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## THE DWARVES: BACK AT IT... AND STILL THE BEST

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Anyone who has ever been a fan of The Dwarves knows that they are true originals. The band's two staple members, guitarist HeWhoCannotBeNamed and lead singer Blag Dahlia, are anomalies all their own. In recent years, they have branched out with solo projects, but are now ready to put their reckless energy back into the Dwarves. The band has seen trend after trend go by the wayside while they have grown a following of devoted fans around the world. Somehow, this highly explosive punk rock outfit has lasted for 25 years, and to mark that occasion, they have released their twelfth full-length record *Born Again*. I had a chat with Blag about where the band is now and what they want out of the future.

**SLUG:** What was your approach to the new record?

**Blag:** Well the idea this time around was to get every member of the Dwarves over the past 25 years together and make a sick record, still make it punk rock, and make it great for our fans... and we succeeded.

**SLUG:** The band has evolved so much over the years, and you're all over the place influence wise. How would you describe what the Dwarves sound like?

**Blag:** The early Dwarves were like a '60s garage band, and then you had the hardcore Dwarves with Blood Guts and Pussy. Their was kind of a pop punk Dwarves with Young and Good Looking, and after that it kind of became a free for all with death metal one minute and hip hop the next and just whatever we wanted. To me it's a rock n' roll band and the problem with most punk bands is that they're playing so fast that they forget that its rock n' roll.

**SLUG:** Between this record and the last record both you and HeWhoCannotBeNamed have put out solo records. What did you get out of those as opposed to doing more Dwarves stuff?

**Blag:** For HeWho he got to sing which obviously he doesn't get to do in the Dwarves very much. For me, I had a bunch of songs that were more traditional Americana type songs like country or even disco songs and duets. They weren't going to fit on a Dwarves record so I met up with this group called Persephone's Bees and they're this two person group—a man and a women team—and they're very complex and pop. So I just thought I could make record with these guys and it would be a cool combination of style. I'm really proud of *Candy Now*, even though I don't think too many people know about it, but it's really the first thing I've ever done that you could fuck your girl to.

**SLUG:** How did that affect going back into Dwarves material?

**Blag:** Well I had spent some time away, and one day I woke up with the line "Let's just get high and fuck some sluts," in my head and it made me think, "Okay, I'm ready to do this again." The stuff we do as the Dwarves is very intense and after awhile you just can't think about it anymore, but it will always come back around again. It was while writing "The Dwarves Are Still the Best Band Ever" that I got the idea to bring back everybody for the next record, which was a lot of fun. I was like a reunion without playing old songs and still pushing ourselves further.

**SLUG:** You mentioned intensity—your live shows are infamous for their combustible nature. Where does that intensity for the live show come from, and how do you try to capture that when recording?

**Blag:** I came up in early '80s punk rock and back then we were working without a net. I'd see bands like Black Flag, the Misfits, or Minor Threat and there was this feeling in the room that anything could

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

Park City Farmers Market @ Canyons Resort

Stringboard Theory, Bootie Robbers - Canyon Inn DJ ChaseOne2, Godina @ Garage

Kort McCumber @ Hog Wallow

Emery, The Maine, Augustana @ In The Venue

House of Floyd @ State Room

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

Never-Ending Gun Show @ Bar Deluxe

Cubensis, Roy Jay Band, Noisia @ Complex

Mother Country Mother Fuckers @ Compound

Couch Tour: Forever the Sickest Kids, Anarbor @ Fashion Place Mall Zumies

Graham Lindsey, SmokeStack and the Foothill Fury @ Garage

Colin Robison Trio @ Hog

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happen, and that was really wild, but at the same time I was always a huge record listener, to all kinds of records, so to try and make those two things jive together has always been my goal. On record I want to create something interesting, and focus on making something that'll last forever, but the live show you want to recreate that, but I don't want be careful about that because then you lose the spontaneity of it. It's the duality of Dwarves I guess.

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