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Blag Dahlia's Dwarves remain as debauched as ever



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By Allan MacInnis, May 17, 2012

Dwarves frontman Blag Dahlia is a self-confessed late bloomer when it comes to milking his lizard.

"I didn't discover the joys of masturbation till I was 18," he confides to the Straight via his San Francisco land line. "I don't understand how it happened, but I had sex first for a couple of years and then figured out, 'Oh, masturbation—you can do that!'"

The conversation is apropos of the song "I Masturbate Me", off the Dwarves' eighth full-length studio album, The Dwarves Are Born Again, the record celebrating the punk reprobates' 25th anniversary. The music for the tune was provided by Devo/Vandals/A Perfect Circle drummer Josh Freese.

"It starts slow, and builds up, so it reminded me of masturbation," Dahlia explains. The lyrics include a line about how "with a stroke I create thee", an apparent reference to Hindu mythology. "That's right—every time I masturbate I'm creating a whole universe," he says. "I'm glad you caught that."

In addition to guest appearances by Freese and the Offspring's Dexter Holland, the album features Dwarves from all past incarnations, each brought in to match their musical specialties, including Vadge Moore and Salt Peter from the 1990 hardcore Sub Pop classic Blood Guts & Pussy. Familiar faces returning include dwarf mascot Bobby Faust, who is surrounded on the cover by naked girls in a resurrection motif. That image is only one of what the singer calls "irreligious moments" on the record.

"There's some great excoriations of Catholicism on there, too," argues Dahlia, who describes himself as a "Catholic escapee". "It comes with being Italian. You gotta kinda stick with it till you get confirmed and then they let you on your own. So I had to go to confession, do all those things—you have to say how unworthy and low you are and all the horrible things you've done."

Thankfully, Dahlia has discontinued confessing; he'd never get to leave church, as a survey of the included DVD will confirm. Drugs, debauchery, and naked women abound. Then there's a girl named Tracy, who bounces enthusiastically along to a performance while hanging over the stage from hooks that pierce the skin of her back.

"Oh, man, is that weird, yeah!" Dahlia exclaims. "We met up with her in Chicago, just randomly, at a Halloween event, and they were stringing her up like some bizarre Man Called Horse Sioux ritual. I said 'You gotta do that while we play,' so while we were playing 'Salt Lake City,' they strung this girl up, bleeding and hanging from hooks. She seemed to be enjoying it!"



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As for manual penile stimulation, in one video, there's a glimpse of guitarist HeWhoCanNotBeNamed performing in Japan, clad only in boots and a Mexican wrestling mask; he's being jerked off by an avid fan in the front row. Given the guitarist's propensity for nudity, the question arises: how normal an occurrence is this?

"Y'know, is anything normal with the Dwarves?" Dahlia deadpans. "It was normal for us."

The Dwarves play Fortune Sound Club on Sunday (May 20).

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A. MacInnis

Thu, 2012-05-17 15:36

...and just for the record, folks - the avid fan was FEMALE. I guess HeWho would appreciate my mentioning that.

Rating: +1
1 vote

Agree Disagree

M.Hawk

Fri, 2012-05-18 13:48

The best thing about He who is that he's a special needs teacher in San Francisco... I kid you not!

Rating: 0
0 votes

Agree Disagree

A. MacInnis

Fri, 2012-05-18 22:36

Now if only I'd known that BEFORE I interviewed Blag...

Rating: 0
0 votes

What kind of special needs?

Agree Disagree

R2

Mon, 2012-05-21 13:23

Sounds like that girl in Japan was doing an ok job taking care of his special needs.

Rating: 0
0 votes

Agree Disagree

A. MacInnis

Tue, 2012-05-22 01:46

Thank God that SOMEONE ran with the special needs joke, I was beginning to think I'd completely crapped out with that ("never leave comments when you've been smoking").

Rating: 0
0 votes

By the by, HeWho was ABSENT from last night's show! But it was awesome anyhow, and some fan got nekkid and did a stage dive, so there WAS naked penis involved in the experience, for those who needed it. It was altogether too close to where I was standing, in fact - I don't think another man's naked dick has ever been closer to my face than last night. Wrinkly thing, too.

Agree Disagree

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