

The Band

Simpatico

1996 was a somewhat quiet year for the band. After touring with Helpyourselfish through most of 1995, D:A:D was back home. In fact, the band only did one live show that year: Roskilde Festival. To make it special the band had invited 200 fans to join them on stage for the full length of the show. Something else that made that concert special was the fact that D:A:D tried out a couple of brand new songs.

The new songs were part of the new material that the group had already begun writing. After the tiresome process of creating Helpyourselfish, they were relieved to find that the new material was coming to them much more easily.

The new album was recorded in the Granny Studios in Copenhagen during the spring and summer of 1997. The good old producer Nikolaj Foss was back again, Thomas Breklin came on as technician, and everything went smoothly. The recording process was very different from that of Helpyourselfish, looser and with less planning ahead and a lot more room for improvisation in the studio, which was a welcome change. To add international feel and professionalism, the album was later mixed in the famous Abbey Road Studios in London.

The album was named [Simpatico](#) and released November 6, 1997. The green and white front cover showed a mysterious picture of a Japanese man playing golf in his dreams with his umbrella. The shot was taken by Torleif in the Tokyo underground where the man was waiting for a train. The cowskull [Molly](#) was almost left out of the graphic design this time. The band was somewhat tired of their old logo that had almost turned into a brand in itself. Molly nevertheless made it onto the cover, however in a new version and only on the backside.

Musicwise the style of the album was quite different from the previous album, as the band had once again turned up the melody and turned down the hard metallic sound of Helpyourselfish. The relaxed atmosphere of the recording process was reflected in the sound chosen for the album. As almost always, the reviews were mixed, but *Simpatico* became a sales success in Denmark, selling 50 % more copies than Helpyourselfish.

The Mad Days 1998 Tour that followed the album release began in late January 1998 and continued throughout the spring and summer, including amongst other gigs the Grøn Koncert tour in July. The stage was set up against a backdrop of silvery glittering tinsel and featured an over-dimensioned drumskin on Peter's drum set and an inflatable 3-meters tall Simpaticola bottle.

Towards the end of the tour D:A:D became the D:A:D Indians in a game of icehockey against the Finnish band Leningrad Cowboys. The game was a benefit for the children's cancer ward at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen. The game took place at Rødovre Skøjte Arena on August 8, with professional icehockey players enlisted on both sides. Unfortunately, the D:A:D Indians lost the game with 7 points to the Finnish Cowboys' 14 points, but a very positive outcome was the 175.000 kroner (app. 24.000 euro) that the event raised.

After the fun of icehockey, D:A:D finished off the Mad Days Tour with a concert at 5-øren on Amager on August 9. As a final encore, the band did another first in their career: they flew to Greenland and did a show in Nuuk on August 15.