

**SACRED LEATHER – Interview TNT Radio Rock (José Antonio Marroqui “Brujo”)
Dee Wrathchild (vocals) y Magnus Legrand (bass)**

Hello, welcome to TNT Radio. You're about to release your second album, Keep the Fire Burning. After releasing a few singles and videos, what are your feelings about this release?

Dee Wrathchild:

We can't wait for fans, new and old, to hear what we've cooked up for this release. This album stretches into territory we never fully exposed on our first record, all while staying true to the sound we carved out from the start.

Several years have passed since Ultimate Force (2017) before this second album. How has the band's approach changed during that time, both creatively and personally?

Magnus Legrand:

The songwriting has become even more collaborative with the addition of some new personnel. We feel like we've got members who all draw from similar influences and are ready to push our sound forward while still honoring the foundation we built on Ultimate Force. We truly feel like a creative juggernaut, and we can't wait for people to hear not only "Keep the Fire Burning," but all the other music we're conjuring up for the future.

The album title, Keep the Fire Burning, serves as a statement of intent. What does that phrase represent for you at this point in your career?

Magnus Legrand:

The album title Keep the Fire Burning speaks to resilience. We've faced our share of hurdles and tribulations as a band, especially when it comes to getting new music out into the world — but this album is our statement that we live and breathe heavy metal, and we refuse to let the flame die out.

The production of this album features a more polished sound, without losing any aggression or attitude, and from the opening track, Spitfire At Night, that classic, 80s essence is evident. Was there a conscious effort to balance melody, hooks, and power with that classic atmosphere?

Dee Wrathchild:

Absolutely. We set our sights high on getting Arthur Rizk (Sumerlands) to work on this record. Arthur's catalog showcased the exact production style we envisioned for Sacred Leather, and we're endlessly grateful that he took us on and brought that vision to life in a way only he could execute.

Fallen Angel reveals the direct lineage of traditional metal that inspires you, with clear nods to names like Priest, and especially Accept. But beyond these obvious influences, are there less predictable elements that have nourished your sound or lyrical approach over the years?

Magnus Legrand:

We definitely draw influences from unexpected artists. There are guitar leads on the record that take a very David Gilmour-style approach — that sung quality, the spaciousness, the attention to negative space. The bass is heavily influenced by the likes of Pete Way, tapping

into that '70s UFO pulsing-bass approach to keep certain songs driving forward. Vocally, there are moments that dip into Dokken and Geoff Tate territory, while also pulling inspiration from John Bush and Metal Church — all while Dee maintains his own unique identity and approach.

“Spitfire At Night” is a song that conveys pure intensity, and the video reinforces that energy with a visual aesthetic that directly evokes the golden age of heavy metal. What was the conceptualization process for the video like? What did you seek to convey beyond the sound?

Magnus Legrand:

Spitfire at Night was our reintroduction to the world. We wanted to come back with a heavy metal fist to the face. The video is meant to capture the raw, unhinged vibe of the song — frantic editing, no frills — inspired by the likes of Painkiller and maybe even some old Pantera videos.

“Tear Out My Heart” departs from the frenetic pace of other tracks on the album and offers a more emotional intensity, in a heavy, introspective, and melodic midtempo, where the bass also plays a predominant role. Where did this song originate, and what did you seek to express with it, both musically and in the overall atmosphere?

Dee Wrathchild:

Lead guitarist Lynn St. Michaels brought in “Tear Out My Heart” as one of his very first musical offerings to Sacred Leather after joining the band. It blew us away and immediately reminded us of Scorpions and Candlemass, though we’ve since heard people say it vibes like everything from Guns N’ Roses to Queensrÿche. Lyrically, the song explores the idea of laying it all on the line for something you love. It also inspired the heart on the album’s artwork and serves as a central cog in the overall composition of the record.

Malevolent Eyes sounds like a controlled descent into chaos, with an almost ritualistic energy and a demonic aura marked by the powerful drumming and guitars that resonate with wails and shrieks. What did you want to convey with this particular song? Tell me about it.

Dee Wrathchild:

You nailed it with your assessment of that track. We consciously wanted a more evil-leaning song that could bridge the chaos of the album’s faster material with some of the mid-paced moments. We wanted to create a world for the listener — to send them back in time to an ancient realm where a bloody battle is unfolding over possession of the territory beneath the blood-red moon, an astrological theme that begins to tie into a larger motif once you reach the album’s final track.

There's something about "Mistress of the Sun" that harks back to the most emotive and epic hard rock of the '80s; it reminded me of DIO and Dokken, without losing the edge of metal. What does "Mistress of the Sun" represent within Keep The Fire Burning? , What kind of influences or feelings were you trying to channel with this particular track?

Magnus Legrand:

This was a song that really hit me all at once. Musically, there are definitely influences from DIO’s use of light and shade in songwriting. We wanted to set the precedent for Sacred

Leather albums ending on a dynamic, epic note — showcasing the full range of what heavy metal can offer, all in a single track. Lyrically, the song is a love story, using the imagery of the Mistress of the Sun as an unobtainable love interest: ever-present and looming, yet always out of reach — a notion I think many can relate to.

Which song on the album do you feel best represents Sacred Leather's current identity and why?

Dee Wrathchild:

I believe Fallen Angel sits perfectly at the center of our material. It's aggressive yet melodic, with a driving pace. The track serves as a melodic showcase while tying into the album's darker themes by humanizing the story of Lucifer's fall. The song features vocal hooks, thunderous drums and bass, and scorching guitars — all elements we emphasized throughout the album.

You describe your style as "working class heavy metal." What does that concept mean to you, and how does it translate into your songs and performances?

Magus Legrand:

Our sound harkens back to the songs we'd all hear on our local classic rock station while driving to our jobs. It's escapism for the working class, taking your mind on a vacation into the world we've crafted for you. We aim to entertain and deliver a good time to our audience, both on record and at our live shows.

Their music and aesthetic clearly hark back to 80s metal, but there's also a distinct identity evident in the production and visual approach. What balance do they strive for between paying homage and building something unique and personal?

Magnus Legrand:

We don't consciously try to write '80s-sounding metal — it's simply what inspires us, both musically and aesthetically. Sacred Leather strives to capture the music each member listens to and loves. We've aimed to create a sound that allows us to explore a variety of approaches within traditional metal, all while still sounding unmistakably like us. Bands like Judas Priest and KISS have catalogs where their sound can vary drastically from song to song, yet you can always tell it's Priest or KISS — that's the template we hoped to follow with our own material and sound.

With the new album about to be released, what are your tour plans, both in the United States and internationally? Are there any chances of seeing you in Europe or Spain?

Dee Wrathchild:

Definitely keep checking our socials for upcoming shows and announcements. We've designed this band with the European market in mind, where heavy metal maniacs are still thriving. It's our dream to go overseas, hit the festival circuit, and connect with our fans abroad.

After more than ten years as a band, how do you see yourselves today as you were at the beginning? What elements have inevitably evolved, and which remain the unchanging core of Sacred Leather?

Magnus Legrand:

From the very beginning of Sacred Leather, our goal was simple: to make metal music we all

loved and were proud of — and that mission still stands today. Over time, our ambitions have grown as we've added personnel capable of taking this vision to new heights. We're now more equipped than ever to release new music to the world and spread the gospel of traditional heavy metal.

For those discovering Sacred Leather for the first time with Keep The Fire Burning, what do you hope they'll find on this album?

Dee Wrathchild:

Keep the Fire Burning gives listeners the full gamut of what true heavy metal has to offer. Despite the record's retro appeal, we wanted to create something timeless — a record we'll all be proud of for years to come. We poured a ton of care into the craft and songwriting on this material, and we hope that dedication comes through to the fans.

Thank you very much for your time, and congratulations on Keep The Fire Burning. Any final message for those reading this?

Dee Wrathchild:

Thank you! Go check out the record, watch our music videos, and follow us on social for all upcoming announcements. We're extremely proud of this release and can't wait to bring the material to a city near you soon.