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Tankard is on tour in Finland

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The Frankfurt-based 'alcoholic thrash metal' band Tankard are on a short tour of Finland, starting in Helsinki. It's not a significant anniversary, but who cares? Further performances of the ThrashMetal-Night are planned for Turku and Tampere this Friday and Saturday.

Tankard are finally returning to Finland to celebrate their 43rd anniversary. The band, led by singer Andreas 'Gerre' Geremia, will embark on a mini tour with shows in Helsinki, Turku and Tampere. In addition to the second remaining founding member, bassist Frank Torwarth, and long-time guitarist Andreas 'Andy' Gutjahr, the band will be joined for the first time by new drummer Gerd Lücking, who took over from Olaf Zissel on drums last year.

The first show at On the Rocks in Helsinki started right on time, with the local support act, Ranger, taking to the stage first. The speed metal band made the most of their half hour slot to warm up the crowd. Next up were Prestige, a thrash band from Tampere that has been active since the late 1980s. Former Korpiklaani drummer Matti 'Matson' Johansson has been part of the band for five years, adding even more professionalism to their performances, as was evident in this excellent show.

Although there were 'only' 150 paying guests in attendance, this was considered a good turnout for Finland, and the promoter was satisfied. Tankard opened with 'One Foot in the Grave' and immediately won over the audience. They continued their brilliant performance with more hits from their 43-year band history. After a short break, the Frankfurt thrashers played an encore and, as is fitting for a proper Tankard gig, finished after just over an hour and a half with the eponymous song.

Tankard never disappoint. Visitors to the shows on 15 August at the Apollo in Turku and on 16 August at the Tavara-Asema in Tampere can definitely look forward to an amazing evening of thrash metal.

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