

# WHITE ZOMBIE

White Zombie is everything the name implies and more. Horror flicks, fast cars, Russ Meyer films, satanic imagery, and four people playing some of the heaviest alternative styled metal I've ever heard. The band is reaching gold status with it's "La Sexorcisto: Devil Music Vol. I" disc, which recently entered Billboard's charts, thanks to airplay of the band's video for "Black Sunshine" on Beavis and Butt-head. The four piece band (Rob Zombie on vocals, Sean Yseult on bass, J on guitar and their new drummer Phil Buerstette, who replaced Ivan DePrume) plain and simple rock. The year and a half old disc wasn't carried by a couple of the larger record store chains in the United States upon it's original release. But as guitarist J explains, "the almighty dollar won out, and once sales picked up, those chains knuckled under and decided to carry it." "It's also pretty obvious that we're just messing around."

The band's image got them banned from playing in Omaha Nebraska. "There were a couple of places where we weren't supposed to play because some group or another was going to protest. I don't know how they even found out about us." The band has been constantly touring, opening for the likes of Megadeth, Pantera, and Danzig. "La Sexorcisto" is much different than the bands earlier, independent releases, which are best described as chaotic noise rock. The band rocks harder now, and is even more extreme than its beginnings. White Zombie debuted some new material on its tour with Anthrax and Quicksand. "the new stuff is heavier, and more psychotic like the old stuff, but also heavier and tighter." Don't expect the new material to be anything like the bands 1987 release "Psycho-head Blowout", which was engineered by Kramer, who has recently produced the Bethlehem band Strychnine and the Rat Traps soon to be released singles and some material for the Crack Babies.

The Zombies use frequent samples on "La Sexorcisto". Their free reign in the studio combined with their interest in 50s and 60s nostalgia and their love of American pop culture got them into some hot water. "Geffen is based in LA with a small office in NY, and the A&R guy from New York signed us. So we

escaped notice from the company and made the record without any supervision. And we never really thought about clearing all the samples. Geffen doesn't really have a lot of rap acts, so they said go ahead, and make the record you want to make. So we went hogwild, and delivered the record to LA and they freaked! They had to get the rights and for some of them they actually had to track down the person who actually said whatever we sampled. As it turned out the only things we didn't get to keep were a Vincent Price quote (he was flattered but didn't want to be on another record - he had previously worked with Alice Cooper) and a Charlie Manson quote (his lawyer didn't want it used). The samples originated from commercials, and movies like "Night of the living Dead" and "Faster Pussycat Kill, Kill". We just wanted to pay homage to what we've been influenced by." The band obliged those who didn't want them to use their samples. They didn't want to be sued like some of their friends. "The smallest bands get sued by these big corporations. Tad got sued by Pepsi, (for the song "Jack Pepsi" about a drinking and driving incident that occurs on thin ice). They went through with it and made the band pull the record. Das Damen got sued by Michael Jackson because they did a Beatles song on one of their albums. How do they find about these bands?"

The band originally was from New York. I used to live on the same street as Sergio from Quicksand. The band moved out to Los Angeles to be close to Geffen, but now they really don't live anywhere, with the constant touring. This has put vocalist Rob Straker's art career on hold. "He's done all the artwork for the band including flyers and album covers. People are always asking him when he's going to do a (art) show." Next year he plans on doing some t-shirts and cover artwork for other bands.

The band was excited about the line up of their 1993 tour. "We've had a good package for this tour. There aren't really heavy metal kids anymore. They just like anything that has energy, which is cool. That's the way it should be. We haven't played a show yet that wasn't completely nuts."

...interview by Frank POE...