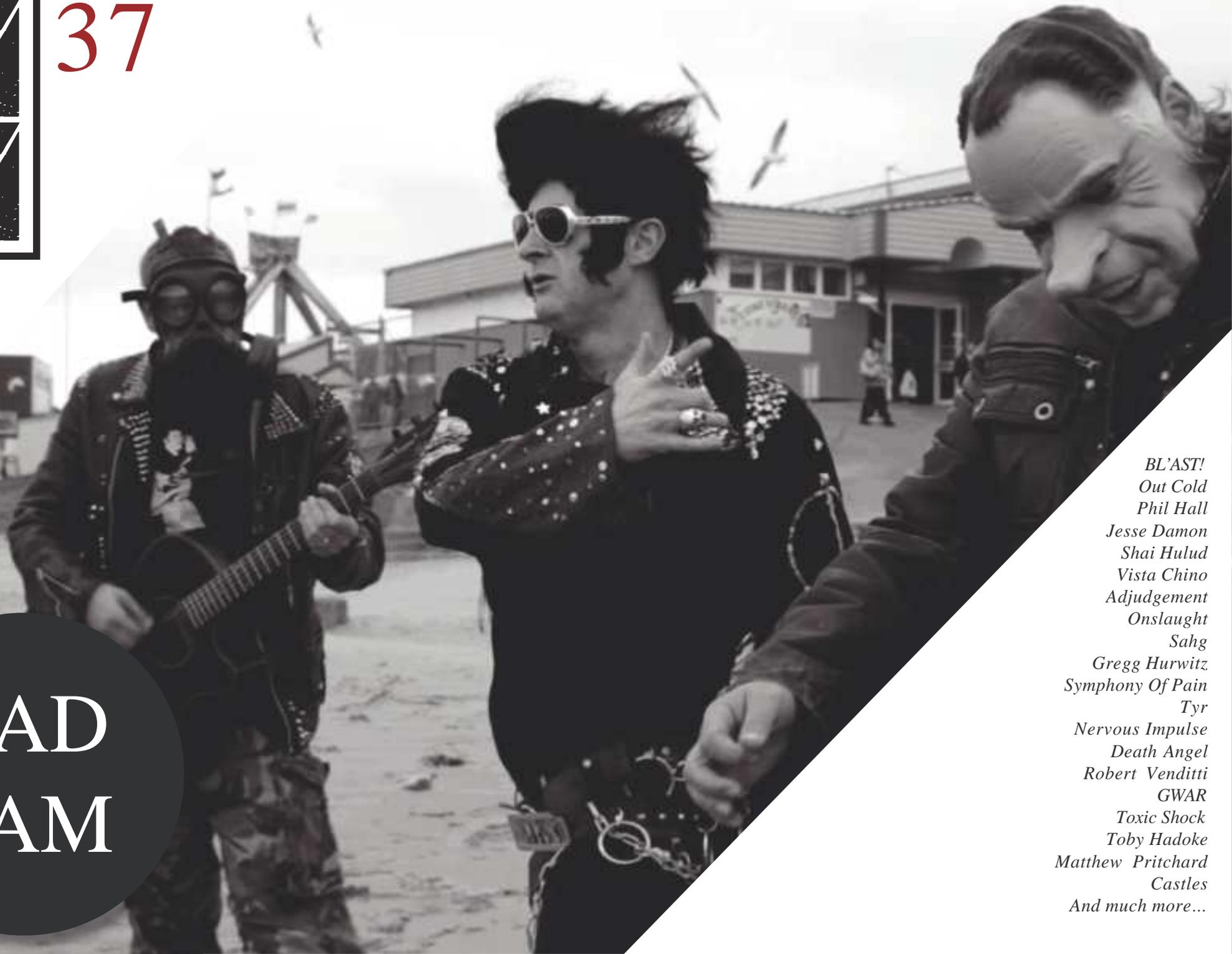




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BAD  
SAM

*BL'AST!*  
*Out Cold*  
*Phil Hall*  
*Jesse Damon*  
*Shai Hulud*  
*Vista Chino*  
*Adjudgement*  
*Onslaught*  
*Sahg*  
*Gregg Hurwitz*  
*Symphony Of Pain*  
*Tyr*  
*Nervous Impulse*  
*Death Angel*  
*Robert Venditti*  
*GWAR*  
*Toxic Shock*  
*Toby Hadoke*  
*Matthew Pritchard*  
*Castles*  
*And much more...*



# ADJUDGEMENT

A band can act like a living, breathing organism. It often starts out raw, loud and unwilling to compromise, but as years go by wisdom sets in, which takes that unpolished edge of things. German band Adjudgement has reached the respectable age of twenty. All these years have led to 'Bis Hierhin... Und Weiter' ('To Here.... And Onwards'). The maturity is also to be found in the lyrics, and for the first time, almost entirely in German. Drummer Ruven talks about taking this bold step, to open the door to the core of Adjudgement even further.



**MM:** Do you feel now that, most of, your lyrics are in German that they have gained more depth? To me personally they are a lot more poetic, as you just know a lot more words and synonyms. Subtenuances come across so much better.

Ruven: Yes, it really is fitting. For one we can indeed achieve more depth in the lyrics, simply because we can express ourselves a lot better in our own language. Marc and I wrote all the lyrics. For me it was mostly about the spontaneous origin of lyrics, which I can only appoint to my subconsciousness. And because my subconsciousness is thinking in German, the lyrics automatically were in German. If all would have been translated it would probably have lost its deeper meaning. We can obviously also see the downside of things. We cannot reach as many people with our message anymore, which is a decision we had to make. I do think the end result is more authentic.

**MM:** I find it interesting why you have released your new cd through Engineer records. Can they help you out enough in Germany?

Ruven: Hm, well, this time we're releasing the music on our own. Engineer is only supporting us in this matter. We did release our previous release, 'Human Fallout', through them, and really kept close contact with them. I do think that the the new cd will be available through

**MM:** So now on to the lyrics... It feels that many, and I am specifically pointing out 'Schmerz Verzerrt' and 'Selbstverdamm't', but also songs like 'Schlagmann' and 'Der Frei Fall' are about how anger and resentment can be your downfall.

Ruven: I would like to answer this question like this; music is art, but we also come from a time when one said; music is politics. That's how we were raised. Nowadays our lyrics are a part of the art and needed to understand our music. Which means the lyrics don't ALWAYS have to be linked to specific events in our lives. However with a song like 'Schmerz Verzerrt', THAT definitely is the case, as it really helped in coping with a very difficult divorce. The topics are usually about things we encounter when meeting friends or life in general. I can deal with the experiences I have, that way. Context and specific angles often only become apparent after the writing process has finished. All too often the lyrics are about anger and hate, which will drive people apart, and in their turn cause more friction and depression. We want to make people think!

**MM:** "Ich verlier' die Kontrolle" (I am losing control) from the song "Selbstverdamm't" seems to be key to so many songs. Is that your biggest fear? And if so is that about getting angry, or even violent, or more about losing control over your life. We often feel life is leading us, instead of the other way around. Money, status, safety or even love.... all can

Ruven: That's the thing with this specific line. If we're not immensely carefull, we will succumb to the forces of the outside world. We will not only loose control, but as some point also our selfworth, and that what we truely are. When we will do this, we will be moving these conflicts inwards, instead of pushing them out, and can never really find closure. This will result in more anger, which we then point towards ourselves or others.

**MM: On the other hand a song like 'Eingenetzt' seems to suggest you're feeling stuck in a rat race or society. Is everything decided for us from cradle to the grave?**

Ruven: No, I don't think so. Every thought has the wish to becomereality. Or put to words differently; The energy will follow the awareness. We only know two specific points in life; our birth and that we will eventually die. Everything in between is constantly changing. 'Eingenetzt', is about the so-called freedoms of this era, which

always expected to stay in touch, with everyone and everything, through modern technology, nowadays.

**MM: Makes me wonder where you think the right balance is between a safe and prosperous society and one of absolute freedom for the individual? Current upheaval about the NSA seems to feed that discussion too.**

Ruven: That really is a difficult subject. And in all honesty, I don't know enough about it being able to form a conclusive opinion. I would rather focus on both sides of extremism. Here we have hatred and envy being bred on a fertile foundation of ignorance, unfortunately on both sides of the political spectrum. This will lead to intollerance and people will have increasingly more problems

For me personally this means I have to withdraw from the world wide web a bit. I order my books from a local bookstore, and I am not paying with a creditcard anymore. I also buy my food regionally whenever possible. I try to limit my reach in that matter, so my digital footprint isn't that big anymore. I did not, however, decide on deleting my Facebook profile, just yet. Although I did not include any new information for about a year-and-a-half now.

**MM: Aren't we always looking for peace and have the need to be led? It sort of struck me that chancellor Merkel won the elections recently. The German voters could have chosen for parties on the extreme left or right, or parties who are overly anti-European. Isn't stability what people are after, even if that means giving up the dream for an, even better, world? Are we also settling to easy with**



Ruven: When we look at the history of Europe there's always been wars and the consequences from this upheaval we have had to deal with. Would you have asked me this question ten years ago, I

would have answered it differently, just as many critical people would have had. I generally think this idea of 'walking down this path together' is a sound idea, and the same goes for the European thought to unite people. Unfortunately this European idea has, now that the recent crisis just keeps on going, driven people apart.

That is something we can blame politicians for, as they are the ones to make the decisions in the first place. In Germany, however, I have noticed a more relaxed, almost negligent, vibe, at least where the economy is concerned. And yes, this all has apparently influenced the people tremendously. Why would I want to change anything? Besides, there isn't really a serious alternative to Frau Merkel's politics. We do have two major parties, but there aren't any significant differences.

Merkel has been able linking economy stability to social commitment, and a certain warmth. She almost has this motherly approach to things and apparently people

like that: stable and secure! Within our society also an underlying fear exists. We are living in one of the most prosperous countries in the world. Still there's this huge fear of not being able to maintain that level of

**MM: What is the song 'Frustgesicht' about? I think it's great that despite all adversity you have to face, as portrayed in many of the other songs you still have "Ich hab einen Traum vom Leben" ("I have a dream about life").**

Ruven: This one goes out to the people who are only out to make things miserable, and who want to entice people to talk down, and criticise others. We have to fight against this and should not have our dreams taken from us, without any opposition.

**MM: Is that a song about not having succumbed to the demons we also talked about? Feels like hope is still alive. And if so what is your dream?**

Ruven: I have a practice in psychotherapy and have this sense of self-determination as the centre point of my life. I even had to put the economic stability on the back burner for that. Still, even in other jobs you can have this sense of accomplishment, or the feeling you're nearing the dreams you once had. Or you commit yourself in any other way to people, and let them be a part of your life. There's quite a lot you can do. You're writing for a magazine, and use this outlet as a way of sharing (your) thoughts with



**MM: How will you communicate these deeply heartfelt lyrics to people who do not understand German, that well? Will you include either short descriptions or translations of the lyrics in the cd?**

Ruven: We are working on translations which we will put on our homepage. Since several of the lyrics came into existence shortly before recording, this will take some time. Maybe you or your readers can help us with this?

**MM: Now that the band is, about, 20 years old. Are you making plans for a celebration? Anything we can expect from you shortly?**

Ruven: We have played an amazing concert in Nienburg on the 28th of September. On the 25th of September 1993 we played our very first gig in exactly the same place. A week before we were in Halberstadt. Several concerts have now been planned and we are thinking about a short tour. I cannot reveal the exact itinerary just now. We're just very lucky to be able playing again after a two year break, and we had so much fun playing! Photos are on our Facebook page! Besides playing live we have also been working on new songs. We're trying to use this momentum we currently have to our advantage.