

[NEWS](#) [EPISODES](#) [REVIEWS](#) [FROM THE TAPE DECK](#) [VIDEO INTERVIEWS](#) [COMEDY VIDEOS](#) [CONTACT US](#)
[WRITTEN INTERVIEWS](#) [MMA/BOXING](#) [LINKS](#)



INTERVIEW



Interview by: Rob "Bubbs" Harris

Blag Dahlia is probably known by most of you as the unpredictable firecracker front man for the legendary punk rock band The Dwarves. His many exploits over the years have earned him quite the reputation a balls out rock and roller the likes of which this world is rarely afforded. However, like most musicians, there is a softer and more artistically oriented side to Blag. With Candy Now! , we see the punk rock dynamo going in a whole new direction and taking a chance on something a little different. Teaming up with Angelina Moysov of Persephone's Bees to give us their take on the classic Americana sound, Blag demonstrates just how to write quality music without having to repeat himself over and over. Some of you might be wondering what the hell he's thinking and be taken back a bit, kind of like hip-hop fans who cherish Goodie Mob's "Soulfood" said "Huh?" when Cee Lo dropped his solo shit and then Gnarles Barkley. But, if he always did what we expected, where would the fun and excitement be ? Hell, I'm sure you might wonder why we're even covering Candy Now! , seeing as how we mostly deal in the more heavy duty side of things, but every now and again we have to take things down a notch and simply touch on something that we consider truly unique and share it with you all. Blag was gracious enough to put a call in to Bubbs to fill everyone in on what the story is with Candy Now! , and to give us a small taste of what is to come from The Dwarves.

TSP: Hey Blag. How are you ?

Blag: Quite well. Yourself ?

TSP: Very well indeed. Thanks for your time.

Blag: Sure, it's my pleasure.

TSP: Hell, how could Blag Dahlia turn down a mag called The Salty Pirate ?

Blag : What do you mean by that ?

TSP: Oh, you don't know what a salty pirate is ?

Blag: No, what is it ?

TSP: Apparently, it's when you cum in a chick's eye and then kick her in the shin so she's blind in one eye and hopping on one leg.

Blag: (A Hearty Laugh) That's great ! Thanks for sharing that with me. (More Laughs)

TSP: No problem. Yeah, you would think that with a name like that, we would be a porn site instead covering metal and punk .

Blag: Well, those two worlds aren't too far apart.

TSP: I guess you're right. Let's go ahead and jump right on the subject of Candy Now! . How did a sweet little thing like Angelina Moysov get mixed up with a guy like you ?

Blag: I know, it's pretty crazy. Well, we met through the producer, Eric Valentine. He had produced the last record from Persephone's Bees, which is her band. They have kind of a cool international pop thing going on. Any way, I first heard her that way. She's from Russia and has a very unique sounding voice, and when I heard it, I was like "Wow!". So, I got to thinking about all these songs I had that would sound good as like duets, but didn't quite fit into the Dwarves world, that have been sitting around for years, and I was thought that maybe we should make a record together. I contacted her about it, and she liked the idea, so here we are. We actually have our first official rehearsal coming up here soon, so that should be a lot of fun.

TSP: I was going to ask about that. So you are going to bring Candy Now! To the live audience ?

Blag: Yeah, I'm hoping we can get something going and do some shows.



TSP: What are you going to do for the live set ? I picture like a musical variety show, since there is such a Sonny and Cher quality to this project. Are you going to have a crazy stage show and wear like a sequined bellbottom jumpsuit or something ?

Blag: Your guess is as good as mine on that one. I just hope that we can keep that vibe going that we have on the record for the live show. You know, we're both very different people but we have a great chemistry between us. She comes from a totally different world and gets a big kick out of me and my antics, and the fact that I can't sing, so it makes for a lot of good fun.

TSP: I wouldn't say that you can't sing. In fact, I think you have a very unique voice. Besides, you're better than Tom Petty, and that dude sells millions of records.

Blag: You got me there.

TSP: I mentioned before about the Sonny and Cher vibe you got going on with Angelina and yourself. A few songs have some playful banter between you. Was that dialogue written into the songs, or was it just something that happened in the studio ?

Blag: No, it wasn't written in. That thing on "Waiting Here for You" was totally improvised. What I did was give Angelina the tracks that I had and basically begged her to listen to the fucking songs and rehearse, but she just wouldn't do it. But then she would show up, and she's so damn good that she could just whip something up on the fly and nail it. With that particular song, it just happened, because I knew the song and she didn't, so I was goofing around with her as we did it, and that goofing around turned out to be really funny and made the song that much better.



TSP: I can pick out a wide range of influences when I listen to Candy Now! , but instead of me telling you what I think it sounds like, how about you tell me who inspired you on these tracks.

Blag: No, please tell me what you think it sounds like.

TSP: Okay. I think "Alice" has a very Elvis Costello feel to it, and "Take Me to Your Leader" has a straight up B52's vibe. There are others too, but those are the most significant.

Blag: You got it. "Take Me to Your Leader" was the first thing that we did together. I thought it would be funny because she's Russian and is kind of like an alien over here (U.S.A.) . Not an alien from outer space mind you, but one from another country. So that was the joke there. You are also right about the Elvis Costello vibe on "Alice" , but there are also some more old school American influences. I like Louis Prima and Keely Smith a lot, because he was the band leader, but was almost like a comedian also, with kind of a goofy voice, and she had that cute girl thing happening with the great voice to boot. That's what we got going with this record. I'm like the comic relief and she's the actual talent. Each individual track has a different feel and influence. I think that's also kind of a continuation of what we were doing with The Dwarves. You know, we could do the whole punk thing really well and the question was "Where else can we go with this, and what else is interesting ?" I think a lot of bands sell themselves short because they think that they have to repeat themselves over and over to please the fans, because that's commercially viable. Fuck that ! I like to mix it up, and with this record, I wanted to take all the great aspects of classic Americana and spice it up in my own way. There are hints of many different styles and decades in there.

TSP: I was going to ask how the rest of the Dwarves felt about you taking such a departure from the brash punk rock that you are so infamous for, but I see that a couple of them threw their hat into the ring as well.

Blag: Sort of. None of them actually play on the record, but a few of them co-wrote some of these songs. Like "Alice" was written by myself and SaltPeter, the original Dwarves bassist, and "I'm on Your Side" was a co-write with

HeWhoCannotBeNamed and Wholey Smokes helped write "Do What You Wanna".



TSP: "Do What You Wanna" is probably the most Dwarves sounding song on there.

Blag: That one and "I Think Your Boyfriend's Dead..." do have a little bit of a Dwarves feel, but they are still a little bit light for a Dwarves record. With those, I kind of ran out of ideas and pulled out a few songs that were lying around to fill the album out.

TSP: Could those songs also be kind of a reminder that you are still a rock and roller at heart ?

Blag: If you want to see it that way, sure. But if you listen to the early Dwarves stuff, those songs might have fit if they were a little bit heavier, because they have that 60's-70's garage band style to them, but like I said, they just didn't fit with the Dwarves sound and I wanted to run the gamut on Candy Now! , so I tossed them in. I like to do that. Like, I pull out the Blag voice for the song "Revolving" and then you got Nash Kato from Urge Overkill doing a deep Johnny Cash thing, so it really adds a dynamic to each individual song when you try something different and just go for it. It's a big clusterfuck of styles, which is kind of what I have become.

TSP: You mentioned Nash Kato. I was blown away when I heard that members of Urge Overkill contributed to the album. I always liked that band and thought that they really didn't garner the respect that they deserved as just a solid rock band.

Blag: I couldn't agree more. I think that they just hit at the wrong time. Even though they were playing straight up rock music, they did it with a sense of humor about themselves and a sense of style, while most of the bands from the grunge era were so tedious. I think that's what we saw in each other, because we were both trying to break out of the box a little. We also had that Chicago connection too, so we were already partying and hanging out together on the scene anyway. I'm glad I was able to pull Nash in on this thing because I think he fits very well into what I was trying to do.

TSP: Besides Nash and Angelina, did you already have an idea of who you wanted to work with on Candy Now! , or did you just pitch it to some folks and roll with it ?

Blag: It actually started as just me with an acoustic guitar, knocking out a bunch of songs that I never got to do during the Dwarves years, and I found out that you really have to have a great voice to sing songs like this, so I started to think of who I know that actually has one, because I sure don't (Chuckle) . So ,luckily, Angelina agreed to help out.

Musically, most of the additional little nuances were done by this musical genius named Tom Ayres, who is also the guitarist from Persephone's Bees, and he played a lot of the instruments on the album. He was able to come in and take the music to a whole new dimension, and I really think it worked. To me, that's a big part of the production process, figuring out what other people are good at and letting them do it. Brad Cook also helped out a lot with the overall sound of the record.

TSP: I usually don't fuck around with MySpace these days, because it makes my computer act retarded, but I stopped by the Candy Now! page and was surprised by something funny. When I first heard the album, my immediate impression was that it sounded like a David Lynch film's soundtrack. Then, lo and behold, that's exactly what you said it sounded like on your profile. Weird !

Blag: That is funny. You are right though. It has that very esoteric, trippy production approach. Hopefully, David Lynch will contact me and want to use some of these songs; that would be an honor. That's kind of what I was going for anyway. I think these songs would be perfect for film and television. I don't know how many fifteen year olds are going to rush out to get the Candy Now! Record, but I could see a director saying that they could really use some of these tunes for particular scenes. Maybe they will, who knows ?

TSP: I could see "Bachelorette" blowing up.

Blag: I certainly hope so. I had to fight a lot of people over that one.

TSP: Since you said that, all in all, what do you have to say to the naysayers and goons that might slag you for doing something so radically different from what you are known for ?

Blag: Well you know, when you come from a punk background you get looked at as a sellout or whatever, but my idea of a sellout is a band or songwriter who starts out with a great sound and starts to drift further away from that, all while keeping the same members and name, until you end up with a Goo Goo Dolls thing, where you have a band that started out sounding like The Replacements and then got progressively slower and lighter until all that you had was a watered down mess. You gotta have a little variety, but there is a way to go about it. I think when you actually go the distance and produce something different, people are always going to talk shit. If people go into this thinking that it's going to sound like a Dwarves record, they are going to be sorely disappointed, but if they take it for what it is instead of comparing it to something else, they might enjoy it. It's going to be difficult to target any certain audience, because this record is so all over the place, but I think a lot of people will get it and appreciate what we were trying to accomplish on this album. And if they don't, FUCK 'EM ! But where this album is on the softer side, the first track on the new Dwarves album is gonna be "Let's Just Get High and Fuck Some Sluts", so that should be more of a return to form.



TSP: (Laughs) Man, I love the titles of Dwarves songs.

Blag: You and me both pal. Sometimes the title is the best part.

TSP: Since we were on the subject of The Dwarves before, let's talk about the throbblehead figure coming out.

Blag: Yeah, the bobblehead is coming out very soon. I tried to talk them into releasing the figure when we release the new album, but they wanted to go ahead and get it out there, so we'll see what happens with that.

TSP: How did Aggronautix approach you for the figure, and how does it feel to be immortalized in precious plastic ?

Blag: It's cool. I can give something like that to my folks and they get a big kick out of it, it's fun. You know, Aggronautix does a lot of punk rock stuff, like they released bobbleheads of Tesco Vee and GG Allin, so it was only fitting that they do a Dwarves one. When they contacted me about it, I was like "Hell Yeah!" but I said that the only way I would do it was if it was me and HeWho. So it's a two headed figure; pretty cool.

TSP: Even though I have been a Dwarves fan for many a year, I haven't yet had the pleasure of seeing you live. That being said, I have to ask you about something. Word around the campfire is that one of your favorite things to do at a show is pick out some random momo from the crowd that is singing along, invite them up on stage, hand them the mic, and then slug `em once they start singing. Is this true ?

Blag: Absolutely not. Who told you that ?

TSP: Just a guy.

Blag: That guy don't know shit. I've never done anything like that. I love it when people know the words to our songs, and I'm more than happy to pass the mic to the crowd and have them sing along, it's great. I would never punch someone out for singing along to The Dwarves. I can see where that would sound like something I would do, but I still get blamed for chicks my drummer fucked back in 1982, so I'm used to improper allegations. Granted, Dwarves shows can get a little out of hand sometimes.

TSP: If you ain't bleeding a little bit, it ain't punk rock .

Blag: That's right.

TSP: Well, I'm glad to hear that you don't hate a good sing along, but there are certain circumstances where I could see getting annoyed. You get it one of two ways. There's the times when the crowd joins along with the choruses and everybody shouts key lyrics, and then you have that one guy, usually in a Rancid t-shirt or something delightfully cliché, that is bellowing over in front of the stage, trying to match the power of the microphone, and it's like "Listen here Fucko, you need to take it down a notch. I'm the singer for this band".

Blag: Yeah, there is usually a guy like that at every show, but I don't mind so much. I love it that people know all the words to Dwarves songs. It's like I rented a little space in their brains, and that makes me happy. You hear that folks ? Come out to a Dwarves show; I won't punch you, I promise.

TSP: It's funny because I was told that you were a real son of a bitch, yet here you are a perfect gentleman. I don't know why people assume you are a total dick, when you are being a real class act right now.

Blag: I have been known to rip on the occasional journalist, but it's mostly those dumbass motherfuckers that you can tell are just reading the same stupid questions that I've answered a million times from a piece of paper, like "When did you get started?" and "What are your influences". I hate that shit. It's like "Motherfucker, go look at the website and read our bio if you want to know shit like that." But, when someone actually takes the time and effort to listen to my music and come up with some intelligent banter, I'm flattered and more than happy to chat with them.

TSP: Hell, I'm sure a lot of our readers are gonna be like "What the fuck?" when they read this and then checkout Candy Now! , because we are known for covering the heavier side of metal and punk.

Blag: Oh shit, you don't want to get me started on heavy metal. I come from a punk band, so I never really cared too much for heavy metal, other than a song here and a band there. What sucks about metal is the assholes who play it. These guys hire all their friends to lug their shit around and run interference to make sure that nobody gets close to them. I've never seen such pretentious jerk offs. Why do these fuckers have to have three different techs to tune their guitars, or drum kits ? And how come you have to be on a certain level before you can do an interview with them, or talk to them in any way ? These fucks are so obsessed with their fucking gear , and their bus, and their backstage, and they always have to have a million people around them to keep the outsiders away. That's what is so beautiful about punk rock; you can go up to the bands and interact with them, and their happy to oblige.



TSP: I see your point there. I do have a lot harder time connecting with metal bands, rather than punk bands. Some labels and PR companies are super cool, and are willing to help out a small zine like ours, but a lot of them think that their shit don't stink and we have to be like fucking Blabbermouth before they will have anything to do with us. It sucks. How are we supposed to grow if nobody wants to work with us ? As a matter of fact, the last show I went to was Leftover Crack, The Casualties, and Trash Talk. I was there to do a show review and was supposed to be on Trash Talk's list. When I got to will call, there was no list for Trash Talk. If that had been a metal show, I would have had to contact a zillion people to try and correct the problem because the band is hiding in their bus, only to wind up shit out of luck most of the time. But, since it was a punk show, I just walked around back, found the dudes in Trash Talk and told them what was up, and instead of acting like it was a pain in their ass to get me in, they got me in and invited me out back to enjoy some doobies and beers in between sets. As a matter of fact, all the dudes from all three bands were very sociable and nice as pie.

Blag: Exactly, that's what it's all about. I can't stand that pecking order bullshit in heavy metal music. We once did a tour with Motorhead and got kicked off. Now, I was a huge Motorhead fan, but when we got on the road with them, it was a disaster. First off, I'm wondering why these guys need to hire strippers that I already fucked to hang around with them and make them seem more desirable and interesting. Then if you don't totally kiss their asses, you get a call from their manager or somebody, telling you to watch your ass if you want to have the enormous privilege of playing with them. And here we are, we have no crew, they tell us to do a sound check and then tell us that they don't have time for that shit, why don't we have techs for that ? Then they hassle us to cut our set shorter, and when we do, they hassle us about doing too short a set. So when we got up to do our sound check, I was like "Check one, two, get a fucking haircut. Check one, two , go back to England you pretentious assholes. I care nothing for your fucking heavy metal band." They didn't like that too much, but so what ? People might not talk to them like that, but maybe they need to. I call the statute of limitation on the music too. Lemmy's a talented guy and all, but if you can't make a decent fucking record in twenty years time, it's time to fucking hang it up and get off the road and out of the way. I hate to say that punk rock also started leaning in that direction in the 90's. Now you get that shit when you go to Warped Tour. You got some assholes stumbling over their gear and acting all high and mighty. Fuck those guys too!

TSP: Wow ! Well, now that I've got you good and riled up, let me tell you something. The Supersuckers have also laid claim to the title of World's Greatest Band. What do you and the rest of The Dwarves think about that ?

Blag: (Laughs) You know what I call The Supersuckers ?Dwarves Jr. ! And we call Zeke, Dwarves the Third. Those guys are all my buddies though.

TSP: Okay. I was wondering if this was something that we were going to have to settle in the Thunderdome.

Blag: No, I love all those guys. We've been friends for a long time, but they have to take my shit because I'm the old man.

TSP: I'm glad to hear that there is a new Dwarves record coming out as well.

Blag: Shit yeah, The Dwarves are Born Again" ! It should be out in January or February of next year, and it's a return to form for us, but there are some little surprises as well. Everybody plays on this too. All the past and present Dwarves are here on this one, so it should be pretty cool.



TSP: What else have you got up your sleeve ?

Blag: I like to do a solo thing with just me and an acoustic guitar, doing funny little novelty songs. I got one about fucking Anne Frank. So look out for that.

TSP: Anne Frank probably could have used a good screw, you know, to take the edge off.

Blag: (Laughs) Yeah. I always thought Anne Frank was kind of cute.

TSP: That pretty much does it on this end. Is there anything that you want the good readers to know before we get out of here ?

Blag: Yeah. Be sure to go to TheDwarves.com . Make sure you put "The" in there or it will take you to a bunch of elves and hobbits and shit. Also, pick up Candy Now, the throbblehead figure, and "The Dwarves are Born Again" when they drop. It's been a pleasure talking to you.

TSP: Pleasure's all mine, Blag..... Pleasure's all mine.

Welcome to TheSaltyPirate.com. We are dedicated to showing you the best bands and comedians that deserve attention. Kill your TV, watch all the uncensored comedy and metal you need right here.

Click below to check us out on Myspace



©2008 The Salty Pirate