

NI ROCKS Interview with JENNIFER HABEN from BEYOND THE BLACK

Written by NI ROCKS

Thursday, 23 August 2018 20:06 - Last Updated Tuesday, 07 May 2019 20:19

German symphonic metal band Beyond The Black release their third album, "Heart of the Hurricane", through Napalm Records on 31st August 2018. I only discovered the band myself last year but became an instant fan and ordered their first two CDs online. The band have gone through a big line-up change since the release of the first two albums, but singer Jennifer Haben remains at the heart of the band and "Heart of the Hurricane" is a great album that shows that Beyond The Black are back with a renewed focus and drive. I was fortunate enough to speak to Jennifer via Skype on 15th August and we chatted about the new album, the band and future plans. You can hear that interview on the 400th episode of the Friday NI Rocks Show for 24th August. The Show is now available from our MixCloud page - <https://www.mixcloud.com/NIRock/s/interview-with-jennifer-haben-from-beyond-the-black-on-the-friday-ni-rocks-show-24th-august-2018/>



Beyond The Black are Jennifer Haben on vocals, Christian Hemsdörfer and Tobias Lodes on guitars and backing vocals, Stefan Herkenhoff on bass and Kai Tschierschky on drums. Check out their website at <http://www.beyond-the-black.com/en/>

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Playlist for Friday NI Rocks Show No 400

OZZY OSBOURNE – Crazy Train

MONSTER TRUCK – Evolution

BLACKWATER CONSPIRACY – Hanging Tree

BLACKFOOT – Diary of a Workingman

BEYOND THE BLACK – Heart of the Hurricane

Interview with Jennifer Haben from Beyond The Black – Part 1 (6min)

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BEYOND THE BLACK – My God Is Dead

Interview with Jennifer Haben from Beyond The Black – Part 2 (7min)

BEYOND THE BLACK – Forget My Name

Interview with Jennifer Haben from Beyond The Black – Part 3 (9min)

BEYOND THE BLACK – Million Lightyears

KAMELOT – In Twilight Hours

TRUCKER DIABLO – We Will Conquer All

SCREAMING EAGLES – Bow Down To the Blues

GASOLINE OUTLAWS – Breathe Again

BILLY MORRIS & THE SUNSET STRIP – Holdin All The Aces

U.D.O. – Make The Move

STONEBOURNE – Son of this Town

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SAXON – Sixth Form Girls

HEAVY PETTIN – Love Times Love

TESLA – Freedom Slaves

SLASH – Driving Rain

HALESTORM – Painkiller

HUNTRESS – Eight of Swords

{youtube}dIUtoB1EdcY{/youtube}

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NI ROCKS – Hi Jennifer, thanks for taking the time to talk to Rock Radio NI. Beyond The Black release their new album “Heart of the Hurricane” on 31st August. We just played the title track which was the first single released. Tell us something about that track.

JENNIFER – Yes of course, and thank-you for having me. “Heart of the Hurricane” – the title is about the band history. I don’t know if you know about the line-up changes in 2016? There was a huge dangerous storm around us and we were in the middle, like the heart of the hurricane, and we created this album, this piece of art, and we’re really proud of that and now we’re spreading that out to the world.

NI ROCKS – Where was the album recorded and who did you work with for production, mixing etc?

JENNIFER – It was produced with Sascha Paeth. We worked with him on the previous albums as well. And Elephant Music, they’re still our team. We started to write last summer and then we recorded at the beginning of this year.

NI ROCKS – How long roughly then did it take to get all the songs together?

JENNIFER – We were writing I think up to last December. When we decided to make a new album, I wanted to have a lot of time, not like the album before. That one we did in three months and there was a lot to compromise and I didn’t want to have that again. So we had more time and I asked the guys to send me some song ideas because I wanted to see how they wanted to write. What the different styles were that they wanted to write. We had about thirty song ideas in a few weeks and then we worked in small groups together. Most of all, Stefan, Chris and me.

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Then we went to our producers and nailed it!

NI ROCKS – Which studio did you record in?

JENNIFER – We were in Gate Studio in Wolfsburg with Sascha and we were also in Flensburg with Elephant. We had one pre-production in Nuremberg in the studio of our keyboard player from before. There we did a lot of fixing the ideas and everything and then after that we did a lot at home. The vocals are really important for me to do with the producers together.

NI ROCKS – Was there any one song that took longer to get exactly the way that you wanted it or which changed greatly from first conception to getting it recorded?

JENNIFER – I think “Beneath A Blackened Sky” wasn’t that easy, because it was a different idea before and then we created this kind of line over the choir. That was a long process and that was the most difficult song to record because we did it a lot of times.

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NI ROCKS – The new album will be available in a few formats. I actually have the gold vinyl version ordered. What other options do fans have?

JENNIFER – We have a big fan box. It includes a live DVD from Loud Park in Japan – we have eight songs on that. And we have some autographs with special cards from everyone, a poster and one special thing that is like an emblem and it is something that I wear on stage now as well – it's a raven. It's very special and will be in the future as well. Then we have the vinyl, the normal CD and that's it.

NI ROCKS – The second track from the album to be released was "My God Is Dead" which we're going to play next. Can you tell us something about that track?

JENNIFER – That song is like a metaphor. "My God is Dead" is really heavy like. You can believe that we're not really that religious (laughs), but it is really more a metaphor for something that you believed in and now can't understand what is happening in this world. You can't believe in that anymore and don't believe in what you believed before.

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