

METAL

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HARD ROCK & HEAVY
METAL MAGAZINE

HAMMER

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COMPETITION**

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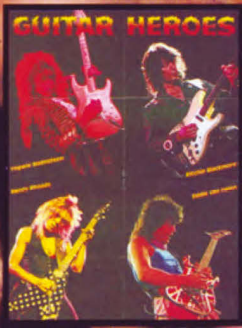
BADLANDS
IN THE LAND OF MILK & HONEY

DYNAMO FESTIVAL
DYNAMO HUM

PLUS:
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DANZIG



pic.: George Chin

MOANING MISFIT

Everyone needs a challenge, otherwise life would be only half as interesting. Glenn Danzig loves a challenge himself but I'd heard that interviewing him could also be described as one! At least for people called music journalists who are pretty keen on having a chat with this living legend. Apparently the former Misfit hates talking to the press, and when he does lower himself to do an interview, he likes to talk as little as possible - if you can get him to talk at all! So I wasn't quite sure what I was letting myself in for. Anyway, Glenn Danzig has released a new album ('Danzig') with his new band (Danzig) and one thing I did know was that this was of the most unusual LP's I've heard for quite a while.

"I hate interviews simply because most of the people who call themselves music journalists and try and do interviews aren't qualified."

A simple sentence, although if you look at the other side of the coin, quite a few people call themselves musicians although they're hardly able to hold an instrument...

"Hahaha! That's true, but I don't really see myself as simply a musician, I put my whole soul into my music. I don't care what people think about me, I do what I wanna do, and I say what I wanna say."

Saying that, he was actually extremely talkative, and not at all as unfriendly as one would have expected. And even if he had been rude, this man is a cult figure, his first band were the legendary Misfits, and since Metallica even

every heavy metal fan must have heard of them. He's been in the biz for more than fifteen years now, he released his first records on his own labels (first Blank, later Plan 9), and one can assume that he knows what he's talking about. When the Misfits went their separate ways in the early eighties, he formed his follow up band Samhain, who even managed to exceed the Misfits popularity in the States and in the UK. Samhain played a major gig at the Ritz in New York about three years ago, and Rick Rubin owner of the Def American label was present. He liked what he saw, and he wanted to sign up the band to his label, but only if the band promised to change their name to Danzig, and get rid of two of its members. Glenn Danzig remained, with Eerie Von (b). The line-up was completed with Chuck Biscuits (ex-Black Flag and Circle

Jerks) and John Christ (g).

"Chuck is a good mate of mine, and I only had to give him a ring, but it took us six months to find a suitable guitarist. It was Rick's idea to call the band Danzig, but Eerie and I had had the idea when we formed Samhain, but we left it because we didn't want to be associated with Billy Idol at all."

It was in this line-up that the band recorded the new LP under their new name, an unusual record with an extremely intense feeling that you either love or hate.

"That's the way we want it to be. We're not one of these factory bands who all sound the same and look identical, you only have to look at the magazines! They're interchangeable. If that's what the people want, they should steer clear of us."

WILD

'Danzig', the album, sounds really rough and wild, despite the superb production and the fact that it's not played fast. It seems as though producer Rick Rubin has achieved a perfect feeling of what the band's about.

"Rick Rubin is a really good producer, probably one of the best at the moment. He understood exactly what we were on about. On the other hand it's his job, isn't it? Anyway, it was really difficult for me to find a suitable producer, because I've always produced my

own material until now."

Although Glenn claims not to care whether the band release a video or not, two are available in the States, for the tracks 'Twist Of Cain' and 'Mother'.

"MTV only plays 'Twist Of Cain', and it's only made up of live clips, nothing dodgy. It's different with 'Mother', they seem to be worried that it could be censored. Ridiculous, I know, but that's the way things go."

Glenn Danzig sees Danzig simply as a continuation of Samhain, and the fact that a lot of people view him as the father of the American hardcore movement appeals to him about at least as little as other comparisons the press have made with a different Rick Rubin band, The Cult.

*"I hate the press! They started off describing us as a punk or a hardcore band, although we've never seen us that way, and the people believed it. Then there was this comparison to The Cult, I can't see what the connection is. I can't imagine Ian Astbury ever having to sing for his life if you know what I mean. I don't even think he's good. It drives me crazy when people give all that bulls**t, just because they don't know what to write about the band."*

He's less annoyed about the comparisons with Jim Morrison, as Jim's one of his favourite singers. *"Jim Morrison is OK, but I absolutely hate Frank Sinatra and it was completely ridiculous when I recently read that some asshole compared me to him, I can't imagine anything worse."*

His ultimate fave is Elvis Presley though, someone who doesn't actually appeal to me much - he's more my mum's cup of tea.

"Then your mum's got as really good taste. We're releasing a 12" soon, and it will include the track 'She Rides', as well as a few songs that aren't on the album one of them's an Elvis cover version. You should tell her to take a listen to it!"

Let's leave Glenn Danzig dreaming about Elvis. I was more interested in finding out whether we'd be witnessing Glenn and Danzig live this year. His answer was: he doesn't know. Even worse: He couldn't give a damn, but at least he didn't pretend that he was desperate to come over to Europe.

Andrea Nieradzki