

THE ACTION ZWINGERS

THE ACTION ZWINGERS ARE A WAY COOL NEW YORK PUNK ROCK BAND DUDE! SO I (FRANK FOE) INTERVIEWED ZINGER/GUITARIST NED HAYDEN VIA TELEPHONE.

Foe THE ACTION ZWINGERS, IS IT YOUR BAND?

NED I WOULD DEFINITELY SAY THAT.

Foe HOW DOES THE REST OF THE CURRENT LINE UP FEEL ABOUT THAT?

NED THEY REALIZE IT. I WRITE THE SONGS, I SING, I PLAY THE GUITAR, I PRODUCE THE BAND, I TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS.

Foe THE LINE UP CHANGES A LOT, BASICALLY WITH EVERY RELEASE. BUT IF YOU'RE THE ONE WRITING EVERYTHING I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU CHANGE THE PEOPLE IN THE BAND...

NED IT DOES CHANGE THE SOUND.

Foe AND IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS. THE NEW ALBUM SEEMS MORE RAMONEZY THAN NOIZY, COMPARED TO THE EARLY RELEASES.

NED THE FIRST RECORD REALLY WASN'T MY TRIP. I WAS TRYING TO FIT INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S TRIP, AND THAT'S A REALLY BAD IDEA. I DON'T SUGGEST THAT TO ANYBODY. SO IT TOOK ME SOME TIME TO GET OUT OF THAT SITUATION, TO GET THE BAND TO THE WAY I WANTED IT. WITH OUR FIRST ENGLISH TOUR, I WROTE AND RECORDED "MORE FAST NUMBERS", AND AT THAT POINT I HAD PEOPLE WHO COULD PLAY WHAT I WANTED TO PLAY.

Foe YOU'VE TOURED EUROPE TWICE, BUT NEVER A FULL BLOWN US TOUR RIGHT?

NED YEAH, BUT WE PLAY ON DOING A US TOUR THIS FALL.

Foe HOW'S THE POPULARITY IN THE US?

NED I DON'T KNOW. IT'S HARD TO SAY. WE SELL MOST OF OUR RECORDS IN THE NORTHEAST, AND THE MIDWEST. I CONCENTRATED ON EUROPE THE PAST YEAR, BECAUSE IT WAS AVAILABLE AND I HAD NEVER BEEN OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY BEFORE, AND IF I GET NOTHING ELSE OUT OF THE ACTION ZWINGERS, THAT WOULD BE PRETTY COOL. WE'RE CONCENTRATING ON THE US NOW, AS MUCH AS WE CAN.

Foe IS ALL YOUR EARLY MATERIAL STILL AVAILABLE?

NED THE FIRST SINGLE IS OUT OF PRINT, THERE WERE ONLY 500 OF THOSE, BUT ONE OF THE SONGS JUST CAME OUT ON A COMP. IN ENGLAND. THE SECOND SINGLE IS PRETTY MIZERABLE, I CAN'T SEE WHY

ANYONE WOULD WANT TO OWN THAT ("FEAR OF A FUCKED UP PLANET"). CAROLINE STILL HAS SOME OF THOSE. IT'S HARD FOR ME TO COMMENT ON THE STUFF, AND I WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF HEAVY DRUGS AT THE TIME. THE THIRD ALBUM IS AVAILABLE AND SO IS "MORE FAST #2".

Foe DOES THE ACTION ZWINGERS TAKE UP YOUR WHOLE LIFE?

NED IF I'M NOT DOING BUSINESS STUFF OR WRITING SONGS OR ARRANGING PRACTICES THEN I'M GENERALLY BEING MIZERABLE OR WORRYING ABOUT IT.

Foe WHEN THE LINE UP CHANGES DO THE ZINGLASSES STAY WITH THE BAND OR DO THE NEW MEMBERS HAVE TO BUY THEIR OWN?

NED ACTUALLY THEY ARE DIFFERENT GLASSES. I'M GLAD YOU BROUGHT THAT UP. ACTUALLY I'M WEARING A DIFFERENT PAIR OF ZINGLASSES ON THE COVER OF OUR LAST ALBUM, THAN ON "MORE FAST #2". BUT DAVE THE BASS PLAYER IS WEARING THE SAME GLASSES. SO ONE PAIR OF ZINGLASSES HAS REMAINED CONSTANT, AND SPEAKING OF THEM, THEY'RE RIGHT HERE ON THE TABLE. AND THEN WE INTRODUCED TWO NEW PAIRS OF ZINGLASSES AND THOSE OTHER TWO TOOK THEIRS. FUNNY YOU SHOULD BRING THAT UP, I WAS THINKING TODAY AS A BAND SOLIDARITY THING, TO TAKE THEM ALL OUT TO GET ZINGLASSES. IT WOULD BE THE ROCK EQUIVALENT OF TAKING EVERYONE OUT FOR ICE-CREAM.

Foe WHEN IS THE BEST SEASON FOR PUNK ROCK?

NED ANYTIME BUT THE SUMMER. SUMMER IS TOUGH, ESPECIALLY WHERE I LIVE. THE HUMIDITY, THE HEAT AND WE PLAY PRETTY DAMN HARD. THAT'S WHY ENGLAND HAS BEEN SO GOOD TO US, IT'S ALWAYS SO COLD THERE. I WOULD SAY THE BEST SEASON FOR PUNK ROCK IS FALL.

Foe IS THAT ALSO THE BEST TIME TO GET SOME ACTION?

NED WELL YOU KNOW, ANYTIME IS THE BEST TIME TO GET ACTION, THERE IS NO BAD TIME FOR GETTING ACTION, THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON ACTION OBTAINED.

Foe DO THE BAND MEMBERS HAVE TO ADHERE TO ANY LIFESTYLE TO BE PART OF THE ACTION ZWINGERS?

NED DEFINITELY, IT'S A HEAD GAME, IT'S A DEFINITE PHILOSOPHY. YOU HAVE TO LIVE THE PUNK TO BE IN THE ZWINGERS, THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT.

Foe WHAT ENTAILS YOUR DEFINITION OF PUNK? TODAY YOU CAN SAY PUNK ROCK AND IT CAN MEAN ANYTHING FROM CRAZED TO NIRVANA.



ME NOBODY KNOWS AT ALL WHAT I MEAN WHEN I SAY PUNK ROCK. I REALIZE THAT. IF I WERE TO SIT AROUND AND EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO EVERYBODY I WOULD NEVER GET OUT THE FRONT DOOR. THE SWINGERS AREN'T LIKE URGE OVERHILL, WHERE YOU GOTTA HAVE A SUIT OR PERSONALIZED CHAMPAGNE GLASSES. I THINK ORIGINALLY IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN LIKE THAT, BUT I KILLED THAT. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE HIGH ON SOMETHING, AND ROCK REALLY HARD.

FOR WHAT IS YOUR DRUG OF CHOICE?

ME IT'S USUALLY POT, BEER... CAFFEINE IS VERY, VERY VERY IMPORTANT. AGAIN, GOING BACK TO ENGLAND, I TAKE FROM ENGLAND THE HABIT OF DRINKING TEA, I HAVE TO HAVE THIS WEIRD ENGLISH TEA, NOT THE AMERICAN VERSION, THE REAL THING, BECAUSE THERE IS SOMETHING IN THERE, THAT'S NOT IN THE KINDA TEA WE KNOW IN AMERICA. IT'S JUST SOME SORT OF WEIRD THING. I DRINK FOUR CUPS A DAY.

FOR SO WHAT IS IT, SO WE CAN TURN THE REST OF THE WORLD ONTO THIS STUFF?

ME THE STUFF I'M DRINKING NOW IS "BARRY'S GOLD BLEND", YOU HAVE TO GO TO THESE WEIRD IMPORT PLACES. IT COULD JUST BE ALL THE POT I SMOKE, I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE IT'S NOT EVEN THE TEA!

FOR WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE ACTION SWINGER SONGS, LYRICALLY.

ME ON THIS RECORD I FINALLY GOT IT TOGETHER, IN THE PART I DIDN'T REALLY TAKE IT SERIOUSLY. "I DON'T WANTA BE THIS WAY" PROBABLY HAD TO BE THE BEST WORDS I'VE WRITTEN. IF YOU JUST TOOK THE WORDS, OUT OF CONTEXT, AND STUFF LIKE "I CAN'T GET NO

ACTION" AND "NOTHING TO ME NOW", THAT'S MY KIND OF SONG, JUST COMPLETELY OVER THE TOP. SIMPLE AND DIRECT. IT'S ALL THERE, YOU NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'RE GETTING OVER TO PEOPLE. IT ALSO DOESN'T DO ME ANY GOOD TO SIT AND SAY WHAT THEY ARE ABOUT, YOU KNOW SONGS ARE DIFFERENT TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE. I KNOW WHAT THEY ARE ABOUT TO ME, BUT THAT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO ANYONE ELSE. WHICH ASSHOLE INSPIRED ME TO WRITE THE SONGS, EVERYBODY'S GOT THEIR OWN ASSHOLES IN THEIR LIVES.

FOR YOU SHOT A VIDEO FOR "I DON'T WANTA BE THIS WAY"...

ME IT'S COLOR SUPER 8, SO IT LOOKS LIKE SOME SORTA WEIRD MID 60'S TYPE STONES VIDEO OR SOMETHING. IT'S GOT A LOT OF SPECIAL EFFECTS IN IT. IT WASN'T ANY BIG CLEAN SUPER-VIDEO IT WAS JUST AS MESSY UP SOUNDING AS THE RECORDS ARE.

FOR WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO THESE DAYS?

ME MUDDY WATERS, RAMONES, HEART+BREAKERS, THUNDER, CHUCK BERRY, BOSTON.

FOR I LIKE THE WAY THEY ARE PUSHING THE NEW DISC IN THE STORE, WITH THE "PUNK ROCK PRICING".

ME I DIDN'T WANT ANYBODY PAYING \$16.00 FOR THIS RECORD. THAT WAS MY MAIN THING, THAT THIS DIDN'T GO OVER \$10-12.

FOR ARE YOU CUTTING YOUR OWN THROAT BY DOING THAT, ARE YOU GETTING LESS OF THE ACTION.

ME ACTUALLY THE RECORD COMPANY IS BEING COOL AND THEY ARE TAKING IT ON THE CHIN FOR ONCE. IF WE WERE ON A MAJOR THING WOULD BE DIFFERENT.