

# DEVIL DOGS

Excuse me. Yes you. The Devil Dogs rock! Put on one of their records and read thru this interview that was conducted by Frank FOE at Lupo's, where the Dogs ripped up the stage as usual. If you don't have any of their records, study this interview in complete silence, then go get an album and prepare to rock!

**FOE** Who is drumming for you these days?

**ANDY** We've had the same drummer for like two and a half years, the Mighty Joe Vincent! The Jersey shore legend! (Andy sings and plays guitar, Steve is the bassist)

**FOE** Some of your old records are recorded as a four piece...

**ANDY** Our old producer Mike Mariconda, who did the first three albums and some of the singles and stuff like that. He played guitar part time. He did sound on the last tour. He's still kinda in the band. Not active. He's been on every European tour, doing sound, selling t-shirts...

**FOE** When did the band actually start?

**ANDY** 1989. Me and Steve were in another band and it fell apart in the middle of recording. We finished the record and that became the first Devil Dogs album.

**FOE** What has kept the band going for five years?

**ANDY** Free drinks and cute girls.

**FOE** The majority of your stuff comes out of Crypt...

**ANDY** Yeah, that's our main label. We do stuff on other labels though. The last lp came out on Crypt, but was also licensed to Sympathy on CD. Crypt did all the vinyl and European CD.

**FOE** Your attitude you put forward live...

**ANDY** Yeah! You got a fucking problem with that or something?

**FOE** Where does that come from?

**ANDY** I don't know. Just the crowds we play to in America are shit. And I give them crap for it. I figure these people got more of an attitude problem than I do. What's the deal. You show up to a gig like you don't even want to have fun. And it's like I for one am not gonna stand there and watch people stand around like vegetables. Like when we play weekend gigs, it's like cut loose, it's the weekend. Or get the fuck out, go somewhere else. I just think someone has to give these kids shit, tell em

what the fuck is up. If I'm around, I'll do it... I'm doing it for the kids.

**FOE** For the new kids coming around who maybe aren't familiar with the Devil Dogs, what album would you tell them to buy first?

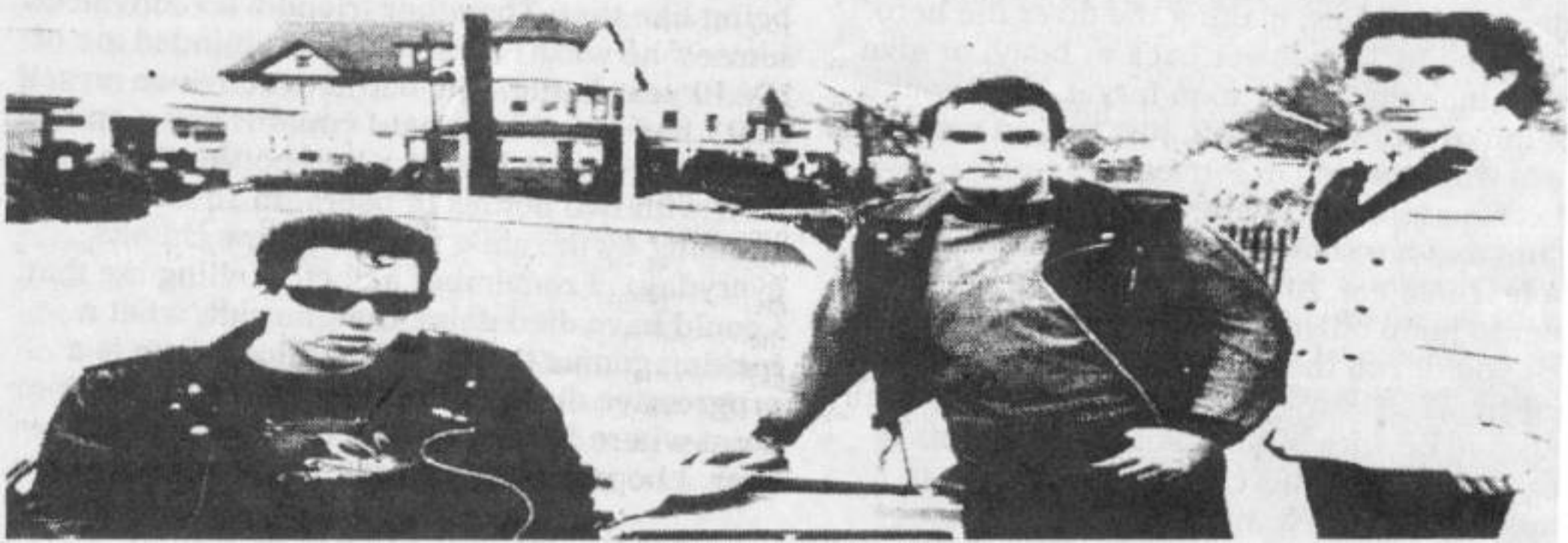
**ANDY** I would tell them to buy the "Saturday Night Fever" album first.

**FOE** Suppose they wanted to hear a song by the Devil Dog and had a happening college radio station nearby, what song would you tell them to request?

**ANDY** "Rock City USA"

**FOE** Have you ever been the victim of a crime?

**ANDY** Fuck yeah. I've been mugged, had my car stolen. I've been mugged a few times. I had my skateboard stolen, a jacket I got mugged once right after buying some pot. Check this story out... I used to go out with this girl who lived in a bad neighborhood and one time she leaves me at her house and she has to go to this baby-sitting job, and that I should let myself out. So I let myself out, and I figured I'd go buy some pot at the store on the way home. There's this little Rasta grocery store where you can buy a nickel bag. I went in, and as I was going out this guy and this lady come out. And the lady is walking a dog. So they go down the street and I do my thing, and I come back out and I'm walking down the street and I'm surrounded by five guys and they're like, "Don't move, I got a gun in your back." They start going through my pockets, they are totally mugging me all the way. Then I hear, "You fucking assholes, get the fuck away from here! You fucking assholes!" The guy who walked out of the store before me comes running up the street waving a gun in the air! "Get the fuck outta here! I'm a fucking cop, get the hell outta here!" Actually he didn't say he was a cop, but they all took off. He's like "I hate to see them hassling kids around here. I'm a cop." He never showed me his badge. He puts his gun away and then it's like, "What did they take from you. You all right? What did they take from you." "Well, ten bucks and a nickel bag, a joint or something. And he's like, "No sense in going down to the station to get your ten bucks back. Then he kinda looks at me for a second, like I might ask him what the hell is a cop doing coming out of that place, if he's not busting it. And he's like, "Oh hey, I like to party sometimes.. Another time I was riding home on the subway, with a girl and we were kinda dozing off and I woke up and I saw a guy with



knife up to this lady's throat, saying "Gimme your fucking bag, gimme your fucking bag!" And she wouldn't give it to him, and he finally took off. We were pretending we were asleep. So he wouldn't come and bug us.

(Jersey Joe Vincent enters the room)

**FOE** Have you ever been the victim of a crime?

**JOE** Have I ever been the victim of a crime? I grew up in Jersey!

**ANDY** Yeah. What about your first girlfriend getting shot or something. Or getting run over by a car?

**JOE** It was a student driver.

**ANDY** Vehicular manslaughter, but he really wasn't a victim of it.

**JOE** it was my chick though! I lost my chick! She was seven years old and tight as hell! (Steve walks in)

**FOE** Have you ever been the victim of a crime?

**STEVE** I'm on probation.

**FOE** No, were you ever a victim of a crime! But now that we know you've committed a crime, what did you do?

**STEVE** Was I ever sodomized?

**FOE** For the two NY dwellers, are you going to vote for Howard Stern?

**ANDY** I might. If someone tells me when the election is. Like the day of the election. And I got a chance to go. I guess, but that is fucking bullshit. The hell with that. I never watch the news. I never pay attention to the candidates. But Howard Stern, I guess he's pretty cool. He did that tribute to vagina and everything.

**FOE** What was the most satisfying gig you ever played.

**JOE** The one I'm thinking about right now is, we played in Costa Vesa in California. We recorded it for a live album and it is gonna be out in the fall.

**ANDY** And didn't you screw somebody famous after that show?

**FOE** Who? Like movie star famous?

**ANDY** No. We're not saying who. We'll make it a multiple choice answer so the kids can guess. It was either a famous movie person, a rock goddess or a porno star, or a politician. For some of the kids who may be a little slower, the fact that it was in California would probably, though not necessarily rule out the politician. Anyhow, the chicks were swinging in the audience.

**FOE** Are you more happy when you get a good crowd or one you can berate?

**ANDY** Oh, I never really have a good time actually. When I'm yelling at the kids in the crowd it's like if I was at home yelling at my own kids. I don't get satisfaction out of that. I'm standing up there in my own fucking country, and the people who show up are morons. That is the situation when I'm up there saying to myself these kids are fucking stupid.

**JOE** It's like you're up there, "WILL YOU MOW THE LAWN!"

**FOE** Do you see things changing? Bands like you and the New Bomb Turks are getting a lot of momentum.

**ANDY** When we first started there weren't that many bands like this. It's definitely better in Europe. And I don't want to say those people are any smarter, cuz I don't believe that either.

**JOE** I think it has to do with American people being too spoiled. It's much easier to stay at home with cable, VCRs, Nintendo. I think in Europe, people tend to go out more and live.

**ANDY** They feel it. I think the drinking age has something to do with it. Here it is 21 and there it's like when you can reach the bar. Rock n roll was originally for the kids. And the kids can't get into the bars. When you're 21 and 22 now you can go to clubs, but you want to do what you've been doing since you were 18. It's just that those prime years when you are in high school, when you should become a rock n roll fan for the rest of your life, but you can't get into see the bands. We do all ages shows, those kids don't fucking get it. They like it, but they don't know what it is. They don't know what to do. And I'm hear to tell ya it doesn't matter, just do. Do something. You feel it do it.

**JOE** It's kinda like fucking. The first time you fuck, maybe you weren't that good, it wasn't like you read a book and it said this is where you moan.

**ANDY** Let's say you're with this girl and it's your first time fucking ever. You stick your dick in, you feel something, but no one ever told you about that. What do you do? Just sit there? It feels different, and I don't know what to do, so I won't do anything. And that's everybody's attitude. And I say you feel it. Do it. There's a couple of key phrases from songs here, that I enjoy. Sometimes you got to feel it! Come on everybody, get down and get with it! That's rock n roll! Baby, that is rock n roll! That's what I got to say to you motherfuckers out there who don't know what to do! It's like you shove your dick in, you feel it, you move.

**JOE** I totally relate fucking to the Devil Dogs all the time... It's an analogy...

**ANDY** Just about all the songs are loosely based on that, you know, fucking. It's a connection with passion. Fucking is good. And I don't believe that's a sexist viewpoint. Here's a story I heard. A promoter told me that he is booking some shows in the Philly area for Bikini Kill and they said to him, "You're not going to book us with any sexist guy punk bands, just to fuck with us". And he goes, "You wouldn't mean like the Devil Dogs or anything like that?" And she's like, "Exactly". And I think that girl deserves a kick in the teeth for saying that, and that's not a sexist thing either. She dissed us, right. I don't believe that we are sexist at all. Sex is sexy. I'm sorry to break this to the world, but girls have sex too! Everybody's fucking, I'm not gonna lie to you. I know that there are people having sex out there right now.

**FOE** Tell us about the cheapo Crypt sampler.

**ANDY** There's a story in there about the three songs Billy Childish wrote for us. And the story about how the one song was written about a certain band member. But it wasn't of our band, that's what the story leaves out. So it wasn't the Devil Dogs at the time, it was the Rat Bastards. But it wasn't about a member of the Rat Bastards either. It was about a member of the Gravediggers.

**FOE** Tell me more about the Billy Childish stuff.

**ANDY** We played with Thee Mighty Ceasars in NY. So we went in the studio to do like six songs, but it ended up being sixteen, which was all produced by Billy Childish. And the two guys, not

being me or Steve in the Rat Bastards, rejected the tape. They said it sounded like shit. Of course it does, Billy produced it. It's supposed to sound like shit. That's the whole idea.

**FOE** Do you remember your dreams, and if you do what was your last dream about?

**ANDY** All of the dreams I remember are about love. I remember almost none of my dreams.

**JOE** I don't remember too many dreams but I had one with a couple of French chicks that was pretty cool.

**ANDY** Who needs dreams.

**FOE** Do you all have day jobs?

**ANDY** I call it more of a shit job. But it is during the day. They let me take off for tour. When I come back from tour, I usually feel like blowing my brains out, like Kurt Cobain, right? But I got a little more self control. So the last thing I feel like doing is going on job interviews. I probably wouldn't be a good candidate at that time, so I come home, sit around for a few days and I really go nuts, and I think, "I gotta go back to work or I'm gonna kill myself", and at that point I call them up and tell them I'm coming back to work. I work at an office that does statistics on horse racing. Like speed figures on races and stuff. Little information for track slime. The real serious guys who are fucked up on gambling, stop by our office, and pick up a set of these sheets and then go to the off track betting places. A set of these sheets is like \$25. So they are losing money right off the bat. I work at a booky joint.

**JOE** I call up people and ask them to donate money to charities.

**ANDY** What a fucking sweet guy. He does that for no money too.

**JOE** I call people from my bedroom and tell them to give to the Red Cross or whatever.

**FOE** What happens when they tell you to fuck off?

**JOE** I take it personally.

**ANDY** I've stopped this guy from going down to people's houses. He's not hateful towards people, but he'll break their windows. I've stopped him a few times.

**FOE** So why do you feel like blowing your brains out when you get back from tour?

**ANDY** When you're at home and you have to get up early and go to work. And that's what you do when you are on tour, but it's different. The first thing you have to do everyday as part of your job is to get in the van and sit there. It's not really mentally taxing. We do our jobs really well. And I think part of our job is to walk around all wasted and shit. So we do it really well. So you get up, get in the van, get a little wasted, then you get to the show and have some coffee.

**JOE** Yeah our job is like hanging out in clubs, meeting chicks, getting free drinks. We know how to do our jobs really well.

**ANDY** A lot of the younger bands are not really good at that, believe it or not. They don't seem to be really into having a few cocktails or partying with some lovely ladies... I'm making a motion. We have to take rock n roll away from the college kids. You don't go to college do you?

**FOE** No, I graduated.

**ANDY** You finished. Good. Stay away from it. Don't go back. I went for awhile. That's neither here nor there.

**JOE** Let me make a little fuck analogy here. Rock n roll is not meant to be thought about. You shouldn't be sitting there, going part a goes into part b. The thing is, if you are ever with a chick, and you are having a problem getting the unit working. The worst thing you can do about it is think about it. The best thing to do is just feel it. If you are feeling it, the unit will be there, like a fucking rock every time.

**ANDY** Sometimes you gotta feel it. When you want something so bad you can taste it. Sometimes you gotta feel it. Come on everybody get down and get with it. That's rock n roll. But anyway. Get rock n roll away from the college kids, get it off the campus. Back to the kids on the street. Cuz that's where the kids are feeling it. Before they are taught that life sucks, you can still feel things. Before you are taught that you have to make yourself numb. You go through experiences and learn that life really blows. And you gotta kind of numb yourself to that or you'll never make it. You gotta accept that life sucks. It's like a joke, life sucks and then you die. But you have to accept it or you'll die. Either you accept it or you'll kill yourself.

**JOE** I'm gonna go set my stuff up we're going on soon.

**ANDY** I'm just going to finish up this question.

**JOE** OK try and get another fuck analogy in there, please will you!

**ANDY** Actually we better call it quits here because I forgot what I was talking about.

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