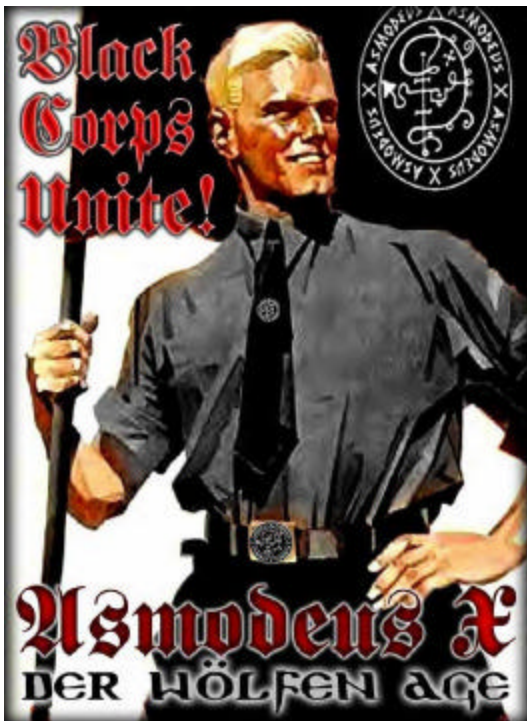


A SMODE US X: E l e c t r o n i c b l a c k m a g i c



Ladies and Gentlemen,

I give you Asmodeus X, the original and ex officio "Black Corps" of the industrial underground. A conscious and willful work of aural alchemy, Asmodeus X has expanded boundaries, traversed such genres as ebm and darkwave, remanifested the dark fire of LHP esotericism to a new generation, and pointed the way toward a Future-Noir that would give Fritz Lang a warm and fuzzy feeling inside.

Never quite certain if they were a secret Black Order of Knighthood dreaming they were a modern electro band, or an electro band dreaming they were managed by a Ruben Kincaid apparition of Jacques Demolay, Asmodeus X set out to do that which had not yet been done -- Electronic Body Music was transformed into Electronic Black Magic, and a new musical/magical paradigm was born.

Since beginning their journey in 1999, they have traversed and endured many trials and tasks, from the first incorporation of Die Elektrischen Vorspeile (The Electric Ceremony) into a live Halloween performance before an audience of over 2000 in Houston, Texas, providing soundtrack music for the independent Chicago

gangster films – Shut Eye, receiving 'critics choice' awards in local press, and even defying death in the sorts of 'road accidents' that earned Metallica a new

drummer. A brief visit to www.asmodeusx.com will give a little taste of the 'cavalier career' these artists are engaged in.

The live performances of Asmodeus X have likewise brought them notoriety. Sharing stages with such luminaries as Attrition, Diva Destruction, Bamboo Crisis, Bozo Porno Circus, Wyrnwood the Legacy, The Last Dance, and Nocturne. Open flame sources, billowing banners, and military paraphernalia have all made appearances at one time or another at Asmodeus X shows. Spoken words, music, and gesture blend to draw the audience inexorably into their dark, expressionist, city-scape.

The Asmodeian sound is an eclectic one. From their neo-classical/minimalist first offering with the Cult of the Nassarene E.P., to the industrial futurism and theremin-laced work of the Nova Futura singles, to the guitar driven angst and neo-folkish hymns of the 'survivalist' album Wolf Age. Even traditional Viking horns have made their way into the mix. Taking inspiration from Rotwang, the Black Magician of Fritz Lang's Metropolis, Asmodeus X has always found great interest in the fusion of technology and the Faustian drive in the creation of their soundscapes. Asmodeus X welcomes you to participate in this grand experiment, and exchange ideas with us via our E-list, at [www.http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Asmodeian/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Asmodeian/)

Their conceptual backgrounds find inspiration from as rich a tapestry as their musical tools. From ancient Babylon to the frozen Norse Lands, to the technocracy of future worlds yet to be imagined, the themes of Asmodeus X draws from the rich stream of dark esoteric exploration across time and space. Yet through it all, a common thread and singular stream of continuity has emerged. The emerging Asmodeian Sound is at once dark, compelling, hypnotic, inspiring, and reflexive.

The current project: Morningstar. The first among equals and the bearer of light. The Promethean story of a fall from grace, a struggle for identity, and the emergence of self-aware being. For this effort Asmodeus X is delving deep into the spheres of ebm, darkwave, and trance. A wholly synthetic effort drawing on analogue, digital and vintage synths, electronic percussion, vocoders, etc., Morningstar seeks to explore the seductively forbidden side of the human psyche - that which empowers us to create the very process of creation. For some advance samples of this work in progress, visit www.mp3.com/asmodeus_x.



Here's what the press is saying about Asmodeus X:

Gothic Beauty #9

Brewing manifestations of "survival and conquest", Houston, Texas gives rise from cataclysmic fire and ash to ASMODEUS X, reborn as long-knive visionaries of The New Blood Groove, pointing into the night sky, and quoting Jack London's The Law of Club and Fang from The Call of the Wild in archetypical references to similarly cold nights, star-gazing, and matching cadences with wolf-like ancestors. Wolf in the Sky provides the core of Wolf Age, beginning with guitar intro reminiscent of Pink Floyd's Wish You Were Here. Rain showers, wolf howlings, critter twitters, chirps, fog horns, wind, waves and other environmental sound samples thematically set the atmospheric tone throughout Wolf Age for musical alchemy between synth, industrial, metallic EBM, and even darkened neo-classical noise-scapes beneath melodic vocal harmonies, and experimental infusions of vocoder mood enhancers. ASMODEUS X reveals in song online more than this cd review will encompass.

Dark Realms #9

The debut CD [Wolf Age] from this trio of Texans offers an energetic assortment of crunching metal and darkwave tracks. The disc kicks off with "Melting," a high-energy techno dance track. The German lyrics and heavy metal chorus of "M.u.Z." capture a Rammstein feel. Crashing guitars blend with the electronic rhythm of "Mandatory Sacrifice" to create a powerful industrial mosh. The Instrumental "Black Forest" is a sinister heavy metal epic...
— Maxx

the DARKLIFE fanzine

Asmodeus X out of Houston, heralded by their local press as a goth band don't really come across as a goth band in the classical meaning of the word (at least in Europe) with their first full-length effort Wolf Age. In the sense that they avoid the repetitiveness characterizing goth acts. The work is quite eclectic, offering punchy electronics, dark synth lines, distorted guitar textures, sharp guitar lines and even acoustic guitar, interesting male vocals ranging from distorted industrial-style to synth pop...a surprisingly pleasant listen supplied with the mentioned dance floor tracks and framed in a slightly "politically incorrect" image.
-Gianfri

Starvox

Asmodeus X crafts thoughtful electro industrial music at its best, and it's little wonder that the group was named Best Industrial/Noise Act in the 2000 Houston Music Press Awards... 'Songs of Glory' is one of the best pieces of music to come along in a long while. There's more complexity and thought put into the composition of this four-minute track than many bands put into entire albums. ...The full-length album was one of the highlights of 2002, with great songs like 'Black Forest', 'MuZ' and the band's absolutely delightful (and surprising) cover of the Partridge Family's 'Point me in the Direction of Albuquerque'. Asmodeus X is a band with some talent and diversity in their music, and one I look forward to hearing more from in the future.

LEGENDS, #132

Given the name - Asmodeus X - and the title of this CD - Wolf Age - I was vaguely expecting some Eastern European beat combo where the crowd of some ten

musicians were to be found sawing vigorously away at a variety of strange instruments and collectively singing songs of the frozen tundra. Or perhaps how their tractor had become bogged down, and that would be the last use they'd get out of it until the spring thaws. Not so. Not even a bit slightly. What we find here is... More than a little odd, yet surprisingly engaging. Imagine, if you will, some mostly bippety-bop synthesizers humming cheerful little riffs to themselves as they pack a hamper for a picnic in the countryside. But! What's this? It's a couple of scary looking fellows with guitars peering from the windows of a large four-wheel-drive and they've brought the rain with them! Oh no! The picnic will be spoiled!

The Original Sin

Okay, all the influences are clear from Ministry till Skinny Puppy till DAF but what this band are doing with it is a sort of new mixture that rarely has reached my ears as on one track it sounds like you are hearing some traditional EBM-band (think of the Nettwerk-releases like Front Line Assembly was one) but a bit later you are confronted with some darkwave in Goethes Erben-style.... Believe me, it might sound like there is no structure in it but this band who has shared stages with well known acts such as Diva Destruction or Attrition know what they're doing as this is top EBM

Fun Prox

Asmodeus X certainly has the ability to write a catchy tune. There are some tracks on this 'Wolf Age' album which could do quite well at (cyber) gothic inclined dance floors, especially 'Songs of Glory', which reminds me of some Swedish synth acts.

Rock E-Zine

Now, I don't know much about the music-scene in the States, but in Europe we call this E-B-M. Electronic-Body-Music. Aggressive EBM, though. And indeed, after a couple of spins it's possible to spot leaks of a later Ministry, NIN ("Mandatory Sacrifice") or some Kraftwerk in their songs.... The music, a modern performance of danceable EBM with aggressive vocals and a good attempt to sound desperate and even a bit 'evil', is catchy and offers a bit more than the Covenants of this world. So, if you're into Kraftwerk or Joy Division and wonder what American EBM sounds like, Asmodeus X is a good starting point.



Feature from Houston Press

Goth Via Space City:

Let other goth acts infest other cities; Asmodeus X is perfectly happy here

By Sande Chen

[Originally published: December 23, 1999]

In Hebrew mythology, Asmodeus is the king of demons who is as evil as he wants to be. Sometimes, though, Asmodeus is seen as the impish deity who brings carnivals, fashion and music to mankind. This latter description is appropriate for the goth band Asmodeus X...because the band, which has major-following potential, is located here.



Houston does not have the decadent old-world charm of New Orleans or the dank industrial appeal of Chicago. There are no grandiose Victorian-style neighborhoods. No rusty smokestacks. No creepy legends. No bats. The makes Houston a weird place for Goths; especially for the two guys from Asmodeus X who were once part of a successful goth act, Morphine Angel, headquartered in Chicago, home of the revered goth label Projekt.

Asmodeus X's Paul Fredric and Brad Marshal are content starting anew in Houston, and the timing couldn't have been better. Because of the concerted efforts of many, the goth-industrial scene in Houston is growing. Local label Kathodik Records is releasing debut CDs from Underground Network Intelligence (aka UNI), Closedown and the Virus. Likewise, local goth label ToneZone plans to record albums from Processor and Flowers & Machines while expanding e-commerce on its Web site. And other local bands are self-releasing material. Freshly signed to [a Southern California label], Asmodeus X plans to start playing live and working on a full-length album called *Mission: Holy Fire*. The single "holy Fire" will be released in March.

The origins of Asmodeus X begin with Morphine Angel, the goth band with an old-school sound. Morphine Angel worked hard for its kudos and fan base, but later got bogged down with concerns about markets, management companies, labels and personality differences. Marshal and Fredric's departure from Morphine Angel left the band to limp along without them. "I know that I fell in love with myself," says lead singer Johnny Lee of Morphine Angel. "And I learned that with everything you do, there is a price."

For Fredric, his passion for Morphine Angel was dissipating, and the Cult of the Naassarene project, which would later morph into the band Asmodeus X, just seemed more appealing, more fun, more reasonable. Besides, says Fredric, "The bigger we got, the less we individually had any control on what was going on anymore. All of a sudden, this world 'market' was a concern in Morphine Angel, which it really hadn't been in the early days."



Now with a new sound and in a new band...Fredric and Marshal, or Asmodeus X nevertheless still found resources and thrust themselves into the developing Houston goth-industrial scene. Both Cult of the Naassarene and the single "Holy Fire" were recorded in 1988 at ToneZone Studios. St. Thomas Records, which had worked with Morphine Angel before, signed Asmodeus X last summer and re-released Cult of the Naassarene as an EP>

Asmodeus X's music is conceptual, which, like conceptual art, begins with an idea and flows through to natural conclusions. There also is, in Asmodeus X's image, meticulous attention to detail, down to the icon of the Egyptian deity Set on "Side Night" (instead of the usual "Side B) on the CotN cassette. Asmodeus X recently expanded to a quartet, with the addition of Rev TiG, formerly of Bamboo Crisis, and guitarist Frank Faust, both of whom joined about two months ago.

While the upcoming single is definitely a dancey number...other songs on the EP are not so up-tempo. Overall, the music expresses a dark, mystical spiritualism, which is a unique quality in industrial music. There's less of the stereotypical ranting and more of a focus on atmosphere. At the same time, it's not so esoteric that one couldn't just enjoy the music without delving into books of Egyptian lore. Or even know who Asmodeus is in the first place.

