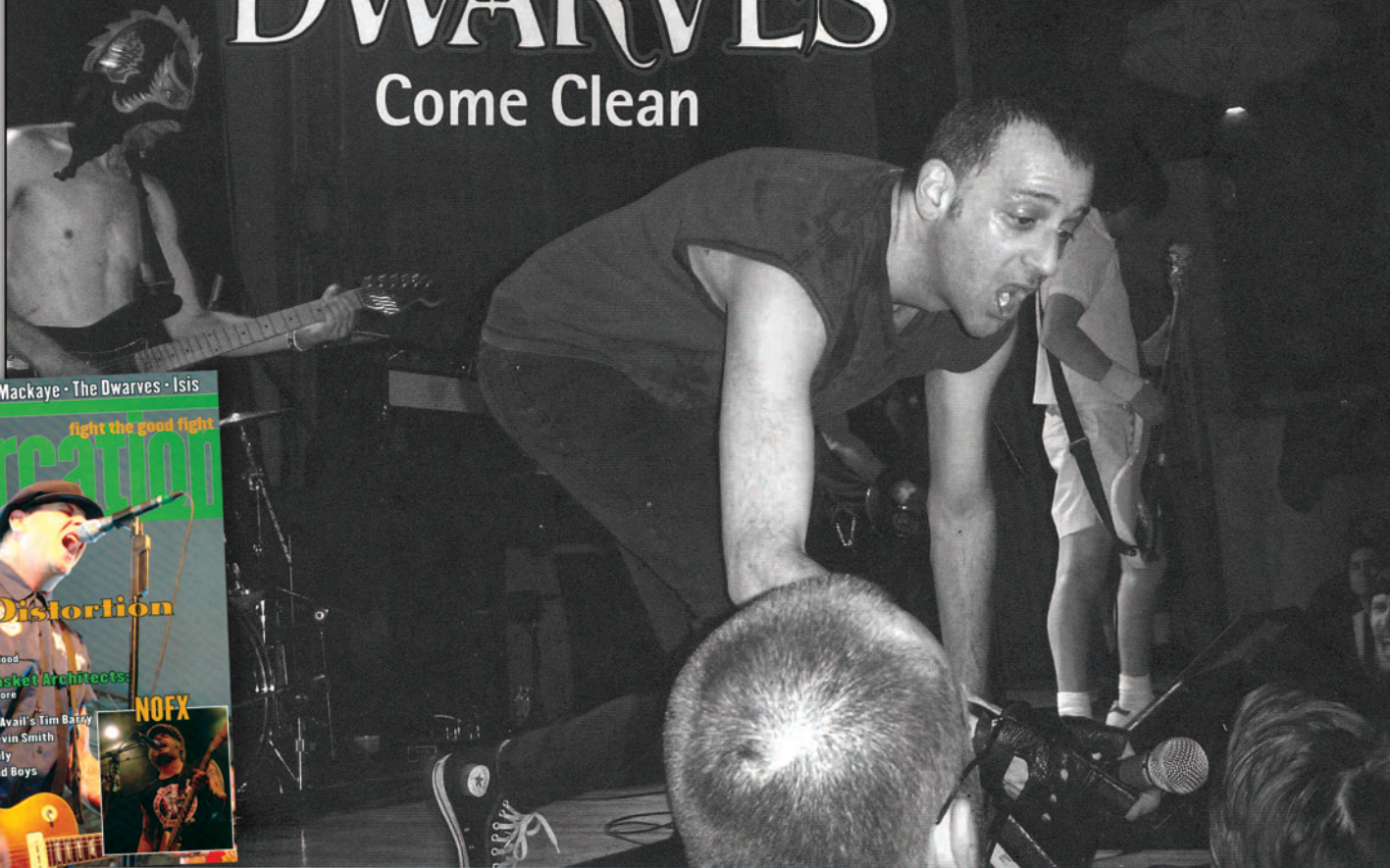


DWARVES

Come Clean



One of the most infamous punk bands to ever destroy a stage, the Dwarves have become an underground rock institution of chaos, narcotics and nudity. From assaulting fans with mic stands, to three minute long sets, to a legendary PR stunt that got them immediately dropped from Sub Pop's roster (they told the label one of their members had died while on tour only to have him show for a meeting several weeks later), no one has even come close to touching the Dwarves for sheer bravado.

Recently releasing a DVD documenting the behind-the-scenes antics on the set of their latest video for single 'FEFU' (released on MVD and featuring the Suicide Girls), the band shows little sign of aging gracefully. *Altercation* caught up with lead vocalist, recent novelist (his ode to teenage lust *Nina* is in finer stores now) and self-proclaimed rock legend Blag Dahlia while he was nursing a hangover in San Francisco. JT kicks him while he's down.

Altercation: Your new DVD is obviously a blast...

Blag: Glad you enjoyed it. It's definitely hands-free

viewing... (Laughs)

A: (Laughs) Indeed. How did you hook up with the Suicide Girls?

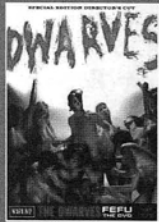
B: I had some friends who had done some pictures with them. I just kind of put out the word about doing the video, and heard back from a variety of people. One of those people was a Suicide Girl, so she threw it up on some message board and apparently there were some Dwarves fans on there. It was a good feeling, to have beautiful naked girls as Dwarves fans. So we signed up about forty of them, knowing at least half would cancel. But it turned out really well.

A: Were you surprised by how many of them were actual Dwarves fans and not just starlets looking for their 'big break'?

B: I was surprised! When the Dwarves started, we would usually have to lie and say we were in a heavy metal band in order to get girls to like us. (Laughs) Now that we're old creeps chicks seem to dig us, it's weird.

Dwarves' Releases You Should Own

FEFU DVD • MVD / Greedy



The full, uncensored version of *Dwarves Must Die* single 'FEFU', complete with naked Suicide Girls beating the living shit out of

Blag and company. The video and the behind-the-scenes footage are fun enough, but the real payoff is the previously unreleased documentation of the band's earliest shows. Spanning twenty years, the Dwarves are seen knocking over chairs before a packed house of three people, engaging in near riots and playing what appears to be an alleyway during SXSW. Killer!

Nina • Scapegoat Publishing



A quick, surprisingly well-written fictional account of a Lolita-inspired femme fatale who happens to suffer from epileptic seizures. When she

isn't joining the mile high club with aging pilots or seducing the paper-boy, Nina finds time to kill a few people and destroy large sections of California.

Blag Dahlia's prose is sharp and engaging in a sort of Jim Thompson way, and while the novel reads like a series of short stories more than a linear tale you hardly notice or care. Flush with sex, drugs and violence to spare, *Nina* is perfect bedside reading for the self-destructive teenager hiding within us all. Recommended highly, but not for the squeamish or prudent.

A: I've noticed that trend...

B: (Laughs) I'm not going to argue with it! I'm happy.

A: (Laughs) Sure. Obviously given the content it seems like a limited audience is going to actually see the video. Have any television stations picked it up?

B: Not really. That's why we had an eye towards releasing it as a DVD. Getting videos played is a close second to actually getting your song played on the radio...it's a lot of payola bullshit that we're not really involved with. The cool thing about the DVD is that there's a lot of behind-the-scenes stuff, plus an hour of weird old Dwarves footage. Stuff that's been in the vault, some of our most violent footage...

A: I thought it was great that you put footage from an awful gig as your 'early years' section. You were playing to like three people in what looks like a pizza parlor...

B: (Laughs) Yeah! The lean years. Then we had the mindless violence years, where people would come out but only to attack us.

A: Was that an actual pizza parlor?

B: It was! It was in Illinois somewhere I think...my memory is not what it used to be. I think that show was very representative of the mid-west mindset. They have a weird thing where unless something is from New York or California it isn't really legitimate. There's a big inferiority complex in the mid-west. We were actually from there, so the feeling was very much 'well, this can't be any good.'. We were also a punk band in the truest sense, we didn't have any sort of management or anything.

A: Dwarves have quite a rep for performing destructive ten-minute sets. Are promoters still worried about booking you?

B: Well, we've done a few live insane things, but we generally have always played a show. It's pretty funny. These days most people are in on the joke so they want to see us play a full set, whereas back in the day we would be talking shit and people wouldn't know what we were about, so they would attack us or try to shut us down. Things would end, or if a crowd really sucked we would just stop. What's the point? Let's go back to the hotel and have a good time...

A: I think the underlying sense of humor is something that a lot of Dwarves fans seem to miss. Do you ever look back on some of your pranks, like the infamous Sub Pop press release, and cringe?

B: (Laughs) The problem that I always had with record labels was that they would never spend any money on us or do anything to promote us. We were a punk band, so mostly they would just let us do our thing. Bands that were more incompetent and needed help would be finger fucked along to stardom, so it was almost like being penalized for having a vision and a sense of humor. Dumb people don't really value a sense of humor in a band, they view things as 'this is important and serious'...

A: 'Quiet everyone, we are about to rock now...'

B: (Laughs) Right! So we came out and played well but had a sense of humor. And

once we stumbled on to some real producers, we actually started to make some decent sounding records. In the major label realm, most of those bands are incompetent and oblivious, but they have so much money behind them that they can just be pushed down the public's throat.

I mean, the same gal that did publicity on our Sub Pop albums went on to do publicity for Marilyn Manson, and she was like 'hey Blag, it's such a great concept, it's like he's so bad he's good and he's so evil that you just want to love him!' (Laughs) Gee, I wish I had come up with that! Basically, if you get the anonymous nod you can pull these things into the mainstream, but we're an underground band.

A: It still must be pretty gratifying to be at the level you are at.

B: Sure. I'm glad that we got to strike out in different areas and hit almost every genre. That last album *Dwarves Must Die* hit everything from hip-hop to death metal. To me, that is always what I wanted to do.

A: Is Nick Oliveri (ex-Queens of the Stone age) still in the band?

B: Nick is one of my oldest friends and once you're in the Dwarves you are for life, so he can jump in at any time. He's got his other project Mondo Generator going too. He and I did an acoustic tour of Europe recently. I really enjoyed it. It was a lot of fun, because it was almost like a comedy show at times.

A: When did you find time to write the new book?


B: I wrote a little bit on tour, but I have a hard time coming up with new ideas on the road. Probably because the old idea of getting high and sleeping with girls is such a strong one! (Laughs) I can work on things if I've already started them and develop them on the road.

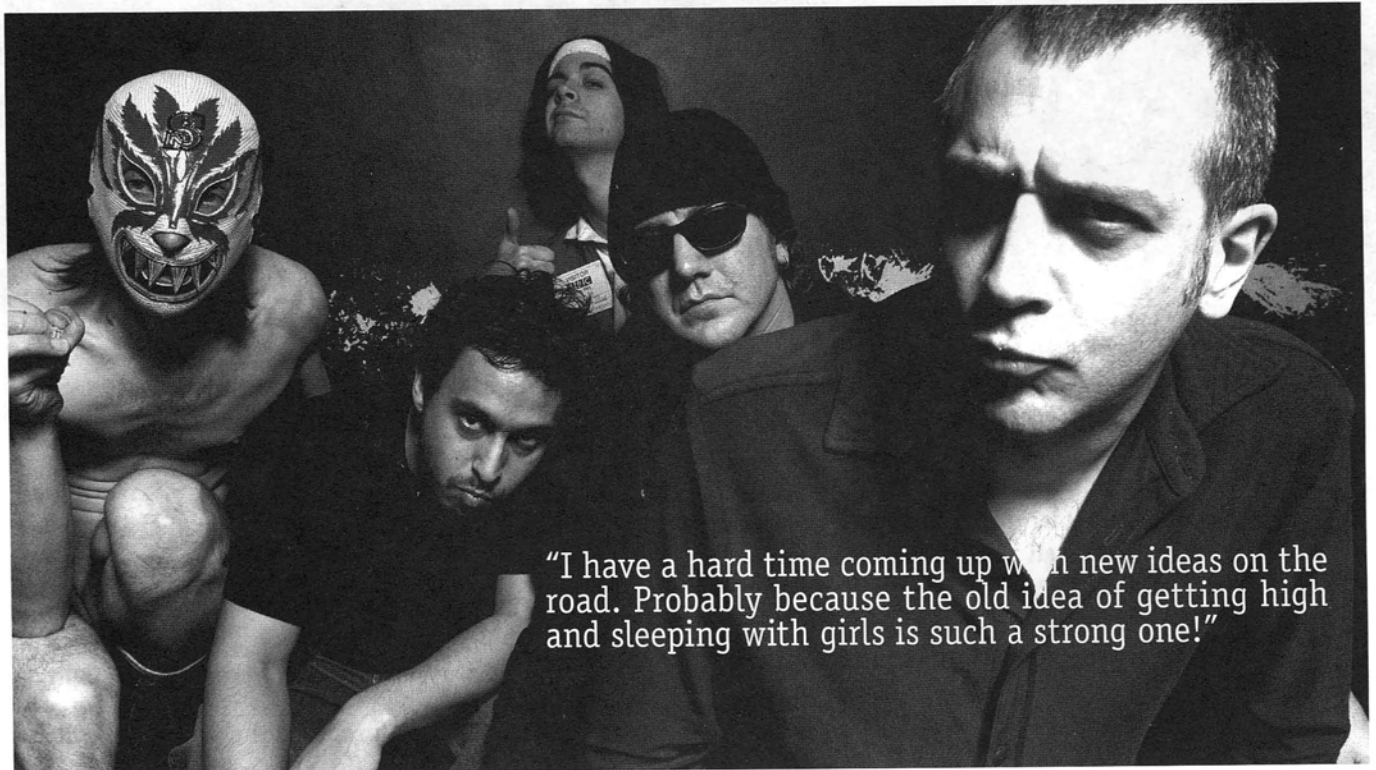
A: You basically self-released the book, correct?

B: I have a friend who has a label called Reptillian, and he just started an imprint called Scapegoat. He agreed to print and distribute the book, but it's my book. Most book deals make record deals look good, so you have to be smart. I thought I wrote a cool book and wanted some people to see it, and that seems to be happening.

A: The cover art was great.

B: Yeah, the art was by a woman named Niagra. All of these projects have been pretty satisfying. I even just did a spoken word album...a lot of Dwarves fans are bitching about that one. I mean, everyone hates spoken word albums. (Laughs) It's got a lot of random mixed together shit on it. There's not much improvisation in music these days, and a Dwarves album is very specifically put together, so I like to do stuff that is completely random sometimes. Just to show the difference and piss people off. (Laughs)

www.theDwarves.com 



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