

UNCLOUDEDXFOCUS

THIS IS THE THIRD EDITION OF UNCLOUDEDXFOCUS. A HANDOUT ABOUT STRAIGHT EDGE. HARDCORE MUSIC. PMA AND OTHER STUFF. SOME DAYS YOU HAVE TO GET STUFF OFF YOUR CHEST OR OUT OF YOUR HEAD - AND SOMETIMES THE BEST WAY IS TO WRITE IT DOWN. I CAN BRING SOME OF MY MOST COMPLEX OR WORST THOUGHTS BEST TO PAPER AS POEMS. LYRICS OR JUST PLAIN TEXT. SO TODAY SOME OF THE THINGS I WRITE DOWN. WILL BE MY MEDIUM TO LET YOU KNOW. WHAT GOES ON INSIDE THIS STRANGE HEAD OF MINE. TODAY'S TOPIC OF THE HANDOUT IS KIND OF A RETROSPECT ON THE UNITED BY FAITH II FESTIVAL. SOME LYRICAL/POETIC THOUGHTS. MUSICAL INPUT AND NOTHING MORE. ENJOY. PEACE.

UNITED BY FAITH II
7.12.2024

4 STRAIGHTEDGE GUYS IN A TINY CAR. 4 HOUR DRIVE. MANY SNACKS. THE HIGHLIGHT: COLA-DATES. WTF. YUM. WHAT A RIDE!

DESTINATION: DAS HAUS. LUDWIGSHAFEN CITY.
EPICENTER: USF II. BY NRR BOOKINGS
(THANK YOU. ANDY AND EVERYONE INVOLVED!)

THE LINEUP:
BOOK READING 'WE COULD NOT DO ANY BETTER'

Goblin Soap (CANCELLED)
DESIRE LINE
PLACID
DIVINE SENTENCE
MORTAL FORM
PLUTO THE RACER
FORCE OF DENIAL
ECHO CHAMBER

WE GOT TO THE SHOW AFTER CHECKING IN AT OUR HOTEL. WE RAN A BIT LATE. BUT THE CANCELLATION OF Goblin Soap. WHO SHOULD HAVE OPENED THE BILL. WAS TO OUR FAVOR. THE EVENT STARTED WAY EARLIER WITH A BOOK READING OF 'WE COULD NOT DO ANY BETTER'. A BOOK ABOUT THE SXE MOVEMENT IN EUROPE WRITTEN BY MARC HANOU AND JEAN-PAUL FRIJNS. WE MISSED IT.

I HAD TO WORK HALF THE DAY. MEH.

I GOT THE BOOK AT EDGEFEST THIS YEAR. AT FIRST I WAS A BIT OVERWHELMED WITH THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION IT CONTAINED... I DEVoured THE BOOK AND IN HINDSIGHT I BIT MY ARSE I COULDN'T ATTEND THE READING.

I WOULD HAVE ENJOYED IT.

THE SHOW WAS SOLD OUT WITH A FEW MORE TICKETS AT THE DOOR. SO APPROXIMATELY 150-160 PEOPLE WERE AROUND.

DESIRE LINE STARTED THE EVENING FOR US AND THEY BROUGHT SO MUCH EMOTION INTO THE VERY MIXED LINEUP. I KNEW HOW THEY SOUNDED ON VINYL. BUT DAMN. LIVE THEIR SHORT SET WAS COMPACT. DRIVEN AND WELL PLAYED. A NICE START.

THEN I MADE A MISTAKE -

I BOUGHT ALL MERCH I WANTED ON THE SPOT AND MEANWHILE SPOKE TO A FEW PEOPLE I KNEW FROM THE WEB AND OTHERS CONCERTS. THIS KIND OF STALLED ME.

NOW I STILL HAD TO GET ALL THE MERCH STUFF TO THE HOTEL AND BACK IN TIME FOR PLACID!

SO I HAD TO GO FOR A QUICK RUN.

PLACID JUST STARTED PLAYING AND I WAS SOAKED IN SWEAT WHEN I GOT BACK AND SETTLED IN THE CROWD.

I LIKED WHAT I SAW:

A TIGHT SET WITH FRENCH LYRICS. A NICE COVER SONG AND A CROWD THAT HAD FUN. THE ROOM WAS ALIVE. THEN DIVINE SENTENCE AND THEIR VEGAN METALCORE SOUND RIPPED THE ROOM TO SHREDS. THEIR AGGRESSIVE SOUND AND SOFIAS UNIQUE VOCALS MAKE EVERY OF THEIR SHOWS A EXPERIENCE YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS AND CERTAINLY WON'T FORGET. THEY DIDN'T LET ME DOWN THIS TIME EITHER.

(THE MINOR INCONVENIENCE WITH FRANZ' BASS SUDDENLY NOT WORKING ANYMORE - PLEASE LET'S FORGET THAT. IT'S NOT REALLY WORTH MENTIONING... KILI, A FRIEND OF MINE WHO I OFTEN SEE AT SHOWS. DID A SICK FEATURE ON ONE TRACK - KUDOS!)

NEXT IN LINE WAS MORTAL FORM - SECRETLY MY FAVOURITE ON THE LINEUP.

SO I THOUGHT.

I SAW THEM LIVE SOME WEEKS BEFORE WHEN THEY SUPPORTED SPEED IN NUREMBERG. SO I KNEW WHAT I NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR.

DIVEBOMBS. NICE MOSH PARTS. ME YELLING INTO THE MIC. TWO STEP PARTS AND AWESOME FEATURES! STEFFEN OF FORCE OF DENIAL DID ONE AND MOSHED ME TO THE GROUND AFTERWARDS. NO HARD FEELINGS. MY FRIEND.

IT WAS A TREMENDOUS SET WHICH I ABSOLUTELY ENJOYED. ALREADY SLIGHTLY BRUISED (OUCH.). I ENJOYED THE BREAKS IN BETWEEN THE SETS. BECAUSE I COULD CATCH UP WITH OLD AND NEW FRIENDS. EAT SOME DELICIOUS VEGAN SHAWARMA (THANK YOU MAIK OF KOMBÜSE/MORTAL FORM!) AND HALF OF THE LAST CINNAMON BUN WHICH I STILL SHARED WITH A FRIEND (YOU'RE WELCOME ♥)

PLUTO THE RACER MADE THE ROOM COOL DOWN A BIT. BUT NOT BECAUSE THEY WERE LAME OF ANY SORT. BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR POP PUNK INFLUENCED SOUND - A NICE CHANGEUP OF MUSIC IN THIS LINEUP. IT WAS NICE TO JUST STAND THERE AND ENJOY THEM PLAY THEIR SHORT BUT NICE SET. STILL - THE ROOM WAS VERY MUCH ALIVE AND MOVING.

HIGH KICKS. STAGE DIVES. PILED UP PEOPLE AND BRUISES WERE NEXT ON THE AGENDA - FORCE OF DENIAL AND AND THEIR STRAIGHT EDGE SOUND MADE EARTH SHAKE. THREE NICE FEATURES (FLO OF CHEMICAL THREAT. ANDY OF MORTAL FORM/NRR AND SOFIA OF DIVINE SENTENCE) HIT OUR EARS AND MADE THE ROOM BURST WITH ENERGY.

MY KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR LYRICS WAS RATHER MEH. BUT STILL I WANTED TO SCREAM.

SCREAM ALONG IN RAW EMOTION WITH EVERYBODY ELSE.

I CHANGED MY MIND.

THIS WAS MY FAVOURITE OF THE EVENING.

JUST A FACT.

SORRY. BUT NOT SORRY.

#3

"PMA"

UNITED BY FAITH II

STRAIGHT EDGE

-FRONT-

-GO VEGAN!

XX



I HAD TO BINGE WATER BEFORE THE NEXT SET. I WAS DONE - BUT ONLY PHYSICALLY! MENTALLY I WAS FULLY PREPARED FOR HEADLINER TIME -

ECHO CHAMBER!

NEVER BEFORE I HAD THEM SEEM LIVE. ONLY HEARD AND SEEN STUFF ABOUT THEIR INFAMOUS SHOWS. THEIR SOUND WAS CRAZY GOOD AND EVERYBODY ELSE SEEMINGLY LOVED IT. TOO.

I WAS UP FRONT. I SCREAMED ALONG.

THEN SOMETHING HIT ME LIKE A FUCKING SLEDGEHAMMER IN THE FACE.

I COULDN'T SEE. BLINDING PAIN. I HELD MY NOSE. TUMBLED BACKWARDS TO A WALL AND LOOKED INTO MY HANDS.

BLOOD.

FUCK.

SO WHAT.

IT WASN'T ALL TOO BAD.

I RECOVERED QUICKLY. BLOODY TISSUE IN MY HAND. I WAS UP FRONT AGAIN.

EGGG FUCKING KILLED THE SET AND MADE ME BLEED.

SO THANKS. I GUESS?!

WHAT A SICK DAY.

WE WERE ALL CERTAINLY UNITED BY FAITH.

I GOT TO BED HAPPY AND BRUISED.

THE NEXT DAY: UBFII COMMUNITY RUN.

ALMOST NO SLEEP. BUT FUCK IT.

I RAN TO THE MEET UP SPOT AT KOMBÜSE. MANNHEIM AND THERE I MET ANDY. STEFFEN. JEAN-PAUL AND SOME OTHER AQUAINTANCES AND FRIENDS.

WE HAD A NICE TIGHT ROUTE FOR SIGHTSEEING ALONG THE NECKAR -

A COOL RUN ON A COLD MORNING.

I WAS POSITIVELY EXHAUSTED.

BRUISED. BUT HAPPY.

HARD
CORE

THOUGHTS

PAIN

IS MY DRIVE

TODAY

THISTLES. THORNS. NETTLES
BRUSHING MY

CALVES. KNEES. THIGHS
GRIPPING FLESH AND SKIN
STRESSED MUSCLES

ALMOST SPRAINED JOINTS
BURNING LUNGS

AND STINGING RIBS

SHORT BREATH AND

HUNGER FOR MORE

PAIN IS BLISS

WHAT STARTED IN
HAND TO HAND COMBAT.
IS NOW AUTOMATED
CHEMICAL WARFARE.
DEPERZONALIZED KILLINGS
FACELESS VICTIMS
ALL HARMED
IN THE NAME
OF YET ANOTHER
SO CALLED LEADER

IN THESE DIRE TIMES
WHEN THERE'S ONLY
OCCUPIED MINDS
THE ONE WHO
BREAKS FREE
IS SEEN AS FREAK

PARIAH -
A MIND AT EASE
ISMS AND SCHISMS
CAST ASIDE
THERE'S NO REGRET
WHEN WE FIND
PEACE

XXX

RANDOM LIST OF 4:

FOUNDATION - WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS

ABOUT FACE - DEMO 2025

LOVE LETTER - EVERYONE WANTS SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

VERSE - AGGRESSION

UNCLOUDEDXFOCUS

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THIS WAS

UNCLOUDEDXFOCUS

GREETINGS,

MO X

Focus

- BACK -

UNCLOUDED