



## BIOGRAPHY

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"A *Study in Coordinated Whiplash*" wrote **The New York Times** October 2008, after one of **SHINING**'s pounding concerts in Manhattan. Norway's **NRK Lydverket** were equally impressed with **SHINING** after their performance in Oslo as part of the Øya Festival in the same year, stating that **SHINING** was "*Norway's best band right now*".

These typical encounters between unsuspecting (and in recent times, more suspecting) audience and the band's no-mercy attitude, coupled with **four critically acclaimed studio albums**, are what has put **SHINING** in the very forefront of experimental extreme music.

In the years since **SHINING**'s most recent studio album "Grindstone" 3 years ago, a myriad of happenings have been thrust onto the shoulders of ring leader **Jørgen Munkeby** and his band, comprising some of the best musicians in Norway, who collectively make up **one of the most exciting and adventurous musical acts in Europe today**.

**SHINING** have performed at all key industry events such as **CMJ** festival in NYC, **SXSW** in Texas, **Eurosonic** in The Netherlands, **The Great Escape** in UK and **by:Larm** in their hometown of Oslo. In addition to the exposure that the band garnered from these key events, the band have toured **Europe, USA, China and Japan**.

**SHINING**'s previous two studio outings; 2005's "**In the Kingdom of Kitsch You Will Be A Monster**" and 2007's "**Grindstone**" (both on the **Rune Grammofon** label) were wildly lauded by every website, blog, paper and student column under the sun. Both albums won the Alarmprisen (Norwegian grammy award equivalent), **Grindstone** was picked as the **#1 album of the year in Norway**'s second largest national newspaper and also the UK based alternative music magazine **Rock-A-Rolla**, rated "Grindstone" as one of their **best 30 albums of 2007**. The album was also hailed by such varied media outlets as **The New York Times, The Wire, BBC** and **Terrorizer Magazine** amongst others.

**SHINING**'s shift in musical direction became ever more apparent when they were selected to tour Europe in 2007 with Norwegian **black metal pioneers Enslaved** and fellow extreme metal hard hitters, **Keep Of Kalessin**. This tour would result in a mutual musical respect and admiration between Enslaved and **SHINING**, which would culminate in the two bands composing and performing a one-off special collaboration: A 90-minute written musical extravaganza that saw both bands (10 members) performing together on-stage at the Molde International Jazz Festival. **The Armageddon Concerto** performance entitled "*Nine Nights in Nothingness – Glimpses of Downfall*" was extremely well received and, due to popular demand, will be performed again as the main headlining act for the 2010 **Roadburn Festival** in The Netherlands (Tilburg, April 17th).

After the intense workload of the Molde concerto, **SHINING** went to work on what would become **Blackjazz**. Munkeby himself comments “*the compositions are more compact, the arrangements more hard-hitting, and the mood more desperate, sinister, aggressive and violent*”.

To match his vision of combined musical aggressiveness and catchiness, **Munkeby** teamed up with the perfect accomplice for the ominous Blackjazz mission: With his technical prowess and extensive musical knowledge and experience, renowned producer/engineer **Sean Beavan** (**NIN**, **Marilyn Manson**, **Slayer**) joined forces to further elevate and intensify the new direction of music.

As one last Sin Soldier added to the already impressive list of Blackjazz accomplices, Sean Beavan’s long time co-schemer **Tom Baker** (**NIN**, **Marilyn Manson**, **David Lynch** etc.) mastered the album at Precision Mastering in Hollywood, and added obliterating and stinging power to the already punishing mixes, thereby putting the final nail in the coffin.

With “**Blackjazz**” now completed **SHINING** moves onto the next phase of their already accomplished mission. A new label and another shift in direction means a whole lot more shock and awe.

**Blackjazz Release Dates:**

Norwegian Release – 18th January 2010  
International Release – 25th January 2010

**Blackjazz Line-up:**

**Jørgen Munkeby:** Vocals, guitars, saxophone and misc. instruments  
**Torstein Lofthus:** Drums  
**Tor Egil Kreken:** Bass  
**Bernt Moen:** Synths and keyboards  
**Even Helte Hermansen:** Guitars

**Discography:**

**Where The Ragged People Go** (bp recordings) [2001]  
**Sweet Shanghai Devil** (Jazzland Recordings) [2003]  
**In The Kingdom Of Kitsch You Will Be A Monster** (Rune Grammofon) [2005]  
**Grindstone** (Rune Grammofon) [2007]  
**Blackjazz** (Indie Recordings) (2010)

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**UK / Euro Booking** – [bob@belmontbookings.nl](mailto:bob@belmontbookings.nl)

**Websites:**

[www.indiedist.no](http://www.indiedist.no)

[www.shining.no](http://www.shining.no)

[www.myspace.com/gninihs](http://www.myspace.com/gninihs)

Download press shots / logos at [www.shining.no/v1/press.booking.php](http://www.shining.no/v1/press.booking.php)

Find a thorough list of reviews at [www.shining.no/v1/discography.php](http://www.shining.no/v1/discography.php)

*Quotes:*

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**"Strikingly original. Colossal. "**

[Pitchforkmedia.com](http://Pitchforkmedia.com)

**"One unholy blizzard of noise"**

[The Wire](http://TheWire.com)

**"It's absolutely fucking astounding."**

[Cokemachineglow.com](http://Cokemachineglow.com) - USA - rating 87%

**"Absolutely nuts, and quite brilliant."**

[Boomkat.com](http://Boomkat.com) - USA

**"A frighteningly intelligent, original and wide-ranging album, viscerally powerful and perplexing in the best way possible."**

[Rock-A-Rolla](http://Rock-A-Rolla.com) - UK

**"No, no idea how we're going to tell you how good this is, no, we're stumped this time - brilliant album."**

[Organ - Album of the Week](http://Organ.com) - UK

**"These cats are among the most sophisticated of the new European generation that listens to absolutely everything and learns to play it, too."**

[Allmusic.com](http://Allmusic.com) - USA

**"Jorgen Munkeby leads the group with brazen confidence, and his three band mates decisively match his frenzy."**

[New York Times](http://NewYorkTimes.com) - USA

**"Grindstone's bombastic, weird, energetic, chaotic, and creative music has solidified Shining's rank as one of the top bands as far as boundary pushing music goes"**

[Sonicfrontiers.net](http://Sonicfrontiers.net) - USA

**"Of all the heavy rock/jazz/prog bands that are around at the moment, Shining are one of the most whacked-out."**

[Buzz](http://Buzz.com) - UK

**"It will be interesting to see whether Grindstone is picked up on as a figurehead for some sort of revival. Post-prog?"**

[International Herb](http://InternationalHerb.com)