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Interview with Blag Dahlia of The Dwarves

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Interview by: Dod M.

Big Wheel Overseas Correspondent

With a new album due out in the May, and a tour to follow, I managed to catch up with Dwarves front man Blag Dahlia and put some questions to him about one of music's controversial bands.

What's the origin of the bands name?

Since we are all under 5 foot tall, it seemed appropriate.

Who were your major influences?

Chocolate Watchband, Seeds, 13th Floor Elevators, Lawrence Welk.

How long have you all known each other? How did you meet?

We met at a gay teen social in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Everyone else was cranking the new Madonna record, but we favoured Gang of Four.

Who writes your songs?

We write the songs that make the whole world stink!

What originally attracted you to Punk?

Girls so dumb and drunk you couldn't possibly miss.



How much do you think Punk has changed in the last 30 years?

I've gotten fatter, I know that. Also, no one buys records anymore. Aside from that, it's perfect!

He who shall not be named only ever wears a wrestling mask and a jock strap or nothing, how did this come about?

If you've got it, flaunt it. That includes psoriasis and hepatitis C.

And does it cause many problems with venues?

Not if we do magic tricks and juggling as well.

What's your favourite band song to perform and why?

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I like Happy Birthday. It's so catchy and everyone relates to it.

What has been your biggest challenge as a band?

Getting paid, doing nothing, and being taken seriously. In that order.

Have you been able to overcome that challenge? If so, how?

No.

Where have you performed? What are your favourite and least favourite venues?

Dwarves have played over a thousand shows since we began in 1986. We've toured the world and favour the big cities, LA, SF, NY, London, Hamburg, and Melbourne. Good hotels and easy women in the urban centers.

What's your coolest band story?

I'm glad you asked. Check out the history section at www.thedwarves.com
It's full of hilarious stories and lies from the entire sordid history of the Dwarves.

What do you think about downloading music online?

I do it all the time, and so do you.

What's your outlook on the record industry today?

It's just as bad as the record industry of yesterday, except no one buys records anymore, so it's worse.

I saw you at Rebellion Punk festival last year, did you enjoy it?

Always, we love Rebellion! UK crowds rule, although they are a bit pasty and in need of a new haircut.

Do you prefer playing the likes of Rebellion or small venues?

Big venues, big money, big tits!

What makes a good crowd?

Like I just said.

Are you still fans and of Who?

We live in a time warp. I still shoot up with Kurt Cobain and pop pills with Jerry Lee Lewis.



How does music affect you and the world around you?

It feeds me.

You have a new album out in May, what's it called and what can we expect?

The Dwarves Are Born Again, is another trip through all hard music genres. This time there is more straight punk rock than the last album, but still lots of wacky surprises. An instant classic.

Is there a U.K tour on the horizon?

Look for us this summer at the usual festivals, and bring hash without tobacco please.

Are you still writing books too?

Yes, NINA and Armed to the Teeth continue to sell. My new one is about conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh. Should be out soon.

Finally after last years Rebellion show, you told us you had the biggest cock in show business is this true?

Well, your Queen Mum seemed to think so!

The Dwarves Website: www.thedwarves.com

Enjoy this great list of 25 things you don't know about the Dwarves-

THE DWARVES began in the 1980's as an Illinois garage band, covering everything from the Seeds and Moving Sidewalks to Gang of Four and Devo. They still have their paisley ties and Beatle boots to prove it.

THE DWARVES have recorded for many of the premier independent labels- Sympathy For The Record Industry, Epitaph, Fat, Sub/Pop, BOMP, Midnight, Amphetamine Reptile, Man's Ruin, No Balls, Zodiac Killer, MVD, Reptilian and Greedy. Some of them even paid royalties.

THE DWARVES were the first punk band to regularly use samples, drum loops and found sounds, even on their earliest recordings where they used cassette tapes to generate them.

THE DWARVES were kicked off tour with Motorhead for sleeping with the girls the aging metalheads had hired to hang out backstage. They were banned from venerable punk dive CBGBs for breaking a table and bleeding on the floor, making the venue cleaner and improving its décor.

THE DWARVES teamed up with Top Ten producer Eric Valentine (Third Eye Blind, All American Rejects, Slash) to make their last 5 studio albums. He even showed up to some of the sessions! Valentine and Blag Dahlia helped write songs for Smashmouth, Good Charlotte and Skye Sweetnam.

THE DWARVES have been stabbed, bludgeoned, swarmed, arrested, shut down, hospitalized, sabotaged and even felled onstage and much of it is available on video, like the free dvd that comes with the Dwarves Are Born Again.

THE DWARVES played with the late lamented Minutemen the week before D. Boon died, visited GG Allin in maximum security prison and did coke with Evan Dando in a seedy hotel room. And that was all in one day! Their list of collaborators on records is vast, including the ones they can contractually mention like Dexter Holland, Josh Freese, San Quinn, Nash Kato, Gary Owens, Spike Slawson, DJ Marz and Nick Oliveri.

THE DWARVES play music that crosses all genres. Their last LP 'The Dwarves Must Die,' combined all modern rock styles including hardcore, garage, pop punk, surf, noise, experimental, industrial, hip/hop, grunge and good old-fashioned pop. Even their modesty is legendary.

THE DWARVES music has been featured on television shows like Viva La Bam, Nash Bridges, Rob and Big, Laguna Beach, 16 and Pregnant, Homewrecker, Jackass and dozens more. They appeared naked on Monster Garage and Playboy After Dark, where HeWhoCanNotBeNamed mated with a pumpkin.

THE DWARVES first tour in 1988 covered over 6,000 miles and highlights were featured in the Village Voice. The tour consisted of 3 cities, 4 shows and \$165 dollars cash. The band travelled in a cargo van and booked gigs on stolen telephone cards.

THE DWARVES are the very best looking band in show business.

THE DWARVES did a live one-hour performance on Japan's fabled NHK network. At the dinner afterward, they literally ate a horse. Barred from appearing in Switzerland for selling obscene merchandise, they no longer tolerate cheese with holes in it.

THE DWARVES played Berkeley's punk collective Gilman Street the first month it opened and appeared there with classic bands like Green Day, NOFX and the Didjits. They were later banned for beating up a fan, but don't worry, he was a fan of some other group.

THE DWARVES are a true independent band with no outside management or record label, DIY forever. They leave no remains when they die, only footprints in the snow.

THE DWARVES bassist Rex Everything has been tazed and did time for battery and resisting arrest. He loves kittens, puppies and long walks on the beach. Guitarists HeWhoCanNotBeNamed and The Fresh Prince of Darkness teach and counsel troubled teens when not ingesting cocaine and masturbating to hardcore pornography.

THE DWARVES have been members of such groups as KMFDM, Gnarl Barkley, Mondo Generator, Motochrist, Excel, Penetration Moon, Juliette and The Licks, The Queens, Scream, N.Y. Loose, My Head, John Cougar Concentration Camp, Kyuss, The Uncontrollable and End of Power. Don't hold it against them.

THE DWARVES are OG's (Original Grunge) appearing with Nirvana, Mudhoney, L7, Supersuckers, Rev. Horton Heat and the Fluid. They watched Kurt Cobain nod out in a hotel room and Courtney Love blow their tour manager.

THE DWARVES were attacked in 2005 by a disturbed person enraged over one of their recordings. The first rock 'n' roll battle record, 'Massacre' proved the old adage that the truth hurts, but so does being assaulted.

THE DWARVES are sophisticated arty liberals who live in San Francisco. Their notorious 'Blood, Guts and Pussy' album cover, depicting a little fellow covered only by a dead rabbit surrounded by blood splattered naked Amazons, hangs proudly in the Louvre Museum. (Not that one, the one in Muncie, Indiana.)

THE DWARVES guitarist HeWhoCanNotBeNamed died in 1993 as reported in SPIN, Alternative Press, SF Weekly and Harper's among others. Being denied entrance to Hell he returned to his mortal form, commenting later, 'that which kills me makes me stronger.'

THE DWARVES music has been featured in films like Ghostworld, Hostel, Observe and Report and Me, Myself and Irene where Jim Carrey crooned their song 'Motherfucker' while having a nervous breakdown. They appeared in the film Kurt & Courtney where they were described as 'one of the more violent bands' and the hardcore porno Rocksuckers where they were described as 'larger than average for white guys.'

THE DWARVES singer Blag the Ripper sang the novelty hit 'Do the Sponge' on the cartoon series Spongebob Squarepants. Dwarf Sgt. Saltpeter has written and performed over 20 musical pieces featured since the show began.

THE DWARVES have actually been around for 27 years, but couldn't think of 2 more things to say about themselves. Except that Blag has published two novels, Armed to the Teeth with Lipstick and the teenage sex romp NINA. His podcast RadioLikeYouWant.com can be heard on PunkRadioCast.com every Thursday night.

THE DWARVES sang onstage with Turbonegro at the Leeds Festival, UK. They have toured Europe 11 times performing at Reading, Pukkelpop, Augustebuller,

Download Donnington and Rebellion Fest to name just a few. Please don't ruin a perfectly good gram of hash with tobacco.

THE DWARVES cannot be seen in mirrors or when the sun is out, but you can see them live in concert soon at a theatre near you. Rock critics get in free with library card!



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Sound Off!

Big Wheel poll question for this week

◦ Do you spend time worrying or talking about stuff you don't like?

- Never, seems silly to
- Yes, because it makes me feel important
- Stuff I don't like does not deserve my time

- Yes, because I know more about what I don't like, than what I like

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