

Speaking With . . . Bad Brains



Altercation: Are you still excited by the prospect of playing live?

Daryl Jennifer (Bass): Yeah, I love playing live. It's a beautiful thing, to get the crowd response, and to play beside my brothers, first as youth and now as men.

A: Bad Brains have been around a long time.

D: Over twenty years.

A: I know a lot of bands cite you as an influence on their work. How have you seen the scene change over those twenty years? How is it different now from when you were first starting out?

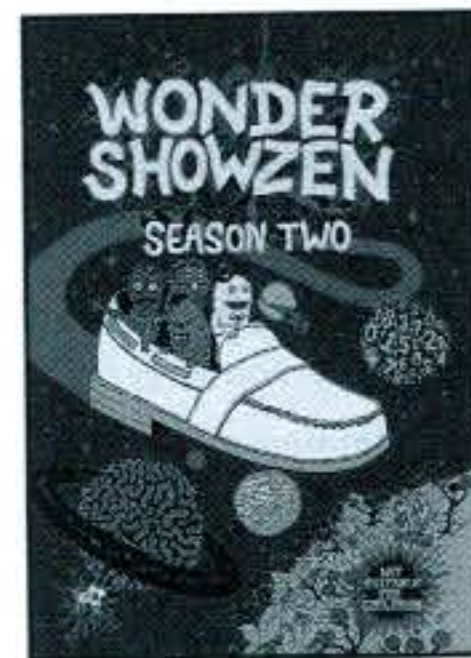
D: That's a hard question. I mean when you're living something...say I look back on 1980. And I'm in NY playing CBGB's. That's Darryl Jennifer of 1980. So I would look at you and say that there was a fresher scene, because I was involved in it in that way. But if I grow out of the scene and look back on it, it may not seem so fresh. Like I might say to you, "Oh, these kids today don't know nothing about punk rock". But I can't say that. Because the kid sitting out there in the leather pants and the green spikey hair, to him, that's his punk rock. His punk rock might mean getting kicked out of the Youth Center, whereas our punk rock was getting kicked out of the club.

A: Fair enough, but would you agree that things seem a bit watered down these days?

D: As far as the music, I feel that the kids today, as far as their rock goes, they rely on a de-tuning. More of a monster sound, to try and come up with their feelings of aggression. Whereas in our day, groups like Dead Kennedy's and Black Flag and Bad Brains, we used to play in E. We didn't de-tune to sound aggressive. We used the shrill. So I'm getting the feeling that the de-tuning and more demonic sound that they can get out of their instruments and voices is giving them more of an aggressive sound. So it's makin' me want to tune up (laughs). So I can speak as a musician on that level. They're trying to drop tune to sound hard.

I mean, look at a song like "Re-Ignition" or "Regulator". That's straight E, and to me it sounds pretty aggressive. And I don't wanna say aggression in terms of negativity either. I always say that our group is like a thunderstorm. Like, when it's storming out, is that something you want to look at as not being positive? Like a little kid that hears thunder crack and is gonna go cry and think of monsters comin'? Or does it sound like glory or creation, which is a beautiful thing? It's the same thing with our music. People shouldn't mistake that because they see me carry the continents of Rasta, or because I play rock music very loud that it's a vibe of negative aggression. It's the lightning crack and the thunder roll. JT Ⓜ

Wonder Showzen: Season Two DVD • MTV2



How in the hell this show is in any way associated with MTV is beyond me. Granted, maybe the execs there never bothered to actually view one of the episodes personally (at least

until recently...sadly, there will be no third season), because *Wonder Showzen* is without a doubt the most subversive shit I have ever seen on television, hands down.

Don't believe me? Fair enough. But if you can find another mock-children's program that shows puppets feeding an actual human baby to demons or a 10-year-old dressed like Hitler asking man-on-the-street questions, then I'll eat my hat. As if that's not enough, you also get special guests like David Cross (who gets his throat cut by Islamic fundamentalists, showering pre-schoolers in blood) and Sleater-Kinney's Corin Tucker.

At times *Wonder Showzen* gets so demented you actually need a break to re-evaluate your sanity. Blisteringly smart and brave to the point of terrifying, *Wonder Showzen* is the most amazingly envelope-pushing televised parody since *All In The Family*. JT

Bad Brains • Live at CBGB's • MVD



Where the heck has this treasure been buried all of these years? Filmed over a two night Christmas residency in New York City, *Live...* reveals the Bad Brains of old in all of their hardcore

-punk-reggae-rasta glory.

The time capsule footage of the early Eighties CB's crowd is a hoot (dig those old school mohawks!), and hit after hit is practically thrown at the kids, most of whom look exhausted by the time HR brings the show to a halt to dispatch a kid's head from bleeding all over the front of his white shirt. An invaluable piece of punk rock history, *Live...* is mandatory viewing for fans young and old. JT