



# The DWARVES

interview with Blag Dahlia

By: Alisha Bjork

**M**asters of all things Rock n Roll, The Dwarves have been revolutionizing music since the 1980's.

From garage rock, to hardcore, surf, and even pop punk, their music has crossed all genres and conquered them all.

Known for an unpredictable live act that involves singer Blag Dahlia, who brings sheer punk terror to the stage, and guitarist HeWhoCannotBeNamed, who performs only in a mask and little to nothing else, the band has just celebrated their 25th anniversary with a new album, *The Dwarves Are Born Again*.

### HOW DID THE DWARVES FORM?

We began as a teenage garage band in suburban Illinois. We live on as a legend that will last a lifetime, long after other living legends have ceased to live or be legendary.

### WHAT KIND OF MUSIC BACKGROUNDS DID EVERYONE COME FROM, AND WHAT KIND OF INFLUENCES DID EVERYONE BRING TO THE TABLE?

Cover band, school band, bell ringer, chorus, community play, AM radio and Devo on Saturday Night Live. Also, the 80's!

### WHO WRITES THE LYRICS AND MUSIC?

One of the best things about the Dwarves is the songwriting team of Blag Dahlia and HeWhoCanNotBeNamed, but all of the Dwarves write music, and Rex Everything, Gregory Pecker and the Fresh Prince of Darkness also wrote songs for *The Dwarves Are Born Again*. Eric Valentine, Tom Ayres and Josh Freese even wrote and played on the new one.



### **HOW HAS THE DWARVES SOUND EVOLVED OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS?**

It's both evolved and devolved, getting way more musical and complex with session players and producers while at the same time remaining totally spontaneous and jacked up among the core members of the punk band itself. We are one of the few punk bands that can also make records from loops. We are the masters of all genres of Rock...Recognize!

### **WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THE DWARVES NOW?**

The audience has caught up to us now. They know we're as good as we always knew we were.

### **HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO NOT BURN OUT, AND KEEP MOVING FORWARD AS A BAND? WHAT KEEPS A BAND TOGETHER FOR 25 YEARS?**

Sex and money. If you can get those your Rock band experience has been worthwhile.

### **THE DWARVES HAVE A STAGE PRESENCE AND LIVE SHOW UNLIKE ANY OTHER BAND OUT THERE RIGHT NOW. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR FANS EXPECT FROM YOU WHEN THEY COME TO A LIVE SHOW?**

They expect us to give it all we've got. If that means sodomizing a gaggle of pre pubescent fans before the show, so be it!

### **BY NOT RELYING ON A MAJOR LABEL, HOW DO THE DWARVES FIND THE TIME AND RESOURCES TO DO EVERYTHING YOURSELVES?**

The distinction between major and indie is a false one in most cases, they operate the same way and to the advantage of the same people. By ignoring them you can find other ways to get paid for your music, like film and tv and advertising useless shit that people don't need.

### **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES, AND BIGGEST ADVANTAGES OF NOT RELYING ON A LABEL TO PUT OUT YOUR MUSIC?**

The ability to not rot in Hell.





**THERE ARE A LOT OF BANDS OUT THERE THAT THINK GETTING A MAJOR LABEL DEAL DEFINES SUCCESS. DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OF WISDOM FOR THESE BANDS?**

Yes I do. Please sell soft drinks or shoes instead of making music. Failing that, call me when you need a producer. I'll kick you back 10%, it's the only actual money you'll ever see!

**WHAT DEFINES SUCCESS FOR THE DWARVES?**

Sleeping with as many girls in a half an hour as possible. Getting your own hotel room. Pop Tarts in the candy machine. Appearing on Spongebob.

**WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO THE DWARVES MUSICALLY?**

If you can't be good, be forceful.

**WHAT ARE SOME MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE BAND?**

That we suck. The truth is, we're really groovy. Just because you saw us and we hadn't rehearsed and screamed 'fuck' for half an hour before collapsing in a heap doesn't mean we aren't the most brilliant band out there.



**DO YOU FEEL LIKE PART OF A SCENE OR MORE LIKE NOMADS?**

We are part of a nomadic scene, like the Mongols under Genghis Khan, but without smearing shit all over ourselves and drinking pony's urine. Throughout history certain bands have been better than other bands. We're one of those bands, if not more than one of those bands.

**WHO ARE SOME LOCAL BANDS THAT YOU LIKE WATCHING?**

I watch out for the band of drug dealers that sling on my block. I don't like watching them, but you can't turn your back on them for a minute.

**WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE DWARVES?**

We'll keep playing killer shows and releasing genius records until we die, I suppose.

[www.thedwarves.com](http://www.thedwarves.com) has dirty pictures, demented videos, legendary songs and so much more. Get the DWARVES ARE BORN AGAIN record right now - comes with a free dvd! You Love The Dwarves!!! **PM** ★

