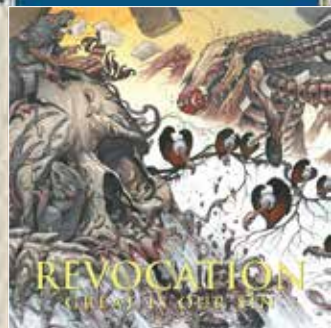


HEADBANGER'S WALL



BLACK CROWN INITIATE
SELVES WE CANNOT FORGIVE
EONE MUSIC

A contemplative study of the mind, the spirit, and the nature of reality itself may seem incongruent with the trappings of heavy metal to the uninitiated casual observer. But those who descend into the darkest subterranean abyss of the art form's most aggressive nihilism, only to soar under protection of a meditative cloak of aural pleasure, are those who may share in the near-supernatural wonder and inward carnal primitivism alike found within the progressive death metal of **Black Crown Initiate**. *Selves We Can Not Forgive* is a lean and focused collection that jettisons the extraneous fat found too often within ambitious metal bands, striking a balance between fearless adventurousness and methodical might. It follows their sprawling debut, *The Wreckage of Stars*, which together with their *Song of the Crippled Bull* EP introduced **Black Crown Initiate's** unapologetic exploration of everything from Friedrich Nietzsche and Greek Sophist Gorgias to Hinduism, Buddhism, and indigenous mysticism, with a pragmatic skepticism.



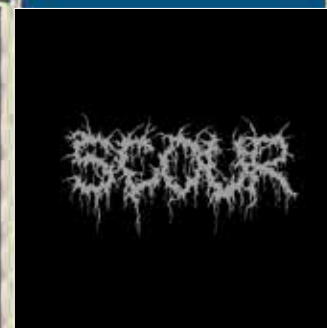
REVOCATION
GREAT IS OUR SIN
METAL BLADE

Despite having delivered five killer albums boasting some of the most potent, technical and abrasive metal unleashed over the last decade, **Great Is Our Sin** is **Revocation's** most dynamic, boundary-pushing and weighty release to date. Opener "Arbiters Of The Apocalypse" makes this abundantly clear, blending together breakneck thrash, crunching death metal flavors, plenty of visceral fret abuse as well as compelling yet unforced melodies. While they rarely hold back the aggression, it is very much pushed to the fore on the likes of "Communion" and "Copernican Heresy", which are as savage as the band have ever sounded. However, they also retain and build upon the proggy aspects of their sound, as well as embracing triumphant "fist-in-the-air" moments, most notably on the chorus of "Arbiters" and the blistering solo that slashes through "Crumbling Imperium."



CAPSIZE
A REINTRODUCTION:
THE ESSENCE OF ALL
THAT SURROUNDS ME
EQUAL VISION

"This record does more for me and my self-worth than anything I've ever touched before. Everything from the lyrics to the songs themselves are a musical embodiment of my interests and personality," shares **Capsize** vocalist Daniel Wand. "The most important goal to me with this record was that it needed to be something that if I heard when I was at my most impressionable point, it would've made me desperate to make a band. I think I did that." That record is **A Reintroduction: The Essence of All That Surrounds Me**. Lyrically exploring personal demons and vulnerability, as well as love and loss, and musically exhibiting an impressive blend that ranges from driving, in-your-face chaos to unexpectedly ambient, dreamlike soundscapes, **A Reintroduction: The Essence of All That Surrounds Me** pushes the band into new musical territory while remaining true to their roots.



SCOUR
SCOUR
HOUSECORE RECORDS

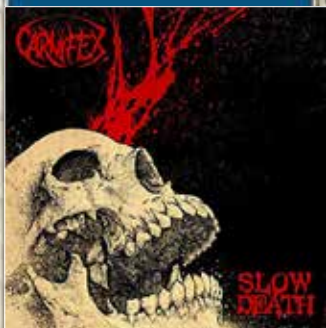
Scour is the new extreme metal "super-group" featuring Philip Anselmo (Pantera, Down, Superjoint) alongside members of Cattle Decapitation and Pig Destroyer. "Doing the **Scour** project was a blast. The track 'Dispatched' was the first one I attacked, as it was the first one sent to me. Lyrically, I leave it to the listener to evaluate, as usual. The way I saw it, the songs were short, and extremely straightforward, so I didn't want to clutter 'em up with too much. Therefore, I had to pick particular lyrics that seemed provocatively absurd enough, and to perform them as raw as deemed fit. Hope all true extreme music lovers enjoy the stuff as much as I did performing it." The six-track effort was mixed by Dave Otero (Cephalic Carnage, Cattle Decapitation, Cobalt, Khemmis).



DESPISED ICON
BEAST
NUCLEAR BLAST

For many extreme music fans, it may be hard to remember a time before **Despised Icon**. But when the group formed back in 2002 and released *Consumed By Your Poison* the same year, there was little intersection between the sounds of classic death metal and the brute force of hardcore. The "metalcore" genre had been in full swing for some time and plenty of those bands had experimented with elements of death metal. But **Despised Icon** was among the first to fully embrace the signatures of the traditional death metal formula combined with a relentless embrace of breakdowns, part of an emerging new sound. From the savagely unhinged vocals to the inexhaustible pound of the blast beats, **Despised Icon's** new album, *Beast*, is a swift reminder that this band is one of the originators of a powerful movement in extreme metal. The *Beast* is reawakened and ready to rumble.

2016 • AUGUST • 2016



CARNIFEX
SLOW DEATH
NUCLEAR BLAST

What really makes **Carnifex** stand out from the throngs of other Hard Rock acts currently scouring the planet, are their savage live performances. Their declaration to make every night an experience for fans has proven to be the most appreciated trait of the band among fans. But you can keep your pyrotechnics and other special effects at home as **Carnifex** relies solely on the power of their music. "Every night, we strive to play extremely tight. Sometimes it can be difficult to make such an intense show so interactive, but we make sure that everyone is getting involved," says Lewis. *Slow Death*, pushes everything further. "This album will reshape our genre and be looked back on as an album that started a new movement for aggressive, dark metal," says Scott Ian Lewis. "We're going to show those who love us and those who hate us just how far reaching our ambition is."



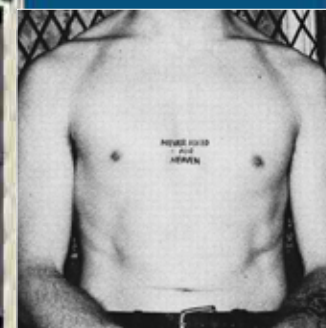
UNMERCIFUL
RAVENOUS IMPULSE
UNIQUE LEADER

Founded in 2001, **Unmerciful** released its first album, *Unmercifully Beaten*, in 2006. After intensive tour runs from 2006-2009 with the likes of Cannibal Corpse, Dying Fetus, Decrepit Birth and more, the band became inactive until 2012. consistent live shows and several metal fest appearances, the band released a self-titled demo in 2014 as a first step to completing its first full-length release in 9 years. In July 2015, **Unmerciful** entered Chapman Studios in Kansas to begin the recording sessions for what would become *Ravenous Impulse* with Chuck Chapman and features John Longstreth (Origin) on drums. "We feel that our sound is in a new place while still maintaining the band's identity," says guitarist Clint Appelhans Concepts behind most of the lyrical content mainly deal with violent instinct and diabolical human behaviors. We feel these subjects and themes are more realistic and relative to everyday society and more terrifying."



NECROMANCING
THE STONE
JEWEL OF THE VILE
METAL BLADE

If flaccid, identikit, breakdown-laden "metal" is the disease, **Necromancing The Stone** is the cure. With their upcoming debut full-length, *Jewel Of The Vile*, the group - featuring current/former members of **Arsis** (James Malone, guitars), **The Absence** (Jeremie Kling, drums), **The Black Dahlia Murder** (Ryan "Bart" Williams, bass) and **Brimstone Coven** (guitarist Justin Wood and vocalist "Big" John Williams) - plans to vanquish "Breakdownicus Gratuitous" with 11 tracks that are uniquely **Necromancing The Stone**. *Jewel Of The Vile* immerses the listener in fantastical tales, like those found in fantasy novels, or in the playing of an intense game of D&D. The sparing inclusion of death metal growls for characters within the stories adds an extra dynamic to the already epic vocals, which are backed by gigantic riffs and pulverizing rhythms. From the moment the aptly titled "Crusher" rushes from the speakers, **Necromancing The Stone** own you.



BENT LIFE
NEVER ASKED
FOR HEAVEN
BRIDGE 9

Bent Life, hailing from Lincoln and Omaha, has been playing a punishing brand of New York style heavy hardcore in the vein of Me-rauder, Madball, Leeway, and Outburst since forming in the fall of 2010. In their 5+ years as a band they've embarked on countless US tours with prominent hardcore acts such as Expire, Bitter End, Rotting Out, The Beautiful Ones, and many more. More recently their tours have taken them to Europe and Japan, with more world touring on the horizon. **Bent Life** spent the last year writing and finally recording its debut full length, *Never Asked For Heaven*. The album was engineered and mixed by Nick Jett of Terror, and mastered by Paul Miner (New Found Glory, Thrice, Phobia, Mötörhead) in Los Angeles. *Never Asked For Heaven* is 10 new songs that **Bent Life** says "fully represents the sound and attitude" they have been striving for.

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