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Dwarves rock socks – and more – off

ERNEST A. JASMIN; The News Tribune
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Marilyn Manson? Fun for the whole family. Slipknot? Practically G-rated.

The late G.G. Allin? Well, his onstage antics are still pretty disturbing. But the rest of those shock rockers are yawn-worthy compared to Bay Area punk legends the Dwarves, who have been leaving audiences bruised, shocked and awed since the '80s.

And, yes, Wednesday's show at Hell's Kitchen is definitely for the 21-and-older set, as guitarist He Who Cannot Be Named has been known to perform – how shall we say? – au naturel. Well, except for the wrestling mask.

So we caught up with mouthpiece Blag Dahlia to get the skinny on his infamous cohorts And he minced no words, whether he was talking about dead rock stars or bizarre groupie encounters. Here are some excerpts that are actually fit to print.

I thought we'd start off on a nostalgic note. Take me back to the first time you got naked onstage.

Well, what happened was Salt Peter, the old bass player, started wearing this kind of women's underwear, corset thing. So then he was the weirdest guy in the band. So I said, "(Forget) that! I'm just gonna go totally naked." And I remember having seen (singer) Gibby Haynes do it from the Butthole Surfers in the '80s. ... After a while, as my gut started to balloon, the job fell to He Who Cannot Be Named to be the naked guy.

So you've kind of cut that off as you've gotten older.

But I try to keep things as nasty as I can. Sometimes my pants just get taken off me, which is good.

I wondered if G.G. Allin had been an influence on what you guys do.

Oh yeah, sure. Well, the first thing I had by G.G. was a cassette called "Hated in the Nation." ... Then we wound up visiting him in prison there in Michigan. The Secret arrested him. He was writing weird letters to (presidential assassin-wannabe John) Hinkley. I wasn't super-close with him. But I knew him. And he stayed at my house at that weird band of his, and a bunch of weird, little, institutionally bisexual, freaky guys. ... I thought his songs were funny. I liked it and found it amusing.

What's the weirdest incident that's happened to you guys?

Oh, it's very hard, you know, 'cause they fall into categories. You know, there's sexual things and violent things and random things and drug things. ... It's hard to pin it

The sexual ones are hilarious. ... Or people who walk up to you and want you to fulfill all their fantasies of what you are. So it's like, "Hey, I got some dope. You wanna we'll go steal something?" That's not really my bag, you know. But I'm not gonna be gettin' down on you for it. (Laughs.)

So there are limits for the Dwarves.

Oh, sure. I have plenty of limits. The other thing is that there were lots of guys in the band over the years – guys like Vadge Moore and Nick Oliveri, and just crazy guys named, that would do crazy things. And when the rumor would get around it would start as the Dwarves did something, and then it would turn into I did it. There is a lot blamed for that wasn't actually me.

And that's why we sort of embrace the "everything you've heard about us is true" philosophy. ... Let's just blow up this mythology to a point that is beyond all reason ar happens.

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The reason I've heard for you guys being dropped from Sub Pop was the hoax around your guitar player. (They wrote a news release saying he'd been killed.)

(Says his band didn't get dropped.) What we did do was (say) He Who Could Not Be Named died in a bar fight in Philadelphia. But what people didn't understand is the extraterrestrial creature. So he actually transcended life and death, and he returned. People from Sub Pop, that made them sad for some reason.

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What: The Dwarves

When: 8 p.m. Wednesday

Where: Hell's Kitchen, 3829 Sixth Ave., Tacoma

Tickets: \$10

Information: 253-759-6003 or www.hellskitchenonline.com

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