

Soulless

Soulless oozed from the battered corpse of Cleveland band "Bloodsick" in late 1997. Bloodsick, a band formed in the spirit of vintage 80's and 90's thrash metal released one 7", a split with Nunslaughter, in 1996. The band featured Chris Dora, formerly of Decrepit on drums and Jim Lippucci, formerly of Decimation on vocals. After the release of the 7" in 1997, guitarist Brian Sekula left the band and was replaced by Jerry Kessler, formerly of Apt. 213. Before the band could work on any other material bass player Chris Pello and founding guitarist Todd Thozeski left the band and were eventually replaced by Tony Daprano on bass, (formerly of Apt 213 and a member of Schnauzer) and Wayne Richards on guitar. With the addition of these members came an evolution of the bands sound and new direction: a combination of the hooks and angry vocals of some of thrash metal's early bands like Kreator, Sodom, Carnivore, Slayer, and Celtic Frost with the aggression and darkness of some of today's heaviest bands, like In Flames, The Haunted, Arch Enemy & Unleashed. The resulting music combined the best of these sounds while creating the bands own distinct style of dark death/thrash metal. With this new direction came a new name and Soulless was born. The band immediately began writing new material and in mid-'98 went into the studio to record a demo. The band received a strong response in their native Cleveland and eventually released the demo as a CD entitled the "The Darkening of Days" in August of 1999. The band also appeared on the Dwell Records Judas Priest and Ozzy Osbourne tribute CD's at about that same time. Soulless then concentrated on playing shows, opening for such bands as Malevolent Creation, Incantation, Nile, and Morbid Angel in Cleveland, as well as local shows with bands like Descend, Nunslaughter and From The Depths. With about 1000 copies in circulation "The Darkening of Days" continued to get strong reviews both in print and from Internet fanzines. Canadian 'zine "Brave Words and Bloody Knuckles" called it the best demo of '99 in their January - February issue. Jerry Kessler left Soulless in the fall of 2000 and was replaced by Jim Corrick (Dahmer, OH) on lead & rhythm guitar. Soon after the band entered the infamous Mars Recording Compound to record songs for the Dwell Records' Destruction, W.A.S.P., Twisted Sister and Metallica II tributes, and to complete a new three song promo. The new material was just as angry, heavy and brutal as Soulless' earlier material, while reflecting the growth the band had experienced since the release of the first disk. The band finished and began distributing the three song promo in summer of 2001. Featuring three examples of the bands newest most brutal material, the promo received excellent reviews but failed to land the band any solid recording deal. In March of 2002 bassist Tony Daprano was replaced by Cleveland metal journeyman Dave Johnson (Descension, Ascension). With the lineup now solidified, the band decided to begin recording a new album even though they had yet to secure a deal. In April of 2002 they returned to Mars Recording and began work on the new full length. Later that month upstart Japanese metal label World Chaos Production decided to make Soulless the first American band on their roster. The ten song opus, entitled "Agonys Lament", was released in November of 2002 on WorldChaos and represents some of the bands strongest material, and some great thrash. With this sinister platter of thrash unleashed the band is setting their sites on the wholesale slaughter of the entire planet...