music style is the so called "Mundart Rock", which is rock music with lyrics in Swiss dialect. There are not that many high caliber melodic metal bands here in Switzerland, and not that much venues booking heavy metal bands. But nevertheless we have a couple of really great venues and great fans!

15. Are you familiar with croatian metal scene? Is there any croatian metal band you like? /

Da li ste upoznati sa HR metal scenom? Da li postoji neki metal bend iz HR koji vam se sviđa?

Dan: To be honest I don't know Croatian metal bands, sorry. But I hope and I'm pretty sure that we will learn about some of them during the tour!

16. Recommend us some metal band from Swiss. /

Preporučite nam neki metal bend iz CH koji bismo trebali čuti.

Dan: Well you may already know the band Gonoreas which is currently touring with us, and then...

Natali: I'd like to mention Drifter, an early Swiss thrash band.

17. **What are your hobbies, except music? What are you doing in everyday life? /**
Čime se još bavite, osim glazbe? Što radite svakodnevno?

Dan: I have no hobbies except music related things. But I like to read books, mostly fantasy (check out Tad Williams or Markus Heitz), psychology related stuff (handwriting analysis is very interesting for example) or project management topics, as I'm a project manager for a Swiss security company.

18. **Are you familiar with croatian specialities (food and drink)? What would you love to taste, or you've already had taste? /**

Da li ste upoznati sa hrvatskim specijalitetima (hrana i piće) – izdvojite neki specijalitet koji biste htjeli probati / ste probali?

Dan: It's probably not a Croatian specialties, but I like chevapchichi and baklava very much :-). I will taste some Croatian specialties during the tour, for sure!

19. **In nowadays we are flooded with internet and everything is much easier to hear/get, what do you think– does gigs have less audience then before, and what about the merch? /**

U današnje vrijeme smo preplavljeni sa internetom i sve nam je dostupnije nego prije. Što vi mislite - da li se koncerti manje posjećuju i da li se manje kupuje merch?

Dan: Yes, especially local bands often don't have a big audience. And the very big bands are taking and making that much money (e.g. ticket for 150 CHF, or even more) from the fans, that people are not willing or able to spend money for local bands. This is a bad situation and it makes the music scene and culture less interesting.

20. **Do you already work on some new material at the moment? /**

Da li radite već na nekom novom materijalu trenutno?

Dan: Oh yeah, I'm working on songs for the next album. Two songs are almost done, one is a fast riffing song, the other one... a powerful ballad for singing with the audience! Looking forward to play these songs live for our fans.

21. **Natali, since you are the only girl in the band, how do you handle it, do guys take care of you? ☺ /**

Natali, pošto si jedina žena u bendu kako se nosiš sa ostatkom ekipe, da li te dečki paze? ☺

Natali: We're keeping together, no difference if one is a man or a woman.

22. **Some message to your fans here? /**

Poruka vašim fanovima ovdje?

Natali: Come to our concerts! Only this way you get the real "heavy metal live" feeling. Plus you're supporting the music scene.

Dan: First I like to THANK YOU for reading this interview! It shows me that you care about us and our music. So please go to our homepage at www.wickedplan.com and check out our fotos, CDs, cool shirts and more. And of course visit us on facebook at www.facebook.com/wickedplanband.

Take care and rock on \m/