

This week's interview:

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interview by: Mark Carras

Transcribed by Sherri Carras

PLEASE NOTE: Abrasive Rock does not take any sides in the David Wayne/Metal Church debate. We are just a forum for artists to speak to their fans. In that light, please take a look at what the band Metal Church said about this at their web site www.metalchurch.com. [click here](#).

Mark Carras: I hate to start the interview off with negative stuff, but I'm sure you know what the first question is going to be.

David Wayne: I'm ready for anything!

Mark Carras: Alright. Let's start off with the whole Metal Church album title, and artwork connection and you breaking off with them story.

David Wayne: Good! Piece of cake. Very simply, after the "Masterpiece" record, in fact, more precisely, after the "Masterpiece" tour of Europe, with a great bunch of guys-we all had a real good time over there. It was lots of fun, lots of revelry, and Kurt was more into his progressive rock thing. That was fine with me. He says, "you know what you ought to do? You ought to run on with this Metal Church thing all by yourself, and I'll write with ya, and produce, or whatever, and you can take whatever boys-if Craig wants to go, or Duke, whatever, go on, and I'll do what I like to do best, and that's progressive rock and producing." I said, "fine, Kurt, sounds good to me." And having had experience with Metal Church before, and the ups and downs we experienced, I wanted to get it on paper, so I went to the premiere legal authority of Seattle. I'm not going to mention any names, but boy, that guy, talk about conflict of interests! Anyway, I got it all typed up. It cost me no less than \$250, \$300 to have a stupid contract, and everybody says, "Dave, go on ahead, no!" Duke, I went to his house. Duke goes, "aw, Dave, go on. None of us wanted to. I'm married with kids, love my job. Go ahead." Kurt Arrington was in jail, and says, "hey, I'm behind bars, Dave. Go ahead." In other words, what I'm getting around to saying is, I had the official blessing of everyone in Metal Church to use the name, 'Metal Church.' I did that. I got myself a deal. And as the wheels began to turn, Kurt Vanderhoof, I shared with him how

lucky I was to get a record deal apart from the company that we were with for the one record deal. And he says, "oh no! No, I signed us up for three records." Which is not what he had told me. So anyway, that kind of tied things up. I go, "well, Kurt, I guess I'll have to call it 'David Wayne's Metal Church' since you have locked up the name 'Metal Church.'" Well, then, he freaked out, and I went ahead and did what I said I was going to do. Kurt did not. He went around telling everybody I stole the name, I've got no original ideas, blah, blah, blah. I went to attorneys. Everyone said, "you're a founding member. You have the right to make it 'David Wayne's Metal Church.'" Which I was going to do. Kurt still squawked about that. Somehow he got Duke in on it. I don't know how it all happened, but more or less, my final say in it was, "look, I'll just call the album 'Metal Church,' call the band 'David Wayne' or 'Wayne' or whatever, and let you guys,"-obviously, Kurt's not going to do anything but Metal Church unless Mike Howe, or myself comes back. I don't-I can't see him bringing in a dark horse, and anybody accepting that. It won't-it might! I don't know. But I tried to keep everybody happy by not going ahead with my plans to use the name 'Metal Church.' The attorneys and everyone told me I had every right to. As you know, Steppenwolf did the same thing. Goldie's Steppenwolf, John McCay's Steppenwolf, Foghat-I think there's three, maybe four Foghats out there at one time. And this is all because people get bitter, and I don't want to fight anybody. So I compromised, and went with calling the album 'Metal Church' and using the guitar logo, which I had every right to do. In the end I still had to give some people some money. I had to grease a few palms, and I don't care about all that. What really bothers me is the two-facedness of someone who's supposed to be my friend, namely Kurt Vanderhoof. And I still have my hand extended in friendship to him, if he-as far as I'm concerned I'll go back and sing on another Metal Church album if he, from his Almighty, deems it a possibility. But what I won't do is go back on what was said, and what was done, and that is that I could use the name, that I could go on with the concept, which I did, and now of course he goes on the internet and says all this. The last thing I thought we might do, and I've had a few people 'poo-poo' this idea, but-I had a couple friends, brothers, in the police. I was going to do this big, you know, 'Jerry Springer' thing, bring in a lie detector, polygraph machine, with the man, and have it live on the internet: "Did you or did you not have permission to use the name?" But I mean, it's so silly! I'd do it, because I'm not lying. I have nothing to be ashamed or afraid of. But everybody thought it was caving in too much to the Vanderhoof camp. So I still might do it, just because I'm onery, and hard to-and I want everybody to know the truth. Dave Wayne ain't lying. All I'm doing is making music. I got together with some really great songwriters, namely Jimmy Bell, and all we did was we immersed ourselves in the influences that helped write the first two Metal Church records. As well as immersing ourselves in the first two records. What I set out to do was try to come as close as I could to capturing the original sound Metal Church had achieved in its notoriety. I think I got close to it. I may not have caught it all the way, but I think I got darn close.

Mark Carras: So do you think you'll ever be able to get back together with the full Metal Church camp again?

David Wayne: Yes.

Mark Carras: You think that eventually Metal Church will get back together?

David Wayne: Well, one guy told me that he smells death over in Europe when I was telling him- I was kind of confiding in this one magazine writer who's been around for awhile, and he says, "I smell death about now." And I says, "you know, I got no problems with reunions." But I tell you, when you've got one guy that will not record anymore-he is, whatever that relationship is with his wife, family, whatever, he will not come back to the band. As far as I know, this is his last statement to Kurt and myself. Kurt Arrington, he's always kind of standing by. He's had a few personal problems. He's a real possibility. Craig Wells is a possibility. Craig, again, has several small children now, and a very good job, and he's kind of iffy. So that leaves Kurt Arrington, Kurt Vanderhoof, and myself as the three founding members that are willing to get together. Now, Kurt has gone on the internet and told everybody I'm kicked out again, because I stole the concept, whatever. You know what? He's being a punk. I tell you something. I'm friends with him. I have been for a long time. And I tell you something; whether it's your brother or your sister, your mother or father, if they're pulling some shit, you have the right to call them a punk. I don't know if this is hard for a lot of people to understand. I still like Kurt Vanderhoof, but I don't like what he does sometimes. I don't like what he's done, the spin he's put on this. He's wrong, and he's trying to hurt me, and unfortunately most folks, unfortunately all he's doing for him is bringing me more publicity and making people curious, "well, what the hell is this Wayne project, anyway, that's stealing the name 'Metal Church'?" So in his own callous disregard for our agreement, he's helping me out! (laughing)

Mark Carras: So once decided not to actually call the band 'Metal Church,' why didn't you just use the name 'Reverend'? Or simply 'David Wayne'?

David Wayne: Okay, very good questions. Very good. I'll answer both of them. Number one, I did give the Reverend guys here in Seattle a full opportunity to jump on the Metal Church bandwagon. Some of the guys have had jobs for fifteen years, and a lot of them just couldn't see going on a tour for a month to two months, because in many cases, a lot of band members will tell you, you have to have a day job in this kind of business. You have to have a day job just to pay the bills. Being in a metal band and not going platinum, you have to sustain yourself in some fashion or other. So the Reverend guys were like, "well, you know...." And so I said, "well, I have to move on with this, because it's something I gotta do." And they were all happy for me, but

they decided to just keep Reverend here in Seattle. I went on ahead and recruited some really talented individuals, and of course, calling it 'The David Wayne Band' was because of the problems. Kurt Vanderhoof kept yelling 'lawsuit! lawsuit!' after he'd already told me it was okay. I didn't really want to call the band 'Wayne,' myself, however the record company made the decision for me. It may change to-the guys in the band want to call it 'Metal Ministry' but again that's keeping in with the church religious theme. We'll see. Personally, I just want everybody to know that the Wayne band is just trying to keep in step with the original sound from the band that I-my first love was Metal Church, and band I gave a lot of love, sweat, and hard work to, to make the songs what they were with the help of-well, with Kurt and Craig, we did the songwriting. And that's what Wayne is attempting to do, to keep that sound, to keep that style of metal alive, because it's a style that I enjoy, it's a style that comes naturally.

Mark Carras: So then you will be touring for this album?

David Wayne: Yes. To expound on that question, I've been told by ????'s record label that we are first in line, which happens to be mine, too. They asked me who I'd like to go out with, and they named a few bands, and I said, "oh, please, let me go out with ???? please!" I love the guy's voice. I think he's got one of the biggest pairs of balls in rock and roll. I think the man is awesome. So for us to go out and support him would be a dream come true.

Mark Carras: So when will the tour start? Is there nothing final, but everything in the works, secret and hidden right now?

David Wayne: I think we're going to fly down and do November To Dismember in Florida. They may have, as of now, found a venue. The guy that puts it on, I think he's had it in the Midwest before, but he wanted to have it someplace nice and warm in the winter, and I think we're all going to fly down there and get onstage and kick the jams, too. And you know what I forgot? We're in Olympia, so is this going to be on a local radio station in Olympia?

Mark Carras: No, this is on Abrasiverock.com.

David Wayne: Oh, internet!

Mark Carras: Right.

David Wayne: Forgive me for forgetting.

Mark Carras: I don't know if you remember a music video show called "Mosher's Mayhem."

David Wayne: Yeah!

Mark Carras: But I was actually the founder of "Mosher's Mayhem," as well.

David Wayne: Killer.

Mark Carras: So anyways, will this project remain alongside the work with Reverend, or will one take the place of the other?

David Wayne: No, it will remain alongside it. As you've mentioned, Reverend is going to be-is my thrash core project, will mainly stay in a speed-core vein. It's really more of a raucous sound. The Wayne Band, which, something else I need to add, is a band in New Jersey on July 24th, after I'd already released my project in Europe July 2nd, beat me by approximately twelve days for releasing in the United States. So, band will change its name to The David Wayne Band temporarily, unless we come up with something else. I personally feel very self-conscious calling any band after my own name. It feels weird, it feels egotistical, and I quite honestly don't care for it, but this is something that's been thrust upon me due to the legalities of Mr. Vanderhoof and Metal Church.

Mark Carras: Is there a place that fans can go online to find the most up to date news on this project?

David Wayne: Yeah. We're right in the middle of creating a website. It'll probably be called davidwayneband.com or something like that. I will put some links up on the Reverend site, and I

think you know the Reverend address is reverend.cx, and I always tell people to just think of 'crucifix.' Reverend will-and it does kind of irritate some of the guys in the band-carry the load of information until The Wayne Band's website is finished. It should be finished very soon.

Mark Carras: I noticed that a lot of the songs have horror movie references. Do you watch horror movies to inspire you when you're writing lyrics, or even the music?

David Wayne: I watch horror movies for the sheer enjoyment. I was disappointed in "Hannibal" because, even though I wrote a song about it, I was reading far too many serial-killer books. I had to read, long before the movie came out, about a year in fact, the book was released, "Hannibal," by Mr. Lewis?-Harris. Thomas Harris is the author's name. And he really dug-I don't know-did you see the movie?

Mark Carras: Hannibal?

David Wayne: Yeah.

Mark Carras: Actually, I have not had the chance to see either one of them.

David Wayne: He ruins the character of Clarise Starling, and I'll tell you, I read some behind the scenes things in Hollywood and come to find out that Jodie Foster didn't care for what Mr. Thomas did to the character, either, and that is the reason she refused to come back, is she thought that he butchered her character, and so they had to get somebody new. The first half of the book's okay, but then when he starts ruining-anyway! I wrote a song about it, because I was already committed to it. Yeah, horror movies are fun. They're scary, they-unlike the reality of the World Trade Towers-they're something that we can walk out of the movie house and say, 'whoop! Boy, I'm glad that ain't real.'

Mark Carras: Do you prefer the movies that are kind of tongue in cheek, like The Evil Dead, Army of Darkness, or do you prefer the more darker, more violent type stuff, like either Jason, or the Hellraiser series?

David Wayne: Now, it's funny, because I like some graphic horror movies, but the hacking knife one where the guy just won't die just doesn't make sense to me, so it doesn't really tickle my fancy. But I did like the Hellraiser series. It was pretty gory, but I think more of what you mentioned first-I like Army of Darkness! I think Bruce Campbell rocks, man! And Evil Dead, of course. A friend of mine took the name off the movie and created a band by that name.

Mark Carras: A band called Army of Darkness?

David Wayne: No, a band called Evil Dead. And that's Juan Garcia's band. Juan, how're you doing? Yeah, there's something to be said for all of them, but then as you said, the real graphic knifing people, I don't get it. That doesn't really-so what?

Mark Carras: Did "A Gathering of Demons" get released in America?

David Wayne: Yes, we're releasing it from a website right now. We're going to license an outfit to in Germany, because we just cannot-it's exceeding our expectations. "Gathering of Demons" is going through the roof. We can no longer fill the orders they're swamping us with, so we're going to have to hand it over. I was trying to do this Fugazi thing, and keep it in house, but it ain't working. We're going to have to hand it over to somebody.

Mark Carras: That's always a good thing that it goes that big.

David Wayne: Yeah.

Mark Carras: Since you're a classic metal kind of guy, I want to mention a couple of bands, and get a real quick one-liner review of them.

David Wayne: You bet.

Mark Carras: Slipknot.

David Wayne: Weird. Like the costumes, but weird.

Mark Carras: Would you say thumbs up or thumbs down?

David Wayne: Oh, do I have to be that-oh gosh. They're not my cup of tea, but I don't hate 'em.

Mark Carras: Cradle of Filth.

David Wayne: I was thinking those guys were going places, but that's pretty gnarly stuff. I'd say the-what the hell is that thing?-in the genre of death metal, they're the kings. Or black metal I guess would be more like it.

Mark Carras: Speaking of death metal, Morbid Angel.

David Wayne: I like Morbid Angel. Thumbs up.

Mark Carras: What do you think the greatest element of Morbid Angel is? One of our writers is a huge Morbid Angel fan.

David Wayne: I like that the guy doesn't just growl all the time, like a lot of the death metal bands. He actually has some melody in there. I like that better than the... DIMMU BORGIR. I like DIMMU BORGIR's music, but all the growling vocals don't do nothing for-and I think that just comes part and parcel with being a singer, you know? I love melody line, I love guys like Halford, and Ian Gillan, and Bruce Dickenson, they're just maestros at weaving melody into the, like you said, classic metal. Morbid Angel, he's got a little more melody line than a lot of the other guys. That's what I like.

Mark Carras: Opeth.

David Wayne: Spell it.

Mark Carras: O-p-e-t-h.

David Wayne: Oh man, you got past me on that one, dude. I don't think I've got a chance to hear 'em.

Mark Carras: Okay. Mudvyane.

David Wayne: Mudvyane? Where are they from?

Mark Carras: I have no idea. Never heard of them?

David Wayne: No.

Mark Carras: Okay. Static X.

David Wayne: Static X. I like Static X.

Mark Carras: So what bands do you think today hold the classic metal flag the highest?

David Wayne: Oh no, don't do that to me! Jeez!

(laughter) Mark Carras: You're a classic metal guy, you're one of the pioneers, you gotta answer these things!

David Wayne: I've been immersed in my own sweat, and so I haven't paid a lot of classic metal, oh gosh... Well, I'll tell ya, they're not classic metal, but I kind of like Linkin Park and Drowning Pool now, as far as the new sounds go. And I was absolutely hating Limp Biskit until I heard the song, is it "Rollin?" {at this point our interview subject sings a line of the song much better than it's originator} It kind of hooked me. I was never a big Limp Biskit fan. I was just like, "Limp Biskit? Yeah, that's what I get when I listen to him-a limp biscuit." But a couple songs weren't too shabby.

Mark Carras: Have you heard the rumors about Linkin Park lip-syncing?

David Wayne: No way.

Mark Carras: They're doing the Milli Vanilli.

David Wayne: Oh, get out!

Mark Carras: It's unconfirmed, but that's the rumors. They had, I guess, some concert, where the backing tapes skipped.

David Wayne: Get out! Oh yeah. I remember the first time I seen KISS, years and years ago, and I saw this, and I got around to where I could see backstage, and I saw this big reel to reel, rolling, and I thought, "what the hell's that for?" Way back then, KISS was lip-syncing.

Mark Carras: Jeez. So, any last words for the David Wayne fans out there?

David Wayne: Absolutely I got some last words! That is, that America is great, we're not going to take this crap from Afganistan, and when you get pissed off, I want you to listen to song track 2, "The Hammer Will Fall." We, America, are the hammer, and we're going to fall down and crush the shit out of Osama Bin Laden. So play "The Hammer Will Fall," and remember, we're still the greatest damn nation on the planet Earth. I know. I've been on tour. I've traveled around the

world. This is the best place to live.

Mark Carras: When you get the new website up, send me an email, or post it on the Abrasiverock board. We'll see you when you get together and do a show.