

D-A-D
Maskinhallen, Frederikshavn
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By Keld Rud
Photo: Jacob Stisen

Convincing start of tour

Maskinhallen i Frederikshavn has room for 400 ppl. This is where D-A-D has chosen to kickstart their 30 year anniversary tour, a tour that takes them to all parts of the country to clubs of about the same size. Very early in the career the quartet advanced from the small clubs to big halls and arenas, and when yours truly experienced the band at the Riskin' It All Tour that change had happened a long time ago. That's why it's not strange that the tickets for this tour have been in great demand, you have the opportunity to see one of Denmark's national orchestras in far more intimate surroundings.

Thanks to the crowded hall it is extremely hot in Maskinhallen when D-A-D enters the stage. With their backs on the audience the serve an instrumental intro consisting of heavy, dirty blues-riffs. This intro warms up the few in the audience who aren't already sweating all over, and when the band turns towards the audience it is Riskin' It All that really gets the concert of the evening started. A concert without any fuss. The stage set-up is a backdrop with the iconic cowscull, decorated with 30 marks for each of the anniversary-years. Only Stig Pedersen's many imaginative two-string bass-guitars are spectacular. But what would a D-A-D show be without them?

The rest of the show is about genuine rockmusic. Should you wrongfully have the idea that the many years weigh heavily on D-A-D you just have to hear a moment of the following Ride My Train which is played with all the vitality and energy from the original recording. Not for one single moment the band seems to be resting on their laurels of 30 years. And as front figure Jesper Binzer says straight out: We are at the peak of our form! Sure! Least of all the singers voice and always jolly, disarmingly and energetic contact with the audience are in fine form.

Yes, the band has grown older. But so has their audience. Far most of those present this evening look like having travelling most of the 30 years with the band.

'Okay, boys and girls! We are going to have a good time tonight' Jesper Binzer proclaims as he addresses the audience for the first time this evening. 'Tonight we are going to play some old shit. You won't get a single hit' he promises. A promise he is later going to break. The set is full of old favourites from their albums which have been dusted for the occasion and are being greeted by the audience as relatives not seen in a long time. Overmuch and Jackie O are played with a youthfull spirit but accompanied by the confidence of experienced musicians.

'Calm down! Many ppl say we are not listening to our fans. When they ask us to play a song we just play what we feel like playing. It's the same with the next!' Jesper Binzer shouts as Cloudy Hours from Simpatico is starting up. An example that there are 'pearls' to be found at the later albums from the band, albums which are all successfully visited except Soft Dogs. Money Always Takes The Place Of Life from Monster Philosophy has to be mentioned. It works really tremendously even though it slows down the show.

Guitarist Jacob Binzer puts down his Gibson Les Paul and puts on the sliding tube (the translator in serious trouble ;)), and as he hits the strings big brother bursts out: 'It is absolutely in tune as it was in the eighties.' 'I have tuned it for 30 years, now I don't bother anymore' little brother replies. Now follows Call Of The Wild - turning directly into Jonnie and one of the evening's most enthusiastic greetings from the audience.

Monster Philosophy suddenly sneaks into Trucker and shows that D-A-D in no way has made this anniversary show an unconscious repeat of cemented favourites of the audience. This mashup works convincingly, also when the audience is invited to sing along. 'Do you realise how hard it is to mix

to numbers,' Jesper Binzer asks a bit jokingly. 'It took us six months!'

Towards the end of the set D-A-D moves calmly to hit territory with songs as Reconstructed, Everything Glows and I Want What She's Got. And it's over. Frederikshavn gets the four musicians back on stage. During the first set of extras Jesper Binzer has put down his guitar, and we get among others a heavy hard-version of Counting The Cattle. After four extras the band leaves the stage one more time to be called back to one of the favourites of the concert, I Won't Cut My Hair. After this both the band and a third of the audience leave the hall, but the remaining two thirds of the hall is not giving up that easily, and as D-A-D returns those who left hurry back to catch the last part. 'We haven't got any more B-sides so we have to start on the As' the singer says, and a Bad Craziiness with the audience singing the big parts of the verses follows. The absolute last parting shot is It's After Dark.

Of course there is an all-important element of nostalgia about a 30 year anniversary tour. But when the nostalgia is delivered så lively and with such conviction it is not at all a bad thing. I will gladly join in for another ten years!