

= Divine Intervention (album) =

Divine Intervention is the sixth studio album by American thrash metal band Slayer . Released on September 27 , 1994 , through American Recordings , it was their first album to feature Paul Bostaph , replacing the band 's original drummer Dave Lombardo . The production posed a challenge to the record company , as its marketing situation drew arguments over the album 's explicitness . The band used the Decade of Aggression live album to give them time to decide the album 's style . Since it was released nearly four years after Seasons in the Abyss , vocalist Tom Araya said that there was more time spent on production compared to the band 's previous albums . The cover was painted and designed by Wes Benscoter as a re @-@ imaging of the group 's early " Slayergram " graphic .

Even though so much time was spent on production , Kerry King said that the mixing and mastering should have had more attention . The song 's origins came not only from television shows , but were also inspired by various other things , including Rush Limbaugh , and serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer . In 1998 the album was banned in Germany due to the lyrics of " SS @-@ 3 " , " Circle of Beliefs " , " Serenity in Murder " , " 213 " and " Mind Control " . Divine Intervention received mixed reviews by critics . The album sold 93 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . It peaked number eight on the Billboard 200 and charted at number 15 on UK Albums Chart . It was rewarded gold in the United States and Canada . An EP entitled Serenity in Murder was released shortly after the album .

= = Writing and production = =

Tom Araya said that " when we did Divine Intervention , this was the last conference we ever had with a record label where they sat us down and sold us the idea of how they wanted to do " Divine " , and how they were going to do this with the cover ... and all these different ideas for the album . Then one guy looked at us and said , ' But we need a hit song . ' And we said , ' But you 've got eleven songs , and if you can 't find a hit in one of them then you 're shit out of luck because that 's what we 're giving you . ' So we 're like saying to them , ' Right , you write the fucking hit song and we 'll record it . ' That shut the guy up and that was the last time we had any kind of meetings like that ! "

Araya described " For this one , I just kind of got inspired by watching TV . That gave me a whole lot of ideas . The whole idea about the dude with Slayer in his arms was brought about because reality is scarier than anything you can make up . The production of the album posed as a challenge to the record company , " how to market a group whose gore @-@ soaked , extreme music is anathema to radio programmers . " It is the company 's first attempt to " hit the thrash band 's core @-@ audience of rabid enthusiasts with a fan @-@ orientated marketing assault . " Araya related : " We decided to take more time to bring this one together . We actually went into the studio with more written material than the past . We completed three out of seven songs outside the studio . We all sort of felt it was important to do it slowly . After the last tour , we had the intention to take the break . "

= = Composition = =

The College Music Journal said that " the band deals almost exclusively with realism " in the album , and noted that it " shocks and splatters like a severed artery , painting crimson pictures of murders , necrophiliacs , and the ravaged , chaotic world they inhabit " . Both the mixing and mastering were criticized , with guitarist Kerry King saying that the band should have " paid more attention to the mix " , and Araya saying that it " is the one (if any) that he would not mind re @-@ mastering " . Neil Strauss from The New York Times explained many of the album 's origins . " 213 " was described as a " love song " by Araya , which was something they had never done before . The song was named after serial killer and sex offender Jeffrey Dahmer 's old apartment number . " Dittohead " , a partial tribute to Rush Limbaugh , begins by criticizing the legal system for " being too lenient on killers " . The song " ended up not denouncing the system but advocating its permissiveness " . " Sex ,

Murder , Art " was said by TheState.com to feature " roars about a maddening relationship and his ' pleasure in inflicting pain . ' "

King said that the album contained origins relating to " war stories " and " explorations of madness " . It is Paul Bostaph 's first studio album with Slayer , resulting in Alex Henderson of AllMusic saying that it is a " positive , energizing influence on Slayer , which sounds better than ever on such dark triumphs as ' Killing Fields , ' ' Serenity in Murder , ' and ' Circle of Beliefs . ' " Henderson also said that they " focus [ed] on the violently repressive nature of governments and the lengths to which they will go to wield power " .

= = Artwork and packaging = =

The album was issued in a clear jewel box with a die @-@ cut cardboard O @-@ card . It included sixteen pages , which fold out to be a poster , which displays the cover art . Both the disc and the disc tray feature ? as described by Chris Morris ? an " image reflective of the mania displayed by the group 's fans , and exemplary of American frequently deployed shock tactics : a kid carving the band 's name into his arms with a scalpel . " Mike Bone from American Recordings said that " we captured this not only by photography , but with video ? him actually doing it . " The front cover was painted and designed by Wes Benscoter , an American artist who would later paint the covers for the other Slayer releases Undisputed Attitude and Live Intrusion . The album sleeve features for the second time the backronym Satan Laughs As You Eternally Rot . This phrase was first used on the vinyl edition of the album Show No Mercy where it was carved into the runout groove of the record .

= = Reception = =

AllMusic said that " instead of doing something calculated like emulating Nirvana or Pearl Jam ? or for that matter , Nine Inch Nails or Ministry ? Slayer wisely refused to sound like anyone but Slayer . Tom Araya and co. responded to the new environment simply by striving to be the heaviest metal band they possibly could . " By the album 's release date , vocalist Tom Araya considered it to be their best album .

Divine Intervention sold 93 @,@ 000 copies in its first week , and by 2002 , it sold over 400 @,@ 000 copies in the US . It was reported that in the same year of its released , Kevin Kirk from the Heavy Metal Shop " ordered 1 @,@ 000 copies of Slayer 's Divine Intervention and sold every last album in a matter of weeks " . Although it is less accessible than its predecessor Seasons in the Abyss , Rolling Stone considered it to be their most successful album as of 2001 .

= = Track listing = =

= = Chart positions and certifications = =

= = Credits = =

Personnel information can be verified at AllMusic .