Bandinfo/history

The music project initially was founded in 1993 by Mario Tews and Riccardo Schult-Nowotny. Inspired by well known electronic artists of their time, they started out to emulate and imitate their musical heroes. Quickly, the first tape releases followed, with songs like SPIRIT OF HATE, CREATURE, FROM DREAM ESSENCE und FROM WASTE TO DUST — dark, brooding songs dominated by harsh sounds and aggressive vocals. The promo CD IMMORTAL GIFT from 1999 marked the end of this early creative phase.

With the beginning of the new millennium, the band was able to achieve a first moderate international success. For weeks, their song STATIC CITY topped the Alternative Charts of the (at that time) very popular music platform www.mp3.de. And with SALVATION, Final Selection won »best electro pop song« as part of the »Battle of the Bands« competition initiated by the famous German music magazine »Sonic Seducer«.

2002, the polish record label Black Flames Records became aware of the band and took them under contract. In the same year, Final Selection won the audience award of the Eurorock Festival in Belgium.

In March 2003, their debut album ANTIHERO finally saw the light of this world. Critics, scene magazines and listeners alike were full of praise. Final Selection became one of the most promising electronic acts in dark wave and gothic music. The magazines »Sonic Seducer« and »Zillo« even nominated ANTIHERO for »Record of the month« and »record tip of the month«.

2004, the band released the EP »Heading for Graceland«, which was meant as an appetizer for the forthcoming concept album »MERIDIAN«, with five new songs and several remixes from other genre bands.

»MERIDIAN«, the official second full-time record, was praised from critics and fans all over the world — if they were lucky enough to get their hands on the artfully designed CD. Internal squabbles between the record label and the German distributor and financial problems resulted in a sheer promotional disaster.

Live, however, the band could convince the audiences at the Wave Gotik Treffen in Germany, the Castle Party Festival in Poland, the Infest in UK and the Eurorock

Festival in Belgium. The ongoing problems between the record label and the distributor and also the band itself let to a rift between all parties. Black Flames Records went bankrupt shortly after.

In the meantime, the band already worked on new material. With the German record label Flash Pop Media as a new partner, the band released the album CLOCKWORKS in 2008. Again, the album received critical acclaim. For several weeks, CLOCKWORKS topped the charts of the leading underground music mail-order platform POPONAUT.DE, over well known artists like AND ONE, DIARY OF DREAMS or COVENANT.
But the band seems to be dogged by bad luck. From one day to the next, Flash Pop Media just disappeared, off the grid. No royalties, no promo activities. For the second time, a full release of the band was doomed to be unheard.

In 2011, Falk Schilling extended the line-up of the band with his dynamic drum work.

The year 2012 was to become the most memorable year in band history. Final Selection was invited to play a gig in Sao Paulo. Unbeknownst to them, the band had gathered a huge fan base overseas. People from all over South America came to Sao Paulo only to see the them playing live.

After that, the project slowly fell in oblivion. Live performances became more rarely, the work on new songs proceeded sluggishly. By the end of 2015, Mario Tews left the band for personal reasons.
The remaining band members experimented with female guest vocals an re-arranged some of the existing songs, but these efforts were just that … an experiment.

Today, Final Selection seems to have recovered to new strength. The band owns a new studio, keyboarder Patrick Dorn joined the band, and even Mario Tews returned to the project. The work on a new album is already well advanced, even if the COVID pandemic and the restrictions have delayed the creative process.
But FINAL SELECTION has gone through many fire before …