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THE METAL MINUTE

*YOUR DAILY SHOT OF METAL REVIEWS, INTERVIEWS AND
NEWS, BUT BRING YER OWN BOOZE!*

TUESDAY, APRIL 01, 2008

Take 5 With Rat Skates



In my time spent talking with musicians, I've had the pleasure of collecting unique viewpoints from past-and-present members of current or once-existing bands, and perhaps the most diverse and colorful array of interviewees connected to a single band I've had the pleasure to converse with has to be from the original lineup of Overkill. Of course, I've had a few chats with mainstay Bobby "Blitz" Ellsworth over the years as Overkill continues to release album after album, and the man is always on his game and likewise entertaining. I've also had a chance to speak with classic era guitarist Bobby Gustafson, and while his own views of the past in a band he wrote and co-wrote a large portion of the band's early catalog are utterly fascinating and humbling, perhaps the most telling viewpoint of Overkill--at least from its infancy years--has come courtesy of original drummer Rat Skates.

I've personally chastised the metal press for overlooking Rat seemingly to the point of deliberation because it has only seen fit to call the guy a quitter with bad habits that forced his exit from the band. If you want a little dash of honesty, have a go with Rat's recent DVD documentary *Born in the Basement* and learn more than a thing or two about his pivotal role in putting Overkill on their legendary path that they still traverse today. These days Rat has separated himself from the playing aspect of his music life and he currently works in videography and editing by profession, which led to the assemblage of *Born in the Basement* and his still in-progress project *Get Thrashed*.

On a personal level, I'll always love Overkill until they lock the bat in the belfry, yet I've found a lot of empathy and relation in my time spent with Rat. Our phone conversation was filled with hilarious stories about how we grew up as metal fans, what our school days were like as outcasts, our

**YOU PICK THE 2008
GRAMMY WINNER FOR
BEST METAL
PERFORMANCE**

Slayer	61 (38%)
King Diamond	21 (13%)
Machine Head	37 (23%)
As I Lay Dying	24 (15%)
Shadows Fall	14 (8%)

Votes so far: 157

Poll closed

**ALBUM OF THE
MONTH: WHITESNAKE
- GOOD TO BE BAD**



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