

= Sarcófago =

Sarcófago was an influential Brazilian extreme metal band . They were fronted by Sepultura 's original singer , Wagner Lamounier , and Geraldo Minelli .

The front cover of the band 's debut album , I.N.R.I. , is regarded as a great influence on black metal 's corpse paint style make @-@ up . That record is also considered one of the " first wave " albums that helped shape the genre . Their second LP , The Laws of Scourge , was one of the first technical death metal records to be released .

The band broke up in 2000 , after releasing the Crust EP . Former members , minus Wagner , played throughout Brazil in 2006 under the moniker Tributo ao Sarcófago (Tribute to Sarcófago) . In 2009 , rumors surfaced that the original I.N.R.I. line @-@ up were reuniting for a small , high @-@ profile tour , but proved to be a false . A reissue of their back catalogue is in the works , a joint effort between Cogumelo Records and American label Greydaze .

= = History = =

= = = Early days (1985 ? 1988) = = =

Sarcófago (Portuguese and Spanish for ' sarcophagus ') was formed in 1985 in Uberlândia , Minas Gerais , Brazil . Equally indebted to early extreme metal groups such as Bathory , Celtic Frost , Slayer , and Finnish hardcore punk , Sarcófago 's goal was to create the most aggressive music ever . Wagner Lamounier , who parted acrimoniously from Sepultura in March of that same year , was invited to join the band . Although Sepultura never recorded anything with Lamounier , he contributed the lyrics to the song " Antichrist " on their Bestial Devastation EP . Sarcófago 's vinyl debut was on the Cogumelo Produções split album Warfare Noise I , originally released in 1986 . Sarcófago contributed the three tracks " Recrucify " , " The Black Vomit " and " Satanas " . Their music and lyrics were considered shocking at the time , something which brought them a considerable amount of attention . The band 's line @-@ up at that point consisted of " Butcher " (guitars) , " Antichrist " (Lamounier ; vocals) , " Incubus " (Geraldo Minelli ; bass) and " Leprous " (Armando Sampaio ; drums) .

With new drummer " D.D. Crazy " ? hailed as a pioneer in the metal world for his extensive use of blast beats on this album ? Sarcófago released I.N.R.I in July 1987 . The band 's attire on the album 's cover ? corpse paint , leather jackets , and bullet belts ? is considered the first definite statement of black metal 's visual presentation and style . The music has been equally influential , a milestone in the development of the genre . Despite the record 's now @-@ legendary status , Lamounier was unsatisfied with the end results , voicing complaints over the quality of the recording sessions and the band being plagued by inner strife . After the release of I.N.R.I. , Sarcófago briefly disbanded . Lamounier moved to Uberlândia to study economics on the Federal University of Uberlândia (UFU) , while Butcher and his brother D.D. Crazy left the group . The latter would play drums on Sextrash 's debut , 1989 's Sexual Carnage .

= = = Rotting (1989 ? 1990) = = =

When Rotting first came out it stirred a huge amount of controversy due to its cover art ? a traditional grim reaper figure licking what appears to be Jesus Christ 's face . It was based upon a medieval painting . The cover artist himself , Kelson Frost , refused to paint a crown of thorns over the man 's head , which would readily identify him as the Christian messiah .

Rotting musically differs from the raw , hyper @-@ speed black metal of I.N.R.I. Session drummer " Joker " brought a different set of influences to the band (such as crossover thrash) ; Wagner also learned to play guitar in record time , and contributed many of the album 's guitar riffs . Rotting also marked their first change of aliases : the group 's core duo renamed themselves " Wagner Antichrist " and " Gerald Incubus " . Their visual department went through changes as well ? they dropped the

arm and leg spikes because they made playing live difficult .

Rotting was Sarcófago 's first release to have international distribution , handled in Europe by British label Music for Nations , and by Maze / Kraze in America . Maze Records released a censored version of Rotting , blacking out the original cover and adding a sticker which read " Featuring the Original Lead Singer of Sepultura " without consulting the band . Infuriated by the label 's actions , Sarcófago sued them .

= = = The Laws of Scourge (1991 ? 1993) = = =

Next came The Laws of Scourge (1991) , considered a " revolution " in the band 's career . A combination of better musicianship , improved production values , and more sophisticated songwriting landed them into technical death metal territory . Sarcófago 's new direction in music was partly influenced by new members Fábio " Jhasko " (guitar) and Lúcio Olliver (drums) , and inspired by a newer crop of extreme metal bands such as Godflesh , Paradise Lost , Bolt Thrower , Deicide , and Morbid Angel .

The Laws of Scourge became Sarcófago 's best selling record , and responsible for their most extensive touring schedule to this date . Their tour trek also included their first international dates : they visited South American countries such as Peru and Chile , and in Europe they played shows in Portugal and Spain . In Brazil , their most important gig was to open for Texas hardcore punk pioneers the Dirty Rotten Imbeciles in São Paulo .

= = = Hate (1994 ? 1996) = = =

Musically speaking , Hate is notable for its stripped @-@ down , straightforward approach and the use of a drum machine , the latter sparking some controversy . Lamounier claimed to have no qualms about using this device , on the basis that most death metal drummers use trigger pads for recording purposes , which in the end produces the same homogenized sound as that of a drum machine .

The band cut their hair short , in protest of the masculine long hair style becoming popular due to the massive success of grunge in the early 1990s . Men sporting long hair has traditionally been associated with counterculture groups , and it is especially present in the metalhead subculture . Wagner declared :

In late 1996 , Sarcófago released the Decade of Decay compilation which , amongst other things , featured demo versions of their early songs and rare backstage photographs . The band described the CD as a " gift " to their fans .

= = = The Worst (1997 ? 2000) = = =

Sarcófago 's fourth and final album , The Worst (1997) , sees the band slowing down in relation to the speed @-@ oriented Hate , and having a better grasp of drum programming . Minelli and Lamounier saw this record as a " summation " of their career .

With the turn of the millennium came the Crust EP , Sarcófago 's swansong release . It was meant to be a preview of an upcoming album , but the band 's core duo parted ways before commencing its recording .

= = = Sarcófago Tribute tour (2006 ? 2009) = = =

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Warfare Noise split album , Cogumelo Records and Gerald Incubus organized a comeback show with Sarcófago in Belo Horizonte . Along with Minelli , the line @-@ up for that event was Fábio Jhasko on guitars , Manu Joker and old @-@ time friend Juarez " Tibanha " on vocals . That performance was recorded and there are plans to release it in DVD format . Lamounier opted not to join this " Sarcófago Tribute " band for the lack in desire to play professionally . However , Wagner still pursues his musical interests ? he plays in the crust

punk band Commando Kaos .

In October 2007 , Sarcófago flew to Santiago , Chile to play in the Black Shadows Festival , alongside death metal pioneers Possessed .

In March 2009 , Wagner supposedly announced that Sarcófago would reunite , and their tour itinerary would include appearances at the Wacken Open Air and Hole in the Sky festivals , as well as dates in London , New York , Los Angeles and Tokyo . He stated it would be the original I.N.R.I. line @-@ up , but that this would be the only tour they would be doing and there would be no new material . A couple of days later , Lamounier himself wrote to the music press exposing this news report as a hoax .

= = Lyrical approach = =

Inspired by Venom and Hellhammer , Sarcófago 's early lyrics were openly Satanic . These lyrics frequently employed curse words and crude , obscene scenarios , such as in the case of " Desecration of (the) Virgin " , a blasphemous take on Mother Mary 's virgin birth .

Whilst still polemical , by 1989 's Rotting the band 's stance on Christianity was more agnostic than Satanic . The original vinyl release came with a lengthy manifesto written by Lamounier , in which he criticized the alienating effect that Catholicism had on Brazilian society . The band also questioned the divine nature of Christ , declaring he was just a regular man who died for his ideas . On a less serious note the album featured " Sex , Drinks and Metal " , a hedonistic ode to the headbanger lifestyle .

Their next album , The Laws of Scourge , continued their new @-@ found focus on more " reality @-@ based " themes , with lyrics generally covering such death @-@ related topics as suicide and homicide . The band had trouble again with American censors , with the lyrics of the re @-@ recorded version of " The Black Vomit " being forcibly omitted from the CD booklet as well as the entire " Prelude to Suicide " track .

= = Legacy = =

The band left a widespread influence on black metal circles worldwide , particularly among the Scandinavian portion of the so @-@ called " second wave " of the genre . " It is sobering " , claimed Terrorizer magazine , " to think of what wouldn 't have happened had ' I.N.R.I. ' not been released " .

Fenriz , drummer of Darkthrone , included a Sarcófago track (" Satanic Lust ") in his The Best of Old @-@ School Black Metal compilation , released by Peaceville Records . Of Sarcófago 's I.N.R.I. , he said it was an " album " that " you buy or die " . Euronymous , the deceased guitarist of Mayhem and erstwhile leader of the so @-@ called " Inner Circle " , traded correspondence with Lamounier in the early days of Norway 's scene . In the Lords of Chaos book , Metalion (Slayer fanzine , ex @-@ Head Not Found) stated that Euronymous was " obsessed with them because wore lots of spikes and corpsepaint . He said he wanted every band to be like this [?] . " Satyricon covered Sarcófago 's " I.N.R.I. " on their Intermezzo II EP , also featured on the Tribute to Sarcófago album , released by Cogumelo Records in 2001 . Key Gorgoroth members Infernus and King were also influenced by Sarcófago .

Notable black metal groups from neighbouring Finland were also affected by Sarcófago 's early output . Beherit founder Nuclear Holocausto said Sarcófago was one of " the greatest influences " for the band ; Mika Luttinen from Impaled Nazarene said that " nothing tops Slayer 's Reign in Blood or Sarcófago 's I.N.R.I. , you know " . Their version of " The Black Vomit " was included in Tribute to Sarcófago .

Lamounier , however , has been critical of several of the bands influenced by Sarcófago , especially bands from the Norwegian black metal scene , wondering how one of the wealthiest countries in the world could have produced such a scene . Although he liked Immortal , Wagner dubbed Euronymous a " nutcase " and considered Burzum " shit " . He also criticized black metal 's purposely lo @-@ fi recording aesthetic ; Lamounier said that Burzum 's guitar timbre " sounded like

it was recorded through a transistor radio " .

= = Conflict with Sepultura = =

An oft @-@ cited aspect of Sarcófago 's history is their long @-@ lasting feud with Sepultura . Although former Sepultura drummer Igor Cavalera eventually dismissed the entire affair as " child 's play " , the music press fuelled their bitter rivalry for many years . Their conflict partially contributed to Sarcófago 's fame as the perennial " black sheep " of Brazilian heavy metal .

Tensions started after Lamounier parted ways with Sepultura , which led to a temporarily awkward situation . In Minelli 's assessment , " everybody had forgotten it " until two years later , when D.D. Crazy smashed a bottle over Andreas Kisser 's head , who had been recently recruited as Sepultura 's new lead guitarist . Kisser was being " too much of a douchebag " . Sílvio " Bibica " Gomes , Sepultura roadie and co @-@ author of the band 's Toda a História biography , was one of the prime instigators of that fight .

During an interview from The Worst era , Lamounier was asked to comment on Sepultura 's well @-@ publicized break @-@ up , when Max Cavalera left the band in January 1997 . Lamounier declared he was not surprised that things turned out the way they did as , in his words , " with what I knew of them , I think it 's quite normal that one brother should betray another in that family , they don 't measure the consequences to get what they want . So , a brother backstabbing the other , deceiving their mother , cheating a friend ... For money , I 'll bet they 're capable of anything . "

Annoyed by Lamounier meddling in " private family business " , Max Cavalera 's answer came through " Bumbklaatt " , a song on Soulfly 's debut album .

Max explained that , in Jamaican patois , " Bumbklatt " means " blood clot " and it is also " a big insult ... It means motherfucker or a piece of shit in Jamaica " .

The animosity between the two groups eventually reached another major Brazilian band , crossover thrash act Ratos de Porão . The band got involved in the affair after a 1987 Belo Horizonte gig , when a portion of the audience kept jeering at the band . One version of that story states that Lamounier and Ratos de Porão singer João Gordo were antagonizing each other during the show . Another one tells that when Gordo asked Sepultura frontman Max Cavalera who was " gobbing " at his band , Max accused Sarcófago .

Tensions flared up once again five years later when Sarcófago , instead of Ratos de Porão , were picked up to be the opening band of DRI 's first Brazilian shows . Ratos de Porão and friends from São Paulo thrash metal group Korzus invaded Sarcófago 's backstage area ; João Gordo then proceeded to sucker @-@ punch Lamounier while he was lying drunk on the floor , and Gordo 's friends attacked the rest with motorcycle chains . A massive brawl ensued , with a member of DRI 's road crew getting his arm broken .

= = Discography = =

= = Members = =

Last known line @-@ up

Wagner " Antichrist " Lamounier ? vocals , guitar (1985 ? 2000)

Geraldo " Gerald Incubus " Minelli ? bass guitar , backing vocals (1986 ? 2000)

Session

Manoel Henriques " Manu Joker " ? drums , backing vocals (1989 ? 1991)

Vanir Jr . ? keyboards (1991 ? 1993)

Eugênio " Dead Zone " ? drum programming , keyboards (1994 ? 2000)

Former

Armando " Leprous " Sampaio ? drums (1985 ? 1986)

Juninho " Pussy Fucker " ? bass guitar (1985 ? 1986)

Zéder " Butcher " ? guitar (1985 ? 1987)

Eduardo " D.D. Crazy " ? drums (1986 ? 1987)
Fábio Jhasko " Jhasko " ? guitar (1991 ? 1993)
Lucio Olliver ? drums (1991 ? 1993)

= = = Timeline = = =