



INTERVIEW WITH **ARJEN ANTHONY LUCASSEN**, mentor of projects such as AYREON, STAR ONE, GUILT MACHINE, among others. Arjen recently released "Victims of the Modern Age", STAR ONE's new album. It's about this album and his career in general that we have the pleasure to present Arjen Lucassen in direct speech!

First of all, my congratulations and from the rest of the ruidosonoro.com's staff for another excellent work. It has been with great pleasure that we in Ruido Sonoro made this interview and also thinking about your fans in Portugal which are many.

**1. One month after the release of "Victims of the Modern Age", you must have already an idea of how the public is accepting this new album. What is your feedback?**

The sales are amazing: the album entered the charts in both Holland and Germany, the reviews are all good and I get many positive fan mails every day...so I guess I can't complain!

**2. Another album full of stories and scenario. I´m not only referring to Star One and the connection, for example, to series and films that were a success in the world, but also to the transcendent scenarios of Guilt Machine and Ayreon's Sci-Fi scene. Would you like to reveal where do you get so much inspiration?**

If I knew that, I would go there all the time when I'm out of inspiration! Hmm...I think that everything that makes me feel good can inspire me. It can be good music of course, but also a good movie. Or a nice jog or a tasty meal, or a good...eh...well, anything really ☺ When I feel good I feel like creating. The opposite of a blues artist I guess, who's complaining all the time!

**3. Do you feel like this album is a continuation from Star One and not its end?**

I never end anything, but I never plan ahead either. Planning only limits me in the creative process. So I see it simply as the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of the Star One saga. An updated, darker and heavier follow-up to the first one.

**4. Taking account all these years making good music, do you believe that your music has also been a "victim of the modern age"?**

I hope not, guess that's for others to decide. Anyway, I try my best not to get dependant on technology. I wanted the last Star One album to sound very organic, and I hope I succeeded. Yes, I do work mainly with computers now, but I still manage to make them work for me, not

the other way around. But yes, I've also fallen victim to the modern age in many ways...if my internet is down I'm in a panic!

**5. Always working with an excellent group of musicians. Is it easy for them to know what do you want in that certain track? Knowing that they are all excellent musicians, do you accept suggestions and criticisms from your guests?**

Of course I encourage and welcome input. They are the best musicians in the world, that's why I ask them in the first place. So it would be a loss if they wouldn't be able to contribute to the creative process. They all get my guide-parts, but I even tell them not to listen to it too often, so they can be spontaneous and add their own special personal touch.

**6. Tell us, how is it working with such good musicians?**

It's the best thing there is! It's such a good feeling when I'm writing the songs, to know that all the musicians will make the songs even better than what I have in my head. It's total luxury. Guess I've become very spoiled 😊

**7. Is there any vocalist/musician with whom you would like to work but there hasn't been an opportunity yet?**

Oh yes, the list is endless. Mainly all those great musicians who inspired me when I grew up. Like Robert Plant, David Gilmour, Geddy Lee, Alice Cooper, etc. But it's very hard to get in contact with them. And they often listen to very different music, their roots are quite different from mine. Prog and metal are still dirty words for many, unfortunately. That's why it's very hard to get musicians outside the realm of prog and metal.

**8. You must follow up the musical scene, right? What kind of criticism would you make to the music management at world level? Do you have some knowledge or preference for any Portuguese band?**

I think a lot of bands worry too much about technique and not enough about conveying their emotions. A lot of music sounds very cold to me now, compared to the adventurous music of the 60's and the 70's. Haha, I guess I sound like an old bastard, "everything was so much better in the old days", haha! No seriously, a lot of good music is being made nowadays, the music biz is very open now compared to the 80's and 90's when many music styles were still restricted by certain rules

**9. Is there any chance, even remote, of watching a show of one of your projects in Portuguese land?**

Playing live just isn't my passion anymore, I've become much more of a composer/producer than a performing artist. Besides that it would be very difficult, time-consuming and expensive to get these 10 musicians from all over the world who all have their own bands and projects together for rehearsals and a tour.

**10. Can you reveal what's coming next, which is your next album and from which project? Even if you have nothing defined yet, do you already think about it?**

I will now finally record the solo album that I've been planning for the last 10 years. I don't know what it will sound like, but I'm really looking forward to working on it! And it's a new challenge...can I do it without all those great guest-musicians and singers? Wish me luck ☺

Thank you so much for your time!

== You're very welcome!

I hope we can make the next interview in Portugal, at the beginning or at the end of one of your shows. Keep up the good work!

== I'll do my best, thanks for your interest in my work!

Cheers,  
Arjen.