

# BEATSTEAKS

Quality comes out on top: a slogan that could have been coined for the BEATSTEAKS from Berlin. During 15 years in the music business they - particularly due to their phenomenal live appearances - played their way into the hearts of every music fan and regularly topped the charts. After four years of meticulous effort the five charming musicians from Germany's colourful capital now come out of the studio with their sixth studio album. It's called "Boom Box" and may without a doubt be described as their most mature, diversified and fascinating opus. This may sound like the usual blah-blah, but in this case it really is the truth and nothing but the truth. Truly!

But how did BEATSTEAKS get to where they are - the peak of the German music scene in which competition is tough and there is hardly a lack of good bands? In the summer of 1995 four intelligent young guys formed the punk-rock band BEATSTEAKS: With Arnim Teutoburg-Weiss they soon found a charismatic singer with a unique voice and started out at the very bottom: local talent competitions. One of these they won and were awarded the opening slot in a concert by the legendary Sex Pistols. With this credit in their vita, BEATSTEAKS released their debut album in 1997 on the Berlin label XNO. Titled "48/49" after the street number of their rehearsal room at the time in Berlin. They earned further stripes with live shows with Lagwagon, Thumb, Bloodhound Gang or Faith No More.

In August 1999 their second album was released with the title "Launched", which trimmed back the hardcore factor in favour of heavy rock riffs and in contrast to the debut album placed a bet on English lyrics. This good stuff was released on the renowned US independent label, Epitaph Records, founded by Brett Gurewitz: BEATSTEAKS were the first German band ever to be signed there. A year later BEATSTEAKS found the final member of their team when Torsten Scholz on bass joined the line-up that exists to this day: Bernd Kurtzke on lead and Peter Baumann on rhythm guitar, Thomas Götz on drums, Scholz on bass and Teutoburg-Weiss at the mike. A sworn pack of music fanatics, whose enthusiasm and devotion can be heard and felt with every note and every line of their songs.

The Deconstruction Tour as well as the Warped Tour in Europe and the US, festival appearances, tours with Pennywise and the German mega bands Die Toten Hosen and Die Ärzte - at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century BEATSTEAKS presented themselves to an ever-growing audience and played their way into the consciousness of the international music scene. In the gray month of January 2002 the Berliners released album number three, "Living Targets", on which Faith No More's Billy Gould was involved in the production. With such timeless hymns as "Let Me In" or "Summer" they touched the heart of every rock fan and lay the cornerstone for the final breakthrough with the following album "Smack Smash".

For the first time Germany's leading music guru Moses Schneider was responsible for the production and saw to it that the complete album was recorded live. The result proved that he was right: "Smack Smash" was able to unite the contagious energy of the five musicians and managed to preserve it on polycarbonate with great panache. In March 2004 the BEATSTEAKS finally achieved their well-earned chart debut: "Smack Smash" entered the German album charts at #11 and with sales of over 100.000 reached gold status. MTV Europe cited the band as "Best German Act 2004" and put the lead single "Hand In Hand" on the highest rotation throughout Europe. During their German tour Arnim, Bernd, Peter, Torsten and Thomas played in sold-out venues for thousands of ecstatic fans. In 2005 they conquered some of the most prestigious festivals in Europe with Roskilde and Hurricane.

Outside of Germany not only the BEATSTEAKS live gigs, but also "Smack Smash", were enthusiastically received. Metal Hammer ("This is a band able to look beyond the petty confines of rock genres and are worthy of your attention for that alone") and also Rock Sound ("The Beatsteaks are an addictive slice of the hardcore pie laced with just the right ingredients to leave you craving for more") and Kerrang! ("Splendid stuff") raved. At last the BEATSTEAKS had arrived, but that didn't tempt them not to keep their feet on the ground. In spite of all of their success, the BEATSTEAKS stayed the BEATSTEAKS - five nice Berlin guys who with their catchy rock tracks (among them the

smash singles "I Don't Care As Long As You Sing" and "Hello Joe") and live gigs impart their own kind of fun and joy.

However, the immense success of "Smack Smash" and the intensive tour activities took their toll of the BEATSTEAKS' time management: their fans, now grown into a huge army, have to wait three years for the next album, "Limbo Messiah", that again was produced by Moses Schneider and presented itself quite a bit more raw and aggressive than the light-hearted "Smack Smash" album. In the meantime signed to Warner, album number 5 topped its predecessor and entered the hard-fought German charts at #3, the peak of which was blocked for weeks by German superstar Herbert Grönemeyer. Records, awards and climaxes at top speed followed.

In 2008 the live double album "Kanonen auf Spatzen" was released and climbed to #5 in the German charts. As in the year before, the BEATSTEAKS win the respected German music award "1Live" as the Best Live Act. And then things calmed down a bit around the BEATSTEAKS, except for the well-attended live appearances

Finally at the end of 2010 something stirred in Berlin: the new album was to be released the beginning of 2011. With the title "Boom Box" that refers - like their debut years before - to the BEATSTEAKS' rehearsal room. But before the release of the appetite whetting lead single "Milk & Honey" at the beginning of December, the five Berliners had a special highlight up their sleeves: they supplied the complete sheet music for the song to be downloaded from their website and kindly requested interpretations from their fans. An unusual action with overwhelming feedback: the BEATSTEAKS fans proved to be unusually creative and delivered over 200 excellent interpretations of "Milk & Honey" of their own - and this without ever hearing the original song. The two best versions (in the ears of the BEATSTEAKS) were included on the physical single CD "Milk & Honey" in January 2011.

Now the time has come: "Boom Box" the sixth BEATSTEAKS coup sees the light of day. And the waiting has been worth it because the Berliners have used the long period of time to serve the world of music up with something absolutely unique, something that will cause open mouths and surprised ears. Not only that they sound out new borders with fantastic songs like "Cheap Comments", "Fix It", "Access Adrenalin" or "Automatic" and thus make "Boom Box" an opus of diverse styles achieving international standard, that offers everything from cool reggae rock "(Let's See)" to the 72-second punk rock inferno "Behavior". On top of this the BEATSTEAKS have crossed a new frontier production-wise. Instead of recording the songs as usual in the studio, they installed the necessary recording equipment into their rehearsal room and recorded the album under the wing of Moses Schneider in their own "boom box".

In regards to mixing the band also took a new path and had the album mixed outside of Germany for the first time - from the renowned music producer Nick Launay, who already includes such famous artists as Talking Heads, Nick Cave, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs or Arcade Fire in his credits and put the final perfect polish on the BEATSTEAKS songs in the Seedy Underbelly Studio in Los Angeles.

And now? Now things really get going. On February 10 the BEATSTEAKS will perform during the opening gala for the Berlin Film Festival "Berlinale", one of the most important film festivals in the world. Besides their extensive German tour in March 2011, culminating in a huge hometown finale in the Berlin "Wuhlheide" Open Air venue and headliner gigs at Rock Am Ring and Rock Im Park in June, the BEATSTEAKS take off in April and May for a huge concert tour through Europe that will lead them from France to Finland, Denmark, Poland, Benelux and the UK to Spain.

Watch out: the BEATSTEAKS are coming and there is no way to stop them.