

## ESC - and some other of my mortal sins

Oh yeah... As we all know ESC is both loved and hated by millions around the Globe. I have been at both ends myself. I have criticized the music out in the open at the same time as I, as an artist have participated 3 times already. And now I'm at it again... BUT, this time as a songwriter. I almost always grab the chance when asked to write lyrics in my mother language and this was one of those occasions. And now this song "Undir Regnbogann" has made it to the Icelandic finals and who knows what happens next. Hell yeah, - next year I might even join the ESC-circus as a composer. No promise - just a threat.

You know that you people, visiting my homestead, are in a pretty special position. You are a strange mixture of ESC fans and Heavy Metal fans and everything in between, and to me you are all equals. I don't expect to get greetings and Halleluja from everyone and in fact I do like it when someone "dares" to doubt my doings. But having said that, the same ones have to be aware of that I will never bow to anyone and no one can ever feel secure that I have taken my last leap into the insecure zone. I am Metal...that is just who I am at heart. But I will always accept good music, be it Pop, Jazz, blues or whatever. And if flexibility is a mortal sin,- well then I am a dead man! ( tra-la-la-la-la...)

As for my other sins - I have just spent three days recording with my new Swedish friends Mike and Frederik. This was what I would call a pretty primitive session. One microphone, one mike-stand + a computer. But I am told that this is what the modern age of recording is like. Gone are the big expensive studios and now you just do it yourself, at home,- well at least those who have the knowledge to do so. I am pretty excited what the results will be after Frederik has mixed the six songs we finished during the two days. Never before have I sung upon a two-track instead of inside 48-tracks ( those of you who have worked with music will know what I mean ). And how should I describe the music??? Honestly - I don't know, but it is both heavy and melodic, and yes - yet again flexibility is the keyword. ( this hopeless sinner will never learn ). Anyway, if this project will make it to the open market it will be under the name SKARR. This is an old Icelandic Viking word that I picked up and it means Sword. We don't play typical "viking-metal" though, but we are who we are - next of kin to the old warriors,- aren't we?

Magic Pie is proceeding and we are rehearsing new songs for our next CD. And Kim Stenberg, our guitarist and the main composer is for the moment making my future life a becoming HELL. He comes up with guitar-frames that sound like Steve Vai and I am supposed to play some of them. Practice makes master they say, hmm... where am I going to find the time for that.

And then there is one thing more... I have a big birthday this year. As one seemingly angry lady said in my Guest-Book earlier,- I am old enough to be a grand-dad (even though I - as for yet, don't have that privilege ). Born On 4th Of July and almost 50 years behind me now... I don't feel like I am fifty but my passport tells me I am... Bummer!!! Or is it really? No, of course I should (and I do) feel lucky having lived this long, considering my style of life. NO... I will not, ladies and gentlemen, go into details here. That story will have to remain a well hidden secret until after my death ( and by then everyone will understand why- ). And this is what will happen later this year. A big concert in Reykjavik, Iceland on Saturday, the 4th of July! It will be a journey through my career, mostly based on my Icelandic years of course. But my friend Ken Hensley is gonna come and perform with me and there will be many other guest appearances. I will be escorted by the best musicians in Iceland and there is a plan to do a DVD recording. That way you can all celebrate with me, although it will have to be some months later. OR... if some of you are crazy enough to take the opportunity to visit Iceland and join my party at the same time, well that would be something. I actually already know that there are a few among you that already have booked a flight. I have the best fans in the world,- haven't I...?

I will give you a lot of more details, already in near future. But I guess I should end this now,- because as usually - I am not at all so sure if this will get published. I am crossing my fingers and...

Hope I made it - love you all... Eiríkur