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METAL  PROPHET

**SPECIAL EDITION
FOR
FOUNDATIONS
F O R U M**



JOHN CHRIST of DANZIG

**ANTHRAX - W.A.S.P.
COLLISION - CANCER
DEATH METAL PRODUCER
SCOTT BURNS
AND
ALBUM REVIEWS**

On Stage. . .

Interviews:

Danzig	4
Anthrax	5
Collision	6
Death Metal Producer Scott Burns	8
Cancer	9
W.A.S.P.	10

Album Reviews.....	12
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Unsigned Bands:

Hatehead	9
Ferocious Pantylines	11
Sanity's Void	11

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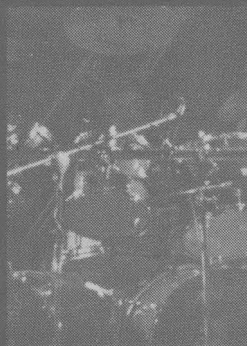
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DANZIG

Fans of Evil & Elvis

By Jeniffer Kentner

Never judge a book by its cover. That's the main moral I came away with after interviewing Danzig's guitar virtuoso, John Christ. After hearing numerous stories of Danzig's obsession with the darker side of life, I of course expected each and every band member to be a devoted fan of Charles Manson, not to mention a practitioner of some evil cult. As I was led down a steep, darkened staircase into what seemed like the bowels of the earth, my assumptions seemed to be right on target. However, the John Christ that greeted me turned out to be nothing more than a man with a great love for music - and Elvis.

"In every dressing room, we always put Elvis up. They're mainly Eerie's [Von, bass] - he's the major fan," says Christ. "See that picture over there? [He points to a life-size poster of the King in which he's holding a mic while a guitar hangs from his side]. There's not supposed to be a guitar there. When Elvis played guitar, he always had the mic on a stand - he never held it. So that picture is incorrect - Eerie made certain to point that out."

Assured of his undying love for the King, I asked John how he liked his recent gigs in Europe. "Oh, I liked 'em; it was summertime over there and the weather was nice, but two weeks was enough. Everything closes early over there, and there's no 7-11!"

So as not to get too bored on their stay, the boys did a festival in Nuremburg, Germany. John elaborates, "The festival was us, the Black Crowes, Lenny Kravitz, Robert Plant and Def Leppard - quite a mix! It was all the Phonogram Europe bands, and it was huge. There were 50,000 people in the rain, all smashed up against each other. It was dis-

gusting, but at the same time it was hilarious. When the rain started to come down, you could see the steam rising off the bodies. It was cool."

Besides playing to a bunch of sweaty, frenzied foreigners, Danzig has been working on yet another home video in order to satiate their growing legion of fans. "We have live footage from when we played Europe with White Zombie last year," explains John. "So the home video is gonna be that, along with some interviews. It'll be different from the first one though; it will be more open.

We also have some footage of the Irvine Meadows show last Halloween to put on it. We might even put an unedited version of 'It's Coming Down' [their latest video] on the tape. If we leave it how it is now - completely live - it could be played anywhere. But if we choose to edit it, that could all change!"



Speaking of live footage, I wondered why only four songs were live on Danzig's new EP, *Thrall - Demonsweatlive*. "Well, it went back and forth between Glenn [Danzig] and Rick [Rubin, producer]," comments John. "With Glenn it was like, 'Let's do live,' and with Rick it was, 'No, let's do studio,' so we basically compromised. We wanted to put it out also because a lot of kids listen to one of our albums then come to the show and go, 'Wow, I had no idea.' Like on the first album especially, if you listen to those songs then see them live it's like two totally different things. The energy level - there's just no comparison. For example, in San Francisco, there were bodies everywhere! Kids were jumping off the P.A. speakers, getting up on stage, and there was blood all over the place! It was great!"

A band that can write and perform such powerfully intense tunes is

definitely a band to reckon with. And, unbeknownst to many, Danzig's songwriting process involves all four members. "Glenn actually gets the ball rolling," elaborates John, "Then he and I will work out the parts and put it together. Chuck and Eerie will later come in and start jamming on it.

Glenn will start humming along to a song that we're all jamming on - maybe a few phrases here and there - and we'll record all of it on a little boombox in the corner of the room. Then everybody will come in and add a bit to it. It's pretty much a group effort, even though Glenn is the major songwriter and writes all the lyrics. For the next album we've all been writing songs on our own, so we'll see how that goes."

John has not merely been writing his own songs, but he also has one of his tunes coming out on a compilation album from *Guitar for the Practicing Musicians*, which will be out in October. It is appropriately titled "For Christ's Sake." Along these same lines, he's also interested in doing something with Rob Zombie for White Zombie's new record.

On his guitar playing, John had this to say: "I think the guitars in Danzig could get way, way more involved. In the beginning, I wanted to start at one point and gradually move up from there. I want people to hear me getting better with every record until it just explodes!" **D.K.**

