

## HELL ON EARTH TOUR 2006 – CATARACT TOURREPORT

### Day 1 (Trip from Zurich to Mönchengladbach)

We had a short last rehearsal before we took off around 0200am, straight through to the Bus parking. It took us until 0900hrs with almost no stops in a completely packed minivan... needless to say everyone was completely wrecked. Then we had to wait some more time as the bus had to get its wheels changed, and then, finally we headed towards Amsterdam where we were supposed to pick up God Forbid and A Perfect Murder. It didn't work out as flawless as planned and we had to drive back and forth A'dam Centre and A'dam Airport until we had everyone in the van.



## **Still day 1 – Haarlem, Patronaat**

We finally arrived at the venue around 1800hrs, with a couple hours of sleep in our bones and we immediately had to start moving our stuff in, the time schedule is quite sharp. All the bands except for Narziss (who later will get replaced by Heaven Shall Burn) were at the spot, and the show had to start on time. Purified In Blood started off with Perfect Murder following while one band was still missing. However, Narziss arrived just in time with a little bit of a wrecked car, so they made it to the stage immediately. So, the whole Tour company was complete and we got ready for our first show on it, and it went amazingly well (not to be compared to some memories we have haha)!

After the show we loaded everything back into the trailers and headed off to England, home of football and weird sausages.



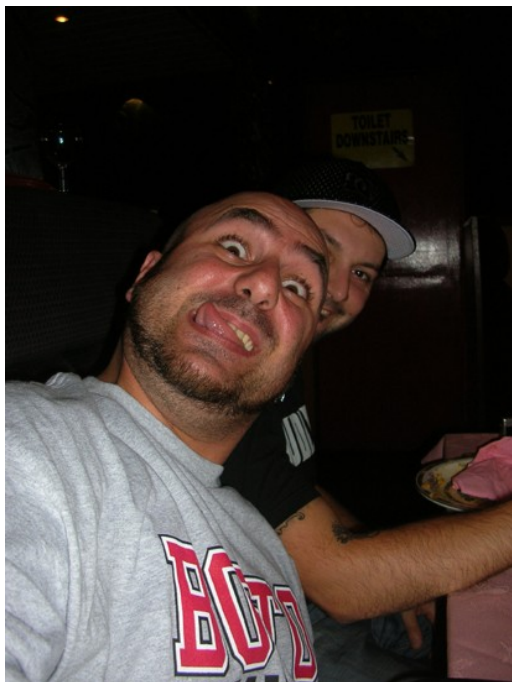
## **Day 2 (London, Mean Fiddler)**

We arrived in the early afternoon and this day would be the peak if we're talking stress. Everything had to be moved out of the trailers and into the club in no time. As there is no suitable parking next to the club, the buses had to park on the road and that's London city traffic on there... however, it went smooth with loads of hands helping out.

The show started eally early too, Purified started off before 1700hrs and everything was scheduled to end before 2200hrs, so everyone had to hurry up. Our show was kinda crazy tonight, there a was a guy who wanted to propose to his girlfriend on stage and we couldn't say no to that! We had to cut out some songs though as the schedule was very strict, so london missed out "Devon" and yet has to await the fury of "tongues spitting hate", but we will deliver, anytime! We went off to sleep at a coach parking and let me start a new paragraph.

### **Day 2,5 Tesco's run by a bunch of twits**

Why would you put a giant "OPEN 24 HRS" sign on it when the hole gets shut at 2200hrs? If you write 24 hrs open, it should be 24 hrs open, and if your laws don let you do that, DON'T PUT THE SIGN UP. If you steal at Tesco's you're a hero in my book. If you manage it, you missed out on 40 hungry people - £££ you understand that, do you. Enough of this.



### **Day 3 (Day off in London)**

We went shopping, in camden market. If you've ever been there you sure have noticed the guys running around with "Jesus is Alive" shields. Well, we were standing around, all peaceful as suddenly some guy was running towards us with a indian lady who was holding one of these shields. "that's him! Look! That's the guy! It's Jesus!" he exclaimed, pointing at Martin, our soundguy. So, we've got the saviour doing our sound, so you better don't complain.

We went back to the Buses around 2300hrs, had some wheelchair races with the guys from Purified in Blood and then took off towards Manc.



### **Day (4Manchester, Jilly's Rockworld)**

Doomsday scenario – don't book a show in a club or town in England when you have Atreyu playing next door. We ended up having only half of the people we possibly could have had, but nevertheless the people present didn't care much as they got what they wanted and that was a night of furious metal mayhem supplied by yours truly and the artists of HOE 2006.

We also got a little challenge later, as we had to kickstart the coach after the battery has run empty. It took about 30 people to get this thing moving but to our very surprise it started on the first try and that was after maybe half a meter... yay for us!



### **Day 5 (Southampton, The Nexus)**

This place is only a couple of minutes away from Portsmouth where we played with Stamping Ground so we were kinda looking extra forward to this show. We spent the day wandering around the shopping precinct which offered us almost malls only. Later we ran into the Red Lion pub which was built in 1427 or the likes, and just next door was an indian restaurant which served us a coke that must have been from 1427 too (the food wars great though).

We returned to the club and Purified in Blood just finished their set. The Nexus is a nice venue, it has a small stage but very decent looks, comfortable leather sofas and massive tables. And a massive sound system – the sound was just pure slaughter. This was our best show so far, the sound pressure was immense and we hacked through our set like a bunch of maniacs whilst the crowd started tearing the stage apart. Thanks again southampton!



### **Day 6 (Milton Keynes, The Pitts)**

If last night was crazy, today had some more surprises ready for us. With almost 200 tickets sold in advance this sounded like it will get full, and it did. For the most part, the crowd was really young and just as enthusiastic as you could want them – cheering the band's name along the bassdrum and clapping to the snare hits during the soundcheck was quite a novelty for us.



And even though we had as good as no monitor sound at all and the vocals went missing on the PA for “tongues spitting hate” the kids rocked out again tonight, the pit went on through the set and we also sold a tshirt! Seriously, this was the best way to finish the UK chapter of this tour and I also believe the other bands will agree on that. We took off as soon as the show had ended and now are on the way to Trier were we supposedly will have a sold out venue.

### **Day 7 (Exhaus, Trier)**

And it was full! And finally we got to play the place without any interruptions, fights, hassles, discussions – I guess everyone was happy about getting a full load of metal instead. We had great sound courtesy of Jesus, and even though the high temperatures caused more than the average sweat the crowd was going nuts with us. I really hope all the

shows from now on will just be like this. Cheers to all at Exhaust and a special appreciation to whoever enlarged the drumriser!

Oh by the way, we will have a small appearance in a real life soap which was filmed on that day, we visited Oliver Lonien's tattoo studio to show off in front of the camera. I hope we'll get a glimpse of the final episode as the camera crew also took some live shots while we played (and they showed up at the right time too!).



### **Day 8 Alter (Stadtbahnhof, Schweinfurt)**

This was the one day we would headline Hell On Earth, and I personally was quite excited about it. We've played the Stadtbahnhof some times before so we were all looking forward to it. We added some songs ("Devon", "Forsaken Cries" and "March with your Battleforce") to the set, then we also got to make a long soundcheck so everything was set for a good show from our part.

When Purified started off the people started moving inside, and they got more and more with every band, finding its first peak with Maroon. As we were up to play we could watch the audience getting packed for the last time during the intro and again, we had a fantastic show. Cheers to all

the people staying and cheering up to the last song, you made it a really good day for us!

### **Day 8.5 (On the way to Berlin)**

We slept terrible this night, woke up about a million times plus we had to say bye to the guys from Narziss. We dropped them off in the wee morning hours somewhere close to the end of the world. We also got informed that our bus will be exchanged (or repaired) so we had to leave it as soon as we arrived in Berlin.. good bye sleep.



### **Day 9 (SO36, Berlin)**

First show with the german chartsters Heaven Shall Burn (sorry I had to mention it again guys), everyone was expecting the best as the venue was sure to sell out. Perfect Murder opened up tonight and while they were playing, the hall got fuller and fuller... After them, every band had a full audience and keep in mind that once you've been in the club, you couldn't leave it.

So we set up our stuff and we couldn't wait to start playing... people were clapping along the intro and as we started off, all hell broke loose. We had moshpits reaching back to the soundboard and even though we

played better shows, the crowd was just astonishing and kept us high on adrenaline during the set... thanks to berlin, again, I must say, as this was another fantastic show for us.

Now we're sat backstage waiting for the bus to arrive....



### **Day 9.5 (150kms off Frankfurt)**

The police saved our lives. They took our trailer away as its handbrake was broken, leaving us with the whole equipment and all merchandise. We had to stuff it into our beds and the aisles to take it to Frankfurt. Thanks a lot guys, you really must be bored on Sundays.

### **Day 10 (Batschkapp, Frankfurt)**

We're excited to play this well known venue for the first time, its name has run across us for many times and now the counter has run to zero. For those who haven't been there, it just looks like a perfect metal club. A medium size stage, great PA and everything around it like food, crew and last but not least the crowd are fantastic.

For those who didn't realize, Perfect Murder and Purified are switching positions every night, and so are God Forbid, Maroon and us. Today we were second last to play (I think... oi oi oi), and thanks to a pounding sound things got crazy hot pretty fast but the crowd who already went nuts to Maroon impressed us with a giant circle pit lasted through the whole last part of "skies grow black"! Some people had a bit too much energy which almost ended up in some fights but there were always other people to calm them down. More than happy we went off the stage to leave the deadly blast to Heaven Shall Burn. What a great night in a legendary place, thanks to the crew and metalheads who came out to support the brutal side of metalcore!

Oh and we also could welcome a new trailer, which was off course smaller than the other one so our stuff piles up to the roof now... but it works out, some people played too much tetris back in the days.



### **Day 11 (Rockhouse, Salzburg)**

We arrived pretty early and thus enjoyed a lot of sightseeing in town and enjoyed some "nockerls" and "Berner Würstl". We also checked out the local metal store, just a few hundred meters from the venue where I scored a copy of Massacre's demos on cd!

The club is just amazing. The hall is like an old tunnel, made of bricks and the stage is fit into a round hall. I guess you have to be there to realize how great it looks. Today we were up third, so we hoped the people would show up early – the guys from the record shop said we shouldn't worry, our cd sold amazingly well so the fans would make sure they wouldn't miss us.

They were right! The crowd started moving as soon as the intro ended, and the singalong to "vanished in the dark" had half of the audience piling up in front of the stage.. this was the best show we had so far, even though we had an amazing hicup during the first song – the beater of the bassdrum got caught in ricky's shoelace and so the kick was missing until the problem could get fixed. However, great show and thanks again to all the people supporting us!

Oh a small note – the other bands got their sound mixed by the actual In Flames mixmaster... great sound all through the night! We had the best though, haha!

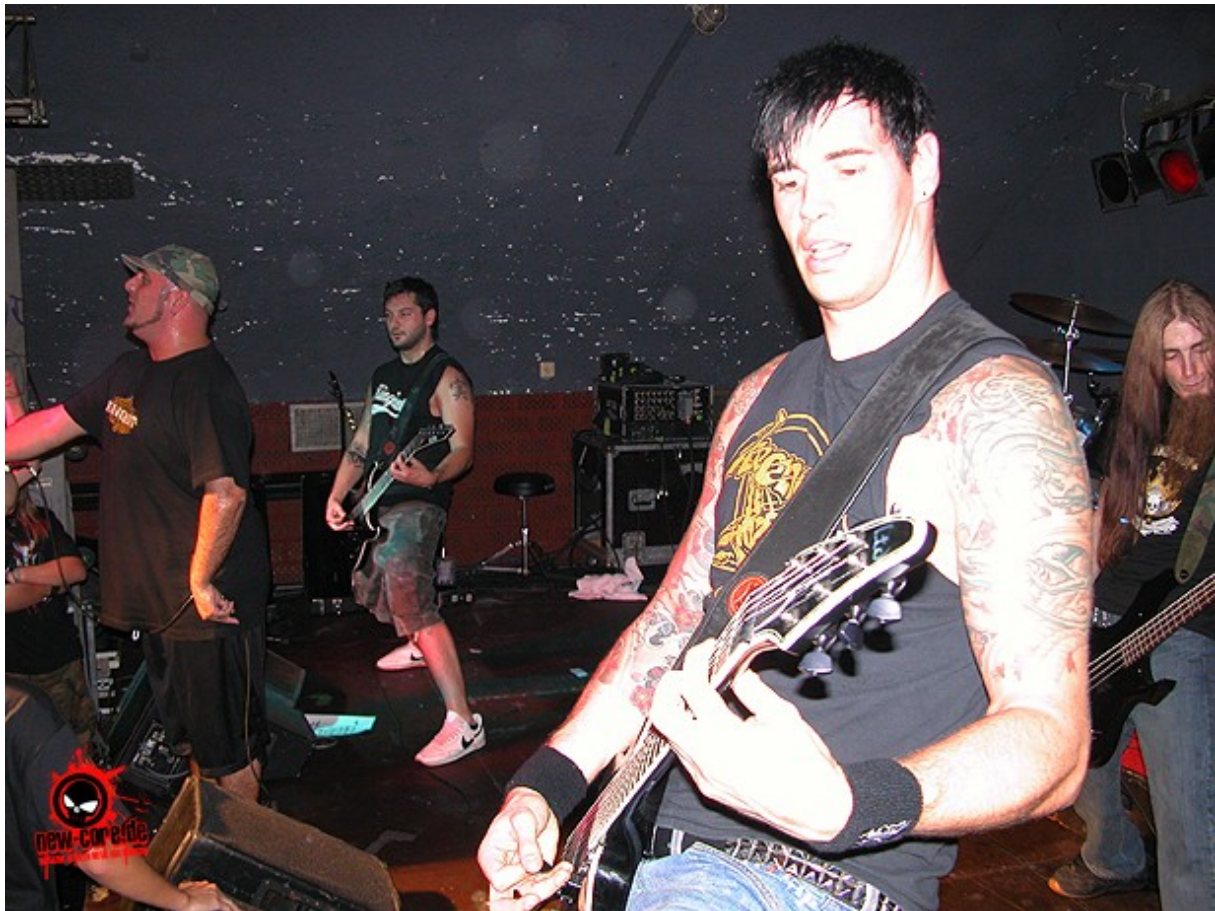


## **Day 12 (Rockplanet, Pinarella di Cervia)**

Its the day of the mutant killer moskitos. I can't really tell much about the show as we have been busy counting our stings – kay won with an amazing 61 bites! Seriously it was ridiculous.

Today we also had 3 and 36 Crazyfists playing; so the evening seemed to take forever with all the change overs etc... luckily I was wrong about that as you will read later. As usual we ended up playing in a disco (remembering the No Mercy Tour) with slippy stone floors but the italian kids are just mad, they still went berserk and for the best part, they all stayed to see Heaven Shall Burn roll all over them, in a quiet way though, as the PA wasn't really adequate.

We cleared the place really fast as we (Cataract) wanted to get to Switzerland, quickly.



### **Day 13 (Kofmehl, Solothurn)**

Day 13 would develop to be our lucky day. For once because we all got to see our lovely ladies more or less right in the middle of the tour, some got the much needed fresh clothes and ultimately we got to play our home grounds as the second last act.

I can tell all our swiss fans that we have been very much nervous, which resultet in some running to the toilets, a microphone being wiped off the drumkit with the first hit and some shaky legs – but as soon as we started off, all of that was gone and we slaughtered the place. Or lets say the people in the venue slaughtered each other, from the first minute to the last. It was insane. We also took the Wall Of Death away from HSB and could watch the mayhem during “Skies”. This must have been one of the best shows we’ve ever had; Kay had to flee to the drumriser from the stagedivers during “Tongues spitting Hate” (and that by the way was his FIRST show in switzerland with us!) and the response was really overwhelming. Once again, all we can do is say thank you to every single one of you for all the support we got, that’s amazing. The night was over much too fast and so we had to say bye to our loved ones and take off to munich.



### **Day 14 (Backstage, Munich)**

This is one of the clubs were I’ve been many times and witnessed shows from the likes of Bolt Thrower and Arch Enemy and now the day has arrived that we would play it ourselves. Today we were up as the third band but as we could see the place was already packed before that. Purified in Blood and Perfect Murder have played and already started the pit so we could take off from where they stopped, big time. People

started moshing and stagediving as soon as we started and the traffic on stage was remarkable – although there as one guy who seemed to cause about half of it he he. We had great sound on and off stage and thrashed the shit out of the venue for a crowd that wanted it heavy and brutal – the pit never stopped and Maroon, God Forbid and of course HSB kept it going all night.

This tour is really going strong now, every night has tons of people having some more tons of fun! So if you read this and you're undecided – get your lazy ass to one of the remaining shows!