

**INTERVIEW WITH INSANE CLOWN POSSE**



ICP PHOTO BY EWOLFE

insane clown posse

Murder Dog Magazine would like to thank Andy Pelligrini for making the Insane Clown Posse Feature possible.

INTERVIEW BY LEMIS DEMON PRIME



INTERVIEW BY PENIS DEMON URINE

**I HEARD** from Andy you had a big announcement to make at The Gathering of the Juggalos. What was the big announcement?

A lot's going on. We're in the process of writing our second book. We wrote a book called "Behind The Paint" and we're writing our second book. But the story's not over yet. We don't feel like we're ready to finish the second book. The story's still unfolding. Going to the Gathering this year and releasing "The Mighty Death Pop", and then to announce that we're going to sue the FBI. Those are huge things in our life. We've been plotting and planning these things here at Psychopathic Records for months. It's always been a secret, and now it's out. When we left for the Gathering we knew that when we returned like wasn't going to be the same. Here we are back from the Gathering, and things are just different. That's how big this Gathering was; it was like a milestone. Things are different now. We've got a lotta people wanting to talk to us now about the FBI, saying that Juggalos are a gang and how wrong it is. We're entering uncharted territory. We've never been down this road.

Do you feel scared? This sounds like a crazy time for you.

It's definitely uncharted territory. When you talk about suing the FBI, there's no telling what's going to happen. This has never happened in the history of music. It's never happened in Rap, it's never happened in Rock N Roll or Punk Rock. It's never happened in music, the FBI has never come to a group and told them that their fans are a gang. It's unprecedented. It's catastrophic. It's an attempt to kill what we're doing. Here we are celebrating 22 years, and just when we start to get some good press and things start to turn around for us, the FBI wants to come and shit on our legacy. Instead of something cool happening like these Juggalos being down with us for life, and these Juggalos bein down with each other and mak-

ing this incredible movement, they want to come and shit on it and call it a gang. They're trying to make it into something negative instead of something positive like it is. In doing this it's pissing all over ICP, saying everything we did in 22 years amounted to nothing; it's just a street gang. That's what they're saying. That's really fucked up. It effects us in a lotta ways and it's really unfair. We're building a legacy here, and they want to come and shit on it.

You have given life to so many young kids, gave them something to look forward to. Everyone knows it's a family, not a gang.

That's what I'm saying! It's so fucked up. So many people have something to belong to in the Juggalos. I know because we are part of them, we are those people. Before the Juggalo movement me and Shaggy didn't have shit to belong to either. We are those people. We know what being a Juggalos means to us, and means to them. It's a wonderful thing. It's not a gang! It saved a lot of people. A lot of these kids were depressed, bummed out, had nowhere to turn. And now they have this family they belong to. It's wonderful. Now they wanna come and take all that glory away from us. That sucks, man. When the FBI first came and said it was a gang I laughed. I didn't fully understand. But I'm starting to realize what that means. If you have a hatchet man sticker in your back window, you're gonna get pulled over by the police. You're gonna get fucked with. They're gonna put you in the computer as a gang member. If you get caught sellin a bag of weed or something stupid you're not gonna get sentenced as a regular citizen. You're gonna receive a harder punishment. If you're a Juggalo and you get caught sellin a bag of weed they're gonna sentence you as a gang member. And they're not gonna just give you probation. They're gonna treat you as a no good criminalistic gang member. That's ridiculous because Juggalos aren't gang members.

**CONTINUES NEXT PAGE**

**INSANE CLOWN POSSE CONT.**



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**INSANE CLOWN POSSE**

I had no idea all of this was going on. It's more than that. Like when we have our concerts now they're not concerts anymore. They're saying they're gang rallies. We have trouble finding insurance to promote our own concerts. Who's going to insure a gang rally? Then you got record stores like Hot Topics and stuff, they don't wanna carry our shit no more, saying it's gang apparel. Now you can't wear Juggalo shit because now it's gang apparel. Now you can't wear Juggalo shit to school. It's fucked up because we're a band, we're musicians. What they're doing is trying to kill us. They're trying to end us. That's why we're going to sue the FBI. If we sit back and don't do anything, in a few years everybody will think of the Juggalos as a gang. And that would be the end of us. ICP's lyrics have been changing a lot lately. Your lyrics are different, but really amazing. Oh, thanks! I think that just comes with wisdom and getting older and getting better at what we do. I want to be really clear about this because a lot of artists get lazy. When it comes to writing an album for a lot of artists in the beginning it is a passion, later it becomes a job whether they get a little advancement or little money every time they finish an album. But a lot of artists out there who've been around for a long time, somewhere along the way they lose their heart to really do the best they can. There is some guys out there and I'm not gonna say any names, but some of them even recycle their own rhymes. They will say rhymes that they have already said in other songs. Sometimes they get real shitty, and it breaks my heart when I have a favorite MC and they get real shitty. They stop having heart. With ICP we put every bit of heart and energy and every bit of work into our albums today that we ever have. As a matter of fact we now even take it more serious because we know we are not writing our legacy anymore. We are not trying to compete with

our own legacy. In beginning when we first made albums we could sing and rap about anything that we wanted because we were telling people who ICP was and what we were about. At that point we were free to do anything because the blueprint was there for us to say whatever we wanted. We were laying the foundation for what ICP was back then. But now since the foundation has been laid people expect things of us. They expect a certain sound and they expect a certain flavor. When we make an album now we concentrate extra hard on delivering all the goods they want. We concentrate on giving them plenty of story songs and we concentrate on giving them anthems that are not just fun for concerts. We concentrate on delivering the wicked shit that is scary and is horrifying as possible. We try to give all those elements. We try to fulfill all those elements and we work really hard on our music. We never rush something just to put it out, we never do that. Do you ever feel like just going in to make a great record and not think about pleasing the fans as much? Sure! They're always songs on there that are our own thing that we put out there to show that we're still growing and we are still writing our legacy. For the most part we feel that we have to stick to the guidelines, but there are always songs that we go places we've never gone before. We like to try to make our fans happy. We want to do songs about things that we've never written about. We want to still be fresh. We don't want to just say the same shit. We don't want to go down the same road we've already gone down. We want to still be creative in every way and we don't get lazy with that. We keep trying to impress like we did with the earlier records. I can't lie though because there is definitely a blueprint that we have to follow that Juggalos expect of us. There are always songs were we stray off and do something wild. On the new album there's a song called "Daisies" which

doesn't sound like anything we've ever done. But there is plenty of classic ICP in there too. We try to give a combination of all of those elements. As far as the music goes what are some of the Juggalo's favorite songs? That's the craziest thing about this because we don't have any hits. We don't have any songs that ever hit on the radio. Pretty much honestly every song that we make is somebody's favorite out there. When we do a concert some like to hear the scary stuff that is slow dark and scary. That is their favorite shit. Then there are other Juggalos that like to hear the party anthems about Faygo and shit. Juggalos come from all walks of life so there isn't just one formula that works. There is a bunch of different formulas that appealed to a bunch of different people. There's no way to make everybody happy. When we released our first single off the new album it is always split because half of the fans will say they don't like it because it sounds too different and the other half will say that they love it. It is always the same, brother! I'm always confident that they may not like the first soft album but they're definitely gonna like something on the album. Every song is so different from the last song that we take you to so many places on the album. It's like my brother always says, "Love or hate ICP, their albums will always entertain you," because there will be fast songs, slow songs, funny songs, serious songs, political songs, and we will go all over the spectrum. Every song we do is either hit or miss. Believe it or not, there are not too many songs that we could do that all Juggalo's like. There are a few like "Chicken Huntin" and some others that everybody likes, but for the most part everybody is different. We don't have those universal hits that everybody loves. Every song that we do at each concert is somebody else's favorite song. Maybe it's because there are so many songs and it makes it hard for people to choose with

that much of a selection? Yes! How we comprise our concerts is there are certain songs that will go over well at a concert and there are other songs that are really popular but they don't seem to have a good effect at concerts. For example there is a song that we have called "Amy's in the Attic" which is a classic ICP song and is one of our most famous horror songs. But if we do that in concert it's so slow that mostly people just kind of stand there and listen. That is not the reaction you want to get at live concert. So our concerts are mostly made up of songs that we know will get people moving. Unfortunately that's only one side of ICP but that's the side that we go for when we are on tour because we want everybody to move. We have several songs that you love to hear that are not best for live concerts. Most of our live concert sets are compile the songs that we know work good in concert and that is why we do the same concert songs all the time because we know that those are to get the best reaction. Everybody loves to sing along with them, everybody loves to move and that is how we pick what songs to do live. We wanna do the songs that everybody likes but some of the songs slows everyone down and me and Shaggy don't like that. When you perform about how many songs do you do? Around 30. Are there certain songs that you always do? We always do "The Show Must Go On", "Chicken Huntin", "Tilt A Whirl." These are great concert anthems that always get the crowd movement and they are classics. I know there are Juggalos out there who say, "I've been going to shows, why do they always do the same songs in concert?" That's because they have been to 100 shows. There are so many other Juggalos will go to one show a year and they love to hear those classics. There are also new fans coming all the time.

**CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE**

# INSANE CLOWN POSSE CONT.

Right, there's always new people coming in and they want the maximum ICP show that we know how to give. And we do those songs that gets the biggest reaction. We are not one of those bands that's going to get up and play a bunch of rare b-sides and all kinds of shit like that. We are into playing what we know the people love and what's going to make them jump up and down and scream the lyrics. Most people want to have the best time possible when they come to the show, so that's what we give them with those songs.

While experimenting with different styles and sounds have you done music or performances that are really uncharacteristic of ICP?

We are getting ready to do some special stuff. We just announced it at the big seminar that we did at the Gathering the other day. In November we're gonna do the "Riddle Box" show where we are going to perform that album in its entirety. It's going to be read from the first song on the album all the way to the last song. The reason we're doing that is because that is for those fans who have been to 100 of our shows and want to see something different. So we are going to a smaller venue for that. We're going to start experimenting with that. We would never do a "Riddle Box" show on tour because there are so many fans that would show up wanting to hear all the classics. There are so many new fans that don't even really know the "Riddle Box" album. It would upset a lot of people. So we are doing one-offs here and there. We're going to do that show in Detroit and put that out on Internet pay-per-view that way other people can see it is the one.

They get to see the whole show on the Internet?

Yeah they see the whole show they just pay five dollars and make you watch it. But will we get the road of only one tour we like to deliver what we know gets the best reaction.

As far as Violent J, are there certain songs that you really

love that ICP has done?

Sure, there are a lot of songs that I love to perform. I love to get lost in the music. I love to close my eyes on stage and get lost in the music. I love doing the song called "Truly Alone" and "Night of the 44". I love performing that on stage. I also love performing the song "Play With Me!" There are a lot of songs that are my personal favorites to perform in concerts. I look at a tape of us in concert and I'm feeling one thing when I'm up on stage singing from feeling like 1 million bucks. I'm feeling like I look awesome when I'm on stage but then I go back and look at the tape and I see that I'm just a fat dump but I feel great inside. Feel awesome!

Maybe you feel like you're fat but to us who know you, you are just Violent J. To me it doesn't matter at all because we love Violent J. We love ICP.

Right. For most people I know they don't care about stuff like that, but for me personally when I look at footage of myself performing on stage I don't look the way I felt when I was performing. But that's how it is because I get lost in the music and I feel unstoppable and untouchable. I feel like I'm flying over the crowd. I feel like I'm doing some supernatural thing. That is where I go with the music when I am performing. It just feels really good on certain songs. Other songs are harder and they're faster you have to kinda keep your breath. Those songs involve a little more concentration, but other songs are all about the music they're just wonderful to perform.

What you should do is go to the park every day with a bunch of Juggalos and go jogging. Hahahaha! That would be awesome! Take like 300 Juggalos with me. That would be a great idea.

As far as production do you have a certain sound on this new album?

Mike Clark is the Man. When we started off recording this album we went through everything he had that he had ever done for me years and years ago up until

today and we listen to everything that we have ever passed on. In other words if we were doing an album five years ago and we heard one of the beats and we said no I don't want to use that one, we went back and we listen to every beating he had in the catalog. We listen to some old stuff, some really different sounding stuff, and really to be honest we went for anything that sounded different. We want some different flows on this album. There were different challenges. Instead of going for the same sounding beats that I know we could kill I wanted to get something unusual. so we can come up with new rhyme styles. Right when I heard the beat for "Chris Benoit" I wondered how I would rap on this. The same thing with "Bazooka Joey." When I heard those beats they were so different from anything we have ever done and I found it challenging. That's what we did we collected like 500 beats and we pulled out 20 that we knew were different and crazy sounding. Some of those beats Mike made 15 years ago and other ones he made for TV commercial or something that never got used. Anything that sounded really different and challenging. Anything that sounded like something that we normally wouldn't rap over. That is the kind of thing we were after on this album. We're doing different rhyme styles and different flows. I'm doing a lot of yelling and I like that. I feel like I am excerpting energy into my rap. Some of my favorite rappers always yelled like Willie D. I like that sound. Of course are songs are going to be about mostly ICP sounding stuff but I just wanted the music to take us in a new direction. We feel real happy with the way everything sounds. I'm glad you chose off-the-wall beats. That is what I was hoping for and I'm glad you did that.

That's what we wanted to do! The more weirder but as long as they were dope beats! The more that I thought "how my gonna rap on that?" It may be challenging. I would take that beat home at night and play

would different flows in different styles. It's like the song "Ghetto Rainbows" because you hear the beat by itself and you are like "what the hell my gonna do with that song?" Even the last song on the album "For Ever" it's got this kind of Andy Griffith whistle going. We never played with the whistle ever. On our entire catalog would never had a song that had a whistle like that. I thought "Boom, brand-new right there!" This is something ICP is never done. It's an acoustic guitar with the little whistle on it. I thought that it was perfect for what we are doing. Usually we end every album was a big epic song with strings and orchestra, but this album who wanted to have a song that's touching and meaningful. We didn't want to go for the big epic sounding song we wanted to go for something simple. When I heard that beat I thought that this is us. I thought this would be a perfect way that an album right here. When I heard that beat I knew that it was the last song album. This is before we give the song, this is before we even had anything on the album. Right when I heard that be I said this will be the final song on the album.

What made you go and check out all of those beats that Mike had? Did you feel that he had a lot of great beats that you might have missed?

Yeah because we knew there were so many beats that he made over the years. I didn't want to tell him what direction to start making beats I just wanted to hear what we already had when we weren't looking for specific sound. I want to hear something that maybe in the past was too weird first to use. Something that in the past I said "there's no way I could rap on that!" Now those of the beats we were looking for. Instead of saying to him "hey try to make some beats are hard to wrap on" rather than do that we just went through the catalog of his beats. I gave them a week to go through and find every single beat that he had never used on his computers. He went through all of his

computers and even had to fire up his old computer which he had not used years. He had to get that thing working and pull some of those old beats out of there. We got them all together and for 2 days we sat and listened the beats and picked up the ones we wanted.

When you play this album you feel like you get a different kind of feeling?

Yeah I get the feeling that this is new terrain for us. We are doing new flows! It's ICP all day as far as what the songs are about and the anger of the dark Carnival but I will say the tracks of the production our next level. The tracks are something that we normally would've passed on but this time we went to the craziness of it all. I'm super proud of it. I'm super proud of the whole "Death Pop" concept. We are probably you could sit there and hold the cover and a look at the cover and listened to the album and the whole concept makes sense. You could totally get it! I think we did the fuckin great great job on this one.

Why were you taking so long to come up this album?

Because of all the bonus material. This album comes out in three versions. You can buy the album with the white cover which comes with the whole bonus album called "The Extra Pop Emporium." With that is it is songs from the "Might Death Pop" album remixed with guests on them. We have Ice Cube, Geto Boys, Kreyshian, an incredible special guests on that one bonus disc. Or you can get the version with the black cover that comes with a bonus disc as well but it's different. That bonus disc comes with an hour long rap song. It has a wrap that lasts for an hour-long. Is it you doing that song?

Yes it is us doing the classic Too Short song "Freaky Tales" and Too Short's version was 7 minutes but our version is 64 min. long. It's good for a long car ride or something like that.

It's all on be going along?

Yeah one big long track. It just goes and goes and goes and goes. Then the third version

comes with a red cover and there is a bonus album on that to called "Smothered Covered and Chunked" which is 13 cover songs. We cover 13 of our favorite songs. We covered everything from NWA, the Geto Boys, Christina Aguilera, to Michael Jackson. Seeking get the white version with all the guests on the bonus disc, the black version with the 64 min. long rap song, or you can get the red version with the cover tunes. The reality is actually like four albums. We didn't rush any of the bonus music. We took our time and we refuse to set a release date until we were done with everything because we didn't want to be rushed.

This is probably going to be one of the biggest things that you guys have done!

I think so. I think this is going to be our most successful album. How do you come up with that kind of idea?

We just think about what Juggalos would want because we are Juggalos. It's easy to think of what is going to appeal to them because we are not a bunch of old men sitting around thinking about today's youth because we are who we are selling our CDs to so was easy for us to come up with what's going to work. We are like our fans and we think what would be awesome. We would just sit around and be like "you know will be awesome if we had a hour-long rap song" sort of just as a novelty. Just as a bonus disc. It's just a collectible. Really all three of the bonus discs are collectibles even though there is authentic music on their and their collectibles. Some people don't just want one of the new album they want all three because they want to hear all that bonus material.

You are huge and you have a huge fan base in America and I was just wondering how you guys are like in Europe, Africa or Mexico?

There is love in Europe there is definitely love in Australia but honestly we don't go there very often. We don't concentrate on it too much but we couldn't we should. Our schedules so

full here in the United States and we are so busy trying to do this, trying to do JCW, trying to raise our kids so our schedules are packed. We don't have the drive to go to Japan and get things crack in there because we work all the way around the clock all year anyway. It would be cool to have an entire different career in Japan but I don't know how we would fit that in because we are so busy doing what we do here. It just doesn't seem that appealing. There would have to be more money involved but we are making plenty of money here. It just doesn't seem like it could happen. I like to make our shit available so they can get it over there if they want but as far as getting it the kind of attention that we give to the United States we are just so busy man. I just want to come more than we can handle.

I was just thinking if you guys went to another country where the culture is different it would be so fresh for you, just to see something different.

We are going back to Australia in November which is really really cool for us because we haven't been there since 2005. We are going to tour there. There's a lot of love in Australia and we're looking forward to that because it's going to be awesome. It is going to be insanely fun.

Tell me about your look and your close line because there are so many fans who paint their face and dress like you guys. Are things changing in your styles? Like I said before everything is pretty much business as usual for us. But even when we weren't making a lot of noise in the mainstream, even before people started to give us a second look or second chance we were busy as hell. We were doing business as usual. We were on the road, we were coming up with new merch ideas, and we were doing our thing for so long that solenoid to do. None of that really has changed. We may be selling more stuff that we have in the past but we are doing it like we always have. Even when nobody outside of

the Juggalo world knew who we were we were still in the Juggalo world. We were still touring and releasing merchandise when nobody in the world was watching us except Juggalos. That part hasn't changed and that is probably the most healthy thing for us man. Running this record company, putting up this music, putting out this merchandise, and doing our thing is something that we have been doing up and down in popularity. We are the world's most hated band and we are the world's most loved band outside of the Juggalo world but here in the Juggalo world we are what we are and we have always done our business. Nothing is changed. Even we weren't making any noise and nobody was talking about us outside of the Juggalo world things were still very busy. There was in the time we went away for a year, there was never a time when ICP vanished or were off. Never! We are the same every fuckin year around the clock and that is never changed since we started this way back in the day. When I look at the whole ICP movement you are like the real American dream. Americans should celebrate people like you. That's what I used to think bro. I used to feel like I wasn't mad anymore. When I was born and raised I was mad and I hated this country. I felt shitty because we were so poor. I hated that the food came from a hunger barrel and that my mom was so poor. I hated that we have food stamps but now we grow up we had this dream we got to do it. We got to make a living making music and nobody stopped us. Then I started feeling great about this country. I started saying "man this place doesn't suck" because if you want something bad enough you can have it. All you have to do is bust your ass for. If you want something bad enough you can have it and I feel great about that. Until this FBI thing happened now I am questioning it all again. Now I don't know what the fuck is going on.