



MADRUGADA

SEINE STIMME KLINGT WIE DIE EINES RUSSISCHEN ZAREN, DER SICH NACH ENGLAND VERIRRT HAT. DABEI HEISST ES, DASS DIE NORWEGER VON KINDESALTER AN DIE ENGLISCHE SPRACHE GANZ AUTOMATISCH ERLERNEN, WEIL NOCH NICHT MAL DIE KINDFILME GEDUBT WERDEN. SIVERT HOYEM, DER SÄNGER VON NORWEGENS BELIEBTESTER BAND, VERKÜNDET DIE TRAUERIGE NACHRICHT, DASS DIES MÖGLICHERWEISE DAS LETZTE ALBUM VON MADRUGADA SEIN WIRD. DER GRUND: GRÜNDUNGSMITGLIED ROBERT BURAS IST TOT. ER WAR EIN GROSSER EINFLUSS DER EINSTMALS DREIKÖPFIGEN BAND. AM 12. JULI 2007 WURDE ER LEBLOS IN SEINEM APARTMENT IN OSLO AUFGEFUNDEN. NICHT ZULETZT DESHALB HEISST DAS AKTUELLE ALBUM SCHLICHT MADRUGADA. BURAS HATTE NOCH SÄMTLICHE SONGS LEIBHAFTIG MIT EINGESPIELT. VIEL WURDE ANSCHLIESSEND DARAN GESCHLIFFEN. DOCH NACH ROBERTS TOD HAT SICH DIE BAND ENTSCHEIDEN DEN UNVERFÄLSCHTEN KLANG DER URSPRÜNGLICHEN AUFNAHMEN ZU VERÖFFENTLICHEN ...

TEXT: ANGIEBLACK, FOTO: KING INK.COM

curt: Your new album came out in Norway on back in January and went straight to the top of the album charts. How do you feel about that?

SIVERT: That always happens. They're crazy about us in Norway. In the rest of Europe they are too, but not as crazy as the Norwegians are.

curt: What has changed in your lives after being in the music business for ten years now?

SIVERT: Back home in Norway it has changed quite a bit because we're celebrities in a way. People recognize me all the time. Sometimes, when I go out, they hang on to me, but most of

the time they're just nice. This changes the way you relate to people. I wouldn't say that I'm not good with people. But anyone can understand that it's nice to be a nobody from time to time. Sometimes you even have to protect yourself from people because they want a little bit too much of you. Even in a small country like Norway.

curt: You also have a solo project and Robert had one, too, right?

SIVERT: Yes, Robert and I have solo projects. That's where Alex comes from. He was playing in Robert's band, My Midnight Creeps. They were very close friends, they worked together, and they inspired each other and made rock music together. That's why Alex probably feels very close to Robert's project Madrugada as well.

curt: Are you going to go on with Madrugada despite Robert's death?

SIVERT: We'll have to see. For now, we're just touring Europe. In the summer we'll play a

couple of festivals, but apart from that it all depends on the feeling inside the band. If it feels right, we'll go on, if it doesn't, we'll stop. We could quit any second. It has to feel like a band. I personally very much enjoy being on the road just now. I really missed playing these songs. Right now I'm fine. But if we're going to make a new album that will be a totally different decision, that will be a very tough decision for me and, I guess, for all of us.

curt: How did you manage to finish this album without Robert?

SIVERT: It was more or less already finished. Robert had played all the guitars on all the songs. The work that was left was mostly keyboard parts and minor details on guitars and stuff that we would normally get other people to do anyway. Also, this is a loose and organic-sounding album – certainly more so than the previous one. We kind of wanted to keep it that way ... So we ended up doing a lot of overdubs on the album and then actually

we ended up pulling them off again. So what you hear is mostly what happened during the first session before Robert died.

curt: Do you want to talk about his death?

SIVERT: His family has decided not to go official with anything. For me, of course, it would be better if there were some kind of official statement because everybody asks us about him. But I can't do anything about it. I respect that. He lived a very hard life, so ...

curt: In what way did he live a hard life?

SIVERT: Well, you know, a lot of drinking and a lot of other things. He wasn't really taking very good care of himself. The only thing he was interested in were his projects. Everything he did was about music. That was his life. Plus he was also very much into partying. That was probably part of the whole lifestyle.

stand that we had to take care of ourselves. It was just a party.

curt: What do you think is more important for a musician nowadays, the Internet, Myspace or being played on the radio?

SIVERT: I think all the stuff on the Internet is very good to start for a band, but I'm a little too old for that. We started releasing records when they were still doing that the old-fashioned way. It's not even that long ago, only ten years. The whole online thing, including Myspace, started about five years ago, as far as I know. But I personally don't really feel like sitting in front of a computer, looking at my Myspace site and getting all these imaginary friends. I want to go on tour and play. For young musicians it's probably a wonderful marketing tool because it's a free and open

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curt: That's so-called rock'n'roll, isn't it?

SIVERT: Yeah, people say that, but I think that's kind of an empty thing to say: "Oh, that's rock 'n' roll". I think rock 'n' roll means being totally dedicated to creating music that's special and heartfelt and raw. Anybody can drink. Of course it's rock 'n' roll to be able to make that kind of music and drink, that's pretty hardcore – especially when you're on tour, you sit around and get bored, you don't have that much to do. People don't really respect much of what you do and who you are. After a while, when you get older, you realize that nobody is going to take care of your career or anything if you don't do it yourself. When we started making albums, we really didn't under-

channel. You don't have to go through the press; you can organize your fan base. You can do clever and probably even fantastic things as an up-and-coming musician. But as I said, I personally don't really rely on the Internet. There's so much bullshit going on there, too. People visit Myspace but I don't see what that means to me personally. Probably I need to work on it more.

curt: May I ask how old you are?

SIVERT: Thirty-two.

curt: How can you say you're too old for the Internet? Or do you just have better things to do in your spare time?

SIVERT: I like to go out and eat. I love going out for dinner. (laughs)