

dancin' with the devil

THE LONG LOST
MEPHISKAPHELES
INTERVIEW
OCTOBER 23 1996
SHOWPLACE THEATRE
BUFFALO, NY

**SEVERELY EDITED
FOR CONTENT AND
CLARITY**

Mephiskapheles interview, take one. Alright, the first question we want to ask is, when taking a shit, does Satan crumple roll or fold?

BRIAN: Satan wipes back to front, that way he's brown baggin' it.

Definitely.

BRIAN: He's a filthy being... And not paper like you and me....

GREG: He uses a corncob

Are you guys really Satan worshippers?

BRIAN: Yes.

GREG: Definitely.

What do you think about worshipping Satan?

ANDRE: If that's your thing, that's your thing.

Is that your thing?

ANDRE: I don't have a thing.

Ha ha. Well this is off the cuff because we didn't write down any questions and I'm really drunk.

BRIAN: That's cool.

We appreciate your music and want to know what direction you think ska music is taking these days?

GREG: Whatever, I mean take it wherever you want to take it.

What was life like before MoonSka NYC Records?

BRIAN: Same as it ever was. We're not on Moon Records.

You're not on Moon anymore?

GREG: We never were.

What's your opinion of Moon pertaining to the ska world?

BRIAN: They stuck to it, and they're still doing it.

GREG: They're really important to the scene obviously, they have a ton of bands on their label.

Yeah, because we all know you're on their T-shirt.

BRIAN: Yeah, I know about that, I've seen that.

...It's an accident.

Is the video helping out any?

BRIAN: Yes, it gives us something to do on those rainy Mondays.

What's it like being on MTV? What was it like making your first video?

BRIAN: Cheap!

ANDRE: Fun I guess.

It's cool. Personally. I think you guys should wear red suits all the time.

GREG: Yeah, that was a nice touch.

Any future record plans?

ANDRE: we'll have a new record in spring '97.

Any title so we can get a scoop?

ANDRE: No name yet.

What would make this interview stand out in your memory of recent interviews?

GREG: The dude has a tape recorder.

No one else has a tape recorder?

GREG: Nope. They usually don't even have a pen.

Mephiskapheles

Were the other people drunk?

GREG: um... Where do you think the direction of ska is going these days?

We think... well we all have different opinions, The thing I don't understand is that it took 40 years before people decided to say "wow, this is really great music" What does Mephiskapheles think about that?

ANDRE: Maybe, I guess people are just opening their eyes to it now. Market it to the masses. I mean it's been around forever, people have known about it. It's like any other youth-oriented music. It's just been underground for awhile.. It's no different. It hasn't always been underground. Like the 2Tone craze in England, The 1964 World's Fair, Jimmy Cliff. It's been around. It's just that now more kids are getting into it, as part of the whole ska-punk movement.

What were your influences to form Mephiskapheles? Did you have a theme in mind when you were making the band, or did you just get together and this is what came out?

ANDRE: We basically got together and this is what came out. We knew we wanted to form a ska band, we all did.

What are some influences around the table, which you incorporate into your sound?

GREG: We just try to be original, not repeat ourselves or repeat other people.

[enter Osho Endo, trumpet player]

OSHO: What's happening?

BRIAN: We're doing an interview.

OSHO: Hello!

What influenced you? What do you hear musically which made you want to play ska? How did Mephiskapheles come together for you? How did you integrate your sound with the rest of the band?

OSHO: I was doing Vittel Cherie a favor and look where it got me. There you go. That's an inside scoop bro. I did Vittel Cherie a favor and he owes me big now.

I want to know the top three cities Mephiskapheles likes to play in.

OSHO: Honolulu, Hawaii.

ANDRE: NYC, NY.

BRIAN: Cleveland, Ohio.

What do you think of Buffalo?

BRIAN: Buffalo is #3.

I thought Cleveland was #3?!

BRIAN: Actually it's a toss up between Hawaii and you guys.

We're from Rochester, little over an hour from here. Are you going to come through there anytime soon?

OSHO: If someone would hire us there, sure.

Do you tour often?

BRIAN: 24-7 on the road.

ANDRE: We try to as much as possible.

What would each of your top three ska records be?

BRIAN: Old Trojan compilations.

ANDRE: Aw shit, I don't have a top three.

OSHO: The K-Tel Record.

GREG: Mr. Reggae, a disc that came with a microphone.

How has Mephiskapheles lineup changed since "God Bless Satan?"

OSHO: AWWW...Yeah!

BRIAN: He's good.

GREG: Let's just say the rhythm section is....

OSHO: Finding the slot?

GREG: Just settling in.

What exactly IS that button for?

ANDRE: Giving women orgasms.

BRIAN: Aw, is that what it is?

OSHO: Yeah, It doesn't work though....

Ha. ha. Okay great, thanks for your time.

GREG: Cool.

BRIAN: Thank you!

ANDRE: That was better than most...

So what if this interview is a little more than dusty. It took us over seven months for a scoop, but the good news is that Mephiskapheles plays locally at the Water Street Music Hall, this coming June 5th.

Also of note, the band has officially finished recording their sophomore disc entitled "Maximum Perversion" to be released early Fall '97.

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