

KARTHAGO IS BACK AGAIN!

The legendary Berlin band **KARTHAGO** led by guitarist par excellence and vocalist **Joey Albrecht** is “on tour” again!

KARTHAGO's very own style of Rhythm and Blues, Funk and Hard Rock is inspired by artists such as Ray Charles, the Beatles, Santana, Jimi Hendrix, Traffic and Yes. Especially their live performances were responsible for making **KARTHAGO** such a big success. **Joey Albrecht**'s virtuosity as a guitarist, his charismatic Blues and Rock vocals, **Ingo Bischof**'s creative and innovative keyboard style and **Tommy Goldschmidt**'s explosive Latin-American percussion provided for great acclaim from critics and fans alike.

Bertram Engel once said: “In the Seventies **KARTHAGO** differentiated themselves with their rolling Funk-Rock from the down laden and endless synthesizer based music, which seemed popular at the time”. For Helmut Hattler **KARTHAGO** was one of the only German bands who could present their music on such a high technical level: “Each musician is in a class of his own.”

In a very short period of time **KARTHAGO** developed into one of the best known rock acts in Germany. The band filled concert halls nation wide and went on to have enormous success abroad. In France, the readers of the magazine “Extra” voted **KARTHAGO**'s debut LP record of the month, which prompted the French record company to issue a further two singles. This was followed by successful gigs in countries like Holland, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark and Finland.

KARTHAGO possessed a certain raw power when they played live, which they demonstrated perfectly in concert, like at the Gernersheimer Festival in 1972 where they played along bands such as Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and Santana. Radio AFN aired the concert across Europe. One of their greatest success's was in 1973 with Lippmann & Rau's “German Rock Super Concert” in Frankfurt. The newspaper Frankfurter Rundschau proclaimed that Catos made a mistake, when he ordered the destruction of **KARTHAGO**, touching on the ancient history behind the bands name.

In readers polls in magazines such as POP, Musikexpress, and Sounds **KARTHAGO** did not only win “Best Band” but also “Best Guitarist/Vocalist” (**Joey Albrecht**), “Best Keyboard Player” (**Ingo Bischof**) and “Best Percussionist” (**Tommy Goldschmidt**). This certainly being a mirror of their popularity at the time. The English “New Musical Express” and “Sounds” quoted them as being “The best German rock band of the 70's.”

Alas the band split up in 1975, where all the musicians went different ways to carry on with their own projects. The "Farewell-Tour" in 1976 throughout Germany marked the official end of the band.

KARTHAGO are definitely a good piece of German Rock history. Musikexpress said "they set new standards in the German music scene."

Since then **Joey Albrecht**, born 1952, has played with people like Memphis Slim, Champion Jack Dupree, Chuck Berry, Joe Cocker and Shirley Bassey. He was asked to stand in as guitarist for the English Cult band "Spooky Tooth" on their Reunion tour with the original members Gary Wright, Mike Harrison and Mike Kellie.

Ingo Bischof, born 1951, also went on to become successful with KRAAN, with whom he still plays from time to time. He was also a member of the legendary Guru Guru. He played with well known German artists such as Ulla Meinecke, Rio Reiser and the musical Jesus Christ Superstar. Between 1985 and 1994 he worked in close co-operation with Heiner Pudelko and Interzone.

Tommy Goldschmidt, born 1949 in La Paz, Bolivia, the third original member, also went on to play with KRAAN and Guru Guru. Today, he is a very busy studio musician.

Now for their Reunion they've found themselves a brand new rhythm section, consisting of **Rolo Rodriguez** on drums and his 23 year old son **Chris Rodriguez** on bass. Rolo's high standard of rhythmic virtuosity is the reason for his status in the German, and especially the Berlin music scene. His excellent drumming work can be heard on innumerable recordings, working with artists such as Diego de Lucia, Lydie Auvray and Dennis Chambers.

Chris Rodriguez plays the type of rolling bass guitar **KARTHAGO** needs. He also plays with the show band Black Velvet and is still studying music in Berlin.

The call for a **KARTHAGO** Reunion has become ever louder in the last few years. **KARTHAGO** heard the call and they've played first concerts in Hamburg and Berlin as well as the Burgherzberg Festival. Long overdue, in December of 2004, the band was invited by Rockpalast, Germany's most popular TV rock program, to present their brand new material. The concert was originally aired in January 2005.

Karthago are definitely going to be one of the main attractions of the forthcoming season on the European festival circuit.

More Informations on: www.karthago.de

Discography

1971 Karthago (BASF)
1973 Second Step (BASF)
1975 Rock&Roll Testament (Bellaphon)
1976 Live at the Roxy (Bellaphon)
1977 Karthago Live (Bellaphon)
1978 Love is a cake (Crystal)

2005 Krautrock Meeting (SPV 563-781572)

Management

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