

THIS IS 5TH EDITION OF UNCLOUDEDXFOCUS. A HANDOUT ABOUT HARDCORE MUSIC, VEGANISM, THE STRAIGHT EDGE AND TAKING THE STEP INTO THE HC SCENE. TODAY I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT HOW AND WHEN I GOT INTO HC AND GIVE YOU SOME INSIGHTS OF NICE SHOWS I VISITED IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

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I BECAME STRAIGHT EDGE 12 YEARS AGO. BUT FOR A LONG TIME I WAS NO REAL PART OF THE HARDCORE SCENE DIRECTLY LINKED TO IT. I CAME MORE FROM A METAL BASED BACKGROUND. LISTENING TO SLIPKNOT AND SIMILAR STUFF. BUT I ALREADY HAD SOME CONTACT WITH HARDCORE MUSIC EARLY ON. I WATCHED SLAYER. SLIPKNOT AND HATEBREED PERFORM LIVE IN STUTTGART ONCE WHEN I WAS 14 YEARS OLD. BUT AT THAT TIME I WASN'T TOO AMAZED BY HATEBREED HARDCORE SOUND. FOR I WAS TOO MUCH A FAN OF SLIPKNOT AND COMPLETELY OVERWHELMED BY SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE. AT A THRIFT SHOP NOT LONG AFTER THAT MY MUM BOUGHT A CD. SHE THOUGHT IT WAS MANTRA MUSIC FOR MEDITATION - BUT AS SOON AS THE FIRST SONG STARTED. OUR EARS WERE ALMOST BLOWN OFF IN THE CAR. THE SONG WAS 'MESSAGE OF THE BHAGAVAD' BY SHELTER (FROM THEIR ALBUM 'MANTRA') THAT PLAYED AND EVER SINCE THAT DAY I KEPT THE CD AND THIS SONG IN MY HEART/MIND. I SWITCHED FROM DEATHMETAL TO METALCORE AND MELODIC HARDCORE WITH A RATHER SMOOTH TRANSITION. BUT THROUGH A FRIEND I GOT MORE INTO EVERYTHING CORE-RELATED EVEN WITH SLIGHT EMO-INFLUENCES AND ALSO A BIT OF HARDCORE. ATTENDING SHOWS DURING THAT TIME LEAD TO MEETING SOMEONE WHO WAS STRAIGHT EDGE AND AS STATED IN AN EARLIER EDITION OF THE HANDOUT I CLAIMED EDGE SOON AFTERWARDS. BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL 2.5 YEARS AGO THAT I EVENTUALLY TOOK A REAL STEP INTO THE SXE/HC SCENE. THANKS TO MY BOSS AND GOOD FRIEND SVEN I GOT INTO CONTACT WITH LIKEMINDED AQUAINTANCES WHO TOOK ME TO SXE AND HARDCORE SHOWS - AND AS SOON AS I KNEW AS A LATE BLOOMER IN MY 30'S I WAS UP FRONT AT HOUSE SHOWS. CLUB SHOWS OR FESTIVALS AND SOAKED UP OLD STUFF. NEW STUFF. DEMOCORE ON TAPES OR VINYL. I MADE FRIENDS. TOOK SOME HITS AND GOT BRUISED. SLEPT LITTLE AND WENT TO SOME OF THE GREATEST SHOWS I EVER SEEN WITH THE NICEST PEOPLE IMAGINABLE. EVER SINCE I FEEL HOME.

THE STRAIGHT EDGE

A PATH
TO REDEEM YOURSELF
FROM PAST SINS
CLEARING THE HEART
THE MIND
THE BODY
BY ALL MEANS
TO BE FREE
FROM THIS TOXICITY
AND FIND YOURSELF
WITHIN RENUNCIATION

XXX

KAFEKULT. FRIDAY 24/1/2025
PHASE/PREEMPTIVE
STRIKE/CHEMICAL
THREAT/BLOCKAGE

KAFEKULT IS A VERY DISTINCTLY UNIQUE YET CHARMING LOCATION WITH A STAFF THAT MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE A GUEST IN THEIR OWN HOME. I VISITED A FEW TIMES BEFORE. BUT TONIGHT I CAME NOT ONLY FOR THE BANDS BUT ALSO FOR FRIENDS AND QUALITY TIME - SO I SAW SOME OF THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT MOST IN THIS BIG ASS PATCHWORK FAMILY WE CALL HARDCORE SCENE.

RUNNERS. TWO STEPPERS AND MOSHERS STAGE DIVING AND CREEPY CRAWLING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE ROOM WAS WHAT EXPECTED US TODAY. ALTHOUGH I WAS ABSOLUTELY TIRED FROM THE PAST WORKDAYS I WAS THRILLED TO BE HOME. LITERALLY EVEN JUST THE CONVERSATIONS IN BETWEEN SETS WERE WORTH EVERY MINUTE DRIVING HERE.

BLOCKAGE MADE US FEEL THE WAY THEY ARE. THE ONLY BAND IN TOWN WITH A ROUGH AND SHORT SET. AND THAT 'HARDCORE HAS BEEN NEGLECTED' TO THE POINT IT HAS TO BE HAMMERED INTO OUR DAMN BRAINS AGAIN. THE

BAND RELEASED THEIR DEMO VIA OBNO RECORDS IN 2024 AND WERE A SOLID OPENER.

THE NEXT BAND LAUNCHED THEIR ATTACK AND IT WAS BY FAR THE MOST DANGEROUS YET:

CHEMICAL THREAT FROM 8TTH REC. PERFORMED AN ENERGETIC AND SWEAT INDUCING SET. THAT MADE EVEN THE MOST QUIET PERSON MOVE AND MADE ME RETURN FROM MOSH RETIREMENT SHORTLY.

NEW SONGS. OLD SONGS AND COVERS SMASHED INTO OUR EARDRUMS WHILE PART OF THE CROWD TURNED GOBLIN MODE AND STOMPED FROM SIDE TO SIDE HITTING WALLS. PEOPLE AND EVERYTHING NOT RIVETED OR NAILED DOWN. THEY PLAYED THE TIGHTEST SET MUSICALLY - PURE RHINELINE HARDCORE AND A 100% CHEMICAL THREAT.

STRAIGHT EDGE SOUND TO THE MAX WAS CATAPULTED RIGHT TO OUR FACES BY PREEMPTIVE STRIKE. SHORT AGGRESSIVE SONGS STIRRED THE ROOM AND MOVED PEOPLE FORCEFULLY FROM WALL TO WALL. THEY PLAYED SOME NEW STUFF FROM AN UPCOMING SPLIT WITH CHEMICAL THREAT WHICH WILL RELEASE VIA 8TTH SOON. SADLY YOU COULD HEAR THEY LACKED SOME REHEARSAL TIME AS IT SEEMED BUT THEY TOOK

IT WITH HUMOUR - WHICH MADE THEM EVEN MORE LIKEABLE - MUSICALLY THE BEST BAND THAT NIGHT.

HEADLINER TIME - PHASE. BY THEIR UNIQUE YOUTH CREW SOUND AND SYMPHATIC MANNERISM ALL PEOPLE WERE MESMERIZED - EVEN THOUGH THE VOICE OF THEIR SINGER MIGHT NOT BE EVERYONE'S CUP OF TEA. BUT WE GOT IT ALL. STAGE DIVES. TWO STEPS. SING ALONGS - ALL WITHIN ONE COOL SET CONSISTING OF SOME COVERS. NEW SONGS AND SONGS FROM THEIR DEBUT DEMO THAT CAME OUT IN 2023 VIA COLLECTIVE MEMORY RECORDS. I ENJOYED IT. WE ALL ENJOYED IT.

AS SPONTANEOUSLY AS I DECIDED TO GO TO THE SHOW I HAD TO LEAVE WAY TOO EARLY OR MY NEXT WORKDAY (I WORK SATURDAYS) WOULD BE A FUCKING DISASTER.

I HAD A PLEASANT EVENING AND COULD HAVE STAYED HERE ALL NIGHT - WITHIN THIS PATCHWORK FAMILY LIVING ROOM CALLED KAFEKULT. I'M ALREADY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT SHOW I'LL ATTEND HERE. ALWAYS WORTH A VISIT.

CHAOS

FORCE OF DENIAL/SPIRAL/LIFECRUSHER/DE CONVOOLUTION/SLOW BURN

S.A.D. BOOKING @ ZENTRALCAFÉ
NÜRNBERG 21/2/2025

NUREMBERG HERE WE GO AGAIN!
IT'S THE SAME NICE CITY AS ALWAYS BUT TODAY I AM IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LOCATION.
IT IS MY FIRST TIME HERE AT ZENTRALCAFÉ. BUT I ALREADY LIKE IT - MEDIEVAL TOUGH MEETS MODERN NIGHTLIFE. YOU COULD NOT GUESS RIGHT WHAT AWAITS YOU IN THE BASEMENT OF THE BUILDING. BUT IT'S A STATE OF THE ART SUBCULTURAL CONCERT LOCATION WITH NICE PEOPLE ALL AROUND.

SLOWBURN STARTED PLAYING AS SOON AS WE ARRIVED AND PAID TRIBUTE TO HIPHOP AND HARDCORE WITH A COOL MOSHABLE BUT BRIEF SET. I HAD SEEN THEM TWICE BEFORE BUT ALTHOUGH I KNEW WHAT TO EXPECT I WAS POSITIVELY SURPRISED AND COULD EASILY EMBRACE THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE CAFÉ.

SPIRAL SHOULD HAVE PLAYED SECOND ON THE BILL BUT DUE TO A TRAFFIC PROBLEM. THEIR VAN BREAKING DOWN AND OTHER INCONVENIENCES. DECONVOOLUTION HAD TO TAKE THE SECOND SPOT AND SHOOK UP EVEN THE LAST PERSON NOT ALREADY FULLY PRESENT. SOMEHOW I GOT SLIGHT POWER TRIP VIBES FROM THEM AND WHEN THEIR DRUMMER (WHO HAD A DAMN GOOD TIME. YOU COULD TELL) HIT THE SNARE I WAS BAFFLED - I GOT METALLICA SAINT ANGER FLASHBACKS BUT IN A GOOD FUCKING WAY! I ENJOYED EVERY MINUTE.

LIFECRUSHER WERE BY FAR THE MOST ADVANCED MUSICAL GENIUSES OF THE NIGHT (I WAS NOT FULLY CONVINCED BEFOREHAND IF I'D LIKE THEM. BUT I WAS PROVED WRONG). THEY WERE HARDCORE AS FUCK AND THEIR SINGERS VOCAL PRESENCE MADE THEIR HARD HITTING SET SLIGHTLY MORE EERIE AND MEMORABLE. THE HARD MOSH. A TWO STEPPING RIFFRAFF OF A CROWD AND A LYRICAL MIDDLEFINGER TO ALL ABUSERS/HARRASSERS COMPLEMENTED THEIR PERFORMANCE.

SPIRAL WENT FROM SECOND ON THE BILL TO ACCIDENTAL CO-HEADLINER - TO MY EXCITEMENT BECAUSE I WAS SO MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO FINALLY SEEING THEM LIVE. FROM THE FIRST NOTE THEIR MUSIC SENT MY MOOD INTO AN EXHILARATING SPIRAL OF FRENZY. FROM NOT MOVING TOO MUCH. I TURNED INTO AN ALMOST ECSTATIC STATE THAT SENT ME STAGEDIVING MULTIPLE TIMES. TWO STEPPING AND SCREAMING ALONG THEIR SONGS ABOUT AGONY AND MENTAL OBSTACLES. THEY ALSO PLAYED A COVER OF OUTBURST'S "WHEN THINGS GO WRONG" AND THEIR YET UNRELEASED SONG "I'M PREPARED" STRUCK A NERVE WITH ME AS IT WAS SO CATCHY I COULD ALREADY SING ALONG AFTER JUST HEARING THE CHORUS. SO GOOD. THIS IS WHY I LOVE HARDCORE MUSIC. AND TO SPEAK THE TRUTH THROUGH THEIR LYRICS: THIS IS WHY I'M COMMITTED.

NOW IT WAS TIME FOR THE REAL DEAL - FORCE OF DENIAL. PILING UP. STAGE DIVES. TWO STEPS. SCREAMING ALONG. HARDCORE MOSH AND AWESOME FEATURES WERE ON THE AGENDA AND ACCOMPANIED EVERY FUCKING MINUTE OF FORCE OF DENIAL'S HEADLINING SET. WHICH FOR ME WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THIS NIGHT. I PUT MY VOICE UNDER STRAIN AS I SCREAMED ALONG STEFFEN'S CAPTIVATING PERFORMANCE AS ALL THEIR LYRICS GAVE ME POSITIVE REINFORCEMENTS THAT "I WON'T FAIL".
LIFECRUSHER'S GUITARIST FRANZ FEATURED ON "THE FIRE WITHIN".
LASSE OF SPIRAL ON "TIMES OF STRIFE" AND TILL OF SLOWBURN ON "WEIGHT OF ABSENCE" - ALL OF THEM PUSHED THE CROWD OVER THE EDGE EVEN MORE. FORCE OF DENIAL COMPLETELY - STOOD BY THEIR CONVICTIONS" AND DELIVERED A STRONG LIVE SET. EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE SOME MINOR SLIPS. BUT FOR A BAND THAT. IN THEIR OWN WORDS. "NEVER REHEARSES". THEY FUCKING KILLED IT AND EVENTUALLY ENDED THEIR SET WITH REHEARSING A COVER OF KILLING TIME'S BRIGHTSIDE. ABSOLUTELY EPIC.

FOR ME FORCE OF DENIAL ARE A REAL CORNERSTONE AND FOUNDATION IN THE GERMAN STRAIGHT EDGE SCENE AND I COULDN'T IMAGINE A BETTER HEADLINER FOR THIS ALL EUROPEAN BILL.

NUREMBERG HC NEVER FAILS TO ENTERTAIN AND ALWAYS PUTS ITSELF ON THE MAP THANKS TO THE GUYS OF S.A.D. BOOKING. KUDOS AND HUGS TO YOU!

S.A.D. BOOKING
FORCE OF DENIAL
SPIRAL
LIFE - CRUSHER
DECON - VOLUTION
SLOW BURN
21/21
2025

STRAIGHT
FUCKING
EDGE

FORCE OF DENIAL
XXX
STRAIGHT EDGE HARDCORE

LIST OF 4 RANDOM RELEASES

MINDSET - LEAVE NO DOUBT
REFLEX - REGULAR HARDCORE PROMO TAPE
FIDDLEHEAD - BETWEEN THE RICHNESS
STRIFE - ONE TRUTH

THIS WAS
UNCLOUDEDXFOCUS
CHEERS,
MO X

UNCLOUDEDXFOCUS

#5

- BACK -