

THE BEST POWER METAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR



OVERLORDE - Return of the Snow Giant CD
RELEASE DATE: 17/12/2004 - (SARECD003)



...The album that everybody is talking about! A power metal masterpiece...

Heavy, Oder Was?! (Ger)

"The best Power Metal album of the year!"

Perfect 12 Rating!

Headache (Holland)

"...this band has written classics"

10 / 10 Rating!

Metal Hammer (Italy)

6 / 6 Rating!

Terrorizer (UK)

"...masterclass"

9 / 10 Rating!

Sweden Rock (Sweden)

9 / 10 Rating!

Rock Hard (Ger)

"...captures the pure spirit of the original Heavy Metal"

8.5/10 Rating

and 5th place in Soundcheck!

Metal Hammer (Greece)

"...for all fans of U.S. power metal!"

8 / 10 Rating!

Rock On (Greece)

"...these guys know how power metal should be played!"

8 / 10 Rating

and 4th place in Soundcheck!



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<http://www.SonicAgeRecords.com>

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OVERLORDE BIO / PROMO SHEET



Photos by Jowita Kaminska

Bobby "Leather Lungs" Lucas- Vocals (*Attacker*, *ex-Seven Witches*, *ex-Exhibition*)

John "Kong" Bunucci- Bass, Backing Vocals

Mark "M.E." Edwards- Flying V, Backing Vocals

Dave Wrenn- Drums

OVERLORDE was formed in 1985 by John "Kong" Bunucci (Bass & Lead Vocals) and Mark "M.E." Edwards (Guitar & Backing Vocals). Dave Wrenn (Drums & Backing Vocals) joined shortly thereafter and this power metal band played its first show at the SHOWPLACE in Dover, NJ that November. The band concentrated on originals from the start, with Kong handling the lead vocals along with bass guitar. They were joined by vocalist Pat O'Donnell in early 1986, who then took over the lead vocal role from Kong.

OVERLORDE recorded and released a 5 -song vinyl EP in 1987 on their own label, STRIKE ZONE RECORDS. Recorded at Fox Studios in East Rutherford, NJ (the same studio where HADES recorded its first album), the EP borrowed QUEEN's concept from their Queen II album. It featured a SIDE BLACK and SIDE WHITE. Three studio songs were on SIDE BLACK : "Snow Giant", "The Masque of the Red Death" (based on the Edgar Allen Poe story), and "Overlorde". SIDE WHITE included two live cuts, "The Longest Day" (based on the Cornelius Ryan novel about D-Day) and "Time Machine" (based on the H.G. Wells novel).

The EP received praise in publications like VARIETY, KERRANG!!!, METAL RENDEZVOUS, POWERLINE, the AQUARIAN, and the EAST COAST ROCKER, and received airplay on metal radio such as WSOU and WDMA . However, Pat and the band parted ways near the end of 1987, and Rod Tyler Loiza (ex- SYMPHONY X) took over the vocal duties in 1988.

A new demo was begun, and members of the band attended the 1988 CMJ convention in NYC. While at the event, OVERLORDE was interviewed for West German TV. But the group disbanded late that year after only a few shows with Rod and before the demo could be fully completed.

OVERLORDE experienced a revival of sorts in Europe during the 90's, specifically in Greece and Germany. This as the EP garnered cult status as one of the best U.S. Power Metal releases of the 80's, prompting the band to reunite in 2000.

The three founding members created a true "metal merger" when the vocal spot was filled in September 2000 by former Massacre Records recording artist Bobby "Leather Lungs" Lucas (*ATTACKER*, *ex-SEVEN WITCHES*, *ex-EXHIBITION*). Together they went on to sign with Greece's SONIC AGE RECORDS and released RETURN OF THE SNOW GIANT, a full length international release that was acclaimed as one of the best of 2004/2005. The CD was recorded at Trax East in South River, NJ, and had distribution in multiple countries including TWILIGHT in Germany.

The band performed at KEEP IT TRUE IV in Germany in April 2005. Four of their songs appear on the official festival DVD. Their song SNOW GIANT was also featured on an extreme snowmobiling DVD release titled ALTITUDE SICKNESS: INTO THIN AIR and the video single for the song was created by the film's director, Spencer Lancaster.

While the CD garnered great critical success, conditions were not favorable for a follow up CD with Sonic Age Records before expiration of their contract January 1st 2009. Overlorde looks forward to obtaining a new record label or self-releasing. Writing and demo recording for the next album kicked into high gear in 2013. Either way, Overlorde plans to unleash a kick ass follow up in the true Overlorde style in 2014!

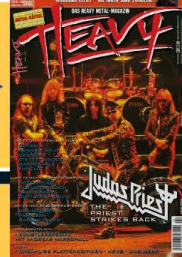
Visit the www.overlorde.com to hear Overlorde. The first two songs in the music player are free, broadcast quality MP3 downloads.

www.overlorde.com <https://www.facebook.com/overlorde> ovrlrde@aol.com

Last update: August 2013

HEAVY - ALBEN DES MONATS:

Overlord was featured in the SOUNDCHECK feature of HEAVY, ODER WAS?! Magazine (Germany's second largest Metal magazine) March 2005. 73 CDs were rated by 12 different critics at the magazine, using a scale of "1 to 12", and their scores averaged.



COMMUNIC

Conspiracy In Mind

Nuclear Blast/Warner

Das neue Jahr beginnt mit einer handfesten Sensation, die sich mittels der beiden COMMUNIC-Demos schon angekündigt hatte: Die drei Norweger legen ein Debüt vor, das rundum Klassikerpotential besitzt. 'Conspiracy In Mind' bietet perfekten Power Metal mit süchtigmachenden Melodien, packender Atmosphäre und einem faszinierenden melancholi-

schen Touch - so als würde NEVERMOREs bester Song 'The Heart-Collector' nie enden! Davon kommt Ihr Euch ja schon auf unserer vorletzten 'Metal Crusade'-CD überzeugen und 'Conspiracy In Mind' übertrifft sogar alle Erwartungen. Einziger Schwachpunkt und vermutlich der einzige Grund, warum ich nicht die Höchstnote zücke: Die neue Version von 'Conspiracy In Mind' ist einen Tick schwächer als die Demoversion. Doch ansonsten haben die drei Norweger weiteres Material ausgepackt, das dem Demomaterial keinen Millimeter nachsteht, so daß sich 'Conspiracy In Mind' während der kompletten einstündigen Spielzeit auf Weltklasseniveau bewegt. Und so haben wir mit höchster Wahrscheinlichkeit schon kurz nach Beginn von 2005 das Album des Jahres vorliegen. Denn: Besser kann man Metal anno 2005 nicht spielen! Kein Zweifel: Diese Band wird nicht lange als Newcomer eingestuft werden (zumal die drei COMMUNIC-Musiker schon seit Jahren aktiv sind), sondern verdammt schnell in die Riege der großen Bands vorstoßen!

Stefan Glas (11 Fieberanfälle)



OVERLORDE

Return Of The Snow Giant

Sonic Age/Twilight

Nach dem 2000er Demo war es echt an der Zeit ein komplettes Album der US-Metal-Heroen OVERLORDE an den Start zu bringen. Und was soll ich sagen, 'Return Of The Snow Giant' erfüllt restlos alle Erwartungen. Neben den vier Demosongs befinden sich noch zwei Remakes der EP aus den 80ern und sechs neue Songs auf dem Meisterwerk. OVERLORDE verbinden

die unbändige Power des US-Metal mit der lokeren Verspieltheit der NWoBHM. Dazu kommt noch ein starker RAINBOW-Einschlag, der vor allem in der unsterblichen Epic-Metal-Hymne 'Mark Of The Wolf' und 'Trapped By Magic' zum Tragen kommt. Diese Songs können genauso punkten, wie die kurzen und knackigen 'Snow Giant', 'Ogre Wizard' oder 'Overlord'. Ein wichtiger Faktor ist natürlich auch Sänger Bobby Lucas, welcher seine Brötchen vorher bei SEVEN WITCHES und EXHIBITION verdient hat und sich mit 'Return Of The Snow Giant' ein Denkmal setzt. Man kann ohne zu übertrieben behaupten, daß Bobby wohl zu den momentan Top 3 der US-Metal-Sänger gehört. Gerade bei 'Mark Of The Wolf' muß er sich nicht hinter Altsmeister wie Ronnie James Dio oder Bruce Dickinson verstecken. Dazu kommt noch ein hervorragendes Cover und umfangreiches, schön gestaltetes Booklet, so daß bei 'Return Of The Snow Giant' eigentlich alles stimmt und es deswegen ohne wenn und aber die Höchstnote verdient.

Oliver Weinsheimer (12 Punkte)



DARK TRANQUILLITY

Character

Century Media/SPV

Manch einer mag die jüngste Entwicklung DARK TRANQUILLITYs ab des vermehrten Einsatzes moderner Elemente verdammt haben, doch all jenen sei prophezeit, daß sie mit 'Character' ebenso viel Spaß haben werden, wie mit den alten Alben der Schweden. Den Jungs ist nämlich das Kunststück gelungen, Altes mit Modernem so geschickt zu verbinden,

daß selbst Hartgesottene Old Schooler mit 'Character' zufrieden sein werden! Wer Hymnen wie der Wahnsinnsopener 'The New Build', den Oberknaller 'Through Smudged Lenses', 'The Endless Feed', 'Lost To Apathy' oder das kesse 'One Thought' nicht als erstklassiges Songmaterial identifizieren kann, dem ist wirklich nicht zu helfen! Was DARK TRANQUILLITY live auszeichnet, haben die Jungs nun auch fast perfekt auf Silberling bannen können: Unbändige Spielfreude die in einer tollen Verschmelzung von Melodie und Aggression kulminiert. Die geschickt eingesetzten Keyboardsounds verfeinern die durchweg aggressiven, aber jederzeit melodischen Kompositionen und im Vergleich zum direkten Vorgänger 'Damage Done' erscheinen die elf Tracks von 'Character' durchdachter. Stellt sich aber die Gretchenfrage: Ist es denn nun eine Rückbesinnung zu den Wurzeln? In Punkto Härte und Aggressionspotential auf jeden Fall! DARK TRANQUILLITY setzen sich mit 'Character' an die Spitze der Göteborg-Szene und treten der Konkurrenz fett in den Allerwertesten!

Jagger (11 Punkte)

REDAKTIONS-CHECK:

Overlord rated NUMBER TWO out of those 73 CDs. And the review (see left) gave it a perfect 12 rating. The only CD to receive a 12.

	Peter	Stefan	Hage	Arno	Jagger	Thomas	Harst	Dietmar	Andreas	Martin R.	Jürgen	Oliver	Σ
01. COMMUNIC - Conspiracy In Mind	10	11	10	8	10	10	10	8	8	10	11	10	9,7
02. OVERLORDE - Return Of The Snow...	10	10	10	10	7	8	10	6	8	8	11	12	9,2
03. DARK TRANQUILLITY - Character	9	10	10	7	11	10	9	6	9	9	10	8	9,0
04. SOILWORK - Slabbing The Drama	9	9	11	5	10	9	8	8	10	12	10	6	8,9
LANFEAR - Another Golden Rage	9	9	10	9	9	10	9	6	7	9	10	10	8,9
06. ASTRAL DOORS - Evil Is Forever	7	8	9	11	8	10	7	10	8	9	10	9	8,8
07. KAMELOT - The Black Halo	8	9	9	7	8	11	9	9	6	10	9	8	8,6
08. HAMMERFALL - Chapter V: Unbent...	8	8	9	9	7	8	9	9	6	10	10	8	8,4
09. CIRCLE II CIRCLE - The Middle Of...	11	9	8	6	8	8	10	8	8	10	8	6	8,3
DUNGEON - One Step Beyond	9	9	7	8	8	8	9	8	7	8	9	9	8,3
IVANHOE - Walk In Mindfields	11	9	8	7	6	10	10	6	9	7	7	7	8,3
NIGHTRAGE - Descent Into Chaos	8	9	9	8	9	8	8	6	9	9	9	7	8,3
SCAR SYMMETRY - Symmetric In...	10	10	9	4	9	9	9	7	-	8	10	6	8,3
14. IMAGIKA - Devils On Both Sides	8	9	8	7	8	9	9	5	8	9	10	8	8,2
INSANE - Wait And Pray	9	8	9	9	9	6	9	4	7	9	9	10	8,2
16. MOONSORROW - Verisakeet	7	9	11	9	10	10	7	5	10	7	4	8	8,1
17. IMPELLITTERI - Pedal To The Metal	10	7	8	8	5	8	10	9	7	9	7	7	7,9
18. FOZZY - All That Remains	7	7	9	6	8	8	8	10	8	7	9	7	7,8
GREEN GARNATION - The Quiet...	6	9	10	6	8	9	7	8	8	8	7	7	7,8
PRIMORDIAL - The Gathering...	5	9	11	7	9	11	6	4	-	7	8	9	7,8
21. LABYRINTH - Freeman	8	8	9	5	6	10	8	10	8	8	6	6	7,7
SPOCK'S BEARD - Octane	7	9	8	6	7	9	8	10	7	8	7	6	7,7
23. SANDAUNAS - Living On The Edge	7	7	6	8	8	8	7	8	7	7	9	9	7,6
24. JOE LYNN TURNER - The Usual Suspects	7	9	6	6	7	7	8	9	6	9	8	7	7,4
25. BLACK LABEL SOCIETY - Mafia	6	6	9	4	9	9	7	8	10	7	7	6	7,3
DARK SUNS - Existence	7	8	11	6	8	10	6	9	8	6	4	5	7,3
MILLION - Kingsize	7	8	6	6	6	7	8	9	6	9	9	6	7,3
RUNNING WILD - Raques En Vogue	8	6	6	8	8	6	8	8	6	8	8	7	7,3
29. CLOUDSCAPE - Cloudscape	6	8	7	7	7	7	6	10	7	7	7	7	7,2
JOHN NORUM - Optimus	6	7	7	6	7	7	7	9	7	9	8	6	7,2
LIESEGANG/WHITE - Visual Surveillance...	10	7	4	6	7	7	8	8	6	8	9	6	7,2
THUNDER - The Magnificent Seventh	7	8	4	5	8	9	7	11	6	8	7	6	7,2
33. BEHIND THE SCENERY - Retroviser	6	7	9	5	8	9	6	6	9	6	8	5	7,0
COMPLEX 7 - Progress	6	8	6	6	7	9	6	6	5	11	7	7	7,0
GLENN HUGHES - Soul Mover	7	8	5	6	7	6	7	9	7	8	7	7	7,0
RAPTURE - Silent Stage	5	9	9	5	10	8	5	6	9	7	6	5	7,0
SPEED/KILL/HATE - Acts Of Insanity	4	8	9	5	9	7	6	4	8	8	10	6	7,0
WAYSTED - Back From The Dead	8	7	4	6	7	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	7,0
39. CROWBAR - Lifesblood For The...	4	7	10	4	8	8	5	8	10	6	6	6	6,8
DISENGAGE - Application For An Afterlife	5	8	9	5	7	7	7	8	7	7	8	4	6,8
DREAMAKER - Enclosed	8	7	7	5	7	8	7	8	5	6	7	6	6,8
KORPIKLAANI - Voice Of Wilderness	6	8	7	6	6	7	6	7	6	7	8	7	6,8
43. AUTUMN - Summer's End	6	9	7	5	7	7	6	8	7	6	5	6	6,6
IMMOLATION - Harnessing Ruin	5	8	7	6	10	8	5	2	10	6	5	7	6,6
TRISTANIA - (Ashes)	5	8	9	6	6	8	5	5	8	6	7	6	6,6
46. DARK MOOR - Beyond The Sea	7	5	6	6	6	7	7	8	7	7	6	6	6,5
DOMAIN - Last Days Of Utopia	6	6	5	6	6	7	6	10	6	8	6	6	6,5
MENNEN - Freakazoid	6	8	7	4	6	7	6	11	5	7	6	5	6,5
VOYAGER - Element V	6	9	4	6	6	8	6	5	5	7	9	7	6,5
50. DARKSEED - Ultimate Darkness	6	6	7	6	7	7	6	7	6	6	7	6	6,4
DRACONIAN - Arcane Rain Fall	4	8	10	6	8	10	4	5	7	5	5	5	6,4
LAST AUTUMN'S DREAM - II	7	8	5	7	6	5	7	8	4	7	7	6	6,4
53. MADE OF IRON - Made Of Iron	7	6	8	7	5	7	6	4	6	5	8	7	6,3
MAHAVATAR - Go With The No!	8	7	3	5	8	6	7	6	6	6	8	5	6,3
MEVADIO - Hands Down	6	7	6	3	7	8	6	8	7	7	7	4	6,3
MIDNATSOL - Where Twilight Dwells	5	8	7	6	6	7	5	8	4	7	7	5	6,3
RAISING FEAR - Mythos	4	8	6	8	5	7	5	6	6	6	7	7	6,3
THE PROVENANCE - How Would You...	4	6	9	5	7	10	5	6	7	6	5	5	6,3
59. BELPHEGOR - Goatreich - Fleshcult	8	6	9	5	7	6	6	3	9	5	5	5	6,2
GOOD WITCH OF THE SOUTH - Nuclear	6	7	8	4	5	6	6	5	8	6	9	4	6,2
NOMANS LAND - Hammerfrost	6	8	9	7	7	6	5	4	5	5	6	6	6,2
TOMMY FUNDERBURK - Anything For...	7	8	7	6	6	6	6	8	4	6	5	5	6,2
63. FREEDOM CALL - The Circle Of Life	8	8	2	5	5	6	8	8	1	8	7	7	6,1
TRAIL OF TEARS - Free Fall Into Fear	6	6	9	6	7	6	6	4	6	6	5	6	6,1
65. DR. ROCK INC. - Rumble	8	6	7	7	6	7	6	5	4	5	6	5	6,0
VISIONS OF ATLANTIS - Cast Away	6	9	4	5	5	7	6	8	4	7	6	5	6,0
67. BLOOD RED THRONE - Altered Genesis	3	7	9	7	8	8	4	0	8	6	6	5	5,9
68. DOWNSCAPE - Beyond The Surface	5	5	6	4	7	7	6	3	8	6	6	5	5,7
69. ALOGIA - Secret Spheres Of Art	7	6	5	3	2	6	7	9	6	7	1	5	5,3
KOMA - Sinónimo De Ofender	6	4	3	2	5	7	6	8	6	6	6	5	5,3
71. ROTTEN SOUND - Exit	4	7	9	2	9	6	3	1	9	3	5	4	5,2
72. GOAT OF MENDES - A Book Of Shadows	7	5	6	8	3	5	5	4	5	4	5	4	5,1
73. CROSSBOW - Break The Ice	6	3	6	3	3	5	5	5	3	4	6	1	4,2

Features

Heavy. Oder was!?

Overlord rated # 2 out of 73 CDs! See the full list.

Metal Gospel

Metal Gospel names the CD its BEST CD OF 2004!

Metal Crypt

The Crypt Keeper named the CD his TOP PICK of 2004!

Metal-Rules

EvilG and Night of the Realm name the CD in their "Best of 2004" lists!

Maximum Metal

January 2005: "Spotlight on Overlord" feature



Sweden Rock Magazine

9 / 10 Rating!

Rock Hard (Germany)

"...captures the pure spirit of the original Heavy Metal..."

8.5/10 Rating

and

5th place in Soundcheck!



Unrestrained (Canada)

8 / 10 Rating!

Metal Hammer (Greece)

8 / 10 Rating!

Rock Brigade (Brazil)

8/10 Rating!

January issue

Aardschok (Holland)

"True metal at its best"

78 / 100 rating

Rock On (Greece)

7.7 / 10 Rating in Soundcheck!

Scream (Norway)

4 / 6 Rating!

Fireworks (UK)

"...a potential classic."

Unchain the Underground

10 / 10 rating!

Metalius

"...produced goose bumps all over my body and tears of joy..."

10 / 10 rating!

(German)

Maximum Metal

"...the best record of 2004. This is pure magic, pure brilliance..."

Morrigans Pit

5 / 5 rating!

Metal Gospel

The CD faces THE INQUISITION. Reviewed by eight different critics at once!

Metal Coven

99 / 100 rating! (German)

MetalEater

9.5 / 10 Rating!

Novo Metal

9.5 / 10 Rating! (Portuguese)

Hellspawn

December 2004 "CD of the Month!"

92 / 100 Rating! (Belgian)

Metal Crypt

4.5 / 5 rating!

Metal Reviews

90 / 100 rating & "Album of the Month" Jan 2005!

Heavy, Oder Was!?

(Germany)

"The best Power Metal album of the year!"

Perfect 12 Rating!

Metal Hammer (Italy)

6 / 6 Rating!

Headache (Holland)

"This is a fist in your face"

10 / 10 Rating!

Metal Maniacs (USA)



"A" Rating!

November 2005 issue

[Read the review here!](#)

Terrorizer (UK)



"masterclass" 9 / 10 Rating!

January 2005 issue # 127

[Read the review here!](#)

TERRORIZER

OVERLORDE "Return of the Snow Giant" SONIC AGE

Sometimes it takes an old hand to show the world how it's done. Veterans from the 80's HM underground like Elixir, Manilla Road, Pagan Altar and Brocas Helm have returned in heartening style over the last few years, and here's another submitted for your approval. Re-recorded tunes from Overlorde's 1987 EP blend seamlessly here alongside new songs on this vibrant comeback disc, effortlessly slaying the vast majority of modern power metal with tangible energy and passion and nifty songwriting prowess that's perfect for this kind of music. It's not just that the band sound like they're having a ball, or that their gonzo zeal is so infectious, it's simply that Overlorde are really good at heavy metal. Bassist 'Kong' Bunucci's fingers are all over the fret here, like the Butlers, Entwistles, and Harrisers who made the four string exciting in its own right. The vocals are mental, the sound clear but heavy. "Masterclass" is the only word for it.

[9] Chris Chantler

FIREWORKS

OVERLORDE - "RETURN OF THE SNOW GIANT" (Sonic Age Records)

After a resurgence of interest in American band Overlorde throughout Europe in the late-90's, original Overlorde members John 'Kong' Bunucci, Dave Wrenn and Mark 'M.E.' Edwards resurrected the band in 2000 after 12 years apart with former Seven Witches frontman Bobby 'Leather Lungs' Lucas as the new lead vocalist. It was Overlorde's 1987 self-titled EP - now something of a cult classic - that helped the band reunite and acquire a keen underground fan base.

After growing interest and eager reviews for their 4-track 'Overlorde 2000' EP the band were signed to Athens-based Sonic Age Records in 2004 and released their long overdue debut album, 'Return Of The Snow Giant' as the first of a 2-album record deal for their new label.

To put it bluntly, 'Return Of The Snow Giant' is fantastic. Filled with hard bass lines, strong riffs and Rob Halford-style wails, Overlorde have created an album of strength and surprising complexity. For proof just listen to 'Snow Giant', 'Blackness', 'Trapped By Magic' and the lengthy 'Mark Of The Wolf' as examples of muscular, good old-fashioned, inspired metal. 'Return Of The Snow Giant' will not let you down; its refreshing, energetic, powerful and striking. Overlorde are a talented band who have created a potential classic.

Neil Daniels



HEADACHE

Overlorde – Return of the Snow Giant (Sonic Age/ Rock Inc)

Alright metalheads, get yourself together for this one, because when we're talking about heavy metal, this record is one you can't miss. They once started in 1985 and in 2000 they got back together to produce this killer record. Bobby Lucas, who we still remember as the vocalist for Seven Witches, took over the microphone in 2000 and again proves us to be a remarkable heavy metal vocalist. There's not one weak track on this album, they're all good, golden olden metal. Classical US metal without – thank god – modern influences. With songs as 'Ogre Wizard', 'Hell Hath No Fury' or 'Colossus (Island of the Cyclops)' this band has written classics. Now don't whine about this being 'corny metal', if so, you should be deeply ashamed and you should listen to some disco music. This is a fist in your face. Obligated to buy!

Martjo Brangers 10

Photos by Karl Hiller