

Zappanale #28

I have been a bit remiss in documenting my attendance at this beautiful little festival these last few times. To be honest, I wasn't sure anyone was interested in my opinion on it anymore. But on my return this year I was quizzed by Frank's former secretary, **Pauline Butcher**, AND Dweezil's bass player (and former ScoreMeister), **Kurt Morgan**.

Of course, this year was a lot special, with the presence of both **Moon** (via Skype) and **Dweezil**. And **Thorsten Schütte** was also there, screening his excellent *Eat That Question* documentary, and presenting some outtakes too. On the film's release, Thorsten did some promo work with Moon who apparently told him she was on a search for any other siblings she might have roaming the planet. She touched on this during her Skype Q&A too following a question I posed. I don't think anyone in the room was too surprised by this probability, Moon having already described her father as a prolific cheater.

So what did Pauline want to know?

PB: Were there more people there this year because of Dweezil's presence? If so, how much bigger percentagewise?

AG: Yes, more fer sure: the tents stretched all the way to the outer edge of the field.

PB: How long was Dweezil's set? What numbers did he play – ie. did he play mostly *Apostrophe* stuff, or early, mostly instrumentals, or vocals?

AG: Approximately three hours, covering all decades.

PB: Goodness. Did you have to stand for three hours, or do they

have seats?

AG: Standing room only.

PB: Did you chat with Dweezil?

AG: Not at Zappanale, no.

PB: What about your book?

AG: *Frank Talk* wasn't published until after the festival.

PB: I thought you were selling it at Zappanale.

AG: That was the plan, but printing delays meant it wouldn't arrive in Germany until the Tuesday after.

PB: Bad luck. To think I could have taken your stand!

AG: I still did a short presentation, but...

PB: It's my experience that if I don't sell it right away, the next day, buyers have gone off the boil and the moment has gone.

AG: Yes, it was a golden opportunity to shift a few units. But not the end of the world.

PB: Next year...

And Kurt wanted my no holds barred take on Dweezil's set.

KM: What did you think of the performance?

AG: Having been to the last 16 Zappanales, I can honestly say it was the best performance I have ever witnessed there.

KM: Shit, man! That just gave me chills. Thank you! It definitely felt special for me. There has been so much bullshit over the last 25 years, so just being on that stage felt like a triumph of sorts. It means a lot to me to hear that you enjoyed it so much!

AG: I did. I have been conflicted in the past about the whole ZPZ thing. Now things have changed and it's easy to love DZ more than ever!

KM: I'm right there with you about the conflict. It still happens to me but after being in the midst of the fans at Zappanale and finally getting the first-hand perspective, it felt gloriously healthy for every one of us to be there. After all of the bullshit and difficult decisions

that I have had to make since Gail's death, I know that I made the right decision.

I really do think DZ was the best in show, and hope that he will make a regular habit of visiting Bad Doberan. And it would be cool if Moon could actually be there next time too.

Other highlights for me were **The Untouchables** (a double bass and vibes duo – what's not to like?), **Caballero Reynaldo** (relaxed C&W bossa-nova lounge takes on FZ, Crimson, Beatles and old standards), **Chato!** (with his crack band – my Mystery Stage fave) and **Studio Dan** (a wondrous return for this big band).

There have been rumblings along the lines of 'how much longer can they keep this going?' in recent years. After z28, these should have been quelled.

Long live Zappanale!

The photographic evidence

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