DR MUSIKARIETS METAL SCHOOL PRESENTS:

OPENHELL

MUSIKARETS METAL SCHOOL BAND IS OPENHELL

Openhell is Copenhell’s house band. Copenhell is Denmark’s largest rock and metal festival. Copenhell has been rapidly growing since its inception in 2010. Establishing a loyal fan base in Denmark and abroad. Openhell is well know on the Copenhell scene often playing to full houses on stage and for their interactive shows at Biergarten. Here fans have the opportunity to try their hand at singing, growl and experience the raw power of fronting a metal band.

– the band takes you through a tour de force of heavy metal by playing the most iconic riffs from metal history. They present some of the greatest songs in their entirety.

The host of P6 Beat radio, Carsten Holm, will be our guide on this musical journey. Adding input on the history behind the bands and their music.

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BEFORE THE CONCERT

You must prepare yourself, together with your classmates, to explore and reflect on the culture that is heavy metal music.

This worksheet gives you a brief introduction of heavy metal music. You can use the graphic material provided to inspire and prepare your discussion in class. Included are titles and links to sources and references you can use to explore the heavy metal universe.

The goal is that you engage in active dialogue in English and after the concert make a written assignment.

AFTER THE CONCERT

Has your first-hand experience up close at a heavy metal concert and your preparation beforehand, changed your view on the music and the culture that is heavy metal?

Write a short review of the concert or an essay about the experience of being up close and personal to the heavy metal culture.

CONCERT AND PREPARATION

In every culture, there is something to discover and experience. This is an opportunity to explore the often dark and mysterious culture, which defines heavy metal music.

You will take a journey through time, walking in the footsteps of the greats like Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath and Metallica. On this journey, you will discover where heavy metal music comes from and how it has evolved over time.

Is it possible for something that on the surface seems so violent, dark and devilish to be good for the soul?

Is there a method in the madness, so to speak?
A BRIEF OVERVIEW ON HEAVY METAL

Heavy metal is a popular term that covers a myriad of subgenres, such as thrash, glam and death metal (ex. Metalchart, TeachRock, 2013). These subcultures include their own rules, rituals, ideologies and uniform fashion style. No one is quite sure when metal emerged as a genre but most experts point to the late 1960s with English bands like Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath. (ex. Phillips, W. & Cogan, B. 2009, Preface xxii)

The trailblazing bands that are linked to creating heavy metal music, developed a massive sound that made chills run down your spine and your hair stand on end. This sound was characterized by highly amplified distortion, driving guitar solos, thick bass and an overall loudness that created a wall of sound like nothing that came before it.

The early bands like Zeppelin and Sabbath had a unique sound, style, lyrical content and musical prowess that laid the foundation for the way metal music is defined today. (Phillips, W. & Cogan, B. 2009, Preface xxii)

EXAMPLE FEATURES

Led Zeppelin
Jimmy Pages technical virtuosity on guitar, John Bomhams fierce drumming and rock god persona, personified by singer Robert Plant. Led Zeppelin – Dazed and Confused (Supershow 1969)

Black Sabbath
The occult text universe introduced by Geezer Butler's, the special wail, as Ozzy Osbourn delivered and Tony Iommis tuned-down, leaden pace guitar. Black Sabbath: War Pigs Live Paris 1970

Tony Iommis explains in this animated video how he lost two fingers while working in a metal factory and this accident was the reason why he tuned down his guitar. Giles, J. Ultimate Classic Rock, 2015
SMALL HEAVY METAL DICTIONARY
– ABOUT TRADITIONS AND RITUALS

You know you are at a heavy metal concert when you experience the following:

**Headbanging:** Violently shaking ones head in time with the music. (Works best with long hair)

**Crowd surfing:** To be passed round on top of the crowd from person to person. Often in a corpse pose. This is a very communal experience.

**Stage diving:** To climb up on the stage and jump off, putting trust in the hands of the crowd to catch you. This sometimes results in an epic fail.

**Devils horn:** Better known as the sign of the devil. Used by metal heads and performers as a sign of rebellion and togetherness.

**Moshing or slamdancing:** A style of dance in which participants push or slam into each other. If one is really talented they can combine devil horns and headbanging to their moshing style.

**Circle pit:** This is where the participants bump and jostle with each other as they move in a circle to the beat of the music.

**‘Wall of Death’:** Where two sections of the audience run towards each other and smash together head on. The band or the audience can initiate this.
NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART

Today bands like Metallica play to full houses, some hard rock and metal bands are on the list of best-selling bands of all time (ex. List of best-selling music artist, Wikipedia). There are metal concerts several times a week at venues all over Denmark (http://metalkalender.dk/) and a large market for heavy metal merchandise, being capitalized on by big name companies. (ex. H & M, United States 2017).

Heavy metal music is not for faint of heart. The fast guitar riffs, hard-hitting drums and diabolic lyrics combined with the headbanger uniform of long hair and tattoos has often been mocked and despised by its critics. (ex. Fyhrie, E. 2008, intro)

Heavy metal fans are often associated with violence, drugs and even devil worship and there are strong prejudices and stereotypes linked to the genre. Historically heavy metal has been seen as the music of the lower class or white trash and has been demonized by many for its loud aggressive style and its rebellious often-political message. (ex. Ahlvist, J.A. 1999, pp. 128).

CRUSHING THE PREJUDICE IN HEAVY METAL

A young person is tired of prejudice they have to deal with for being a metal head. (Blog Posted by Unknown, 12.02.2014, Rock and Roll Ramblings, Metalhead prejudice still an issue)

Top ten myths about Metal, and the truth that comes with them. (The Black Frost, July 9, 2011, Top 10 Myths About Metal, Listverse)

Metal-Rules.com team share their thoughts, feelings and ideas on metal Prejudice. (EvilG, Nathan, Joe Champion et al. 2000, Colums From Hells heart… march 2000: metal prejudices, Metal Rules)
WHAT IS HEAVY METAL ALL ABOUT?

What are the main characteristics or components that define heavy metal? (Ex. sound level, graphics, color, symbols, ‘fashion’ styles …)

Imagine how it was to grow up here? Band members from, among others, Black Sabbath and Judas Priest grew up here. (Anderton St, Birmingham, 1960)

In the film Easy Rider, Dennis Hopper expresses an attitude

"Life, death, sex ... beer maybe" this is how Dave Mustain lead singer of Megadeth sums up the essence of Heavy Metal. “It's not about death, it's more about awareness, because without death life would be meaningless ... don't you think”

The Decline of Western Civilization Part II: The Metal Years (5/6) Megadeth Talk and Perform (1988)

"I like smoke and lightning Heavy metal thunder Racin' with the wind And the feelin' that I'm under (...)"

The first time heavy metal is named in music. Steppenwolf, Born to be wild, 1969

"Metal forholder sig til menneskets skyggeside, for mange metallere er lalleglad musik udtryk for, at man har opbygget en facade af glæde i en verden, hvor der i virkeligheden er mange problemer."

PROBLEM 1: DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSION

How can heavy metal, something that may seem so violent, dark and devilish be good for the soul?

Is there a method in the madness, so to speak?

In pairs or in groups take notes, discuss your answers with the class and together summarize the material.

You could also solve the task in Problem 2 to further inspire discussions on power aspects in heavy metal culture.
PROBLEM 2: DEFINING POWER IN HEAVY METAL

Read, listen, watch and categorize examples of heavy metal music.

Heavy metal music can be said to be about power. Both through expression and way of life. Sociologist Jarl A. Ahlkvist (1999) distinguishes between physical and psycho-social heavy metal music:

Physical metal: Masculine strength, prowess, potency and toughness.

Psycho-social metal: Abuse of power, the potentially liberating power of the "dark side" and heavy metal as an empowering antidote to psychological strains of modern life. (Ahlkvist, J.A. (1999), pp. 130)

Put these examples of heavy metal music into categories and explain why:

Black Sabbath
“Ironman”
(1970)
Lyrics
Video/performance

AC/DC
"Highway to Hell"
(1979)
Lyrics
Video/performance

Metallica
“Master of Puppets”
(1986)
Lyrics
Video/performance

Iron Maiden
“Fear of the dark”
(1992)
Lyrics
Video/performance
PROBLEM 3: AFTER THE CONCERT

Has your first-hand experience up close at a heavy metal concert and your preparation beforehand, changed your view on the music and the culture that is heavy metal?

Write a short review of the concert or an essay about the experience of being up close and personal to the heavy metal culture.

Choose one of the tasks:

1. Use your journalistic skills and write a review of the concert: focus on the stage presence of the musicians, the lead singers and the stage show. Including the way the band was dressed and symbols they may have used to relay their message.

2. Write an essay about your personal experience with the heavy metal culture. Why do you think the culture had the effect it did on you?

In both tasks you could include some of the similarities and differences between the Musikarets Metal School Band experience and a full-blown metal concert. How was heavy metal tradition and rituals expressed through the band's performance and how did the audience respond? (See ‘THE SMALL HEAVY METAL DICTIONARY’)
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Below are some links, sources and references used in the material, as well as examples of other sources of information that may inspire you. Some are in Danish others in English.

Guide for those who are curious and want to learn more about heavy metal:


About Heavy Metal:

Explore much more about heavy metal on Teach Rock [2013], an online educational resource. http://teachrock.org/search/?query=heavy+metal, [accessed 23.02.2017]


"ACDCs megahit brugt i kræftforskning med stor succes"[09.06.2016], Marie-Louise Andersen, Århus Stifttidende, [online] http://stiften.dk/kultur/ACDCs-megahit-brugt-i-kræftforskning-med-stor-succes/artikel/333782 [accessed 18.02.2016]


Radio:


Exhibition:

Heavy Metal & Punk Fossils, Facebook, [online] https://www.facebook.com/heavymetalfossils/about/ [accessed 22.02.2017]

**Film:**

Easy Rider (1969) directed by Dennis Hopper
This Is Spinal Tap (1984), directed by Rob Reiner
The decline of western civilization II the metal years (1988), directed by Penelope Scheeris
Headbang i Hovedlandet (1997), directed by Niels Arden Oplev
Metal: A Headbangers Journey (2005), directed by Sam Dum, Scott McFadyen, Jessica Joy Wise

**Heavy metal concert at your school:**


**Magazines:**


**Miscellaneous:**

Black Metal Name Generator: http://www.metalinjection.net/around-the-interwebs/the-black-metal-name-generator-will-make-your-name-666-more-kvlt
Heavy metal syndrome: http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Heavy+Metal+Syndrome

**Reference list:**


About Jarl A. Ahlkvist: PennState, College of the Liberal Arts, http://sociology.la.psu.edu/people/jua22, [accessed 22.02.2017]


Youtube [online]


Photo credits
Copenhell, https://www.copenhell.dk/
Teachrock, http://teachrock.org/