

SUBTERRANEA

GOING UNDERGROUND

Detrimentum: a game of frowns

FRESH MEAT

THE NEW BLOOD

UK DEATH METAL DESTRUCTION!

DETRIMENTUM

British deathsters profiting from new alliances.

While a new generation of death metal bands happily subscribe to a credo of soulless precision and uniformity, those who crave the arcane atmospheres and stirring depths of the ancient gods may still discover new champions in the form of the UK's own Detrimentum. Veterans of the underground, these Northampton-based miscreants formed back in the mid-90s and have had a turbulent and stuttering story so far, but with the release of their second full-length album, *Inhuman Disgrace*, they look well-poised to claim their rightful place at the top of their native land's brutal hierarchy. The best music takes a while to mature, it seems...

"As long as we stick to the basic tenets of dark, heavy and dramatic metal it all remains true to our original ideas," states founding multi-instrumentalist Jonathan Butlin. "We organically developed our current sound over a long time. Paul [Wilkinson, guitar/vocals] joined us in 1999 and brought with him a huge dose of extra energy, creativity and diverse influences. In terms of the lyrics, right from the start we wanted to avoid some of the clichés of death and black metal. We never wanted to be just another band that wrote about serial killers, Satan or sexual perversion. Dark, dramatic, poundingly heavy music, combined with epic, intense, creative lyrics is pretty much what we stand for."

More focused and furious than 2008's *Embracing The Deformity*, the new *Detrimentum* album sees the band making the most of a new creative alliance with producer Russ Russell (Napalm Death/Evile) while exploiting the potential of a new lineup, wherein Jonathan and Paul are

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JONATHAN BUTLIN

joined by Anaal Nathrakh drummer Steve Powell in an unrelenting orgy of churning grimness and hellish violence.

"The new album has taken what has gone before with the band and widened the scope somewhat," Jonathan states. "Others may disagree, but I think we've built on the foundations left by the previous album and just refined the mix. There are still influences from dark, brutal death metal, epic and intense black metal, crushing doom and some off the wall ideas from our own imaginations, just as there was at the very beginning. This is a refined, improved and more experienced version of Detrimentum."

Although recorded as a trio, *Inhuman Disgrace* is such an involved and

demanding piece of black art that Detrimentum are planning to expand their ranks in order to facilitate a fitting and authoritative live incarnation for their new material. The full extent of their future plans remain under wraps for the time being, but fans of this epic brutality should start bracing themselves now...

"Not being blessed with an abnormal number of limbs, we are currently finalising a full lineup that will enable us to play live again!" says Jonathan. "Even though we are essentially underground veterans, with creaky knees and grey hair, there is still so much more we could achieve with the band in a live setting before we have to start claiming our pensions."

DOM LAWSON



LINEUP: Jonathan Butlin (guitar/bass), Paul Wilkinson (guitar/vocals), Steve Powell (drums).

SOUNDS LIKE: Epic, strange and dramatic death metal sculpted from a wild array of traditional and avant-garde influences and augmented with the gloriously vivid stench of the abyss.

CURRENT RELEASE: *Inhuman Disgrace* (Deepsend, 2011).

WEBSITE: www.detrimentum.co.uk