

Answered by Tristessa

When did you start? What was your ambitions by creating this band? Did you want it to be a female Band?! How many albums have you made?

We were formed in October 1995. Our first band name was LLOTH. Under this band name we released a demo tape with 8 tracks, which is called "Dancing in the dark Lakes Of Evil". This demo is still available from our address. I wanted more to create a steady band. You must know that before the formation of Astarte I was playing in more than 6 bands and I had released Lp's and several demos. But all of those bands had no future and never fulfilled me. So, I formed finally Astarte and as members we are very good friends and we fit perfectly to what we do!!! The fact that we are a female band, it just happened!! Until today we have released two full length albums. Our debut one entitled "Doomed, Dark Years" in 1998 and our second "Rise from Within" in 2000.

Why a Black Metal band? Lot of girls now are doing BM, do you want to show people you can do it to?

What to show to people? That girls can play instruments? Well, I think that many human beings both, men and women, are able to play music. Don't you think so? Who doubt for this? Don't you have ever seen in your life, girls to play music or to go to the conservatory? Where is the difficulty? No. We are not trying to show anything and to prove nothing, we just like this kind of music and we like to be expressed through Black Metal, which is the music that always evoluates and we feel free inside this Darkness.

Seems more than the three girls are behind Astarte, is your creation not easy for you to play or you have them in tour head with tons of musicians?

Astarte are only 3 members. Only our session drummer and our keyboard player are behind the recordings. We write and compose everything. For the live shows we do not care because we will never play. Besides our music activity we are working and we are studying in daily bases and there is no time for us left for those obligations. Our tracks can be easily played live but our obligations do not give us the free time for extra work.

Who made the logo and the cd Artwork?

I have made the logo and the artwork in both albums, our cd's are made by Spiros from Septic Flesh.

You sound and look really original, quite hard for this period as everybody copy others. Who are your favorite bands and from whom you take inspiration?

At the beginning of course we were influenced from the Norwegian B. Metal but after we tried to become uninfluenced and to make a personal style. Favorite bands are from many music kinds like: Power, Hard rock, Thrash, Death and old psychedelic music. So, the bands are too many to be mentioned. We borrow music ideas from many scenes.

Somebody as composed the keyboard part but you say it has been arranged by yourselves, how? You apparently all play keyboards?! Guitars? You have done music school?

We all play all those instruments. We can play keyboards too but our ideas are sometimes very difficult for us to play so we have an extra member to help us during the recordings. That's all. But for the rest of the instruments, we are able to play all of them in the recordings. Mostly we have learned music by ourselves. We have done only basic lessons for guitars and bass. Each one of us knows all those instruments, plus I have done in the past some drums lessons but I am not so good in speed tempos.

Three on the cover is excellent but you have a drummer. Is the fact is a man is it the reason he's not pictured or he's just a musician studio?

Our drummer is a session member. We have changed several drummers and we still do. So, he is not a steady member to be pictured with us.

Do you play live?! How is the scene there?

Well, as I told you before we have never played live until today and we may never play live!!!

How do you feel to write all the lyrics and not to sing them? What is your inspiration? And are you always sad?! Are you receiving lots of letters?! Who got the most?! Do you have fans coming to your doors? Who create the music?! How comes you don't have a site?! Nor email address?!

About lyrics, I believe that only Kinthia is able to make lyrics sound true. I do not care not to sing them. I only care to listen them come out through chaotic screams and Kinthia is the best of the three of us. In my daily life I am the most happy person. I like fun and I always have a huge smile on my face. Black metal is not a happy music. There I express things that are totally out of my daily life. Remember that the last album was purely dedicated to the memory of my mother who died at that time!!! But generally music from me is another distance where I release all my inner parts which are both sad and happy!!! I am inspired from books that I read, from movies and from my own life. Also from Mythology, History and anything else that makes me feel strong.

Mostly I got the most letters because I am responsible for the communication and correspondence of Astarte. We have many fans and some of them have really traveled from villages and islands around Greece to come and meet us. The music is equally composed by the three of us. Each one of us writes our own tracks. Soon we will build a web site. Right now it is under construction. In our new album there will be the address of our site. Actually, we have an email address for two years now. I have this address and it is available for everyone: astarte_tristessa@yahoo.com Your cd is available everywhere, quite good for a band like yours when you see that a big old bands on big Labels are impossible to find. Seems like Black Lotus Records is better than the average Labels!! How did you find it and what is your deal with them and is it just a Label or more a Record company in your country?! Have they produced many bands?

To say the truth we did not find B. Lotus, they found us and they made us a proposal to sign a contract for 4 cd's. Here in Athens it is the only Label that deals with our scene and it has many bands under its umbrella from many countries. It is a Label that makes a great worldwide distribution and great advertising to its bands and we are satisfied with our deal with them.

What exactly is the story of this album? There are three parts for the titled song "Rise from Within". Another good sign but is it your personal ways from your within or the way you see things should be?! Do you practice Magic? Are you witches?! Astarte circle?!

No we are not practicing magic. We consider ourselves as independent human beings that build ourselves and we learn how to use our powers. We believe in human powers and we build them as long as we live. Astarte is a medium to transfer our own beliefs and our positive energy. Through music and lyrics communicate and we transfer our real entity!! We feel as synchronous witches of our age that stand on our own powers and evolve our existence!!

Let's talk about the Lyrics of "Rise from Within". This story has an imaginary matter dealing with two friends, who separate their futures and they try to gather experiences and to make self-identification. To find out their powers and where do they belong. So, the one becomes server of Good and the other follows the Dark side. The meanings of "good and evil" are too general in my concept and the chronological period of that wondering is not specified. Each one of us can translate it according to our beliefs. So, I describe all that experience and I end my story to the following event. A strange and uncontrolled power blows everything. The "Bad" one becomes "Good" and vice versa.

The message is that Good and Evil are both superior powers and human will serve and fight for them. The evolutions, revolutions and history are part of them. Inside Evil there is always the existence of Good. I talk about the power of friendship, love and hate, war and peace, loneliness and happiness, about the human powers and independence. It is a personal text because I analyze my personal perception towards the everyday threats and my attraction to the human powers.

The other tracks deal with issues like The myth of Atlantis, The cosmic theory of Law and Justice and about the war between the Nations, general reference to the destruction of Nature and the tendency of human for total destruction.

Talking about music, the whole album it is a mix of Black-Death and Thrash elements! There is always a melancholic atmosphere and at the same time aggressiveness. It has nine tracks placed in a harmonic sequence that follows the lyrical part.