

# OBSCURUS

MARCH '10

VOL. 1



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Thirteen Years and Counting	2
Genre-less Music	2
Sound and Effect	2
The Infamous Line	3
No, We are <u>NOT</u> Homeless Runaways	3
Mission Statement	4
So, Who Are We?	4

## INTO THE MUSIC

*"Formed in 1997, with the sole purpose to spread the feeling of hurt and sorrow caused by weakness, shallowness and egoism of humanity. Since then, their grotesque ways, their warped affection, and their crazy live shows took the independent record scene by a storm, putting them on the very top. In 1999, their fame caught the attention of then CEO of East West Japan. Thus signing them to a major record label. They debuted releasing 3 singles at once, very rare for a newcomer. Of course, all 3 songs hit the top 10 on the charts. After that, all their releases would hit the top 10 on the charts proving that more and more people were sympathizing with their lyrics. In 2002, their fame hit all of Asia. During their Asia Tour they traveled to Korea, Taiwan,*



DIR EN GREY Left to Right - Kyo (vocals), Toshiya (bass), Kaoru (guitar), Shinya (drums), Die (guitar) Photo by DIR EN GREY

*Hong Kong and Shanghai. And in Shanghai, public safety officers had to be called in to calm the excited fans.*

*When they first formed, their expressions of pain came from struggling and writhe, hiding inside the feelings of hurt and suffering. But as time passed, their pain became a cry also a message.*

*Now, Dir en grey has changed its target from Japan to the World. From their unstable beginning,*

*the band itself has gone through many changes and revolutions. It is clear that their music is their tool to send out a message, and they have only just begun."*

-Source :: The Official DIR EN GREY Website

## THIRTEEN YEARS AND COUNTING

Since the formation of the band on February 2nd of 1997, DIR EN GREY has spread the emotions of sorrow and hurt, caused by the greed and selfishness of human society to the four corners of the world. Over the past 13 years, they have released 7 full-length albums, 25 singles, 2 EP's, 3 compilation CDs, and countless music videos and LIVE DVDs.

In 2002, DIR EN GREY decided to branch their tours a little further away from home, stopping in China, Taiwan, and South Korea, where the fans supported their efforts with cheers and shouts, attending the concerts with pride. In 2005, DIR EN GREY performed in Europe for the first time. Their concerts in Berlin and Paris (as part of the "It Withers and Withers" tour) sold out without promotion, save for newsletters by import record stores and internet-based word of mouth.

And in 2006, touring was expanded to the United States, where three concerts were held. Again, all shows sold out within days of the release of the information. Later that year, the band was invited to tour for one of the largest concert gigs in the US, The Family Values Tour. Since their American 'Debut', they have been well-received, and have come back at least once a year, since, each time to see even more fans lined up than the previous year. It would seem that their fan base here is growing rapidly.



DIR EN GREY Live at BUDOKAN 2010  
Photo source - Flickr.com by DeG Br

## GENRE-LESS MUSIC

While it would seem that DIR EN GREY has been categorized in many genres such as alternative metal, alternative rock, experimental, hardcore, nu metal, metalcore, avant garde, progressive and various others, most of their fans would agree that their particular sound is something that shouldn't be classified.

"The band's sound has embraced tendencies of American metal and nu metal (they participated in Korn's Family Values tour in America), and Dir en Grey bring so many other sonic and musical elements into the mix that they extend not only the reach of their own music, but the boundaries of any music they happen to incorporate into their sound."

— Thom Jurek, *Allmusic*

## SOUND AND EFFECT

Over the past 13 years, the sounds DIR EN GREY have changed and evolved, incorporating different techniques, instruments, and ideas into their music. Ranging from acoustic, to electric, and from simple to complex, they have been able to accomplish what other bands have not, creating their own unique style that seems to be always changing. The band has also taken to using various other instruments in some of their albums. In their early album, *Gauze*, Kaoru used the sitar to create an exotic, yet creepy effect for "Mazohyst of Decadence". And in other albums, the band's insane musical ideas are apparent, Listening to some of

their albums, you would never guess that some of the sounds are created using special effects with their guitars, bass, and even drums!

The instruments themselves vary in style. From the electric guitar, *Ganesa*, to the ESP Eclipse Custom, the Killer Vulture bass, and the ever-growing Pearl Masters Retro-spect kit.



Left to Right : Kaoru (Guitar), Toshiya (Bass), Die (Guitar) -Source WeROCK vol. 014

## THE INFAMOUS LINE

Even before DIR EN GREY started on their very first US tour, their music had already taken root in the homes of hundreds of American fans. When news spread of the band's first tour, tickets sold out rapidly. Since then, the fan base here has grown larger, as the sound travels from person to person, and word of the band's obscure songs and lyrics fly through the vast space of the internet. As the band continues to tour America, more and more fans line up outside, the earliest fans arriving as early as the day before the concert (Sometimes even two days in advance). Videos are constantly found on the internet on such sites as YouTube of the lines, which have now been nicknamed "The DIR EN GREY Line". These videos usually contain footage of the line just a few hours before doors open, and you can see just how long these lines can get. Most lines wind up 'down the block and around the cor-

ner' from the venue, as hundreds, sometimes even a few thousand fans flock to the nearest venue to watch DIR EN GREY live. It's here that fans can meet other fans, make new friends, and have long, in-depth conversations about the band and their favorite member. However, this line isn't always in great favor of the surrounding businesses. Some businesses have repeatedly had to ask fans to move, for fear of scaring away customers, or causing trouble (usually by complete accident). One constant issue is always having to find multiple restrooms for the fans to use, as managers may get angry when the fans are constantly in and out of their store, usually not purchasing

anything. Another constant issue is trash. When such a large amount of fans gather

outside a venue for hours on end, they will bring food, and other throw-away items. Most of the time, the fans are courteous enough to throw things away, but every once in a while, a small mess is forgotten amidst the chaos of the band members passing, or the doors to the venue opening.



DEG LINE - NYC 2009 Literally around the corner source - Leia Radtke

## NO, WE ARE NOT HOMELESS RUNAWAYS

While the DEG LINE does have it's flaws, we are here for one reason... DIR EN GREY! Waiting in line for hours on end, for the band you love, is an experience all of it's own. Hundreds of stories have come from just waiting in the line. Thousands of people have gained new friends, exchanged stories of previous concerts, even laughed, cried, and yes, huddled under the same sheet of plastic just to keep warm, or stay dry. In many of these stories, you can find one thing in common...

MEMBER SIGHTINGS! Many fans will gladly tell you who walked by them at 3 o'clock in the morning, or waved at them on their way into the venue. Also, they will give you an in-depth, detailed report on who said what, or what happened during the adventure. Several fans, one night, were slightly shocked when some residents of

the area waited in line with them, until their plans called for them to leave. The most popular question that night, however



Fans sleeping under plastic after a long night -source Leia Radtke

"DIR EN GREY!" Many other people thought the fans were just a bunch of homeless runaways, and stayed clear of the line. Even to the fans who are used to such nights, each time is different and unique. Even the band members are shocked when they walk out at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning to see so many more people sleeping on the cold cement, huddled together in sleeping bags, under blankets, and even plastic and cardboard. Rain means little to the dedicated fans other than a time to take shelter under your friend's umbrella. It's times like this that bring the fans close, and even the unexpected cup of hot tea from concerned band members every once in a while.

"Nothing less than 5 star conditions, oh yeah. Conversations with rats are complimentary."

-Leia

er was "What are you all waiting for?" To which many fans replied in unison,

## DEGNAT

Myspace.com/degnational  
Myspace.com/direngrey

Helping bridge the gap  
one state at a time.

## MISSION STATEMENT

DEGNAT, a street team for DIR EN GREY. It is high time America has something similar to A-KNOT, and we are going to be it! One with the same benefits perhaps, same great news and offers. Right now, I can't say that I can bring you everything the Japan club has to offer, however I hope to do so with the help of the record company. Now, to get there, we must have a lot of members. The record companies need to see that there is a huge demand for a club in the US. For so many years now, DIR EN GREY has given to us. It's time to give back. It's time to show them, how they have drastically effected the lives of so many people. We are here to spread DIR EN GREY to our nation. America is such a diverse place, and yet, so many people are closed minded. Everyone can relate to the strange looks we get, when people hear DIR EN GREY coming from our cars and houses. Though DIR EN GREY is an incredibly popular band, there are far too many people who don't know who they are. We want to make DIR EN GREY a household name.

## SO, WHO ARE WE?

We are the fans, we are the support, we are the promotion, the word of mouth, we are DEGNAT. The unofficial street team for DIR EN GREY. We bring you news, interviews, releases, videos, updates. We go out and spread the music of DIR EN GREY, promote concerts and tours in the United States. We are the fliers at the concerts and on your car. We find the closest places for you to eat, without putting a dent in your pocket.

We are the ones who list the venue rules, and scout out the closest restroom that won't ban the fans!

We do our best to bring you up to date on information, and release news that we know to be true.

We are working to no end for the fans, and to become



Fans at a DIR EN GREY Live show -source Leia Radtke

official!

And we need your help!

If the record companies here see that there is a huge demand for DIR EN GREY and an American fan base, surely they will help us out. All of what we have accomplished so far is thanks to the people just like you, dear reader, so help us bridge the gap between DIR EN GREY and

America! Spread the word that we exist! Tell your family and friends to join us in our quest!

After all, we are one big family, as fans, supporting each other, lending each other blankets and plastic, and a smile to share with the world!