

Cataract - Studioreport November 2007 - Dänemark!

Days 0, 1 and 2

Okay buddies, we're online, as of Tuesday, the 13th of November. We had a little trouble hooking up to the internet but lets just say we had better things to do, actually! Here's what we did so far:

Day 0

Drove up to Denmark, 1225kms more or less straight with a completely packed Volkswagen Sharan; tons of drum accessories, cymbals, pedals; a collection of guitars and amplifiers plus four bags full of Swiss bread, milk and chocolate so we don't starve in the home of the fluffy bread. We've met Tue, moved into a nice flat which will be our home for the upcoming days, made some pasta and more or less went straight to bed.

Day 1

This day meant basically getting ready for recording the drums. We went back to that place Feedback Studios where we've been for the "triumph" sessions and where Knuckledust and Moonspell just did their drum tracks. We're using a smaller room though, it makes the drums sound amazing just as such so it's less work on the desk and more sound on the record. If you care, we're using Tue's own pearly white Yamaha Set which sounds as nasty as it looks, it has coated skins giving a lot of attack; a 14"x 5" metal snare nicely smashing eardrums, plus the usual variety of cymbals including a amazingly noisy 20" china. No amps on the guitars, they are just plugged in and sent through some guitarizer or whatever you may call it. Most time we spent setting up, sound checking and rehearsing. We ended up starting with the recordings, did one song and got started on two more, but then called it a day as we still were battered. By the way we will try to add some pictures. I guess they will be up on myspace pretty soon and later also on the webpage.

Day 2

Today meant business. Ricky turned the drums to ashes and we recorded four songs that we're really happy with, you people will love them. We also did a first take for two more songs but frankly, after six hours of noise.... we will decide whether they're good or not tomorrow. So we're looking at the basics for five songs and we're f'ing happy with them to say the least. You people will love them. They're polite death metal. We'll evaluate what that exactly means as soon as we know more about it.

Day 3

We picked up work where we stopped yesterday; gave those two last takes a good listen and decided we could do better and then did so. It sounds easy but it did take a while until we were convinced they will tear shit apart... it's funny how you start hearing the slightest mistakes, and hearing nothing but that one hit and not the rest of the song. Tue does a great job there, making us see the important things and not wreck ourselves on some detail no one will care about. We started on two new songs (we cant really tell you much about the titles as we just gave them numbers to reduce the confusion) and so far they're also going through a night's sleep too and tomorrow we'll see where we're going with them. It's time for some Eddie Murphy now, so good night!

Day 4

Another long day is over but it was well worth the extra hours! We finished off the drum recordings, ten tracks of solid metal were hammered into shape and will be sharpened during the upcoming days! After we had the last three songs recorded, we went through all the songs again, did some final changes on two of them and now we can't wait to start working back at the Antfarm... we will again add some more pictures today or tomorrow! Cheerio!

Day 5

After spending some additional hours at Feedback yesterday evening to remove the drums, today started with moving all the guitar stuff into a completely re-built Antfarm and setting things up for the guitar sessions. Tom and Greg basically spent all day searching for the perfect sound and the perfect combinations. We have an army of amps we can try out, but of course we also brought our own equipment. At the end we recorded two tracks including the bass to give it a listen at home, and it sounds very promising, even though no buttons have been touched! Looking forward to tomorrow!

Day 6

I actually stayed at home all day while Greg and Tom worked hard. They played guitar. All – day – long. Boring. Here's what I did: slept another hour, got out of bed late, vacuumed and cleaned the kitchen, did the dishes, had some soup, made lots of mails, erased one hundred times more spam, ate Christmas chocolate, watched Knuckledust's dvd and listened to the album, more mails, also did lots of Myspace business and then had a biiiiig wank. Oh well since you might not be interested in my daily musing, Tom and Greg finished three more songs plus the ones from yesterday and it's kicking serious ass! I'm surprised how the songs differ among themselves but it's still pure Cataract!

Day 7

Alright a bit more on topic this time. Today was Tue's day off, we actually thought we'd just hang out at home but we had the pleasure to work with Jacob Olsen, still at the Antfarm of course. We did some little changes to the rhythm guitars in two songs we've already recorded, but then again it was time for Ricky to sod off and be a housewife again. Greg and Tom went on working on the songs, they recorded two new ones which developed to be quite a piece of work but listening to the recording right now I have to say it was well worth it! I'm sure you'd agree if you could hear it... but you can't. Not yet. Oh yeah if any Danish people recall what Tue did on Saturday night, he'll be happy to know, he was wandering around the studio in his bare feet and mumbled something about 2 hrs of sleep and winning. Later guys!

Day 8

We're almost done with the guitars and even though there's nothing done on the mix they sound massive! There's one more song left now and then we're probably gonna flip a coin to see who's starting on the bass... I actually would love to, but apparently it's not that easy. Fedi is going to meet up with us on Wednesday so we have plenty of time to work on those extra things and then of course the vocals. And that's it for today, really...

Day 9

Another busy day has passed, the last guitar tracks have been laid down and we've done the bass for five tracks already. It sounds more metal than ever, quite a

difference from our old recordings! We're progressing really fast now, which will leave us enough time to do the vocals and all the overdubs, solos, screaming, squealing... and of course the mixing, but that will be Tue's job. Fedi's coming in tomorrow and I guess we will be done with the bass lines by then – we'll let you know!

Day 10

Bwoah I'm sick as a dog. Seriously, check out the pics and if you see a guy with a football attached to his face, that's me. I haven't slept an hour and now I'm spending time sipping tea while the rest of the guys stuff their faces at Tue's mansion. I hope they got dogfood! I'm not giving you the details of what I did today, you wouldn't like it. Tom and Greg finished the bass while I went to the airport to pick up Fedi. I took him more or less directly to the studio where Mr. "which games are gonna be on TV tonight?" checked out our work and his happy face tells me he's just been blown away! Well since they started to make fun of my big face I had to leave and I'll tell you more next time.

Day 11

Ok my face is kinda deformed so I had to go and see a doc today, don't worry it's all fine, I'm not a leper. Greg and Tom did almost all guitar solos and overdubs today, and Fedi continued with the songs. Since we can't stress his voice too much we're almost constantly finishing two songs every day and if there's time left we muse on editing the songs.

Day 12

Farewell is getting closer now. We spent half of the day on placing samples, fucking up guitars, cutting out parts, making intros, rearranging and erasing. We ended up with results that blew us right out of the door and will make up for ear damages we might have obtained. Fedi finished two more songs, and we've been stressing him out quite a bit haha! But again, it's worth the extra effort. There's three songs left now which we hope to finish tomorrow or at least as much as we can put it on a cd and listen to it on the way home. Fedi will stay until Wednesday and has to make all lines sound like he was on coke. Looking forward to hear that!

Day 13

Last day! At least for Tom, Greg and myself. And it started with a bang – a computer bang, and we feel honoured to have met a Mac with a problem! Well the power supply has blown, so that's good bye to the machine, we're working on Tue's Laptop now which is only a little bit slower. Tom has done some brutal extra vocals to brutalize the songs. B to da r to da fucking utal! Some last overdubs were also done and a final fart has been conducted too. So we've packed up our things are ready to leave, just waiting for the first very raw mix of the next cataract cd. As mentioned before we're leaving Fedi behind to finish off the vocals we'll keep you updated about the funny things happening on our trip back and at Antfarm.