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Bombecks Interview

Here is the interview with Bombecks from Eisenach, Thuringia, Germany. Check their facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/bombecks.fanatics>. Very big thanks to Asch for the answers !!



1. Hi lads, we cannot start otherwise than with introduction. Could you introduce the band and its members please? Could you say anything interesting to each?

Asch (vocals, bass guitar) and Diddi (guitar) have been the core of Bombecks for the past 21 years. Gerry joined the band in 2012. We needed a drummer at that time and fortunately he was up for taking on the role.

2. I know Bombecks celebrated the anniversary of 20 years in 2013. Where do you take the energy and motivation to still continue? Is this band something like a child for you?

We feel at ease with the music scene we're in with bands all supporting each other. After all those years every single gig is still very special to us. Going up on stage, receiving all that energy from the crowd in front of us... - that makes us keep doing what we do.

3. Can you tell us more about the history of Bombecks and highlight the important milestones? What purpose did you create the band at that time of?

Me (Asch) and Diddi played in different bands and projects before we met and decided to start up something together. Probably the most unspectacular story ever. :-)

We'll always consider our albums to be most important milestones – each one of them. Our gigs have left their imprint on us as well. And our 20th anniversary also counts as a milestone, doesn't it? *[NOTE: Of course, it's the blast !! BAB]*



4. You have already passed through some line-up changes, right? What were the reasons of it? Are you still in contact with an ex-members? I know Gerry is drumming also in The Morons. Is it difficult for him to practice with both bands?

Actually our line-up never changed, but we changed our drummers several times... :-)
It's all about personal development. If the musical interests differ too much, it's sometimes better to leave the band and start something new instead of hitting a musical slump.

Of course we meet one or other of our former band-mates once in a while and take the opportunity to catch up with each other.

Gerry juggles his Bombecks-job with playing the drums for The Morons very well.

5. Why did you choose just the name Bombecks? What meaning does it have for you? Were you thinking also about other names at that time?

"Bombeck" is the nickname of a mutual friend from those days. He was kind of a strange guy, one of Eisenach's genuine characters. Other bandnames didn't even enter the equation.



6. How would you describe own music? I would call it a great mixture of rock'n'roll and Oi!. Do you agree with me? Who is responsible for the music and lyrics?

You're absolutely right - Bombecks play Oi!-Rock'n'Roll without any fuss. I (Asch) write all the lyrics and then we collaborate to finish up each song.

7. What bands belong to your ALL-TIME favorites and what bands do you like to listen to? Are there any bands which you would like to draw closer to? :-))

We're really into bands that cut their own path. There are also many bands and artists, that affected our music, our attitude, maybe our lives...since our younger days. Our heroes of yesterday, so to speak...

8. Please write a CURRENT TOP TEN OF ALBUMS of each member of the band, if it could be possible.

That's really way too much. We still have 36 questions to do... :-)



9. You have a very rich discography, 1 EP, 4 albums, 1 split CD, The Best Of and participation on various compilations. What album seems you to be the best? What songs do you personally like the most and which ones mean the most for you? What differences can we see if you try to compare the albums between itself, especially musically? What was the most strange review that you have received about it? Who is responsible for the cover-artwork to your albums?

Every Bombecks album is a milestone to us. Each one of them - with its songs and lyrics, its own sound and attitude, even the way it was produced - mirrors the particular stage of our development. Apart from that we're really proud of our first album. So many positive things happened during that time.

Strange Reviews? Well, those guys who consider themselves as scene police are usually in charge of stuff like that.

Rippa from Test-A drafted the artwork for the front cover of "Nehmt Es Oder Lasst Es" as well as for the vinyl of "Bombecks 1993 – 2013". He's seriously the best!

10. We can feel a love to your region Thuringia from the song "Ganz Egal" (Regardless Of). What customs and hobbies are the most typical there? What everything do you like in Thuringia and in your city Eisenach? What would you definitely advice to visit there?

Well, Thuringia has its own unique customs and traditions just like any other region. But what makes Thuringia so special to us is the fact that it's home. Eisenach is an industrial town, the south and north of Thuringia were affected by the historic mining industry for centuries. We're proud of our working-class roots.

The beautiful Thuringian Forest, the medieval city centre of Erfurt as well as the Wartburg castle near Eisenach are definitely worth to see. And don't forget to try the Thuringian Dumplings!

11. Whom exactly is the song "Fritz Der Schlitzer" (Fritz Slasher) about? Is it about a story of murderer next door or something like it?

The song refers to Fritz Haarmann, a well known German serial killer from Hanover. Between 1918 and 1924 he slayed more than 20 young men. His neighbours and the police didn't see through his game for many years. "Murderer next door" kinda hits the nail on the head.



12. The song "Whisky In Mein Herz" (Whisky Into My Heart) appreciates the taste of good whiskey. What is your favorite brand? What other drinks do you like? Do you have any pub in Eisenach, where you feel like home?

The song is about this guy sitting at the bar. He's getting drunk, trying to drown his blues. In the end he's totally wasted. "Whisky Into My Heart" tells the story of someone who's getting sloshed in a pub.

I (Asch) really got into Scotch Whisky on a trip to Scotland a few years ago. I'm still developing my taste in search of THAT favourite single malt and there are many kinds of Scotch left to try...

Our favorite drinking hole in Eisenach celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2013. And there's a cozy Whisky bar in Erfurt that kind of feels like home to us.

13. It is clear that the song "Arbeitslose Arbeiterklasse" (Unemployed Working Class) speaks for itself. How does it look with the count of unemployed in current Germany? Is there really less jobs than before? Do you agree that typical working class mentality is slowly fading?

After the German reunification in 1990 the bottom fell out of the metal-working industry in Thuringia. At the time the song was written Eastern Germany suffered from high unemployment rates. The most regions have economically recovered since.

We kind of associate "working class" with hard physical labor, factories, manufacturing and craft, noise and dirt. Nowadays there seem to be more and more white-collar workers who forgot their working-class background.



14. The song "Nehmt Es Oder Lasst Es!" (Love It Or Leave It!) holds a hardline attitude. It says that you are judged and accused for telling the TRUTH, right? Is there really so insincere and hypocritical atmosphere in Germany?

Germany is no exception to the rule. Telling the inconvenient truth doesn't find much favour and gets you into trouble sometimes. We learned that the hard way several times. But it is important to not always swim with the tide of public opinion. This song encourages to question authority and to stay the course.

15. What is the correct meaning of song "Hoffen Und Bangen" (Hoping And Trembling)? I noticed this song is about a disillusion and violence, but I am not sure of the circumstances. Please explain it.

"Hoffen Und Bangen" describes the well known vicious cycle of unemployment: No job in spite of shoals of applications, no money, no way out. Tired of getting hopes up and being disappointed again.

16. There is also an anthem dedicated to the legendary pub "De Kastelein". How many times did you play there? What experience will you always remember from this pub? Is possible to publish any funny story?

The song is about an awesome night in a great pub in front of a kick-ass audience. That gig sort of went down in the band's history. We'll always remember the hospitality.



17. The song "Der Schatten Deines Lebens" (The Shadow Of Your Life) has a very suggestive atmosphere. I think this song tries to tell that the PAIN is present everywhere and that life would be impossible without pain, right?

The lyrics are written from the viewpoint of the evil within us all. It may appear at any time. There are certain situations that bring out the worst in people. You'll never know...

18. We can find also football related song called "Mann Gegen Mann" (Man Against Man) that talks about the third half and eternal loyalty to the own club. What club do you support and are you involved in a hooligans/ultras activities? What can you tell about football related laws in Germany? Have you already been banned from a matches?

Absolutely, the song's about following one's club and letting off steam before, during or after matches.

Under the German law the state has to pay for the costs of police operations without any exception - until now. In 2014 the first German federal state enacted a law that forces the football association to contribute to covering the costs of local High-risk matches. So much for football violence.

We go to matches to meet friends as well as to enjoy ourselves, the atmosphere and the energy.



19. You made a cover of the song "Hippie" originally from Bierpatrioten that laughs to all of them. Why did you choose just this song to cover? Did you think that it deserves to be covered after 14 years?

First of all: Those guys are really awesome and we just get on well with each other. "Hippie" deals with a common stereotype in a funny way. We chose "Hippie" for that we just liked it right away.

20. The song "Verlogene Seelen" (Mendacious Souls) is focused on politicians and their disdain to ordinary people who voted for them, right? Have you ever met any honest politicians who tried to do their best for people or this is the oxymoron at present times?

You're right. The song deals with the gap between those in power and those who elected them to pass laws in their best interest. All of us got the sneaky feeling that "the top brass" don't care about the problems and needs of the people, don't we?

[NOTE: Absolutely !!! BAB]

21. I think the song "Feuersturm!" (Firestorm!) is dedicated to innocent victims of bombing attacks, right? Have there been conducting a concrete bombing acts, when you wrote this song?

We all know the horrifying effects of war on civilians. Nothing more to say.



22. Whose idea was to release a split CD with "Test A" from Brandenburg? Please, introduce this band a bit, tell us what are the main themes of their lyrics and try to describe their musical style called "Zonen Rock'n'Roll". What are your favorite songs from them?

When you're making music for a while, it sometimes seems that each project leads to another idea. We've been close friends with the members of Test-A for many years. It was about time to work on a split release together. There are some (musical) similarities between the two bands. We grew up in the "Zone" ("Zone" is a colloquial expression for the GDR). The lyrics of Test-A often refer to their native region, the "Oberhavelland" north of Berlin. After 22 years of Test-A their best known songs have become anthems

23. How message is contained in the song "Gift Im Blut" (Poison In Blood)? Is it about a wasted lives, about a recapitulation of own life and looking for its sense or it has a different meaning?

The song's about hard drug abuse. We've lost several friends due to drug use. Some of them are dead due to direct or indirect effects of the drugs, others have completely ruined their lives.

24. We can find a nostalgic song "Das Waren Noch Zeiten" (Those Were The Days) that is about the old times of GDR (German Democratic Republic). What everything do you miss from that times? Have you seen anything from the promised better times after the re-union of Germany? I think this song is a cover, right?

I think it's rather gallows humour than nostalgic. The GDR was a dictatorship and fortunately we got rid of it. Regarding promises of better times: We don't count on things like that. But we still appreciate the additional freedom by making the most of it.

The song's a cover version of SchleimKeim's "Ata, Fit, Spee". SchleimKeim (based in Erfurt and Gotha) was one of the most influential GDR punk bands. We had the privilege of knowing them in person, going on the prowl together. Those Were The Days (Das Waren Noch Zeiten) ... !!



25. There was released the anniversary album "1993-2013" last year. Are you satisfied with the result? Why did you choose the Picture LP format and added also CD version to it as bonus? What key did you use to choose the songs on it according to?

We're fiercely proud of that record. Alongside the four new songs the album features tracks taken from previous releases. We picked tracks that really kick ass and which have been given short shrift on stage so far. Some of these numbers are real "collector's items". The album was released as a package including the picture disc, because...well, it was our 20th anniversary after all! :-))

26. What is the correct meaning of the song "Das Gute Daran War Das Böse" (The Good Thing Was Evil)? Is it about the fact that sometimes is necessary to be evil? :-))

It's not necessary to be evil - but it's fun. The song title is kind of a wordplay. The lyrics bring back memories of the good old days, when being naughty was half the fun. Forbidden fruit taste the sweetest, don't they? *[NOTE: I agree, but there is no need to test all forbidden fruit, haha. BAB]*

27. I think the song "Kein Zurück" (No Turning Back) is something like a proclamation that Bombecks is still here despite the obstacles and efforts to stop you, right? What obstructions have you already experienced? Which era was the most difficult for Bombecks?

Yeah, we'd totally agree with that! The obstacles are well known: gig organizers cave in, the scene police bask in self-righteousness, scandalmongers create their stories... However, we've kept a stiff upper lip so far and we won't get off the track.



28. The song "Zusammen" (Together) talks about your eternal love to rock'n'roll. How old did you discover this musical style? What decade gave the best rock'n'roll bands to the world in your opinion?

This is exactly what the song's about. Rock'n'Roll is life-style and attitude. Being in a band is tons of fun all the time... :-)) We grew up with rock music, punk music and stuff like that.

Rock'n'Roll really seems to get re-defined all the time. Every decade had dreadful rock bands as well. But if I must make a choice, I'd pick the 60's...or the 70's - without the glam rock and disco scum.

29. Whom exactly is focused the song "Meine Helden Von Gestern" (My Heroes Of Yesterday) against? I think it criticizes so-called "heroes" of current youth which care only about how to reach money, right?

The lyrics regard those musical heroes of our younger days who seem to think that they're a cut above the rest. In my view it's important to stay down-to-earth and keep in touch with the audience. We usually head to the bar area after a gig for a beer and a chat.

30. You also participate on the compilation "Oi! Let's Go Germany" released by German Oi! Records at summer. Could you tell us anything about the background of this compilation and who prepared it? Is possible to tell also anything about the bands Prolligans, Lost & Found and Oi!dium?

GERMAN Oi! Records is a small label that does a lot for bands like Bombecks. "Oi! Let's Go Germany" was released in June 2014 - just in time for the Football World Cup. The idea behind was to compile songs for swinging after-match parties and spontaneous sing-alongs.



31. The song "Oi! Olé" is funny song about the World Championship in football that was held in Brazil 2014. How did you enjoy the whole championship and how did you celebrate the German victory? Were you visiting the matches personally? If so, what are your experiences?

Well, thanks to that song we won the World Cup after all... Seriously now we watched every match hanging on the edges of our seats. The victory of our team we celebrated with even more beer - and "Oi! Olé".

32. Please explain, who is "Der Schmierfink" and tell us more about the content of this song. I think it is focused against some dirty liars, right?

You're absolutely right. A scandalmonger or Schmierfink is someone who calls himself a journalist, but in reality he's spreading rumours and gossip. Some of them even think they can read people's mind.

33. You have already collaborated with many labels during the existence of band. What are the causes that you have not stayed under one label? What label did the biggest work for you? What label will release your next album?

Well, bands switch labels all the time. There's no deeper meaning in it. We're proud of our records and the support of our labels made them possible. Each one of them did a great job.



34. How many gigs have you already played circa on? Do you remember the best and worst gig? Are there any bands which you would like to share a podium once with? Do you play a covers on the gigs?

We didn't count the number of gigs, but it must have been plenty. Our sets usually contain a few cover versions like "Das Waren Noch Zeiten" (SchleimKeim), "Iron Chin" (The Bruisers) or "So What" (Anti-Nowhere League). It's hard to go back and choose which gigs were our worst and best. After 21 years it's hard to even remember every gig.

What makes a gig great? Well, it's always the crowd in front of the stage. Lots of people there, enjoying it - the audience as well as the band. The energy between the two that keeps bouncing back and forth. As cliché as it might sound, it's still true. Things like that can't be forced.

35. How did you enjoy the anniversary gig with Schusterjungs, Ruhestöhrunk and Schankschluss last year? Could you tell more about the atmosphere there? How was the acceptance of crowd? Do you think that the attendance was as it deserves?

That was without a doubt one of those memorable gigs mentioned above.



36. What can you tell about the recent gig here in Pardubice? Were you satisfied with the trip to Czech Republic? How did you like the performance of 4 Czech bands, 1 Slovakian band and Bruti E Ignoranti of course? How did you like the taste of Czech beer? :-))

We really enjoyed our trip to Pardubice. All the bands performed awesome shows. The organizers were very welcoming and they did a great job in terms of sound and location. The Czech beer is really tasty! The small cushions on the restroom wall really made our day! :-)) Can't wait to come back!

37. What can you tell about the current scene in Thuringia and whole Germany? Is possible to advice any new bands? Please, introduce mainly the bands Bullenschubser, Ruhestöhrunk and Schankschluss.

All these guys are amazing! Always kind and full of beans. Max from Schankschluss organized our anniversary gig in 2013.



38. Do you have any interesting or funny story about more-known colleagues from Schusterjungs, Roials and Crusaders that is possible to publish? :-)) How are you affected by those bands?

Funny stories - Yes. Meant to be published - No. :-))

39. There are still issued a few zines in Germany. Which ones are your favorites and which ones have the best content in your opinion? Do you think that paper zines have still its place within the scene?

Absolutely! Their importance can't be appreciated high enough. They're a link between the members of our music scene. They're non-commercial, driven by enthusiasm. We also like that DIY-style of paper zines, it's essential.

40. Are you interested in history? Do you have a favorite characters or stories from the past? Which historical period would you want to live in if there was a time machine and possibility to choose? :-))

History is really fascinating. But if I had a time machine I'd go back and see all the great bands and concerts of former decades.



41. What are your plans for future? I heard something about an upcoming split album. Is it truth? Is there also any tour planned soon?

Another little project in collaboration with our current label will be the next thing on our agenda. Some upcoming gigs are confirmed. Booking requests are always welcome, just drop a line to: info@bombecks.de.

42. Any last comments? Would you like to greet anyone?

Well, we've kinda run out of words now. :-))

Visit us on: www.bombecks.de or follow us on Facebook! Our last comment goes to Pardubice: Greetings and again "Děkuji" for an amazing weekend!

Asch – Bombecks

