



WOLFPACK UNLEASHED

Unleash The Thrash

By David Perri

Thrash is back in a big way, and I think we're all kind of excited about this form of metal gaining some attention again. Even though it's become clear that this thrash revival is but the latest trend in the metal underground, it's still cool to see kids born during the late '80s listening to '80s thrash records and writing cool new/old riffs for their retro thrash bands. Chalk it up to the success of Municipal Waste or pin it to this decade's '80s-obsessed zeitgeist; whatever it is, we are surely reaping the benefits. Wolfpack Unleashed is an Austrian band that plays thick, '90s thrash (yup, thrash actually survived into the '90s) a la Testament's excellent *The Gathering* combined with elements that made the Bay Area so great during its peak years. Wolfpack Unleashed's strong new record is called *Anthems Of Resistance* and it's a helluva time for those enamoured with down-picking and fast tempos..

"Thanks for the compliment," Wolfpack Unleashed guitar player Wops says, when compared to Testament. "You're right about Testament - I'm a diehard fan and have learned a lot from the way that (Testament rhythm guitarist) Eric Peterson plays his guitar. So we have similar techniques, just using different scales when composing. Also, our drums are very song-focused, like in Testament. There's no need to play a 13/18 rhythm and destroy a cool riff with showing off all time, our drummer shows his skills with little tricks during the rhythms or with cool rolls. All that makes the song more listenable and you're more able to bang your head."

Though thrash might currently be going through a second wind, Wops maintains that Wolfpack Unleashed isn't part of a trend. The guitarist asserts that if the thrash revival ends soon, his band will continue to make the music it loves.

"Our first goal was to get a record contract to release our music with a better sound, and that was all we were hoping for when forming Wolfpack Unleashed. Now, having accomplished that (note: the band is on Napalm Records), we are hoping to sell enough records to maintain our contract and release more albums. If that doesn't work out, we'll just release demos again. We know very well we'll probably never make a buck with this sort of music, so all we want is to make the music we love most and record it as best as possible. Success or no success, it doesn't matter as long as our music comes from the heart."

As for the small Austrian scene, Wops offers some insight into his country's metallic doings.

"The Austrian scene was dominated for over a decade by only black and death metal bands, all trying to copy the successful Austrian bands like Stench, Summoning, Abigor or the early Austro-deathers. Then they started copying metalcore, too. However, there's also a small - but very decent - group of new bands, breaking the rules and doing their own thing. Serenity is one of those bands, and Hollenthon always did their very own thing."

Check out myspace.com/wolfpackunleashed for more. ♪