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KISS

THEY'RE BACK! AND THEY MEAN BUSINESS.

**DEF LEPPARD UGLY KID JOE NIRVANA
AEROSMITH BLACK CROWES MR. BIG
BONHAM MEGADETH DANZIG
SPINAL TAP SLAUGHTER OZZY**

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Glenn Danzig intimidates people... and he likes it. He's big, *real* big, he's dark and he's brooding. Just one look at Danzig and people get the distinct impression that this is a guy who means business, and in Glenn's case that business is creating some of the most intense, churning, burning heavy metal ever heard. The music Danzig makes in the band that bears his last name is certainly not for the faint of heart. This is metal with a slightly demented twist; a far cry from the formulaic sounds that pass for metal on radio and MTV. No, neither of those mediums are very high on Danzig—in fact MTV has continually turned a cold shoulder to the band's striking, sexy, often controversial videos. But controversy is a word that follows Glenn Danzig around like a badge of honor, and as proven on the band's latest LP, **How The Gods Kill**, it certainly doesn't seem like the band's controversial stance is about to change.

"I kind of like being controversial," the surprisingly soft spoken Danzig said. "We've never tried to fit into any particular musical slot. We're certainly not your typical heavy metal band that doesn't have anything to say. We say anything we feel like saying, and if that

causes

some within the estab-

lishment to cringe, that's great. Most of the music you hear today is just preprocessed garbage designed to appeal to as many people as possible. It's not very dangerous... but we are."

Danger seems to be something near and dear to Danzig and bandmates John Christ (guitar), Eerie Von (bass) and Chuck Biscuits (drums). If "living on the edge" has become a cliched phrase tossed out by seemingly every rocker who stays out past midnight, then Danzig gives new meaning to the term. This is a band determined to push heavy metal to new limits, or die trying. They know not everyone is going to come along for the journey, but as their success grows from album to album (already **How The Gods Kill** has outsold the band's previous effort, **Lucifuge**), it seems that nothing can stop this group's unusual path to the top.

"We appeal to kids who are looking for a little danger," Danzig said. "I think they sense that with us it's real. Too many bands act like they're doing something dangerous when it's just an act, a game. It's no game with us. We don't care if MTV won't deal with us. I think it's ridiculous that they won't, but that's their business. We'll keep making our videos and releasing them ourselves. The kids will see them. They'll get the message. I know MTV is scared of us. We're very scary to the people who've built a system where you're not encouraged to think for yourself."

Love him or hate him, you've gotta give Glenn Danzig credit. He's one of the few true originals left in rock and roll. From his early days in New York as the leader of the classic cult band The Misfits (a major influence on Metallica), Danzig has rebelled against seemingly everything that normal society holds dear. Money? Not important. Fame? Who cares. Religion? Well... that's one subject sure to get Glenn started.

"I guess you could say that I'm a guy who's always searching for answers," he said. "I read all the time, everything from comic books to books on the occult and werewolves. I've got a

thirst for information. A lot of people who listen to our albums assume that I'm a Satanist. But that's really not important. The fact is that people mistake believing in Satan for being a Satanist. If you believe in God it's just natural that you have to believe in Satan. People get upset when I say that, and I can understand that to some extent. The evangelists particularly get angry. That's understandable when you realize that we represent the fall of everything they've built up."

So what are we to make of this guy who speaks so openly of rebellion, Satan and the "evils" of MTV? Obviously more and more fans find themselves attracted to the brooding masses of humanity that comprise Danzig. This is a band that could probably start their own N.F.L. franchise. One look at Glenn and his band members and visions of a team of rock and roll Schwarzeneggers spring to mind. It's not necessarily a pretty

sight. How the hell did any rocker get so big? It's a question that makes Glenn's normally stoic countenance break into a smile.

"It's my genetics," he said. "And I do work out. Some people ask me about steroids, and whether I've used them to get this big. The answer is no. If I used them with my genetic makeup, I'd be HUGE. In fact,

I've started doing different exercises

to loosen my muscles. We're playing for two hours on stage this tour, and you've got to be in great shape for that. If your muscles are tight, you can become exhausted very easily. It would be rather embarrassing to collapse on stage after 20 minutes."

It seems most unlikely that Danzig is about to pass out in front of a packed concert hall at any time in the near future. This guy's got too much going for him at the moment to let anything stand in his way. In fact, unlike the majority of bands that play metal with the intensity of Danzig, Glenn is quick to note that half of the band's followers are women—though he's a bit confused as to exactly what attracts such a large female contingent to the group's cause.

"Obviously, there's something about us, and about what we do, that attracts them," he said. "It's a little strange, but I don't see why women can't relate to what we're saying in our music as much as men can. There is eroticism in our music. Maybe that's what gets to 'em. Or maybe they just think we're cute."

Yeah, right! "Cute" is a word better reserved for the likes of Bon Jovi than for Glenn Danzig. Perhaps a better word to describe his musical appeal is "integrity." In fact, that's a word that seems to pop up quite often in his conversation, especially when he discusses his attacks on the religious and political establishment. He knows he's ruffling feathers. That's the way it has to be. That's the only way Danzig will have it.

"If religious or political groups question me, I'll bring the entire system under fire with me," he said. "If they question my integrity, then it also questions theirs. Everything I say is drawn from what I read and what I know. So much of it comes from the same history books that our politicians give our kids to read. It's all there, you just have to know where to look. Adults are so scared of kids rebelling. They should just relax about it. Kids need to discover life for themselves. They need to look for a little danger. And if that's what they're looking for when they've come to us, they've come to the right place."

DANZIG

METAL MUSCLE

Sinister Rockers Preach Their Message On How The Gods Kill.

BY ROB ANDREWS

PHOTO: ROSS HALPIN/ZLOZOWER

**GLENN
DANZIG**



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