

SWEAT, TINNITUS AND HARD WORK

D-A-D singer, Jesper Binzer, tells in this first part of our anniversary interview with him, why it is so cool playing clubs again, about what is the true anniversary to him in the 30th year and about getting on after so many years.

It's a pleasure to talk to Jesper Binzer in 2014.

Okay, it has always been a pleasure to be with the front figure of D-A-D for the about 25 years I have been a fan and even so both standing up and a critic of the constellation which many years 'ago got itself the title National Orchestra of Denmark'

But Binzer - who told me five years ago at the band's silver wedding anniversary in no uncertain terms that he hates both anniversaries and nostalgia - obviously, with becoming self-irony, rests assured of his own gifts with proper pride in the achievements of D-A-D nowadays

.Now as the band celebrates 30 year anniversary a compilation album with 30 songs is released, and a tour with - yes, you guessed! - 30 shows in clubs starting in Frederikshavn on Tuesday (Jan. 28.).

So what happened to 'not liking anniversaries and nostalgia', Jesper, 'cos that's certainly what this is...?

'It is, but I also want to say that I will definitely be giving monologues. I have rehearsed one telling about the thing about anniversaries and what's damn about them', and Jesper continues: 'And then I pull out of the hat another anniversary which I think is even more important: Namely that Laust (Sonne, drummer.... if you should be in doubt) has now been part of the band for 15 years, and none of the anniversaries would have been, had he not joined.

And that's the anniversary I am celebrating within myself.

I think it's fair to give Laust as he deserves. He has as person and as a competent human being been extremely important to the band, and his musicality gives new life to the old numbers. So yes, he was a damn good lifesaver for us.

The spirits came back and we got our heads in the clouds when Laust joined.'

And as Laust is probably blushing somewhere out there Jesper laughing returns to the 30 year anniversary.

Thank you, HARD rock!

'But I admit it is somehow like Føtex. When you celebrate anniversaries you can put the skids under it and do something..... To us that means put the skids on 2014 under the password 'Now we can do just exactly what we like' with these 30 concerts which is not as much 'Thank Rock' (Royal Beer's commercial password) as it is Thank you, HARD rock!' you know.

There'll be less 'pop-chorus' and we use a headline for our own gain at any time. People have bought the tickets so we can play whatever suits us'.

And with that another roar of laughter - one of many - this afternoon.

Fans of the band should not expect a -wall-to-wall hit parade on the setlist when D-A-D starts their birthday tour. We can say that without unveiling too much.

'We see this tour as a fantastic opportunity to come back and relive some songs and do it without getting sick of nostalgia... no, it's almost archaeology where you think 'wow, this is fun!' Jesper says.

'And we have come so far that we have forgiven ourselves for the juvenile escapades into strange Country and Western. So we no longer feel that as an embarrassing side, but more like a funny side of ourselves - that has taken some time'.

But after long time in the rehearsal room together with songs from our own treasury, where the band was, in Jesper's words, on the point of 'calling for professional help', the setlist for the upcoming tour was made. And anniversary or not, the 30-day-tour is yet another chapter for a band which if anything has insisted on leaving the laurels untouched and move on.

Where life is

In that matter D-A-D's growing popularity south of the border has been a help.

'Well, obviously it's getting more and more difficult always having to move on - and that's what we MUST - after so many years,' Binzer is wondering.

'We have eventually accepted the fact that we are this mainstream band in Denmark, while we are a mean rockband among so many others south of the border, and that's what we are focused on: Being that mean rockband. Because it's out there in the clubs in Europe the challenges are... that's where life is.

And that makes it easier finding the desire to have to move forward, move on, because there is still a lot to achieve, and because you're part of a bigger culture.'

D-A-D is, as Binzer puts it, in a 'strange mainstream place' here in Denmark where the band is compared to names as Thomas Helmig, Nik & Jay og Rasmus Seebach when the festivals are looking in the catalogue for safe names for the the coming season - no matter the number of years.

'But south of the border we find new sides of ourselves. When we are just a rockband. Where we are rock'n'roll as in sweat, tinnitus and hard work. Where we are simply musicians - and that's what we want to be,' Jesper says.

'So this time we have said that instead of taking the concert from Vejle Stadion to a rock club in Germany we take the rock club in Germany with us home to Denmark - as I said: It's going to be a 'Thank you, HARD Rock Tour!

This is the first part of steffenjungersen.dk's anniversary interview with D-A-D leader Jesper Binzer. Second part will follow next week where Jesper tells about survival, highlights of the career and songs that probably shouldn't have been released a.o.