

PROFILED

THE SUPERSUCKERS

Celebrating thirty years of spreading the evil powers of rock 'n' roll, the Arizona power trio are back with their rollicking new record 'Suck It'. James Sharples talks to frontman Eddie Spaghetti of the unstoppable Supersuckers.

Where are you now Eddie? "We're in Columbus, Ohio. There's people here who needed to get rocked last night so we came to town and did that for them and now we're leaving town again. It's an off day today. We've got to go all the way to Minneapolis, which is twelve hours away so we've got the day off to get there."

It's your 30th anniversary this year. How crazy is that?

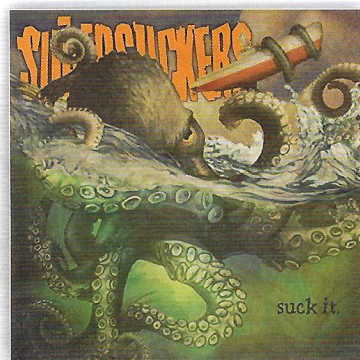
"It's fucking nuts, man. Who would have thought?"

You're twelve albums in now. That in itself is a hell of a feat, especially these days.

"Something like that. It doesn't seem like nearly enough. But it is an achievement, especially considering how good they all are. It feels to me that each record has been better than the last one, pretty much. Still nobody gives a shit, except the few, the proud and people with impeccable taste."

But you guys make great fucking records – distilling the genre of rock 'n' roll into one LP.

"That's what we do – we make good quality rock 'n' roll music for people who care. The connoisseurs of quality I call them. We kind of realised a while back that what we do is not for everyone and I guess we're kind of like a boutique operation. Handcrafted rock 'n' roll, all on our own and all by ourselves. Nobody is helping us. You've got to just come to terms with that and be cool with it I guess because otherwise I'd be a miserable, bitter, jealous old man. It happens quick."



RECOMMENDED

'Suck It' (2018)

Label: Stearnhammer

Members: Eddie Spaghetti (vocals/bass), "Metal" Marty Chandler (guitar/vocals), "Captain" Chris Von Streicher (drums/vocals)

Do you think the you that recorded that first Supersuckers album could have recorded this one?

"Yeah, I do. I feel that what I've tried to do over the years is intentionally not to grow too much as an artist. I want to leave behind a legacy like Motorhead, AC/DC or the Ramones where pretty much all the records sound the same but they have different, better songs on them. I can conceivably see myself making this record as a young man. Although now I have

all this age on me the subject matter seems to get a little more twisted as I get older. I guess that's a good thing."

When you're writing songs, how do you know what will work and what won't and also when a song is finished?

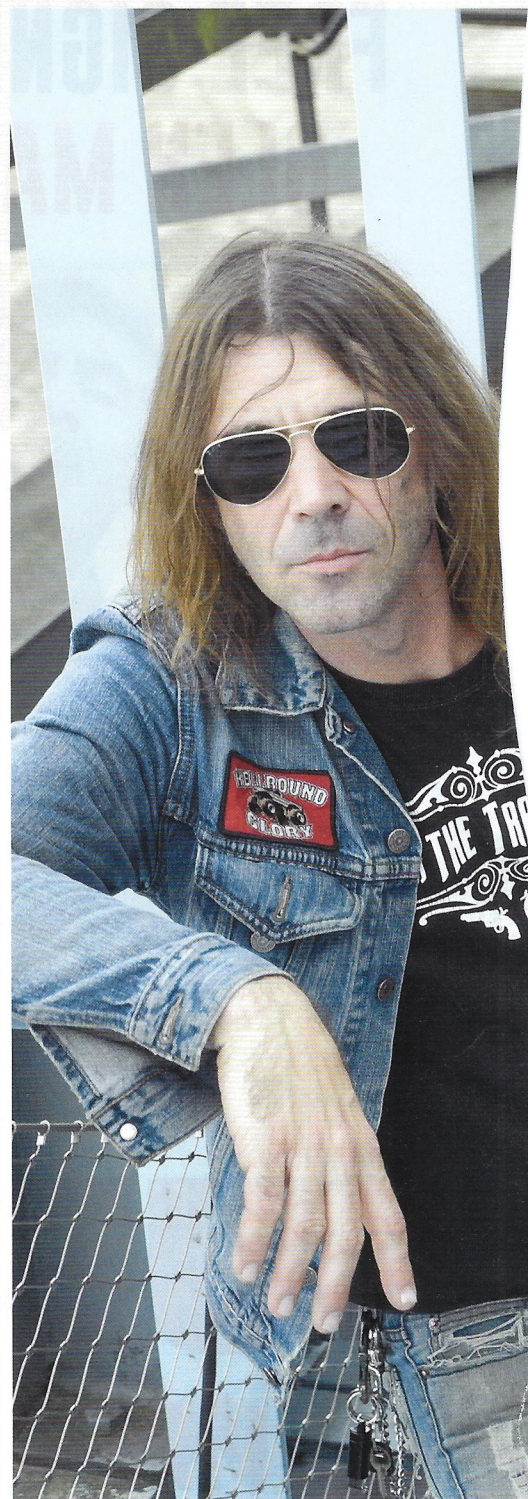
"I think it's just something you innately know. I think that's the difference between someone who does this for a living and someone who just dabbles in it. Having that sixth sense I guess of when something is truly finished and whether it's any good. You can't just put out every song you make up and have it be good, it's just not going to happen! You try to make up good shit."

Can you remember the last song you wrote where you were just like 'oh my god, this is fucking terrible!'

"Oh yeah, it happens all the time. Every day I pick up the guitar and try and make up something and usually it's nothing. Out of those miserable sessions you start to get something good. But usually the good songs are immediate. They happen almost immediately and they're done very quickly. You look back at this process very fondly because it was so easy. Yet some of the really good ones are poured over, gone over and worked on, switched around and messed with until they seem right. There's examples of both of those on the new record. 'Dead Inside' happened very quickly, was done almost immediately, and 'The History of Rock 'N' Roll' was one that was poured over for a long time and was laborious and is still awesome. It was a riff I had since I was a kid, in my teens, and I finally got it to work."

It seems like this album has a grittier vibe to it. I loved that on the previous albums you guys sounded like you were having such a blast playing them. This one seems a bit harder, I guess?

"Yeah, it's a little tougher of a record I suppose. Some of my family members have said 'man, this record is so dark!' It's not really that dark, there's a lot of goofy shit on there. There's 'What's Up With This Motherfuckin' Thing' and 'choke myself and masturbate 'til I die', these are fun songs!"



You guys play good time rock 'n' roll that you can drink beer to and hang out with friends to. But I don't see why that's not seen as a serious thing?

"We're not trying to make comedy records, although I like to be funny from time to time. It's the same thing with movies – the comedy movie never wins the Oscar but it's the movie you want to see over and over again. You're not going to watch 'The Shape of Water' more than once or twice but fucking 'Caddyshack', you're never going to get tired of watching 'Caddyshack'! For me it's just about making up good rock music, having a good time with it and not being so serious. I'm serious about the craft of it though, I really try hard to make up good rock 'n' roll songs."

On the press release you say you've "finally become the band you've threatened to be". Can you expand on that?



"Yeah, I feel like we've been saying we're this great band for so long but now I actually have guys in the band that make it great. Everybody looks cool, is easy to hang out with, is on the same page. There's not any of the struggles that there used to be in the past so it makes everything more enjoyable and better I think. The live show now is amazing and nobody comes away from it saying 'oh I miss the other guitar player or the other drummer'. They're just so blown away by the show now."

So it's more like a cohesive unit or a gang now?
 "It is, it's like how you imagine it when you're a kid. 'I'm going to have a band of dudes and we're going to be cool and tough and it's going to be awesome and we're going to be great!' It's kind of like that now, except everything is still a struggle and you try to keep your debit card working and all that sort of stuff. It's still super fun."

It must be quite a buzz when you're on stage, the sound is good, the crowd is up for it and the band is locked in?

"It's a great feeling for sure. It's one that not really everybody appreciates the whole idea of it. You have to appreciate the idea of rock 'n' roll and the whole mythology of it. That's something that's missing now from music in general – the mystery of it. There's so much access to the artist. 'Here's what I had for breakfast', 'I just wiped my ass'. There's no mystery to it at all anymore. The information is all out there. It's harder to be a fan when you know exactly what somebody is up to."

What does rock 'n' roll mean to you and has your relationship with it changed over the years?

"I don't know. For me it's just what I do, it's in my blood and it's an extension of who I am. It's the only thing in the world that I'm truly good

at. I think I've just grown more and more fond of it, especially over the last few years when it feels like it's becoming this antiquated art form with fewer and fewer people who really give a shit. To me that just makes it that much more valuable. It's a precious resource. I'd hate to see the day where it would be completely gone. I definitely feel like it's on us to keep moving it forward in any little way that we can."

Is your musical legacy what you think about now? Especially after 30 years of rock 'n' roll?

"It is, especially after having gotten the cancer and going through that. The idea that what you leave behind is important. I want to look back on all of our songs and be super proud of them. So far I feel like I have a good leg to stand on with that." **VLR**

*'Suck It' is out now on Steamhammer
 The Supersuckers tour the UK this month*