



Murder in the Front Row: Shots from the Bay Area Thrash Metal Epicenter

By Harald Oimoen, Brian Lew



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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.



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Editorial Review

Review

Top 15 Books of 2011, *Guitar World*

The Most Metal Books of 2011, *Revolver*

Book of the Year, *20 Buck Spin*

“Awesome” —*Robb Flynn, Machine Head*

“Awesome” —*Brian Slagel, Metal Blade Records*

"Awesome"—*Phil Demmel, Machine Head*

“F----- awesome” —*Kerry King, Slayer*

“Great” —*Lars Ulrich, Metallica*

"Great book!"—*Jean-Yves "Blacky" Thériault, Voivod*

“AMAZING” —*Alex Skolnick, Testament*

“Thank you for writing this book! It’s the definitive story of the scene and what we managed to make of it here in the Bay Area.” —*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 don’t remember that!’” —*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 thrash” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Gorgeous” —*SF Weekly*

“A collection of stunning, intimate photographs from the infancy of thrash metal.” —*SF Bay Guardian*

“Vivid images of thrash bands onstage, backstage, at drinking binges and essentially everywhere else”

—*Metro Silicon Valley*

“The authentic, heads-down attack of a raft of seminal bands is superbly captured”—PopMatters

"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 metal'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 what'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." —*Sweden Rock* [10/10 review]

"Awesome... I give this book my highest rating."—*MAXIMUM ROCKNROLL*

“Harald O., the craziest photographer of all” —*BAM*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joy Hanson:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always aim to and must have the time or they will get lot of stress from both everyday life and work. So , once we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is actually *Murder in the Front Row: Shots from the Bay Area Thrash Metal Epicenter*.

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Murder in the Front Row: Shots from the Bay Area Thrash Metal Epicenter can be one of your starter books

that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to place every word into pleasure arrangement in writing *Murder in the Front Row: Shots from the Bay Area Thrash Metal Epicenter* although doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource information that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can drawn you into brand new stage of crucial contemplating.

Mary Muncy:

In this period globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended to you is *Murder in the Front Row: Shots from the Bay Area Thrash Metal Epicenter* this e-book consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some study when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book appropriate all of you.

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