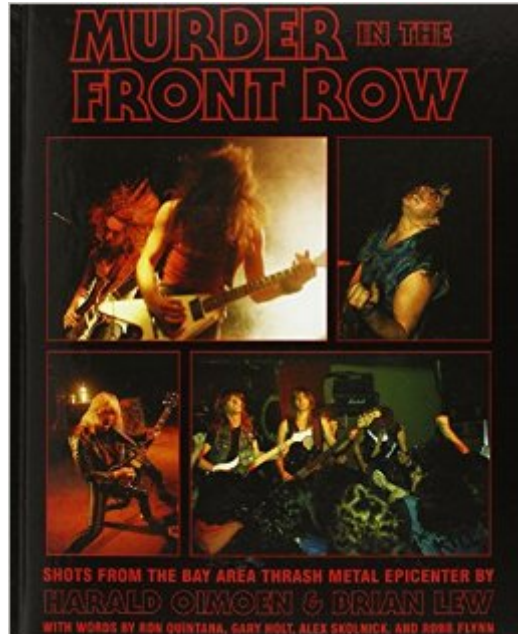


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# Murder In The Front Row: Shots From The Bay Area Thrash Metal Epicenter



## Synopsis

In the 1980s, the San Francisco Bay Area was heaven for hardcore headbangers. Shunning Hollywood hairspray and image in favor of a more dangerous street appeal, the Bay Area thrash metal scene was home to Exodus, Metallica, Testament, Possessed, Death Angel, Heathen, Vio-Lence, Attitude Adjustment, Forbidden, and Blind Illusion; and served as a second home to like-minded similar bands like Slayer, Mercyful Fate, Anthrax, Megadeth, and more. Beginning as teenagers taking snapshots of visiting heavy metal bands during the 1970s, Brian "Umlaut" Lew and Harald "O." Oimoen documented the birth and growth of the local metal scene. Featuring hundreds of unseen live and candid color and black-and-white photographs, *Murder in the Front Row* captures the wild-eyed zeal and drive that made Metallica, Slayer, and Megadeth into legends, with over 100 million combined records sold.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Speaking from first hand experience, I was there during the time this book covers, it sends chills down my spine to relive the memories and hear the first hand accounts from the main players and band members who took part in the evolution of thrash. The quality is incredible, the book itself is a work of art and the photos are mostly all high res from a time where that term did not exist. If you want to see Metallica, Exodus, Slayer, Possessed, Megadeth and more as they were in the early days where they grew their roots and established themselves, buy this book. You will keep it out and show it to all your friends. Metal up your ass !!!!!

The time capsule from the early to mid-1980's underground Bay Area Thrash Metal scene has finally been excavated for the whole world to see.....man was it worth the wait! Harald Oimoen & Brian Lew have finally and properly unleashed 272 pages of pure metal debauchery during its finest hours. The majority of the pictures span the years 1982 through 1985. The shots depict the loyal and aggressive Bay Area underground scene with drunken, violent, and devilish behavior, meanwhile raging to their local heroes Exodus & Metallica, while Slayer and Megadeth making it their second home. The majority of pictures I have seen before and was well aware of who snapped them, but for people who haven't seen most of them, it's great that Harald O & Brian Lew FINALLY get their due! Plus, the pictures have really come to life in this great photo spread! Bazillion Points did an outstanding job with the layout and overall clarity of the pictures. As I sat totally engrossed in this book when it arrived at my front door, I wondered "What if these two guys never took these pictures?" All of these shots were basically "inner circle" pictures.....friends taking pictures of friends. A whole time period would be just erased and would have been.....well just stories! It's interesting to note, almost all the shots in this book do not contain the now mainstream & grossly over used "devil horn" sign, which was a breath of fresh air! I could really go on and on about the pictures in the book, but what's the point. BUY THIS BOOK.....It's a "Lesson in Violence!"

AHH, the good ol' days! I was a sophomore in high school in 1983 when a hand full of nightclubs in Berkley and San Francisco started doing all ages shows. EXODUS SLAYER DEATH ANGEL POSSESSED at The Mab for \$6??? For the next few years the Bay Area had the best underground Metal(and Punk) scene in America, if not the world! Early in their careers,Slayer and Megadeth played up here so often they might as well have been local bands. There wasn't any real security at the clubs in those days so the shows were WILD! If the crowd wasn't thrashing hard enough, Paul Bayloff would insult them by saying stuff like,"My grandmother thrashes harder than you and she's DEAD!" This book captures that period more than any other product I can think of. If you were there this book is a MUST! If weren't but you loved those bands,it's by far the best document of the Bay Area Metal scene at it's peak! Grab a six pack, crank up Bonded By Blood and let this book take you back to when it all started! Cheers to Harold O and Brian Lew for FINALLY making this book. "Bang that head that does not bang!"

I know Brian and Harald and I strongly recommend this book for anyone interested in the early days of California thrash metal. The photos bring back memories that may have been lost in my aging

mind. Thanks for the photos guys! It's great looking at pictures of myself with that poodle perm I had in 1982!

This book surpassed my expectations in every way. When it arrived the box was so heavy I didn't realize it was the book I had ordered! It is oversized with a thick hardcover binding like an academic book and it's all here, the early thrash scene bands included: Metallica (a lot of photos of them), Megadeth (early photos of them with Kerry King on guitar), Exodus, Slayer, Legacy/Testament, Possessed, Death Angel, Vio-lence, Spastic Children (Metallica's humorous side project) and few more escapees inserting themselves into various group shots. Some of these shots I've seen before and just as many I have not. It's amazing to have them all here and to see these bands the way I remember them, just groups of guys who loved thrash music. The write-ups were incredible, I enjoyed reading the stories of Harold O., Brian Lew, Ron Quintana, Alex Skolnick, and Gary Holt. It's actually something worth reading as opposed to just some boring random inserts. There are also some pics of old flyers, postcards and set lists as well. This really is the bible of these bands in their infancy, if you were part of this as an old fan, you will have to own this, you probably already do. If you love these bands now and weren't around then, you must buy this and see how it all started. It really did come out of a love for a new kind of music, this was long before stretch limos, Rolling Stone interviews and music awards; I don't even think the members themselves knew how big it would all eventually be. I think that is part of what makes this book so incredible, the purity of it all. I highly recommend it, tons of glossy photos, a nice sturdy binding, something you'll enjoy.

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