

MASTODON THEIR DISASTROUS FIRST PRACTICE! "IT WAS ABOUT MAIDEN AND DJORN FOR US!"

METAL HAMMER

THE HEAVY METAL BIBLE

EXCLUSIVE!
HANG-IN
AT KIRK'S
HORROR FEST!
OUT-RIFFING THE NET!
MORQUE DATE-NIGHTS!
REPLACING DAVE!

"WE
WATCHED
AUTOPSIES!"
KIRK

METALLICA

"BRING ON THE F**KING METAL!"

TEAM
ROCK

DI

IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS RONNIE
PLUS! COREY, LZZY, HALFORD, LEMMY AND MORE PAY TRIBUTE!

LACUNA COIL

ON ITALIAN PROG & SLASHER FLICKS!

LAMB OF GOD

"WE'RE SHOCKED WE'RE STILL HERE"

ALAYA

POP-SENSIBLE DARENT-FU

UPON A BURNING BODY

A TEX-MEX BREATH OF FRESH DEATH

Chuck Billy and Phil Anselmo:
two of metal's finest frontmen

THE
GOSPEL
LIVE



METAL MASTERS 5

HOUSE OF BLUES, ANAHEIM

Metal's shred elite reconvene on the West Coast

*The crowd are
a sweaty tangle
of hair, horns and
triumphant smiles*

Metal's first big blowout of 2014 has arrived: Metal Masters 5, the annual shredding showcase where the list of performers reads like an induction roster for the Heavy Metal Hall of Fame: Kerry King and Gary Holt from Slayer, Anthrax's Frank Bello, Charlie Benante and Scott Ian, Megadeth's David Ellefson and Chris Broderick, Mike Portnoy, Pantera's Phil Anselmo and Rex Brown, Testament's Chuck Billy, and Billy Sheehan. A howling 200-metre queue of denim and leather establishes the feverish anticipation for the gig.

First up is Bello and Ellefson's new side-project, *Altitudes And Attitudes*. Joined by Broderick and Portnoy, they dive straight into a brassy set that taps into the vocal harmonies of Maiden riding atop the galloping rhythmic heft of modern metal. Ian Scott and event founder Mark Menghi then offer a custom Schecter guitar to whoever can play the main riff to *Caught In A Mosh*. Amazingly, the first kid who tries nails it and becomes one of five lucky bastards to go home with an elite new axe.

Sheehan joins Portnoy and Broderick for Dream Theater's *A Change Of Seasons Part 1*, until Steve Vai saunters onto the stage and, with Sheehan, launches into a blizzard of shredding that sees more notes played in 60 seconds than some bands will play all month.

Chuck Billy appears next and with both Portnoy and Benante on drums, Ellefson on bass and Broderick and Ian on guitars, they tear into *Watchchild*, kicking off a nearly two-hour set that includes anthems by Kiss, S.O.D. and Sheehan's NY rockers Talas.

Roof-blowing applause greets Phil Anselmo, who, along with Rex Brown, Kerry King and Gary Holt on guitar, plunder the Slayer and Pantera catalogues. Anselmo acquits himself impressively on the Slayer tracks, exploring a vocal range rarely tested in his other projects.

Ending with *Fucking Hostile*, the crowd are now a sweaty tangle of hair, horns and triumphant smiles. Menghi's satisfaction is palpable. "I could get anybody for Metal Masters," he tells *Hammer*, "but I pick people who are passionate about inspiring kids to play music. That's why I do this."

By the looks on the faces in the crowd, mission accomplished.

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JOE DALY



FACT

The first Metal Masters Clinic featured Megadeth and Anthrax bassists Dave Ellefson and Frank Bello teaching techniques to a crowd in Manhattan.