

Attentat Biography



Swedish four-piece group, Attentat, drew their inspiration from the British punk movement in the mid to late 70's, reacting to both the left-wing progressive movement that dominated alternative culture in Sweden at the time and the glamour of Abba and disco. Like the Swedish punk movement in general, Attentat found themselves stuck between the two extremes. They rebelled against the simplistic black/white polarity of 70's Swedish society, and they're still rebelling today, against the growing right-wing movement and the increasing injustices of modern Swedish life.

Their hometown Gothenburg, on the west coast of southern Sweden, is the nation's second largest city. It has a long tradition of industry and crafts, it's still the home of Volvo and the SKF ball-bearing company, and once boasted a flourishing shipbuilding industry. It was a city of labour, with strong working-class traditions, but the late 70's saw the beginning of the end of that era. It was during this time Attentat found their energy, strength and identity.

Formed 1978 as the Frogs by Jönsson (Mats Jönsson, vocals/bass), Paddan (Magnus Rydman, lead guitar) and Grodan (Martin Fabian, rhythm guitar), all in their late teens. The line-up was completed when 13-year-old drummer Dag Wetterholm joined on drums.

Inspired by The Clash, Sham 69, The Buzzcocks and The Sex Pistols, glam-rock groups like Sweet, T Rex and Slade and local new wave/punk pioneers Brusset and Göteborg Sound, the foursome began writing and rehearsing songs. Attentat first hit the stage in November '78 at a local music festival, wedged between jazz-rock groups and other members of the burgeoning local punk scene. The band was an instant and explosive success.

They were soon invited to join the music organization Garageligan ("The Garage Gang") by founders Brusset and Göteborg Sound. Garageligan's purpose was to create something that simply did not exist at the time: opportunities for new bands to play live to audiences in and around Gothenburg. In a place and at a time without anything even remotely resembling a non-political alternative music scene, the bands had no choice but to create their own.

In early '79 Attentat, like many other local groups, were ready to record their first single. "*Ge fan i mej*"/"*Död bland döda*" ("Sod Off"/"Dead Among the Dead") was recorded in a rush, but sold very well, despite lacking both the backing of a record company and proper distribution. A second pressing was soon made. By the time the single was released, both Dag Wetterholm and Grodan had left Attentat. The 15-year-old bass-player Cristian Odin was recruited, freeing up Jönsson to focus on vocals. Cristian's friend, Peter Björklund, 14, began turning up at rehearsals and although originally a guitarist, he was found to be a talented drummer. Crippa and Pete the Beat soon joined the Attentat line-up. The band began rehearsing daily.

Ever eager to gig, Attentat found themselves playing to pupils in school corridors as well as to prison inmates. No gig was too strange or small for the energetic band. As the band's ambition grew, they began touring and making more records. Two EP's: "*Stila dej inte*" (December '79 "Slå banka å sparka"/"Hej gamle man"/"Omyndiga") and *Born to be malaj* (June '80, "Operahuset"/"En meninglös dag"/"Svarta fåret") followed, released on the group's own label Rykkman Rekkords.

In the beginning of the 80's, Attentat's hard work began to pay off. They were signed to local left-wing progressive label Nacksving (later Transmission) and released their debut album "*Tatuerade tårar*" in 1981. The single "*Som en fågel*"/"*Ser dej*" followed the year after, with second album "*Här å nu*" coming along in 1983, followed by a third, "*I denna stan*" in 1984. Attentat had changed from a hard-hitting punk group to a band with wider musical ambitions. The four members' individual musical influences included The Beatles (Pete the Beat), Ramones ("Crippa"), Johnny Thunders/The Sex Pistols ("Paddan") and Slade (Jönsson). These influences melded into to a unique sound and hit singles like "*Som en fågel*" and "*I denna stan*" followed as a result.

However, being the hardest-working rock band in Sweden took its toll. The winter of '84 was as harsh as the tour Attentat undertook at the time, and finally, Pete the Beat collapsed due to a stomach ulcer. The band were able to finish the tour but were severely drained of energy. In January 1986, the group hit the road for the last time, after more than 400 gigs.

But enough was never really enough for Attentat. They made a brief comeback in 1991, in support of the CD compilation "*Pilsner, Punk & Poesi*". Inspired by the interest it generated, the group began writing new material and soon Arda Records released the single "*Tvärs över tiden*"/"*Båten*" ('91) and the album *Nerv* ('92). At the time, the line-up included guitarist Roberto Laghi, today an internationally acclaimed heavy metal producer (In Flames et al).

But the comeback soon came to an end, and five years passed until Attentat hit the stage again. A 20-year anniversary concert was staged in Gothenburg, which led to the release of the live album "*Attentat lever*" and a couple of other gigs around the time. It was never meant to be a long-time comeback. Neither was the next comeback in 2003 with a spectacular show in front of 1400 punks and rockers at the sold out "Svensk Punk 25 Festival" at Vågen (Now the classic cinema Draken) in Gothenburg with groups like Asta Kask, Stry Terrarie, Freddie Wadling, Grisen Skriker, Perverts and Kai Martin. Attentat's line-up now featured second guitarist Patrik Kruse. The festival is documented in the DVD "*Svensk punk 25 år*".

After a seven-year break to take care of other things in life, the group made a powerful comeback in 2010, at the greatest Swedish music festival at that time, "Peace & Love" in Borlänge. This was one of two final performances with drummer Pete the Beat, later replaced by Paul Schöning and subsequently replaced by Dennis "Larry" Staaf. The realization that the audience needed Attentat and vice-versa, gave the five-piece band renewed energy to write songs. The resulting album, "*Fy fan!*", released in 2013, went to number 20 in the Swedish charts and was followed by director Jonas Nyström's documentary "*Glöden slocknar aldrig*" (DVD) the same year. 2013 also saw several single releases, including two punk Christmas songs and a co-operation with musician/songwriter Sören "Sulo" Carlsson (Ian Hunter, Lasse Stefanz) and another one with Pedro Ferreira (Brit Award winner for producing The Darkness). Following the release of "*Fy fan!*" Attentat toured regularly, visiting cities

like Stockholm, Sundsvall, Karlstad, Linköping, Malmö and Oslo and performed to a packed Pustervik, the leading rock venue in Gothenburg.

In late summer 2015 lead-singer Mats Jönsson suffered fatigue syndrome from over-work and Attentat had to take an unwelcome 2.5-year break. At the same time Patrik Kruse was forced to take care of his drinking problems and has been sober ever since. In 2018 a refreshed and stronger Attentat were back on track with the “Black Sheep for 40 Years” tour with 24 gigs in Sweden and Norway and the live album *Svart får i 40 år* to celebrate their 40 year anniversary. After the tour, long time bassist “Crippa” decided to leave the band to get more time for his pub “Crippas” and his nearby beer brewery.

Following Jönsson’s and Kruse’s recovery, the duo started to write songs with a new power, looking through new eyes. In the autumn of 2019 Attentat release a brand-new album “*Punkhjärta*”, produced by Mattias Glavå (producer of Håkan Hellström, Broder Daniel) on the up-and-coming indie label Busy-B. “*Punkhjärta*” went to number 19 in the Swedish charts Now with the young punk rocker Linus “Siken” Sikström (Civil Olydnad, Giftigt Avfall) on bass guitar. After the pandemic autumn 2021 Attentat have a rocking brand new vinyl EP out produced by Per Stålberg (Division of Laura Lee, Pablo Matisse) and more than ready to go on tour and really gonna raise the roof. In other words, Attentat is alive and kicking.

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