

MUDHONEY

Nirvana, Mudhoney and grunge music had a major influence on me. Unfortunately it was bought up, killed off and turned into slacker/Generation X by the majors before it had much real impact. Now as I discover more and more independent bands and music, I have less and less time for major labels and fake indies, at the same time I recognise and won't deny that some bands still have impacts even if they are on Major Labels seen as it was Major label band that changed my life.

Anyway this interview was done as Eugene wrote some waffly letter to Steve Turner's (guitarist) label Super Electro and Steve said he'd do an interview with us if we wanted, which proves that he still cares about the little people. I can't really condone buying Mudhoney albums seen as they're on a Major Label and considering all the dodgy stuff that Major Labels are involved with eg: selling arms, but you can always copy them or buy them second hand (From Freebird). Anyway heres the interview:

A = Anthony
E = Eugene
S = Steve Turner



A : What have Mudhoney been up to lately?
S : Mudhoney just played a festival here in Seattle called "Bumbershoot", and we're working on new songs for another record.
A : It seems you've been working your ass off what with all collaborations ; 'Sad and Lonely(s)', 'The Fall-Outs', Super Electro in general and Mark in Bloodloss. Comment:
S : Actually, I've been taking it pretty easy- didn't play a show with anybody for a year. 1992 was a busy year, though. And this fall looks to be busy with Mudhoney and Super Electro... Marks kept himself busy...
A : Whats your idea of punk?
S : Punk Rock, hmmm, Punk Rock is a type of music, one I love, by the way, based on simplicity, guitars and energy. The ideology thing kind of loses me, or the idea of if you follow certain principles you're automatically 'punk rock'. Sorry, but no matter how often Velocity Girl, or some other indie band say they are punk rock, they aren't. They may be a good band, or nice or ideologically pure, but they aren't punk rock. Its a type of music- not a life. Mudhoney is not a punk band... but some times we play it...
A : What do you think of the DIY ethic? What do you think of major labels, Mudhoney signing to 'man', Sub Pop as well etc.. Is it to finance all your other projects?
S : Oh yeh- We signed to a Major because Sub Pop was very behind in paying us, and we thought

S : they were going to fold. We talked to a couple of indies (Caroline) but they were really uptight about side projects and not touring for 9 months of the year, or doing singles or songs on other labels. Warners didn't care about that stuff they said they'd give us whatever help we asked for, or leave us alone, if that's what we'd prefer. Its worked out okay, nothings perfect. I don't know if I'd sign to a major again though. Especially now that I know something about putting out my own records. But thats not always an option.

A : Do you think it would be better, Like Fugazi, to try and build up an independent network, eventually to be as strong as the majors/corporate labels.

S : I think Fugazi do things really well, but its not for me. I've been jealous of that network they have in place - the organisation of Dischord and all, but its alot of hard work and Mudhoney isn't real fond of that - plus we like to drink beer at our shows, and that gets difficult with all ages shows in the states. And people ain't no good, so the indie network would (is) a smaller scummier version of the bigger set up.

A : Although there are some justifications for majors; eg: wider audience, finance other work, open doors to more people use the "mans" tools to turn against him, but still the Majors use the bands still make the most profit. Comment.

S : Majors vs. indies: I've been ripped off by indies so have most people I know, because they often go out of business before paying the band- the last people in the food chain to ever get paid. Majors gobble up lots of young, dumb bands and scenes, pretend they care about music, make getting things done difficult because of bureaucracy, find new ways to pay lower royalties and charge the consumers more, BUT THEY DO PAY THE BANDS (a little bit). Anywhere there's \$ to be made, you'll find scumbags - major or indie. My heart is with the indies though.

Using the "mans" tools to turn against "him"
Wasn't that what Courtney Love used to say?
Viva la revolution!

In my opinion, MTV is alot worse than major labels- majors are selling music, at least, MTV is selling whatever product advertises with them, as well as pre-fab Youth culture - KILL YOUR TELEVISION!

mudhoney

cont.

A : What do you think of what Pearl Jam are doing: fighting ticket master etc. (over here we have M.C.D.)

S : Pearl Jam- great guys. They lost the fight with ticketmaster I think.

A : There are some songs on the last Mudhoney album that were master pieces eg: "Generation Spokesmodel" model", "Into yr. shtik", "F.D.K." I presume you'll be doing more stuff like that.

: Of course Mudhoney will make more masterpieces... duh.

A : The last time you played in Ireland you played in the R.D.S. a stadium venue, next time (if there is) would you be interested in playing a smaller, maybe independent (all ages) venue? I think bands with bigger followings should try to use their power to be doing something to change things etc.?

S : No idea where (when?) we'll play Ireland again, but it would definitely be a smaller joint. Small shows are the best- I just saw Kent 3 in somebodys apartment the other day with 25 other people... How big's your place?

E : Hows it going?

S : Its going fine, thanks

E : Do you like stories?

S : Yes, I like stories - their first record is great.

E : What about the Blues Explosion?

S : The Blues Explosion's a great live band, but I have a hard time listening to their records- Makes me nervous. Judah rules the guitar, though.

E : Do you read fanzines and stuff like that? And is there that much fanzines where you come from?

S : Yup, I read fanzines - get alot in the mail. The smaller, the better. Around here we have feminist baseball, 10 things Jesus wants you to know, Pool Dust etc. The big mag. s bore me for the most part.

E : Is there any bands around you that you would recommend?

S : Check out anything on Bag of Hammers, Empty, School Pooch, Extrus, for the local cool stuff. On Super Electro, the new fave band is Kent 3. They rule Seattle. Both Mark and myself believe them to be the best local combo.

E : Is there that much of an underground scene in Seattle and/or Olympia?

S : Yep, but I probably don't know about the total underground scene around here - I'm no teenager, you know.

E : Would you consider yourself a winner or a loser?

S : winner, loser, I'm getting by.

E : Do you know whats the story with

N Northern Exposure Is there another series after the one where Joel leaves?

S : No idea about Northern Exposure, except a friend, and local rock legend (John Bigley ex U - men) catered for the show and had a few walk on roles as a 'crazy guy'.

E : And as well do you know about in the X-Files with the shape changer whos gonna kill the other shape changer? (that was the last one in the series here)

S : Nope.

Super Electro Sound Recording
PO BOX 20401
Seattle
WA 98102
USA

