



Planet Black

Joss Mennen – Vocals
Gino Rerimassie – Guitar
Alex Jansen – Bass
Fon Janssen – Drums

Ever since Dutch band Mennen started out in 1994, they have been known for powerful riffs, pounding rhythms and catchy hooks. Joss Mennen started the band after leaving the successful hardrock band Zinatra, which took him all over the world with chart success in Europe, Asia and South America.

Mennen debuted with their self-titled and Wolfgang Stach (Guano Apes) produced album on Noise/Shark records. The album got good reviews all around the globe, which inspired them to record their second album *Back To The Real World*. In 1994 and 1995, the south of the Netherlands was flooded and Mennen released the hit single 'River Of Tears', which got massive airplay on national radio. The band donated all profits to the flood victims. After the release of *Back To The Real World*, an extensive tour was booked and Mennen played more than 150 shows to promote the album. One of the highlights was their impressive show for a crowd of 10.000 people at the Bospop festival.

In 1998, Mennen became a four-piece band. Bass player Alex Jansen joined the band and fuelled them with new energy. Together with Fon Janssen on drums, the rhythm section was both groovy and solid. They celebrated this with the release of a new album, *Age of Fools*, which was produced by Edwin Balogh (Ayreon, Omega, and Tamas) and Mennen. Once again, the band went on an extensive road trip through Europe in support of the album. Mennen performed as special guest of the Scorpions, played a remarkable show at the Aardschokdag and was semi-headliner at the Liberation festival, where they performed for over 10.000 people. Mennen decided to capture their experiences on the road and their energetic performances on a live album. *Circle of Live* was recorded at a sold out Biebob club in Belgium. The fans selected the tracks they wanted to hear on the live album, which was recorded and mixed by Peter de Wint (WASP, Glenn Hughes, and Harem Scarem). After the release of *Circle of Live* Mennen went out on the road again, performing in Portugal, Spain, France and Germany.

After taking some time off and investing in their own studio, called the Mushroom, Mennen spent a long time writing and recording the next chapter of their career there. With the release of *Freakazoid*, the band showed that they had matured into a rock band with strong songs and melodies. During a stroll through the world-famous Wisseloord studios, Mennen bumped into Erwin Muser (Van Halen, Scorpions, Anouk and Bon Jovi) and he ended up producing and mixing the album. During this period, Joss and Alex were also invited by the Scorpions to sing on their *Unbreakable* album and a few single releases.

Mennen started their *Unless Something Better is on TV* tour with a show at the Bosuil in Weert (NL), and went on to perform over 85 shows. Some of the highlights included supporting Whitesnake and Dio, performing as special guest at several Scorpions shows and a small club tour with Thunder.

During the sessions for *Freakazoid* Erwin had invited Mennen to record their next album (working title Human Cloud 9) in his brand new studio The Bamboo Room in Cincinnati. The whole recording process was filmed by both a camera crew and by the band, footage that would later end up on an extra DVD that comes with the *Planet Black* album. During the album recordings, the guys escaped from the studio to do promotion activities at the Bang your Head festival in Germany, where they ended up in the Planet Black tent and decided that they had found the perfect album title. During their stay in the USA, Mennen performed at the Poison Room and did three other shows, which were recorded by Musper.

After returning from the States, the band signed with Wacken records/SPV and made their appearance at the legendary Wacken Open Air festival with two showcases. The band left a copy of their American shows at Wacken records/SPV, which decided to release this in 2006 as *Freakalive* as a teaser for the upcoming new album. In the meantime, Mennen performed numerous shows again, did a German club tour with Victory and, once again, performed at Wacken Open Air. Afterwards, Eric decided to leave the band. It didn't take long for Mennen to find a perfect replacement in ex-Zinatra guitarist Gino Rerimassie. With his remarkable guitar playing, he would be able to take the band to a higher level. With a new line-up, a new album and DVD, Mennen is now ready to deliver a full dose of rock. Buckle up; it will be a rocky ride to *Planet Black*.

"*Planet Black*" facts:

- Recorded at the Bamboo Room, Cincinnati USA.
- Recorded, mixed and produced by Erwin Musper (Scorpions, Van Halen, Bon Jovi and many more).
- Cover designed by Eric Philippe (Rhapsody, Mob Rules, TNT and a lot more).
- Released in stereo and 5.1 mix.
- Limited edition DVD "*The making of Planet Black*".
- Info @ www.mennen.net and www.armageddonmusic.de.
- European tour spring 2008 & summer festivals 2008

TRACKLIST

1. Planet Black
2. Out Of My Head
3. Power To The Bone
4. Solitary Man
5. Feel Put Aside
6. On Fire
7. Green Elephants and Blue Clouds
8. Mr. Father
9. Time Will Tell
10. Wait Another Day
11. Reason
12. Crash And Burn
13. Future Ahead

DISCOGRAPHY

- Mennen (1994)
- Back To The Real World (1996)
- Age Of Fools (1998)
- Circle Of Live (2000)
- Freakazoid (2005)
- Freakalive (2006)
- *Planet Black* (2008)

MENNEN ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB :

www.mennen.net www.myspace.com/mennenrocks

Management : Peter Schaap for PIMP www.pimp-it.nl 0031 6 515 06 473