

Spiderweb

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A buzzing rumor has been circulating along the Rhineline for almost three years: Spiderweb. A new band featuring familiar faces who have left a striking mark on Deutschhardcore with various other bands as well as scene veterans from the Hinterland who weren't seen on stage for years or have never played in a band before.

Somehow, I found myself locked in with the band during their very first proper full-band rehearsal on a winter afternoon in Frankfurt am Main. It was October 3rd, German Unity Day. After blasting through the set a couple of times, we headed out to grab a quick bite. The Burger King we ended up at was filled with 15 to 20 full-blown Neo-Nazis who had taken their kids and families out on the national holiday.

Spiderweb are heavily influenced by rough, fast hardcore and punk classics like Dead Stop and 86 Mentality. They struggle with the concept of seat belts and despise phony pretenders. Spiderweb are a true working-class hardcore band, and I am very excited to finally see them on stage. Spiderweb is: Flipper (vocals), Sabs (bass), Kenny (guitar) and Sebi (drums).

Around here many bands and active members in DIY hardcore have an academic background. None of you have a university degree (yet). Is Spiderweb deliberately a working-class band?

Flipper: From my point of view, I would say yes. I will (hopefully) have a bachelor's degree in the next few months. That makes me the only one in the band with an academic degree so far, but the first 15 years of my adult life I was trapped in a factory hall, and my life ran to the rhythm of my shift schedule. And if I can speak for the others, I think all of them are pretty familiar with the feeling of punching the clock right on time even when you don't feel like it, and putting in a 40+ hour work week just to make ends meet at the end of the month.

Is Spiderweb a straight edge band?

Flipper: Yes.

Flipper, you're a well known figure in Deutschhardcore. Admired for your passionate moshing for more than a decade, feared as a member of the official Spirit Crusher security team, acknowledged essayist and scene report contributor (Big Dog & Mortal Man). How come it took you so long to start a band?

Flipper: Thanks for sugarcoating my lazy ass with those kind words. Because I think that's the main reason. I could never bring myself to actually pick up an instrument. So that resulted in me always having to wait for someone to ask me if I wanted to join them. The Spiderweb Journey started in the summer of 2022, I think. Sebi told me he wanted to do an 86-mentally-coded band and that he wanted me to do the vocals. Kenny was the one who handled the writing process, so I'm not quite sure if that was based on Sebi's idea or if it developed on its own. But long story short, in December 2023 he sent me the songs and asked if I was still in. So, to finally answer your question: I always wanted to have a band, but most of the time I had my hands full just trying to manage my life, so I never managed to learn an instrument. That's why I'm super happy I have the opportunity to do the vocals for this project. That was always my preferred role.

What are the songs about? Was it different to write down lyrics for a song as opposed to getting a fanzine out?

Flipper: Most of the time I got an idea when I was confronted with the topic in real life. Most of the lyrics are about situations that drive me nuts. For example, people who use the working-class narrative because it seems edgy to them, but who have never experienced that gloomy feeling of having to choose between a shitty job or living on the bare minimum. Or individuals who enter a scene and think hardcore is a tool to boost their egos — and everyone has to pat them on the back and tell them they're the best and the only ones who understand the true meaning of the culture. So, enough hate — but yeah, those were the main topics I had in mind while writing the lyrics. Compared to writing for a zine... hm, let me think. I mean, it wasn't that different for me, because you have one topic and you want to get it onto paper as crisply as possible. But for a zine, you try more to hit the zeitgeist of that exact period of time you're writing in. Does that make sense?

Sabs, years ago, you were part of the collective behind „The Kids Will Have Their Say“ fest in Rastatt that turned heads in southern Germany. Recently you have been releasing music as solo artists. What made you want to play music in a band again?

Sabs: RIP The Kids Will Have Their Say Fest! Great memories only! So, I've actually played in a band before. Double Standards released a demo in 2018 and played a hand full of shows. A good while after the band quit, my friend Reece and I formed the goth/darkwave duo Tomorrow's Echo. Unfortunately we never played live before the project parted ways. Only a few years ago I started to build my stupid little home studio and released a demo as a solo goth project in 2024. Hopefully, Swords And Flowers will release more music in the future. I never really stopped making music. It just shifted away from hardcore over the years. But honestly, I miss playing hardcore. When Sebi asked me to be a part of Spiderweb, I was down for it!

How did you guys nail down the band's sound? Where were various ideads in the room or was it set from the get go to write songs inspired by 86 Mentality?

Kenny: Sebi approached me a few years ago with the idea of starting an 86 inspired HC band. We met up in our rehearsal space and cobbled together some ideas. Some were old riffs that I had kicking around others were new ideas that we came up with together. After a few jams we started to develop a framework for how we wanted the band to sound. It ended up being pretty different from where we started but that's okay!