

BLACK SABBATH GEEZER BUTLER on the Historic Reunion

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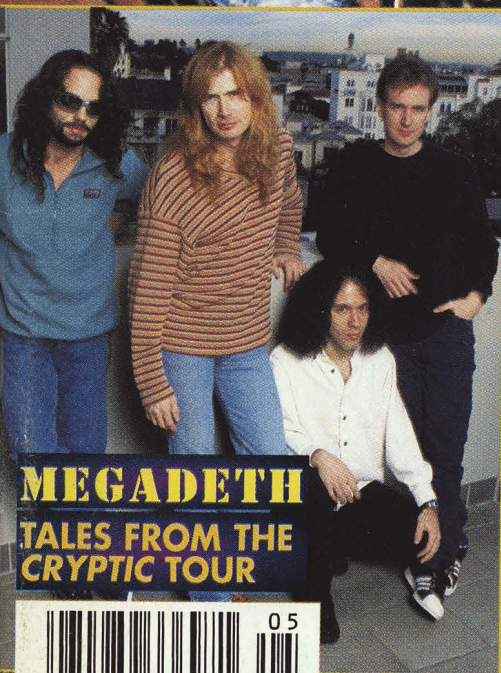
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METAL WIRE

continued

INTRODUCING JUICE 13

■ Former Danzig guitarist John Christ and ex-Ozzy Osbourne drummer Randy Castillo have joined forces in a new band called Juice 13 along with bassist Krys Baratto and singer Cheezboy, and it's definitely a rockin' combination. The quartet played at Billboard Live on W. Hollywood's Sunset Strip on Dec. 11 and got the crowd moving with a set of originals and a couple of Danzig covers, "Her Black Wings" and "Mother" (they often perform Black Sabbath's "Children of the Grave," but not at this show).

Cheezboy, a.k.a. Mike Brown (he got the nickname after being hit by a Frito-Lay truck on the freeway while chasing a hat), once played with ex-MTV VJ Riki Rachtman in Battery Club ("he drove me nuts") and met Randy when the drummer played with him in Pirates of Venus between going on the road with Ozzy and Vince Neil. Krys and John met at Steve Vai's *Fire Garden* release party a year ago, and this band was put together for a benefit concert last April (at which they ultimately didn't play).

They'd only done eight shows prior to this one, but have prioritized performance over demoing and getting signed. "Some bands want to get a deal so they can play shows. Our main interest is playing live and doing shows. The record deal is secondary," says Cheez, and John concurs. "We could get a deal now, but we want it to be the right one. We want to build a career."

Write to Juice 13 at P.O. Box 6387, Fullerton, CA 92834 or e-mail <http://www.johnchrist.com>.

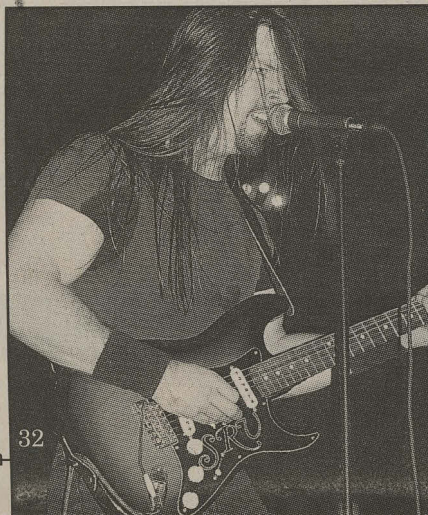
In addition to shredding on guitar, John sang lead (quite well) on "Big Bad Wolf." During "Chicken Song," he took a solo spot, and played snippets of "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Ode to Joy," and the *Jeopardy!* theme.



"I think we sound like a cross between old Danzig and Ozzy," says Cheezboy, who can sound a lot like Glenn Danzig even when he's not singing Danzig songs.



Yes, that's guitarist Robbin Crosby, looking quite different from his Ratt days but nevertheless alive, well, and living in L.A., where he, Krys, and drummer Robert Klaysmat have a band called Secret Service. They're working on getting a deal in Japan. "I love the rumors I hear about me," says Robbin, referring to stories that have had him homeless or living in his car. He isn't in contact with the current Ratt members but says he talks to fellow former Rattman Juan Croucier "almost every day."



"I waited 10 years to play with this guy," Krys says of Randy. "Now he's gonna have to play with me for 10 more years," Randy retorts.



"We play a bunch of different styles—heavy rock, blues, some alternative tunes," John describes Juice 13's sound.



Why was Randy, with Robbin backstage here, fired from Ozzy's band? "Me and Mike [Inez] were out of control. We were partying too much," he admits. "I deserved to be fired. But we're cool now. This is a blast." Aside from Juice 13, Randy is lending his talents to music storybooks for kids, a chain of kids restaurants called Cartoonsville, Bret Michaels' album, a flamenco group called Crucificados (with whom he jammed downstairs at Billboard after Juice 13's set), and the Alice Cooper tribute CD, on "Welcome to My Nightmare" with Ronnie James Dio on vocals. He's also writing and demoing songs with Mike Inez. "I've been real busy but I enjoy it," says Randy.



Guitarist Zakk Wyld, Motorhead drummer Mikkey Dee, and bassist Mike Inez were on hand to catch Juice 13 in action.

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