



Quo Vadis - Where are you going?

Perhaps you could begin by telling us what influences we can find either on "Forever..." or on "Day Into Night"...

We get our influences from many types of music and from different parts of the world, but one which is not influencing us is the U.S.A.'s Brutal Death. We listen to Thrash, Speed, Melodic, plain Heavy and even Hard Rock. Classical (and other of its derivatives) has to be one of our biggest influences as well. Arie, one of the guitarists, started playing violin when he was three years so he cannot deny his classical influences! Actually, he listens to many Hard Rock-bands. So it is very likely that it is transpiring through the guitars. We all listen to different stuff, I'm actually the only one who listens to a lot of Metal.

We all like classical and I think that you can hear that also in a couple of songs, maybe even more in our older songs. But Yanic, our drummer, always makes sure that we sound heavy and powerful, whatever the guitar riff's influence.

What does "Quo Vadis" mean?

It means "Where are you going" in Latin. When you start out a band, you don't exactly know which way to head out musically, you end up with a few different styles mixed together to give you your own sound. That's what gave us the idea for the name.

The cover for "Day Into Night" is quite interesting, what does it represent? Can it be associated with the lyrics found on the album?

It's more associated with the name of the album. The tree and the man have more lighting so it's the day section. The back with the moon is the night. The cover was done by SV Bell (KATAKLYSM, AMORPHIS, OBLIVEON) and he really knows his stuff. We gave him a few points to follow and he came up with the finished product. He's really professional.

You have matured a lot since "Forever...", changing your style and evolving as well. Could you explain the metamorphosis?

It took a long time between the two albums for reasons that are out of our control and that would take too long to explain. Basically, it was over three years between the recordings of both albums so within that time, the music we listen to has changed. Also, we all improved on our instruments. I like to think we are perfectionist in that department, we all practice a lot and try to get better all the time. Even at 40, I'm sure I'll still be learning new things musically, and it's the same for the other three guys. The bottom line is, you don't want to be recording the same album over and over again so you need new techniques, new influences to make sure you don't stay at the same point all your musical career.

Gone are the female vocals and the violins, why is that?

The female vocals are just something we tried a long time ago. The song was actually written in 1994, and then every band started doing it so we decided to drop it. The violin is not out definitely though, we might be putting some on our next album but for "Day Into Night", we wanted to have a good heavy album, no extras. We are planning on adding a new instrument in our next studio album but that's another story.

How was the recording of "Day Into Night"? Did you like your studio-experience this time around?

Well, how could I say, we had our usual arguments, but that's normal when you're in studio, because everyone wants to have their opinion respected and we're all pretty much hard headed so it brings interesting situations. But in general, things went well, because we had a lot more time because of the budget this time around. We spent about \$20,000 on this album, we really wanted to have a killer sound for this one. Pierre Rémillard did a great job with the production, as always. We really enjoy working with him professionally. He's also a very relaxing guy to be around. We have numerous stories from this studio-experience and I think we could write a book with QUO VADIS-anecdotes!!!

What can we expect from "Passage In Time"? Please, describe this record a bit.

"Passage In Time" will be a re-release of our 1995 demo, 2 live songs, 2 never released songs, a remixed version of a song on "Day Into Night" and the video for "Dysgenics" on CD-ROM. The demo hasn't been available for over three years and many fans were asking for it so we decided we might as well do something special if we were to re-release it. There will be a whole multimedia-section with it too. It will be an interesting package.

Do you have any material for the next full-length release? If you do, what does it sounds like?

We have some new stuff, but it's hard to say how it sounds. We tend to push on the technical side, but without losing the catchy feel of our songs. We'll be able to expend a little more on the subject closer to studio time. We are not planning to go in studio before next summer so we have plenty of time to prepare for it.

Have you ever thought about making some kind of collaboration with other bands?

Well, it would be nice since there are so many great bands around here, but the problem is that we don't really have the time for it. One band is enough for me and I think it's the same thing for everyone in the band. Two guys are still in university and two are working full time. Having a band is a lot more time consuming than what people think. Many things are not handled by the label, things like interviews, answering to fan's letters (we personally answer each and every one of them), making shirt designs, taking care of album covers and layouts, actually practicing with the band and many other things that have to be done. We all love music, but we wouldn't want to do only that. We have way too many more pastimes for that. My dad once told me: "Variety is a spice of life".

Do you like to play live? Is it a priority for you to go on the road?

Every chance we get, we do it. I wish we would do more, but there are only a few cities that will bring enough people so the promoter doesn't lose money and you can't play those places more than once or twice a year. An other problem is also the fact that, as I mentioned earlier, two guys are still in university. When you have exams and stuff, it's hard to leave for a weekend of shows. This is something we have to live with and we accept it. A couple of years ago, everyone was still in university so everyone understands when someone says he can't do a show because of that.

What is QUO VADIS like on stage?

Bart goes crazy as always and we sometimes have to be careful not to get hit by his guitar! Arie is calmer, he makes sure if we all screw up that someone is still there to play the music!!! Yanic just sits behind his drums and plays like a train. He uses to come up between songs and throw water at fans, but he did it like a fagot so we told him to stop! As for myself, I run everywhere on stage, climb on speakers when possible and I say a bunch of stupidities between songs! Oh yeah, I forgot, I also try to play bass at the same time! People appreciate our shows I think, we get a lot of positive feedback from fans after our shows.

You have shot a video for "Dysgenics", how did that go?

It was long! We did two days of shooting. It's not the most pleasant thing to do lip-synching and pretend to be playing, but it's all worth it in the end. What's really fun is the editing, seeing the whole thing take shape. We did a video release in Music Plus studios in December, but what people saw that day wasn't the finished version. We changed it a lot since and it looks really cool. I can't wait for people to be able to view it on their computers at home, since it will be on "Passage In Time".

How important is the internet for bands like you? Do you think it helped getting a wider audience?

Definitely, we get many new fans from Napster and MP3.com writing in and saying they have just discovered our band. But at the same time, it doesn't help selling more albums since many people will just download the songs. But if more people have the songs and know about QV there will be more people at our shows and that's the bottom line. Personally, I don't really care about sale-figures since money is not why we're doing this. I much prefer to have a crazy crowd that knows every song, that's when the party is really happening.

And what about webzines?

I don't know how many people discover bands from webzines, but I'm sure there are many. It's also definitely interesting to read about the bands you like, see what type of people they are, what they have to say, getting recent news and stuff. Every one has a role to play and Metal needs it since it's such a small market.

What do you listen to other than Metal?

Bart and I listen to classical music. Arie likes it, too, and he also loves Hard Rock. Yanic likes Puck Rock and some Pop. Personally, I'm very open. I'll listen to Jazz, Blues, Rock, New age. I'm even open to Rap and Techno, but not all day long please!

What are your other hobbies?

Yanic and Arie are still in university so music is their pastime and there's not much time left after that, but Arie still manages to do martial arts and teach guitar. For myself, I spend a lot of time on my bass so I can't really say I have a major hobby besides music, I'm always practicing with the band, practicing at home or listening to music so music takes most of my free time. Actually, Bart, Arie and I all work out to stay in shape and to put a little meat on those bones! Yanic does his workout by playing drums! (Trust me, he's soaked when he's through practice)

What one good book would you recommend?

I don't really read books. Being an engineer, I usually read engineering magazines, which most people would find more boring than reading about the story of a turtle!!! I also check out Metal-zines to keep updated on what's out there.

Well that's it, thanks a thousand times for the interview!

Metal being a limited market, we need people like you to get us known. Thanks for being there and for supporting Metal in general. Thanks to all your readers also, without you guys and girls out there, there would be no bands playing Metal.

Mathieu