



INTERVIEW WITH JOSH OF TYPE O NEGATIVE 30/05/1998



The new album is awesome but spectacularly un club/radio friendly I thought was that intended?

You're one of the few people who say that today, even when we did the last album we weren't setting out to do a club / radio friendly album that's just how it turned out, I think each album reflects the bands emotional state at that time so maybe we were just a little less miserable then ...we never intentionally put together a more dark album and these last few years have been rough for us so y'know it just came out that

way.

It seemed to take awhile?

To the band it has not been a while we put out October Rust and then we toured for a year and a half we wrote music for eight months, recorded it in six months so no we weren't sitting home, record companies push bands to make the next record fast so they can ride the wave of press and so forth but I don't think we really care about that, I mean there was five years between Bloody Kisses and October Rust so to me it's a short time

What's the worst thing that's happened to you at a festival?

.....we had to play.....errrr..once I had to take a shit which is pretty scary at any festival, we were at the Bizarre Festival in Germany recently and they came around with the big hose to empty the toilets, that cleared the whole place, a frightening smell.....the vacuum shitterif you can't learn to hold your faeces then you shouldn't be playing festivals

You've done quite a bit of production work solo?

I did Piston because they're friends of mine not for money because no one I work with ever has any money, I did Life of Agony's first record I just really enjoy being in the studio but there's not a lot of time with the Type O schedule to get too involved.....

Would you recommend anything new and American?

I would recommend bombing America but I don't think anyone can do that yet build bigger bombs gather your armies and come to America and free meno I don't like a lot of new stuff I try and avoid MTV I listen to old stuff the Beatles Black Sabbath I guess I'm just an old fashioned 36 year old guy who doesn't believe anything new is happening at the moment I just think everyone's stealing from the

old stuff.....I mean any effort is a good effort I don't want to knock what anyone's doing but it's not for me.....when Type O go into the studio I don't even want to subconsciously think about any of that I want us to be unique and just do what we do

What's your favourite song off the new album?

White Slavery because it's very slow and very honest and it deals with a subject which is cocaine addiction that just hurts, I think pain is something bands don't normally put their fans through pain is something they hide they feel they have to act tough because they believe that's cool, they're unwilling to admit that they're people suffering like everybody else

Talking of anguish you've got a lot of tattoos, when did they start?

Brooklyn - when I was fifteen years old I took a needle and did something over here on my arm you can't see it anymore because it's buried but it was a long messy scabby job and now I've almost got sleeves, it's been happening over the years although I haven't got one in a while, I got barbed wire like yours but smaller this Japanese sign next to it means death, the rest was just filling in the gaps between the bigger tattoos the wolf, flames a lot about death I guess because I lost a brother when I was ten years old I dwell on it, I don't think it's a negative thing just realistic so I think it's just something that if you get hit with at an early age you think about more than you should

Interview with Pete Steele 1999

You've got pictures of Brooklyn on the new album cover, discuss..

It's a big place but it's a small place, people say how come so many bands come out of Brooklyn but there's so many people live there, more than some of the countries in Europe. Like anywhere Brooklyn's got nice neighbourhoods, bad neighbourhoods, nice parks, nice people, bad people.....

People with guns...

I've had guns pointed at me in altercations between myself and other males, there's a lot of different types of people in Brooklyn, I've only ever had trouble with my own kind, when I was younger there was this thing between the short hairs and the rockers, I think everyone feels like a big man when they have a gun in their hand and maybe that's the only way or time some of these guys felt that

Did you intend this album to be less commercial?

No not really although there's no real singles on there, after October Rust which is my favourite album, on which I had made a conscious attempt to try and write more commercial songs but I don't think it got handled very well so this time I thought lets make the longest most depressing record I canthere's a light at the end of the tunnel which is called suicidethis is not superficial music I meant everything I said, it's all very personal I speak about people I loved who are no longer here and I don't deal with that too well but I got sick and tired of writing about sex and I don't want to get involved with politics so what else is left - drugs, death and Halloween!

Talking of politics dare I mention Carnivore?

If people want to blame me for what I had to say when I was in Carnivore they should also blame me for shitting my pants when I was a baby, because I was younger then and more ignorant, I didn't realise what I was doing but I learnt better, that's a thing of the past y'know

You're all in green today

Even my teeth!! I like military clothing, I like uniforms and it matches my fingernails which are also green from fungus

How do you get to work out on tour?

I take my weights on the bus the American buses, they're bigger than the European buses which I don't like because the ceilings aren't high enough. I'm about six feet seven inches and I like to be able to

stand upright on the bus and work out when it's stationary, the US buses are broken into three areas a front lounge, a middle sleeping area and a small back lounge which I commandeer-"Get out this is my space" and I sleep on the floor because I cannot fit in the bunks and if my feet and my head are up against walls I can't sleep, I feel like I'm in a fucking coffin, so I just take the mattress and sleep on the floor. I kinda slacked off the workout thing a little I wasn't doing it every day but I'm getting back into it

The production sounds different this time

I think the production can make or break an album its a totally different approach - October Rust is very lush thick and layered, so it sort of had a more jangly sound to it. World Coming Down is just bass guitar and drums so it didn't need to be so layered and it gives each instrument a sonic identity when you use fewer tracks

What's the worst thing that's happened to you at customs?

I've gotten strip searched they don't really bother me too much, I don't really walk through screaming drunk or anything though I kinda try and look fairly normal wear my cap to cover my hair look presentable it's only when I walk too close to the rest of the band that I get a rubber glove shoved up my ass !!!