

Solar Fake video interview (Negative White), Switzerland 03/28/2014, before the show

NW [Negative White]: You've played in Tel Aviv, in Madrid, and in Barcelona. Even if you've never played there before, you always have an idea of the town or of the people there. How was this for you? What expectations did you have?

Sven: Well, with Tel Aviv, I have to say that generally, I had no expectations. I had never been there before. So I could not imagine that e.g. the people there listen to such music and that some of these people who listen to such music know us. But I had to ascertain that the people in the town didn't differ from those of other European metropolises, and, of course, there was a gothic scene. And surprisingly, they knew us there. So quasi-roughly all the people who listen to such music were at our concert and knew our songs and lyrics. This is really amazing! In Madrid and Barcelona, we'd already played with the Shadows, for example, and André comes from the Shadows... So you can already anticipate what will happen. Additionally, we've supported Covenant at some shows... So people are coming to the shows anyway.

NW: But were you well received in Tel Aviv?

Sven: Absolutely!

NW: In which location did you play? Approximately how many people were there?

Sven: It was a club. Nearly as big as the club here, right?

André: Yes.

Sven: Just about... And it was full. That was really amazing!

NW: Did you talk to the people after the show?

Sven: Yes... So we had a tour group that took us around a bit and took us to various sights. We went to Jaffa... And then we went to other places, as well. It's been quite a long time since then... And, of course, after the show, we talked to the people who had come to us. A few people had painted posters and so on.

NW: Really?

Sven: Yes!

André: There was a German flag as well.

Sven: Yes. (laughs)

NW: Did you talk to the people with the flag?

André: No, not the people with the flag. But I had some talks about this subject... And the people told me that it was really bad what had happened. And then they said: "Do we have to talk about it?"... One shouldn't come from Germany to ask about such things.

Sven: Yes. They're having completely different problems there currently. Because in the meantime, so much has happened. Other radical and blatant things... They are really tied up with other problems and prefer not to dwell on the past.

NW: So far, you actually always were on tour as support, and this time, you are a headliner. How is it?

Sven says to Frank: Why don't you say something?! (laughs)

Frank: I was present at only half of the tour, but...

There's a clear difference! You can hardly say anything else.

The support shows have always been fun. And if the people come to the concerts because of the band, the audience is still in a different mood.

Sven: Yes. I can't really add anything.

André: I can. This is my first electro band I'm a part of, and I've never experienced the atmosphere being the same at every show. Usually, there are always, like, gradients from north to south, or something like that. With this band, it isn't like that. The audience starts getting crazy from the beginning.

Sven: Yes, that's right. I really have to agree with that. I have played in other bands as well, and, indeed, with Solar Fake, it's like that. Right from the first song- actually, right from the first beat. So far, it's been like that. Let's hope that it'll be the same today.

(Sven knocks on wood) ...That it'll be incredibly good from the beginning to the end... Well, it's fun! Of course, it's clearly obvious that it's great if you are playing alone, and the people know all the songs. Although I also have to say that the support shows were really useful for us. And a lot of people got to know us. I think that was clearly seen at the tour that Pitchfork headlined.



NW: While we're on the subject, could you imagine any band or artist to go on tour with?

Sven: Well, I have to say, honestly, in my view, we really had everyone that was on my list. Because we were on tour with VNV, Pitchfork, with Covenant, and with Heppner. So this is awesome. I couldn't wish for more of them.

NW: You're going to play in summer at the Amphi and Mera Luna Festivals. These are two confirmed festivals... And in autumn, you will go on tour again, especially abroad. Do you know yet where you will go?



Sven: You are incredibly well-informed. Almost better than we are...

NW: Seriously?

Sven: Yes... (laughs). No, but everything is correct, yes. We don't know much, because it's still being planned. Now Helsinki is on the agenda, and a few other places, too. We'll see. But up to now, there's nothing concrete.

NW: Is there a special reason that you've mentioned Helsinki?

Sven: No, there is no special reason. I don't know... Finland's always been a land of guitars in my mind. That's why I'm curious if it's going to work.

NW: On this tour, you're playing your new album live for the first time. You unleash it on the audience... Are there songs which work very well live?

Sven: Everything works well, because we left out songs which don't work well beforehand. (laughs)

NW: You could test them, couldn't you?

Sven: Yes, we tested them at the Release Party. For the new album, we organised a Release Party in Berlin for the fanclub only. As a special guest, we had Welle:Erdball, for example. And then it became obvious very fast which songs worked well, and which didn't... However, we also played "My Bleeding Heart" at the latest concert in Berlin, and we realized that this song was a lot of fun to play!

André: ... To play and to watch the people meanwhile...

Sven: Yes... Well, it was a little late. But...

NW: Better late than never!

Sven: Yes, exactly.

NW: There is a cover of a Linkin Park song on your new album: "One Step Closer". How does this song work live? Do you play it live?



Sven: Awesome! In Hamburg, André bashed his head open during that song.

André: Right. It was so much fun that I dashed against the keyboard, because I didn't know which way was up and down, because I had so much fun performing. I also had a bump, and there was a little bit of blood on stage. It's always good...

Sven: If it's real.

André: If it's real.

Sven: If it's real.

NW: In general, you are known to enjoy performing covers. This isn't the first one you've made... I read somewhere that you had something else up your sleeve besides the Linkin Park Cover, namely Nirvana.

Sven: Yes, yes... I had thought about it, yes. But I didn't even try, because then I thought that Linkin Park was better.

NW: So you have not even recorded it?

Sven: No, no... I had recorded Keane before. But it didn't work. My voice doesn't fit the song. (laughs) It simply wouldn't work. You just have to accept it then. If it's not possible, then it's not possible.

NW: What are the criteria for the choice of a song, besides the voice?

Sven: Well, the song has to provide an opportunity to sound like a Solar Fake song in the end... If the result is that it sounds like our own song...



NW: Actually, you can transform it...

Sven: Yes. You put a lot of work into it without knowing if it will work out in the end. With Keane, it was a bit disappointing, because the song was practically finished. As I sang it, I thought: "Oh this is dumb. This is really not good." Silly. Well, that happens...

NW: Let's go back to your own songs... Some songs are thrilling the audience, like we said earlier. Had you got feedback on your new album before the tour? Most certainly from the press, but how about from the fans?

Sven: Yes. Well, absolutely, sure! Because the album was released at the end of October, and I've heard only positive things. Insofar as everyone has been delighted up to now, and I think especially the ones who have seen it live then, anyway. Absolutely positive! The album also was on the charts in Germany, and so on. On the Alternative Charts, we were always, like, number 4... So, relatively at the top... We can't complain.

NW: The album was at number 94 on the Album Charts. Does it make a difference?

Sven: Let's say: Of course, it doesn't mean anything to one. It's just a market value, and, in fact, a sales ranking. That doesn't mean that... Let's say: If our album would have cost 50 € e.g., then we probably would have been at number 15 or so. (laughs) And thus, it only shows how much sales will be gained with the album. So it doesn't mean much. But for the record company, it is great, of course. There, we are raised in the ranking, and that means that they will do much more next time, and so on. Therefore, indirectly for us, it is very important. Directly, it doesn't really make much difference.

NW: But you are pleased?

Sven: Definitely. Of course, it is good, yes.

NW: The critics seemed to be mostly in agreement about "Reasons to Kill": It is musically and lyrically harder than the previous album.

Sven: That may be, yes.

NW: All the reviews echo each other with positive appraisals... What I have read in an interview is that you mentioned that the year 2013 had been a mentally relatively aggressive year for you.

Sven: Yes. (laughs)



NW: So we're not far into 2014 yet, but as a prediction: Would you make the next album even harder and more aggressive?

Sven: I don't know yet. I haven't started to make any single song. So I want to start after the tour. Let's see how it goes. I don't think that Solar Fake will turn into pop, quite honestly. I don't think... Maybe a bit more experimental, we'll see. I just don't know yet.

NW: That was audible quite a bit on the current album...

Sven: Yes, yes...

NW: Also some dubstep influences.

Sven: A little, yes. That's fun!

NW: Was it your idea, or...? (looks at Frank)

Sven: No, it was mine. (laughs) I admit that I'm a Skrillex fan.

NW: Until now, you haven't found the time to write new songs. Is it normal that you don't do this on a tour or that you don't have time? Or does it happen that way sometimes?

Sven: I don't know... In general, you just want to play the album live if it's finished. And to do all this with the audience and stuff. And I think after the tour, if this instinct of playing live is over, so to speak, then it's time to do new songs again. And I think that it's quite important to have some distance,



otherwise it could be too monotonous or it may be too close to the previous album. I think it is good if there is some time in between... We aren't required to do a new album every year. This is silly. We won't do that anyway... Every two years is fine.

NW: There is a trend of getting away from CDs a bit. Do you tag along with it? Are you active on Soundcloud, for example?

Sven: Yes, as far as I know, we are represented almost everywhere. It's great. Well, I think it's good... I personally like to hold a CD in my hands, just because of the artwork, because I like it. But I listen to MP3s almost every time. So I really buy both. And above all, MP3s are quite good if you listen to a song and you absolutely wanna have it right now. For that, it's just great. It is really fun. Sometimes it also turns out wrong ... (looks at André and laughs)

André: You buy an album because you like a song, and the rest of the album is just junk. I won't say which one... It happened just recently...

Frank: Or someone tells you the wrong band's name...

Sven: Or someone tells you the wrong band's name. Then you buy the album, and it's absolute crap.

NW: (To Frank): Did it happen to you?

Sven: This happened to me.

André: It was hip hop ...

Sven: Yes, I got a hip hop album.

NW: If you look ahead, what can we expect from you? Of course, one day there will be a new album, and then you're going to have the tour in the fall... Is there anything else we should know?

Sven: Yeah, we'll become totally great! Later, when we grow up... (laughs) No... Well, I don't know. Let's say: What one can expect, I don't know, but I hope that we can continue much longer. And that it will go on for a while, because it is so much fun right now! I can't remember that it has ever been that much fun for me being on stage and all that stuff. In the past, I have to say, I always felt frightened. I think you could see it... (laughs and looks to Frank).

NW: With Zeraphine, for example?

Sven: Yes, with Zeraphine... And I think with the Shadows it was even worse. (laughs) And at the moment Solar Fake is great fun, and because of this, I hope we can do it for a long time without making it silly.

NW: Then I wish you a great last gig today in Switzerland.