

DR. ESPLING

In a seedy, and dank bar on the South Side of Pittsburgh, I sit waiting for the one and only Dr. Espling to join me. We are scheduled to meet at the bar at 10pm. It's now 20 minutes to 11 and I have just gotten a call from the Doc. He said he got hung up, but is on his way. I sip my \$1 draft and taking in the ballgame on the tube. I ponder what Dr. Espling will be like. I have heard many stories about him. Many about how he is connected to so many people in the music industry and

that everything he touches turns to gold. He in fact has single handedly built Deface Marketing, the original Empire Magazine, had one of Pittsburgh most popular TV shows, executive produced several soundtracks, hosted several different radio shows including the original "Dead Guy Radio" and "Kill Your Radio". He was also a founding member in The Illness and Twisted Thoughts along with producing many noteworthy acts over the years. My phone rings. It's him. "Hey, I'm hear. Were you at? I'm walking in the door." I wave him over to my table.

Sorry I'm late. I was on the phone, with a guy.

It's cool.

Straighten out some business stuff. I hate that, playing the business suit. But if I don't I won't get paid. So let's do this!

The question on everyone mind is what happened to Twisted Thoughts?

You just jump right into it don't ya. No fore play or anything. Well, the short of it is differences of opinion. In my opinion, other things became more important than the group as a whole. I can't say anything bad about those guys, I'm proud of what we did together, but honestly I have not talked to them since December of last year.

Any chance of a reunion show/tour?

Like the whole Kiss thing, I doubt it. Those guys have tried to bad mouth me, but I would still do it. I love the music, what can I say. I don't hold a grudge.

What's the question you get asked the most?

Ha, beside the last one... there are so many. Can you listen to my demo? When's the new album coming out? Can we do a show with you? The list goes on. Another good one is where's The Nurse.

Ok, Well can you listen to my demo?

Yeah, man we always listen to everything. I have boxes of stuff at the office, promo stuff, CDs all kinds of shit. I swear they all get heard by my ears eventually. But I gotta confess there is a lot of shit, people give me. I mean, put some effort into this. You want me to put up thousands of dollars and spend a year working with



you and you can't even spring for a couple color copies or a jewel case. I promise you, if you're a band trying to make it, your presentation is 90% of getting it past the secretary or intern.

So image is a big part of it.

Hell yeah! I mean it can't over shadow the music, but an image is how fans relate to you. I mean that's contrary to the radio type of music, but in my business, people latch onto you for an extended period. The bands who say they don't have an image have just told you what their image is. You have one whether you like it or not. I have fans that have been with me 10 years. I'm proud of not just being a flavor of the week.

Your building an empire..

Yeah, funny guy here, I'm just trying to make shit happen. I see bands charging \$30 for a shirt or \$15 for a CD, I would rather give the CD away, just so you get to hear my shit. And get you come to a show. Building a fan base. I'll talk to every kid after a show, I love that shit. Seeing kids that drove 2 hours, borrowed a car, a stole some gas money to come see my stupid ass. It's humbling.

Cool. You seem to be one of those type of people that always have ten things going on.

Oh yeah. I'm always over extended. I work with to many projects at one time. It stretches my mind in to many directions. But I just get in and focus on that one thing for a few hours or days and get 'er done.

So what are some of those projects.

Well... My new album is at the top of that list. That always gets pushed back, cause I give up my studio time to work on something else. And I'm such a hard critic of my own songs. It takes me forever to get it just how I think it needs to be, plus I love sounds and I find all kinds of ways to hind stuff in the mixes of the songs. Other than that, I recently rapped up the CRAP, CD. That was a fun project. Although it took nearly a year. Oh, and we got something here. This is exclusive fro you, we are premiering Rappin Robbie. This is a, how do you say... mentally challenged guy, rapping. He is funny as hell, and can spit!

What?

Yeah, I'm sure were are gonna get shit for that, but wait until the CD hits, it gonna flip your wig.

Your crazy Doc.

Yeah, besides that, I really want to do some short film. I have all these visual ideas and some of them are all story boarded and ready to go. I just don't have the time. I need to clone myself or something.

For you album, is it more like Twisted Thoughts

or your old solo stuff?

Both. There are some songs on there that sound like they were straight out of Twisted Thought and there are other that are really heavy, more along the lines of Bonus Tracks. There are other songs to that explore a whole new area that you have never heard me go before. Some more straight ahead rap stuff along with a song or two that most would call metal. You see, I'm a metal head at heart and I'm a guitar player by trade, but I got wrapped up in the rap game. So I like to throw in some good old crunchy guitar riffs.

So a little bit of everything?

Yeah, I got a bunch of guest to. My boy Crash. Pumpkin King from the back woods of PA, along with the Crap Crew and a hot new talent emcee lb. Plus a few more that we can't mention publicly yet. Plus I tired to write a little less about killing and more about other thing, more of a story telling approach.

Less killing?

Yeah, I cut back from 22 murders and 112 "F" words to just under 10, Doctor's orders.

So there you have it the one and only Dr. Espling. Self described master of the macabre, purveyor of souls, cleanser of generations. New album coming soon from Deface Marketing. For all the updated details go to www.myspace.com/docespling

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