

# Under The Black Sun

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Since our mates EMPTY were confirmed to play this year in that great UG BM fest, we had the pleasure and chance to attend the ninth edition on July this year, which took place near Berlin, in the small town of Bernau- Helenau. So, once we got the plane tickets in advance, we headed to German lands, in order to spend a real BM weekend! When we arrived Berlin's Tegel Airport, we saw the bands' shuttle, with UTBS fest posters on its glasses, and, after loading the equipment in it, we went towards the fest... After half an hour driving ( more or less), we finally reached our goal: the outskirts of the little but nice town of Bernau Helenau, where was placed the fest.



As soon as we saw the place, we were shocked by the nice nature surrounded us (huge woods as border of the fest), and cool crooked houses, within the band's area ( where we were, due to kindness of the staff).

Already out of the shuttle, we met Jörg and some Folter Records staff, and after they gave us the straps ( even to the ones who aren't musicians, but fans, which is a cool gesture, right?/Necrorain). And, once we said goodbye to them, we put the tents, and went to get something to eat. After that, we started to have a look at the whole fest, which included the stands and first purchases of course!;-).

Later we went to see the stage, which was placed into the forest ( really COOL for BM fest if you ask us). The first band playing entered there, was Gräfenstein from Germany and they performed a fast raw Black Metal act with a good sound and an aggressive atmosphere. They use corpsepaint in the albums but not in the fest: anyway it doesn't matter if you play the proper feeling.

We seized the opportunity to get some beers before Darkerstrah started their show... I have to say that I prefer the Spanish cold beer instead of the German hot beer haha...

The band of Kyrgyzstan and some German members began their show. I would point out that the drummer of this band also plays as live session in Nargaroth.

As far as the movements of the singer I really got surprised because he was too small to be a man and he moved as a girl... In fact the singer was a girl. It was hard at first sight because they used corpsepaint. They played a kind of Epic Black Metal with nordic melodies and epic passages supported by a keyboard. The whole sound was really good.

Once Darkerstrah finished their show, Nebular Mystic prepared all the equipment to perform their Nordic Black Metal. This band is the proof that Norway is not yet the BM country that used to be in the past. Nebular Mystic plays a tasteless Black Metal with no darkness or feelings. As we were not interested, we kept on drinking and chatting with worthy BM people.

Infernal from Spain didn't play because they had some problems with their passports.

As far as I know the main member is from Colombia but he lives in Spain, and he should have several problems with traveling.

Neithan was the next band but we really don't know where we were in that moment because we didn't see this gig, so we can't give an opinion.



Besatt was a band that we wanted to see. They played at night and they performed their Polish Black Metal but it seemed like a War Chaotic metal gig since the sound was really unlistenable and few times we could recognize the songs... We don't know what was the problem but the bass was too loud and it saturated the whole sound. Also the voices were really bad, so it was disappointing for us.

As a matter of fact, we remembered when his label boss told us that "they're great on album, but always suck live, don't know why". need to say some more? think not.

The next horde were the Norwegian Vikings Kampfar, performing their pagan chants with high class and honesty. The sound could have been better sometimes, but regardless of that, the gig was really great, full of heathen atmosphere,

playing songs throughout all their discography, like "Baldogg", "Norse", from their last album songs like "Lyktemenn", "Ravenheart" resounded between the trees.

It was a special feeling for sure, at night in the middle of a forest it was perfect for Kampfar, in fact it was noticed that Dolk has a special feeling in the gig.

German Black/Death Metal attack Necros Christos was the last band of the first day.

It was nearly 2:00 A.M. and really all we were tired and drunk, however we banged our heads as soon as the first riff sounded from Mors Dalos Ra's guitar.

We had the opportunity to see them in Spain and it was a Necro experience, so we knew this time it was not gonna be different. They played rites from their demo "Black Mass Dessecration", their EP "Curse Of the Necromantical Sabbath" "Impure requiems prevail", "Bonethrone Triumph" were some songs that night... and some new songs from their several splits. Also They performed "Acid Orgy" of Goatlord.

A funny anecdote was that a drunk girl went on the stage and started to dance as a groupie but Mors Dalos Ra tried to undress her so she got down of the stage suddenly... It was a cool gesture, because it means that Metal needs no fucking groupies...

After this Necromantic Ritual we ended to go to our fucking tents.



Next day, next bands. The first ones were Swedes Thrudvangar, their music was, in our view, nothing really worth mentioning to be honest. Luckily later we felt a more proper BM atmosphere with Croations Walpurgis Nacht, with a nice BM dose, despite of being an average band, but with good riffs here and there. The Croations ended their show, and the Austrians Hellsaw will perform their thrashy BM, playing songs of both albums, giving the audience a good excuse to bang their heads. Nice show with the right attitude.

After the saw prayers, Empty came on stage, in corpsepaint, leather and spikes as it's supposed to be, paying homage to their most respected muse (Death itself), giving all their best in order to get the proper atmosphere (despite of playing at sunset). So, They unleashed plagues in the way of chants to the lady of Oblivion, showing misery and decadence by "The Horrible Drawing back of the Veil", "Spheres of Blood", "The Spectral Paleness of the skin", "Manifest of endless sorrow in sanity", "In your grave", "Echoes resounding between the Abyss of time", "Owner of wailings".... They left a good taste in people's mouth since they were not the typical 2 riffs band, they offered a demonstration of dark feeling.

After this Darkened Black Metal assault it was time to Akerbeltz from hell (as said by himself in the beginning), with members of Empty/Amnion. They began with the opening theme of their last album "Never deny from the powers of sorcery" and the atmosphere turned dark as night. There were a lot of people attending the gig. The truth is that Akerbeltz reflected a fuck-off attitude and the hate they expressed made the show the best one of the festival. A real BM gig the right way!!

That night it could be listened from the depth of the forest songs like: "Conspiracy", "Spiders from the Depths", "Burn in Hell", "Nocturnal Rite", "The forest is my haunt", "Death knell of doom".

The end of the show was simple and effective. They left the instruments connected on the floor and the noise sounded for several minutes.

After this Hellish intervention, it was time to Latvian Skyforger (A drastic change in my opinion). Nothing to do with Akerbeltz, this Folk/Pagan came into the stage with Pagan clothes and heathen ornaments in order to give the suitable atmosphere for the music they played.

I never listened anything of Skyforger, but as far as I could see and listened, they reminded very much to Einherjer. Maybe 10 years ago I could be interested in them, but not nowadays so I can't make an objective review of their gig. The last thing to say is that it was the gig with the most number of audience.

In my opinion they had to have play on Friday with Kampfar, because on Saturday they were in the middle of Akerbeltz and Archgoat, so I think they didn't fit very well because of the raw style of this bands.

Legendary Archgoat from Finland were the last show of the night. When they went on stage, Lucifer Himself was there and it was really Hell on Earth.

Their infernal appearance reflected without any doubts who were the most extreme band of the fest. Leather, long spikes, Bullets and Blood over their bodies showed the forthcoming apocalypse on stage.

They performed themes of their demos and Eps and also played some of the new album "The Whore Of Bethlehem". Pure aggression and violence is what Archgoat represented with songs like "Rise Of The Blackmoon". The truth is that the live of this band is very impressive although you don't like their style.

With Archgoat the Under the black sun Fest were closed till the next year.

The whole fest was really a great experience for anyone into the BM Underground, since you can meet some cool people and listen to great bands, although If you ask us the bill for the previous years were much better than the bill for 2006, this year were more mediocre bands.

Not to forget all the money we bring with us was fucking spent in the stands of Merciless, Undercover, Folter and much more...



<http://home.snafu.de/tsatthoggua/tsc/utbs.htm>

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