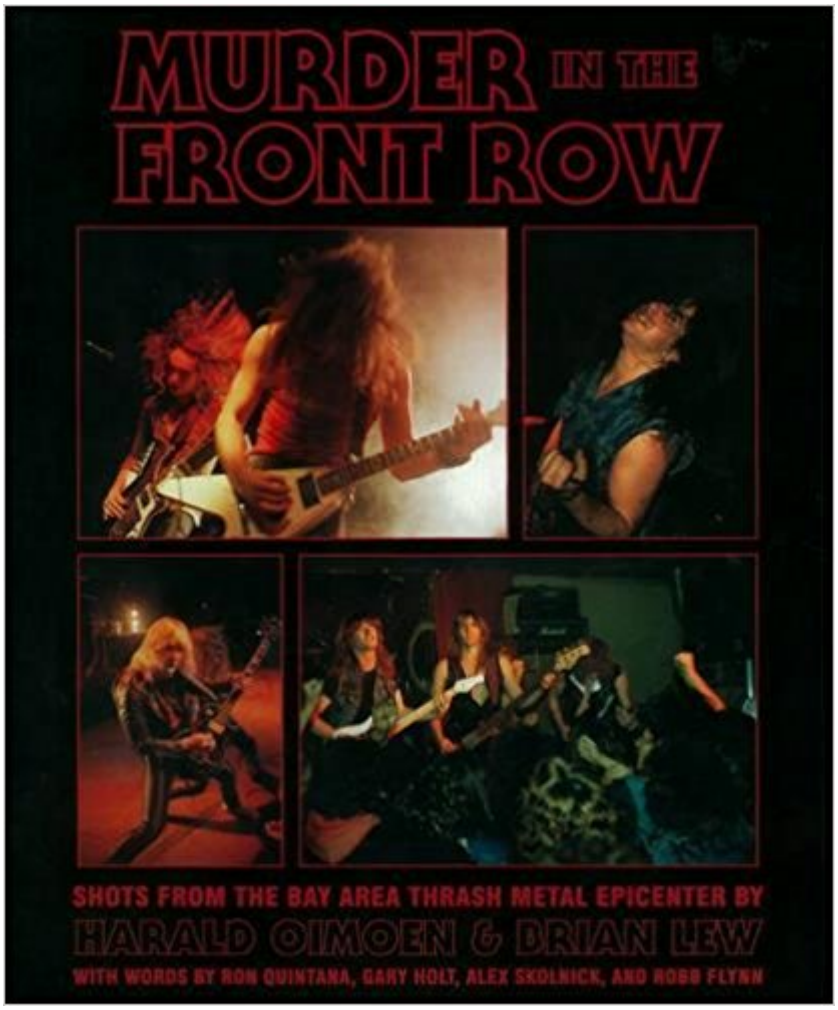
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Murder In The Front Row: Shots From The Bay Area Thrash Metal Epicenter



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Synopsis

In the 1980s, the San Francisco Bay Area was heaven for hardcore headbangers. Shunning Hollywood hairspray and image in favor of a more dangerous street appeal, the Bay Area thrash metal scene was home to Exodus, Metallica, Testament, Possessed, Death Angel, Heathen, Vio-Lence, Attitude Adjustment, Forbidden, and Blind Illusion — and served as a second home to like-minded similar bands like Slayer, Mercyful Fate, Anthrax, Megadeth, and more. Beginning as teenagers taking snapshots of visiting heavy metal bands during the 1970s, Brian "Umlaut" Lew and Harald "O." Oimoen documented the birth and growth of the local metal scene. Featuring hundreds of unseen live and candid color and black-and-white photographs, Murder in the Front Row captures the wild-eyed zeal and drive that made Metallica, Slayer, and Megadeth into legends, with over 100 million combined records sold.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Bazillion Points (January 24, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1935950037

ISBN-13: 978-1935950035

Product Dimensions: 1 x 9.2 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #519,202 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #125 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Lifestyle & Events > Lifestyle #177 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Punk #193 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Heavy Metal

Customer Reviews

Top 15 Books of 2011, Guitar WorldThe Most Metal Books of 2011, RevolverBook of the Year, 20 Buck Spin“AwesomeÃ¢â ¬Â• —Robb Flynn, Machine Head“AwesomeÃ¢â ¬Â• —Brian Slagel, Metal Blade Records"Awesome"—Phil Demmel, Machine Head“F------ awesomeÃ¢â ¬Â• —Kerry King, Slayer“GreatÃ¢â ¬Â• —Lars Ulrich, Metallica"Great book!"—Jean-Yves "Blacky" ThÃƒÂ©riault, Voivod“AMAZINGÃ¢â ¬Â• —Alex Skolnick, Testament“Thank you for writing this book! ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s the definitive story of the scene and what we managed to make of it here in the

Bay Area.Ã¢â ¬Â• —Kirk Hammett, Metallica“Murder in the Front Row captures the true essence of thrash metal in its embryonic stage. These photographs take me on a tour down memory lane, bringing back many laughs and prompting comments like: ‘I donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t remember that!Ã¢â ¬â„¢Ã¢â ¬Â• —Dave Lombardo, Slayer"I strongly recommend this book for anyone interested in the early days of California thrash metal. It's great looking at pictures of myself with that poodle perm I had in 1982!"—Ron McGovney, Metallica"Serious Pulitzer material."—Creative Loafing"By far, the greatest photo book on any music scene I've ever seen. The bands themselves couldn't have put out a more exhaustive and detailed account of the period."—The Huffington Post [CA]“A photographic odyssey through the inception of Bay Area thrashÃ¢â ¬Â• —San Francisco Chronicle“GorgeousÃ¢â ¬Â• —SF Weekly“A collection of stunning, intimate photographs from the infancy of thrash metal.Ã¢â ¬Â• —SF Bay Guardian“Vivid images of thrash bands onstage, backstage, at drinking binges and essentially everywhere elseÃ¢â ¬Â• —Metro Silicon Valley“The authentic, heads-down attack of a raft of seminal bands is superbly capturedÃ¢â ¬Â•—PopMattters"This is a gift from the metal gods themselves... you need this book in your life right now."—Terrorizer [5/5 review]"Gaze ye into Harald Oimoen and Brian Lew's tome of the Bay Area's thrash breeding grounds and you might never wake up. It's mostly early Slayer and Metallica gunning, but it still feels like a window onto Asgard."—Metal Hammer"Probably the best photographs of thrash metal's mythic birthing that have ever existed. You should do yourself a favor and pick up Murder In the Front Row immediately."—Noisey"Perhaps the final word on thrash metalÃ¢â ¬â„¢s humble beginnings... a true joy"—The Montreal Mirror"Pure gold for metal fans" —Decibel Magazine"A thick, beautiful book that captures a special moment in time"—A.P."KILLER photos… [a] must read book."—AOL Noisecreep"Granted, much of whatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s being shown is beer bottles, sneers and middle fingers, but it sure does tell a story."—The Maine Edge“Enormous historic intensity on every page…every image in Murder in the Front Row hits you like brass knuckles.Ã¢â ¬Â• —Sweden Rock [10/10 review]"Awesome... I give this book my highest rating."—MAXIMUM ROCKNROLL“Harald O., the craziest photographer of allÃ¢â ¬Â• —BAM

This book surpassed my expectations in every way. When it arrived the box was so heavy I didn't realize it was the book I had ordered! It is oversized with a thick hardcover binding like an academic book and it's all here, the early thrash scene bands included: Metallica (a lot of photos of them),

Megadeth (early photos of them with Kerry King on guitar), Exodus, Slayer, Legacy/Testament, Possessed, Death Angel, Vio-lence, Spastic Children (Metallica's humorous side project) and few more escapees inserting themselves into various group shots. Some of these shots I've seen before and just as many I have not. It's amazing to have them all here and to see these bands the way I remember them, just groups of guys who loved thrash music.The write-ups were incredible, I enjoyed reading the stories of Harold O., Brian Lew, Ron Quintana, Alex Skolnick, and Gary Holt. It's actually something worth reading as opposed to just some boring random inserts. There are also some pics of old flyers, postcards and set lists as well. This really is the bible of these bands in their infancy, if you were part of this as an old fan, you will have to own this, you probably already do. If you love these bands now and weren't around then, you must buy this and see how it all started. It really did come out of a love for a new kind of music, this was long before stretch limos, Rolling Stone interviews and music awards; I don't even think the members themselves knew how big it would all eventually be. I think that is part of what makes this book so incredible, the purity of it all. I highly recommend it, tons of glossy photos, a nice sturdy binding, something you'll enjoy.

AHH, the good ol' days! I was a sophmore in high school in 1983 when a hand full of nightclubs in Berkley and San Francisco started doing all ages shows. EXODUS SLAYER DEATH ANGEL POSSESED at The Mab for $6??? For the next few years the Bay Area had the best underground Metal(and Punk) scene in America, if not the world! Early in their careers,Slayer and Megadeth played up here so often they might as well have been local bands. There wasn't any real security at the clubs in those days so the shows were WILD! If the crowd wasn't thrashing hard enogh, Paul Bayloff would insult them by saying stuff like,"My grandmother thrashes harder than you and she's DEAD!" This book captures that period more than any other product I can think of. If you were there this book is a MUST! If weren't but you loved those bands,it's by far the best document of the Bay Area Metal scene at it's peak! Grab a six pack, crank up Bonded By Blood and let this book take you back to when it all started! Cheers to Harold O and Brian Lew for FINALLY making this book. "Bang that head that does not bang!"

WOW!! The shots in this book are incredible!! Harald showed me some of these shots way back and it was good to see them again finally published. If you grew up around this area, . it brings back lots of good memories. Seeing where theses artists are now from their humble beginnings..just incredible. You have the visuals..only thing missing is the loud music and the beers...Harald my friend..you and Brian put out an outstanding book!! Hopefully there's another coming out?

An amazing collection of photos from a legendary time in Bay Area (and ultimately global) thrash metal history. More great shots than you can imagine and a stellar account of the origins of so many legendary bands. Metallica, Slayer, Megadeth, Testament, Possessed, Forbidden, Death Angel. You really get to see how the lines between fans and bands ceased to exist and it was all about the music and the cause. It’s a great thing that these pictures have been unleashed after so many years. From what I understand, there are more shots where these came from so I can only hope the next volume is as epic as this one. Adding to the greatness of this book are the first-hand accounts and stories from Harald, Brian, Ron Quintana, Gary Holt of Exodus, Alex Skolnick of Testament and Robb Flynn of Machinehead. Can’t say enough great things about this book.Well done. "bang the head that doesn’t bang". I give this book two fists!\m/ (-_-) \m/

Really cool book, with tons of photos and interesting essays.

I bought this book as a birthday gift for my BF who loves Thrash Metal bands and Harold O. as he was very excited about the release of this book. When I first received the book, it was damaged. The hard cover was dented on the corner and looked like the book had been dropped, and the binding was torn from the cover. My boyfriend was so disappointed.The good news was that the returns was great! I let them know about the damage and the return was easy. The replacement book came in less than a week and it was in perfect condition. BF was thrilled.As for the book itself, it is full of behind-the-scenes photos, concert pics and stories that a thrash metal fan will love.

Nothing more can be said other than I wish I was around for those times! Brings you back to the days of "innocence" when all you wanted to do was tear it up, blast metal and go insane in the pit! It reminded me of my own band days when I was starting out doing the same stuff as a young band... except I was in the wrong era and maybe we just sucked. Regardless, if any of you have/had a band and were young, you can see they were just a bunch of rats like us having a great time doing what they were doing best! Thrashing!!

I am roughly the same age as the writers/photographers. I grew up on the east coast and it took time for these bands to become know where I was. I can remember the excitement when these band’s albums were coming out. I can’t imagine how great that scene must have been being right in the middle of it. Some great photo’s/memories catching the wave of something great, right at the

beginning.

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