NAPALM DEATH FAMILY TREE

The history of NAPALM DEATH revolves around a small group of mid-80's teenage musicians in Birmingham, it was a unique period when open minded musicians of a metallic persuasion would mix 'n' match with local anarcho-punks to form bands influenced by the demos coming over from the underground Hardcore and Death metal bands which were happening under the radar in the USA and Europe. Many bands were formed with the single purpose and vision to push the envelope of the then stagnant UK music scene. NAPALM DEATH were originally formed in Meriden, near Birmingham UK by Nik Bullen and Miles Ratledge in 1981 as a Punk band, they recorded various demos including the 'Hatred Surge'. By 1986 founder member Nik Bullen had teamed up with Justin Broadrick. Whirlwind speed drummer Mick Harris replaced Miles Ratledge who had left the band in 1995, (and formed ABERRATION) Nik, Justin and Mick then recorded the "From Enslavement To Obliteration" demo. Nik, Justin and Mick then recorded the "From Enslavement To Obliteration" demo and twelve tracks for an ill fated 12" split with London band ATAVISTIC. The split never happened but these tracks were later to surface as the a-side of 'Scum'.Following the departure of Nik and Justin in late 86, Mick quickly recruited Lee Dorrian and Bill Steer to record the 16 songs for the B-side in early 87 which, together with the demo gained a full release on Earache as the debut LP 'Scum' in June 1987. The album was nothing short of groundbreaking, being by some measure the most extreme album ever released to the public.The musical style later dubbed 'Grindcore' was born, featuring short intense bomb blasts of songs - an amalgam of sludgy metallic riffs with hyperspeed drums.

NAPALM DEATH #1

Nik Bullen (Vocals/Bass), Mick Harris (Drums), Justin Broadrick (Guitar)

The a-side of scum was originally gonna be for a split with Atavistic, this never happened and was the basis for the 'Scum' album which boasts two separate line ups. A-side Guitarist Justin Broadrick left to perform the drum duties for fellow Brummies HEAD OF DAVID - at that point a big selling Indie band, he also worked on numerous side projects including SWEET TOOTH. Finally he formed his long standing post NAPALM DEATH band, GODFLESH with G.C. Green who he had worked with in FALL OF BECAUSE whilst still in NAPALM DEATH. Broadrick's replacement for the B-side guitar duties was Bill Steer,who continued to appear in his original band CARCASS as well during his tenure with NAPALM DEATH. Frank Healey of SACRILEGE/CEREBRAL FIX and later BENEDICTION was in the band for a couple of months just prior to Bill joining. Similarly, founder Nik Bullen left shortly after Justin in late 86, both citing boredom with Napalm's self imposed musical restrictiveness. However, both teamed up again in 1992 - joining Micks only post-NAPALM DEATH band, SCORN. SCORN recreated the NAPALM DEATH #1 line up for their debut LP 'Vae Solis' but was musically very different to Napalm Death. After Nik's departure, Mick Harris kept the band going by quickly recruiting local scenesters with no previous band experience: Lee Dorrian came in on vocal duties, Jim Whitely on bass.

FALL OF BECAUSE

Justin Broadrick (Guitar), G.C. Green (Bass), Paul Neville (Guitar)

GODFLESH

G.C. Green (Bass), Justin Broadrick (Guitar)

CARCASS #1

Ken Owen (Drums), Bill Steer (Guitar), Sanjiv (Vocals)

NAPALM DEATH #2

Mick Harris (Vocals), Jim Whitely (Bass), Shane Embury (Guitar), Andy Whale (Drums)

Bill Steer (Guitar), Lee Dorrian (Vocals), Mick Harris (Drums), Jim Whitely (Bass)

DROP DEAD

DROP DEAD was the first band to feature Mick Harris and Shane Embury together, also in the line up were Jim Whitley on bass and Bolt Thrower's Andy Whale on drums. The band played a few gigs before Jim Whitley joined NAPALM DEATH on bass duties.

WARHAMMER

Mitch Dickinson (Guitar), Shane Embury (Drums), Wayne Aston (Guitar), Mike Craddock (Vocals/Bass)

Mid 80's Shropshire death/thrash band WARHAMMER featured Shane Embury on drums, who joined NAPALM DEATH on bass and Mitch Dickinson who later joined numerous bands on guitar including HERESY, SACRILEGE and the STUPIDS as well a stint of live work for NAPALM DEATH too.

AZAGTHOTH

Wayne Aston (Guitar), Shane Embury (Drums), Pete Giles (Vocals/Bass)

NAPALM DEATH #3

Bill Steer (Guitar), Lee Dorrian (Vocals), Mick Harris (Drums), Shane Embury (Bass)

UNSEEN TERROR

Shane Embury (Drums), Mitch Dickinson (Guitar, Bass, Vocals)

UNSEEN TERROR was one of the first bands to be directly influenced by NAPALM DEATH. UNSEEN TERROR recorded their only LP to date with Pete Giles (currently in SCALPLOCK) on bass. "The band also recorded a Peel session in 1988 with Mitch Dickinson on guitar, Mick Harris on vocals, Shane Embury on drums and Wayne Aston on bass. They played only one live gig, with GOVERMENT ISSUE and were featured on the "21 years of alternative radio" compilation alongside the likes of The Cure, David Bowie and Jimi Hendrix"

NAPALM DEATH #3 featured UNSEEN TERROR drummer Shane Embury on bass, replacing the departing Jim Whitely- and quickly became noticed by the public at large after their second LP "FETO" entered the UK Indie charts at number 1- also notching up several BBC Peel sessions and appearing on the cover of NME.This 'classic' line up suffered a major blow on returning from a Japanese tour in the summer of 89 - Steer and Dorrian quit on their return to UK. Once again, line up changes didn't upset the momentum of the band. Shane and Mick got on the phone and recruited not one but two new guitarists,both of whom took the plunge and relocated from America to UK. Jesse Pintado of LA's TERRORIZER and Mitch Harris of Las Vegas' RIGHTEOUS PIGS were recruited and Mark 'Barney' Greenway of fellow Brummies BENEDICTION this line up was NAPALM DEATH #4

Reading the NAPALM DEATH family tree is like reading the Extreme Metal Hall of Fame. The bands listed were the finest in thier field and LA's short lived TERRORIZER were no exception, featuring members who would later grace the line ups of NAPALM DEATH and MORBID ANGEL. TERRORIZER effectively split without ever recording an LP when Pete Sandoval left for Florida to join MORBID ANGEL. Jesse Pintado similarly relocated to Uk to join NAPALM DEATH. Singer Oscar Garcia remained in LA continuing with NAUSEA. Earache prompted the ex-members to re-unite once in summer '89 to record the classic "World Downfall" LP, with MORBID ANGEL's David Vincent handling bass duties.

CARCASS #2

Whilst working with NAPALM DEATH, Bill Steer maintained his current band, and main concern, CARCASS, recruiting ELECTRO HIPPIES singer Jeff Walker on vocals/bass after Sanjiv quit.For later albums CARNAGE guitarist Michael Amott was brought on second guitar, later to be replaced by DEVOID guitarist Carlo Regadas.

Michael Amott (Guitar), Jeff Walker (Bass/Vocals), Bill Steer (Guitar), Ken Owen (Drums)

RIGHTEOUS PIGS

Scott Leonard (Drums), Joe Caper (Vocals), Steven Chiatovich (Bass), Mitch Harris (Guitar)

DEFECATION

Mitch Harris (Guitar/Vocals), Mick Harris (Drums)

DEFECATION was a project band of the two Harrises that recorded one album "purity dilution" when Mitch was still in RIGHTEOUS PIGS

TERRORIZER

Jesse Pintado (Guitar), Pete Sandoval (Drums), David Vincent (Bass/Vocals), Oscar Garcia (Vocals)

CATHEDRAL

Soon after leaving Napalm Death Lee Dorrian formed CATHEDRAL with the intention of being the slowest and heaviest band around, recruiting Garry Jennings ex- ACID REIGN on guitar and ex-SACRILEGE drummer Andy Baker, who would promptly be replaced by Ben Mochrie for the debut record. Later, Adam Lehan also ex-ACID REIGN was brought in as second guitar. Griffiths quit, to be replaced by USA's Scott Carlson ex- REPULSION on bass until Leo Smee and Brian Dixon (ex-TORINO) answered the bands "musicians wanted" ad in Kerrang and cemented the current long standing line up.

Mark Griffiths (Bass), Andy Baker (Drums), Gary Jennings (Guitars), Lee Dorrian (Vocals)

NAPALM DEATH #4

Barney Greenway (Vocals), Mick Harris (Drums), Shane Embury (Bass), Mitch Harris (Guitar), Jesse Pintado (Guitar)

In 1992 Mick Harris, hitherto a driving force in the early line ups of NAPALM DEATH, decided to quit the band to escape the strictures of playing grindcore and immediately formed SCORN with fellow ex-NAPALM DEATH member Nik Bullen. His replacement in NAPALM DEATH was the unknown drummer Danny Herrera from LA- a long time friend of Jesse's from home. NAPALM DEATH went onto record the classic "Harmony Corruption" record, which also boasted guest vocals from DEICIDE'S Glen Benton and OBITUARY'S Jon Tardy.

Mitch Harris (no relation to Mick) sought to experiment musically too as MEATHOOK SEED finds the NAPALM DEATH guitarist teaming up with fellow bandmate Shane Embury, aided and abetted by Trevor Perez and Donald Tardy of Tampa death metallers OBITUARY.As an aside, Donald currently occupies the drum stool in ANDREW WK's band.

BENEDICTION

Paul Adams (Bass), Ian Treacy (Drums), Darren Brookes (Guitar), Peter Rewinski (Guitar), Barney Greenway (Vocals)

MEATHOOK SEED

Donald Tardy (Drums), Trevor Perez (Vocals), Shane Embury (Bass), Mitch Harris (Guitar/Vocals)

Mark 'Barney' Greenway briefly quit in 1997- citing musical differences - lending his vocal talents to EXTREME NOISE TERROR on the CD 'Damage 381' instead. EXTREME NOISE TERROR singer Phil Vane tried out in the studio with NAPALM DEATH but it didnt work out, so Barney stepped back in.

EXTREME NOISE TERROR #2

Mick Harris (Drums), Mark Bailey (Bass), Dean Jones (Vocals), Pete Hurley (Guitars), Phil Vane (Vocals)

NAPALM DEATH #5

Barney Greenway (Vocals), Mitch Harris (Guitar), Danny Herrera (Drums), Shane Embury (Bass), Jesse Pintado (Guitar)

Danny joined to find his first show was in front of 3000 German hardcore/metal fans, the band then went on to do a successful U.S. tour with Sepultura, toured Russia just before the collapse of communism and then went to record the "Utopia Banished" album which resulted in the European and U.S. "campaign for musical destruction" tours, which saw the band travel to South Africa in 1993.

LOCK UP

Shane Embury (Bass), Jesse Pintado (Guitar), Nick Barker (Drums), Tomas Lindberg (Vocals)

LOCK UP is a collaboration between Shane Embury and Jesse Pintado and DIMMU BORGIR (ex CRADLE OF FILTH) drummer Nick Barker. Initially Peter Tagtgren of HYPOCRISY assumed vocal duties, later his place was taken by Tomas Lindberg (ex AT THE GATES).

Seven years after the demise of NAPALM DEATH #1 the trio re-united as SCORN, a project driven by Mick Harris' search for "pastures new". The reasons Mick left NAPALM DEATH become clear on listening to the SCORN debut 'Vae Solis' which shares little in common with NAPALM DEATH's 'Scum', (the trio's previous release). Broadrick's tenure with the band was short lived, never having been intended as anything more than a "guest appearance", (which he was to repeat by recording with PAINKILLER). Even with the departure of Bullen, Harris continued to release CDs as SCORN. Another project of note was his band LULL which was released under the Sentrax label).

EXTREME NOISE TERROR #7

Lee Barrett (Bass), Dean Jones (Vocals), Pete Hurley (Guitars), Was (Drums), Ali Firouzbakht (Guitars), Barney Greenway (Vocals)

Mick Harris replaced EXTREME NOISE TERROR #1's drummer Pig Killer. The move was short lived, with Tony Dickens replacing Harris in #3. In #4 Mark Bailey was replaced by Disgust's Lee Barrett and Ali Firouzbakht came in as a second guitar. Original drummer Pig Killer returned in #5 only to be replaced by ex CRADLE OF FILTH drummer Was in #6. Version #7 saw Phil Vane depart for NAPALM DEATH to replace the recently departed Barney Greenway, who, in a bizarre twist took on vocals in EXTREME NOISE TERROR. This swap was not to last long and the pair switched back to thier old bands.

NAPALM DEATH #6

Phil Vane (Vocals), Mitch Harris (Guitar), Danny Herrera (Drums), Jesse Pintado (Guitar), Shane Embury (Bass)

BLOOD FROM THE SOUL

After meeting on tour and becoming friends NYC's Lou Koller, the SICK OF IT ALL vocalist, teamed up with NAPALM DEATH's Shane Embury for a project, as a way to experiment musically away from their main outfits. The resulting recording appeared as the BLOOD FROM THE SOUL CD

Shane Embury (Bass), Lou Koller (Vocals)

SCORN

Justin Broadrick (Guitar), Nik Bullen (Vocals/Bass), Mick Harris (Drums)

NAPALM DEATH #7

Barney Greenway (Vocals), Shane Embury (Bass), Danny Herrera (Drums), Jesse Pintado (Guitar), Mitch Harris (Guitar)

JESU

Dermot Dalton (Bass), Paul Neville (Guitar), Ted Parsons (Drums), Justin Broadrick (Guitar)

PAINKILLER

John Zorn (Alto Sax), Bill Laswell (Bass), Mick Harris (Drums)

Napalm Death Family Tree layout by Mick Usher ©Earache Records Ltd 2003

In 2003 Earache and Napalm Death worked together on a 'Best of and Rare' retrospective, celebrating the bands decade-long career on the label that first discovered them.

BRUJERIA

Myths and rumours surround the line up of this band. Let's just say there's possible links to members of NAPALM DEATH, FEAR FACTORY, FAITH NO MORE, DIMMU BORGIR...