

The story about AGAZE!

Chapter 1

AGAZE started just like so many others, as a dream and a will to do something unique to fill up the empty hole in your life. The search for members began in 2010 and after a long and grinding “hunt” for the perfect chemistry, pieces fell into place in the beginning of 2012. Simon Sez handpicked “good fellas” or as he describes it; “It was more important with the personal chemistry than experience”.

Original lineup: Simon Sez - bass, Daniel XIX Nilsson - guitar, Zeb Borg - vocals, Markus Lakmal - drums, Daniel Martinzohn - guitar.

Chapter 2

During an intense first year three demo singles were recorded and accompanied by three music videos. These were released separately throughout the year. The band however just did two gigs during this time with about six months in between them and the reason for this was member changes. Daniel Martinzohn decided to leave the band right after the first gig due to other career choices (not music). The wait for a new guitarist however was short and Eric Rydén joined up just before the next show. The joy didn't last long since after the second gig, a sold out gig at the prestigious Sticky Fingers Top Floor in Gothenburg, Markus Lakmal left the band for the same reasons. The band was once again in the hunt for the perfect setup...

Chapter 3

Wounded but far from dead, 2013 began with drummer hunting. The band found the perfect lunatic for the job in Håkan Hcan Strind. AGAZE immediately came back to good spirit and the magic was once again back in the band. Alongside with all the earlier back steps Zeb planned a charity event to benefit the fight for cancer and the event “Killing The Disease” was held in April 2013 where AGAZE headlined. Not only was the event a success, it exceeded all expectations.

The gig worked as a “new beginning” for the band. The three demo singles with the song “Adrenaline” in point made way for new conquests. The band was aired on P3 (Swedish National radio), participated on a compilation cd handed out by Sweden's largest Metal magazine Close-Up Magazine (#152), featured as official soundtrack on stunt videos for the successful extreme sport brand “Pimpstar”, not once but twice! The band also made a smaller tour through Sweden and made a bunch of other gigs together with bands like The Resistance, Bullet and Supercharger.

With all this going on the band felt the time had come to do what so many requested...

Record a debut album.

Chapter 4

The search for the right people to work with began. AGAZE felt they needed to find those who understood the feeling in their music and also, as the bands moto, had the right personal chemistry.

The choice for studio, engineer and CO-producer fell on the very talented Jakob Herrmann and his Top Floor Studios in Gothenburg. Herrmann have worked together with big names like Machine Head, Raised Fist, Hardcore Superstar just to mention a few. The mixing job went to Jakob Linnér, a guy who actively asked for the task and convinced the band by showing his earlier compositions.

Last but not least the choice for mastering went to the very talented Tony Lindgren at the legendary Fascination Street Studios which has worked with Opeth, Soilwork and Amon Amarth among others.

The band felt right away that this was going to be “the right crew” for them.

The recordings started in spring 2014 and the work around the album continued until autumn.

To celebrate the album and to show the world a glimpse of what to come the single “Rock Bottom” was released in late November that same year accompanied with a music video.

“Apart from a few gigs, 2014 has been a year that AGAZE have totally dedicated to the album and writing songs. We are extremely stoked for 2015 and we are very happy to be able to show our fans this first single and music video right away this fall”, says a notable fired up Zeb Borg.

Chapter 5

2015 started and the single “Rock Bottom” had a great reception with very good reviews from magazines such as Close-Up Magazine, Sweden’s biggest metal magazine.

To follow up the release some local gigs and a European tour was booked for spring and the band felt on top of the world. The band also invested in a new tour bus - “Ashlynn”.

To make everything even more hyped before the tour the band decided to release a second single from the album. The song “Hunt You Down” that previously had been heard as a demo version was the next release. This single also had a music video and the response was once again great from fans and media.

However everything was not all great. Just about a month before the upcoming tour Simon Sez, bass player and founder of AGAZE, decided to quit music. With this sudden and unexpected news the band had to find a quick replacement because there were no plans of cancelling. Jimmy Malmenlid an old friend of the band was kind enough to join as a replacement just for the tour.

After only a few rehearsals with Jimmy it was time for "Hunt You Down Tour"...
The reception in Europe was huge! AGAZE is definitely something people want to hear and is not something that should be given up easy. With the energy from the boost the members got from all the new fans the hunt for a new permanent bass player began.

As a direct result from hunting a new member everything else unfortunately got on hold. The work around the album and booking new shows was all on hold and 2015 was about to change from a great year to the toughest test so far.

Chapter 6

Kapitel 6

Väl hemma efter turnén kontaktades man snabbt av branschfolk och bokade en spelning tillsammans med Allstar-bandet Death Dealer som består av medlemmar ifrån bl.a. Manowar, The Dictators, Lizzy Borden och Halford. AGAZE hade fått smak på nytt blod och i samband med detta hade den perfekta basistkandidaten uppenbarat sig.

Efter spelningen med Death Dealer så snackade man en del med den nya kandidaten och man bestämde att det här är en sättning som bör testas i replokalen. Väl där så kändes det som att allt var rätt igen. Glöden som hade saknats var tillbaka och beslutet var lätt att fatta. AGAZE hade en ny basist igen och det är ingen mindre än Susanna Salminen som även lirar med bland annat Katana och har turnerat och spelat ihop med band som Hardcore Superstar, Civil War, Lizzy Borden och Overkill. Hon bidrar genom att inte bara vara en grymt duktig basist och en riktigt go person. Hon är dessutom bandets definitivt hårdaste medlem och man hade inte kunnat önska sig en bättre ersättare på bas. Detta kommer bli så fantastiskt bra!

Bandets första spelning tillsammans med Susanna görs i samband med ett välgörenhetsevent där alla intäkter oavkortat går till att hjälpa de hemlösa i bandets hemstad Göteborg. Eventet äger rum den 9:e oktober på Valand i Göteborg.

Current lineup:

Zeb Borg - vocals

Daniel XIX Nilsson - guitar

Eric Rydén - guitar

Håkan Hcan Strind - drums

Susanna Salminen - bass