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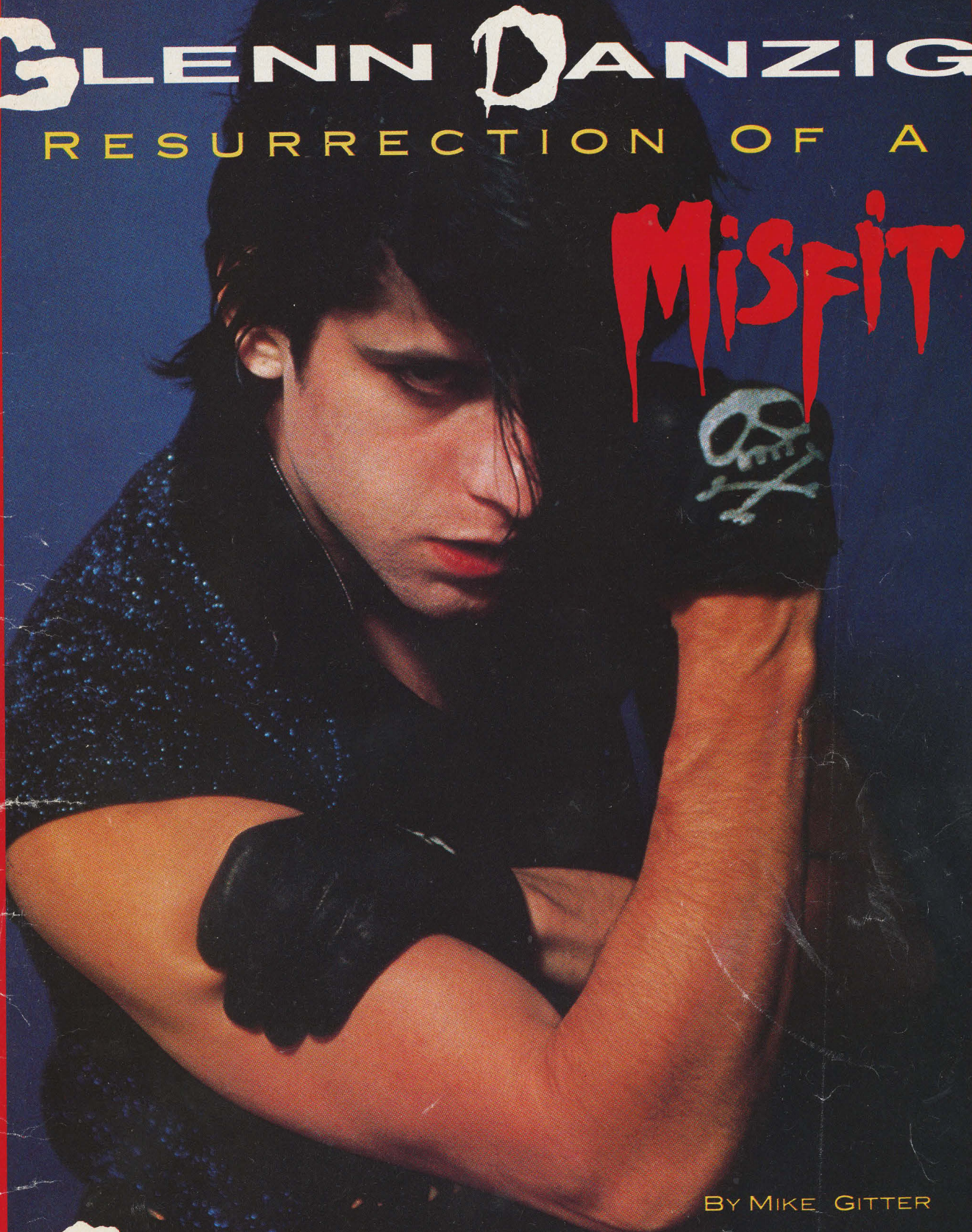


**TOMBSTONES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS!**

# GLENN DANZIG:

RESURRECTION OF A

# MISFIT



BY MIKE GITTER

**D**anzig: A name synonymous with a legacy of murder, death and brutality; a gargoylike figure peering out at the twilight world from under a face-sweeping devilock; primal voice howling forth the power of nature itself.

Glenn Danzig is all these things and much more. From his beginnings with the muscle-bound powerhouse known as the Misfits and the occult intelligentsia of Samhain, to his most-promising outfit yet, appropriately dubbed Danzig, he has been known for his association with the macabre. His latest outfit, comprised of bassist Eerie Von, ex-Black Flag/DOA/Circle Jerks drummer Chuck Biscuits and a newcomer known only as John on guitar, continues with the intensity and forcefulness established in his previous bands.

Long a staple in punk circles, Danzig's neo-survivalist message transcends the genre's

self-limiting constrictions, attracting the attention of none other than Beastie Boys/*Slayer*/Cult producer Rick Rubin. Changing both name and lineup, with only Danzig and Von remaining from *Samhain*, Rubin's contribution emerges as the definitive Danzig, superior in songwriting, execution and lyricism. "Twist of Cain," "When Death Had No Name" and a distinctive cover of Elvis Presley's "Trouble" pound with a raw, brooding fury. His words speak with primal discord, harkening back to a time of elder gods and mystic forces. Morality, God and Satan are irrelevant concepts in Danzig's universe, as primeval mysticism is the only true arbiter of fate. His is the season of Samhain, the Druidic approach to Halloween.

**RIP:** The season of Halloween must have a lot of significance for you, considering the name of Samhain is the Druidic term for what is traditionally referred to as the season of the dead.

**DANZIG:** The season of Samhain does and will always have a lot of significance. For me, it's a rebirth, and I go through al-

most a whole regeneration. It happened to me when I was young, but I really didn't know what it was, even though I was revitalized. There's something about the season when the leaves start falling, things start to get a little grayer, and it basically starts to get a little colder. It's a real cool feeling for me, and it's my favorite time of year. Besides, I can wear my leather and not sweat.

**RIP:** That almost hooks back to some old mythological ideas.

**DANZIG:** There's nothing mythological about them at all. It's basically some old religious ideas. People like to use the word "occult" like it's going out of style—almost like they use the word "generic." It can cover parapsychology, witchcraft, Satanism, black magic, everything. It's an unfair word. You don't have a cover-all word for Catholicism or anything like that. My words and my music are all made to fit a certain mood, and my lyrics are made to accompany that.

**RIP:** Why are you so attracted to a season that is usually associated with death?

**DANZIG:** Death is part of life. Without

death, there is no life, and without life there is no death. It's there. If more people better understood death, and realized that it really is a part of life, I think a lot of them would strive to enjoy life a little more while they're here. They should be thankful for the things they have, as opposed to what other people have or what other people are. They should be happy with what they've got. Nobody ever gave you a guaranteed contract on life. There are some things I've found out just recently that have changed my life totally. They're things that you don't hear about, concerning God, that were in the original Bible, but that aren't in it now because churches changed them with their propaganda.

**RIP:** Like what?

**DANZIG:** On the new record there's a song, "Twist of Cain," about Cain and Abel. Abel's murder by Cain is the first recorded murder in the history of man and, basically, in the original Bible it says that Eve came to know Satan . . . she screwed him. She gave birth to Cain, so that through Cain, Satan could commit the first murder, since he's not allowed to directly, physically



mess with anybody. Basically, God and Satan are the fathers of mankind; so you can do both good and evil. That opens up a whole world for me. It puts things in perspective, so that you know that there are two sides to anything.

**RIP:** Do you believe in God?

**DANZIG:** Not in a traditional sense. I believe in something with an ultimate power, and for lack of a better word, I call it God. Something to turn to for your own inner strength and power to survive. God should be to everybody what they need him to be.

**RIP:** What are some of the themes of the new record?

**DANZIG:** Violence, death, murder . . . all that stuff. It's part of what I think about and believe in. I'm not going to be singing any love songs.

**RIP:** A lot of your imagery is particularly brutal.

**DANZIG:** *Brutal* is a good word. For me, going onstage and putting out records is a brutal thing. Most people don't want to sit down . . . they want to go crazy. And whether they're in the pit, up front or in back, they want to be moved. They want to see something wild—which is how the other guys in the band and I feel about it.

**RIP:** Do you think you've gained a lot more fans from Metallica promoting Danzig,

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Samhain and the Misfits?

**DANZIG:** I don't know about that, but we have been selling a lot more T-shirts! I'd imagine people are seeing those guys wearing the shirts and going, "I want a shirt like that." Maybe they'll even go out and buy the record. If they do buy the record, they still have to make their own choice. They might listen to the record and say it sucks, or they'll think it's pretty wild. Maybe it'll even make a couple of people come and see us live, where they might not have before.

**RIP:** Now that you have an opportunity to give your ideas to a far larger audience, what will you do?

**DANZIG:** That's what I wanted all along. It's all fine and well playing the club circuit and knocking your head in for years, but I would honestly like to reach a much larger audience. I think a lot of the things that I have to say are things that a lot of people are interested in hearing. I get a lot of letters from kids who are just totally into what we're about—and that's totally gratifying.

**RIP:** Why the name change?

**DANZIG:** I think more people can relate to the name Danzig than to Samhain. More people know what it is as far as the tie-in with the Misfits. Not to be egotistical, but I think the name Danzig carries a lot more

weight than Samhain in terms of people realizing what's there.

**RIP:** How is it working with Rick Rubin?

**DANZIG:** Rick is great. A lot of times he'll say something, and I'll finish the sentence. We're both on the same wavelength at certain times. I respect him as a producer and as somebody with a lot of intelligence. Now we have our shot, and if we screw up, we have no one to blame but ourselves. A lot of bands never get this chance, and a lot of them should. We're going to make it happen, and I think we're going to blow the world apart. Basically, I hope we're a huge success, because then MTV will have to play our videos. They and radio stations won't be able to ignore us. Look at Metallica. They've sold just about or over platinum without any big amount of radio airplay or videoplay. They showed that it can be done in the mass media. Right now, Metallica is so big, no one can ignore them. If they did a video, MTV would have to play it. I'd like to be in that position as well, where people couldn't ignore us or tell us to go away.

**RIP:** Now that you're on a bigger scale, what is the biggest message you have to communicate?

**DANZIG:** Live your life, live it to the fullest, and don't let anyone fuck you over ✂