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BEHOLD, THE THROBBLEHEADS!

BY ALAN BROSTOFF

AGGRONAUTIX started as a need to fill a void. There were no quality bobbleheads for collectors interested in punk underground figures, such as a classic anithero like Jello Biafra or the NOFX character Cokie the Clown. Enter Clint Weiler. Weiler began the business in 2009 and has since created the bobblehead figurines (which he has titled “Throbbleheads”) of artists ranging from The Damned to the newest combo, “Henry & Glenn Forever” (based on a Henry Rollins and Glenn Danzig comic). *Goldmine* spoke to Weiler about the creation of the “Aggronautix Throbblehead” idea and where he intends to take it in the future.

GOLDMINE: Tell me about where the name of the company *Aggronautix* comes from?

CLINT WEILER: Well, I made it up. I was thinking I liked agro, for obvious reasons, and I wanted it to end with X. So, it sounded like mechanical. I don’t really know if I’m explaining it well, but I just wanted to have it end with the X. It just sounded cool together. So, there you have it.

GM: The bread and butter of the company are your Throbbleheads, not bobbleheads, correct?

CW: Another word I made up. I just wanted it to stand out a little bit different than a normal bobblehead. Bobbleheads are cool, nothing wrong with them, but I was creating a new concept.

GM: Who was the first Throbblehead?

CW: GG Allin in 2009. I had been working with his brother for a few years to do some DVD releases, because I do publicity and marketing for MVD Entertainment Group. We’re a whole bunch of rock fans, and that’s how I came to know a lot of these people, like Tesco Vee. That’s where a lot of the relationships came from initially. I wanted to create a vinyl figure of the people, like some of the designer toys. I spent a long time researching it and determined that it was way too expensive to launch with and try to build a brand with designer toys, so I kind of defaulted back to a bobblehead concept. I was working with a minor league hockey team at that time and was involved with the processing and



Clint Weiler at an Aggronautix trade show booth, showing off the many Throttleheads and other collectibles.



creation to a degree. So, I had never started out to do bobbleheads, but here we are 10-plus years later. I guess the decision has worked out. The first two pieces I did were GG and Tesco Vee, and both sold out.

GM: *How many in that initial run?*

CW: I believe I did 2,000 of GG and 1,000 of Tesco. Now you can only find them on the secondary market.

GM: *Has there been anybody you wanted to do that turned you down?*

CW: Oh, yeah, tons of people. Henry Rollins said no twice via email and once to my face in person, and Glenn Danzig, of course, said no. I'm gonna just say that he said no, but he did offer terms that I couldn't really, you know, compete with or offer. Those are the two main ones that I can think of. Social Distortion also said no. There are quite a few, but most of the people I approach with the idea are intrigued by the concept and want to know more. As long as I can make it look like them and work with them to develop it, then it's usually fine.

GM: *Once someone says yes, how involved with the rest of the process are they?*

CW: Basically, we start with an idea. Sometimes the artist has an idea of how they want it to look. Other times, they just say, "Present me something with how you think I would want it. How you think it would look best?" After that, they're involved either directly or through their management or through their label. We offer them the opportunity to be involved in every step of the process from initial idea, concept illustration to the first sculpt, through the paint phase and all the way through the box art. So, every step of the way, they have to sign off or we don't release it. If you want it to look right and you want the person to be happy, then it's the right way to do it.

GM: *Do you ever offer signed editions of the Throttleheads?*

CW: Not really. I mean, sometimes we'll do that. We'll have people sign them and use them for giveaways and promotions. But I never sell them as signed from the site. It's not like there's anything wrong with that, but I'd rather, if the person was gonna sign a few of them,

use them to promote the release than try to make money off that.

GM: *What do you have coming up in 2021? Are you able to share any of the things that are coming out?*

CW: We're just coming out with the "Henry and Glenn Forever" set, working directly with the comic artist Tom Neely on that. It's kind of different in that it's made up from a comic strip. The actual figures look different, because they're not realistic looking. They look like the comic looks, but they look great. That comic has its own little cult following. We think it'll

do good. We are gonna do 500 sets of those and they will come packaged together. We are also hoping to release H.R. of the Bad Brains, but it's a little slow in development, so probably won't be ready to announce for another few months, but it's getting there. Another one that we are close to announcing is The Circle Jerks' Skanker mascot. That one will not have the traditional bobbing head. It's more just like a statue, like a sculpture, but it's the same size as the heads.

GM: *Most of your Throttleheads are from the punk scene. Why that focus?*

CW: I'm a punk guy I've always been a punk, and I always will be a punk guy. It's probably between that and hip hop, my two-favorite music styles. So I wanted to not stray from that too much. I've done some more metal things and some other not necessarily punk things. In theory, my customer base will buy, you know, everyone or want to collect them all. I'm still really interested in launching hip hop, if not a new company, maybe I just do more hip hop stuff. It's a little bit different in terms of how that all works, and I'm not really getting anywhere with that just yet. But I'd like to eventually do like an old-school hip hop line.

GM: *What is the best way for people to buy the Throttleheads?*

CW: There are certain record stores and some other online retailers but the best way to make sure that you get one is through the website, www.aggronautix.com. The Throttleheads sell out pretty fast these days, so, pre-ordering is always encouraged.

GM: *Your website has more than just the Throttleheads, correct?*

CW: We just started working with Super7 figures and they are popular. Additionally, we sell some vinyl and other music-related stuff from the company that I work for, MVD Entertainment Group. We also sell pins and some other great stuff. Due to COVID, some of the deliveries are taking longer to reach the customers. Also, I appreciate when people make suggestions, so I encourage that with everybody. People seem to like coming up with lists of people who they'd like to see made into a Throttlehead. So that's something I try to honor. And I'll get back to everybody that makes a suggestion, whether it's possible or not. I'll still always respond to people.