

TREY SPRUANCE INTERVIEW, PT2

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TGII: What's the most illegal thing you've ever done?

TREY: Oh God, I've done bad things, man. I don't wanna talk about them; they're bad!

TGII: Well, you can tell me the second most illegal thing, if you want.

TREY: I remember the only time I ever tried to steal anything, I got caught. You know what my big heist was? Mountain Dew. I was putting it in my coat and I had the feeling that I had to go through with it even though I knew I was being watched. Like there was something saying, "He knows I'm gonna steal it, so that means I have to steal it." So I ran outside, and he came outside yelling at me, like, putting his finger in my face. And, I kid you not, I pissed my pants. So, I learned my lesson.

TGII: Do you think that the lyrics of Travolta sort of lost some of their impact after John Travolta made his big comeback?

TREY: That's a real good point. I actually think it added more of a spin to it, because the whole idea behind Travolta was that he was a person who was deprived of all of his sensory apparatuses -- his ability to almost be a shaman, to take on these different disguises and become things very easily because of the mind's strong and powerful abilities. He sort of becomes a superhero figure. And I feel like Travolta coming back -- it almost has a kind of a resurrection feel to it, where his imagination made that happen. When I see John Travolta, I can't help but see him as a figment of this person's imagination.

TGII: I once got into this debate with someone on the internet about, like... my point was that this song was about somebody whose only connection to the world was through his sense of smell.

TREY: Well, how did you -- you picked that out; that's good, I'm glad you got that.

TGII: [beaming] I'm glad you approve!

TREY: Well, sometimes I wonder, 'cause we always get accused of having inside jokes. But I always feel like -- I mean, we take pains to describe these things. So it's encouraging to hear people getting it.

TGII: I've heard that the makers of the Captain Crunch cereals are planning on putting drugs into their cereals to take over the world.

TREY: This could have to do with that guy who was named Captain Crunch. The guy was sort of the original computer phone line hacker guy. He spent 20 years in prison and was just released, and now he's like the guru of the cyberculture. It's, you know, one of these Bereklee kind of merry prankster things.

TGII: Okay, well, speaking of huge corporations trying to take over the world: you work for Warner Brothers, or as the young people like to call it, The WB. So I'm wondering, could you introduce me to Sinbad?

TREY: I can introduce you to the real Sinbad. It's just a matter of how acute your perceptions are.

TGII: That's what you should do; you should call the first song on your next album "Sinbad." Then, if Sinbad's ratings go up, it'll add a whole new dimension to *that* song.

[Laughs]

TGII: Tell me about how you got in trouble with Warner Bros., you know, about the MB logo on the shirts.

TREY: They told us not to have the inverted and backwards WB, as the MB. We wanted to put it on a record, actually. They, I think, took offense to it, and thought we were being bratty little fucks, which I think we were. And it's a standard Warners contract that when you sign it, they have the rights to the Warner logo, and I believe also to your recordings, that extends throughout the state of California, the nation of the United States, and through all world territories, and to the edges of the known universe. So you couldn't sell those things on Mars, or you couldn't go to Phobos...

TGII: I wonder if that's a big problem for them. The Martian black market. [laughs] I'm thinking, though, what if we find a wormhole to an alternate universe?

[What follows is a very lengthy discussion about "plasma cosmology" and the fallacy of the big bang theory. All edited out --Ed.]

TGII: Have you had any weird run-ins with fans?

TREY: My God yes. The Secret Chiefs seem to bring out the fucking nutcases more than anybody. There was this one guy, he comes up and says, "Yeah, uh, could I get you to sign this?" and I'm like, "Yeah, yeah." He's like, "Aw man, I just got out of the mental institution. I went there 'cause of your music, man, thanks!" [laughs] And then I talked to his sister and she was like, "Yeah, he's not kidding." And let me tell you this other one. This was a Mr. Bungle tour. We started getting these phone calls on our fucking cell phone. And it was this Japanese girl, and she's like [feigning a Japanese accent], "You draw artwork for Ma Meeshka Me Skwaz song on Mr. Bungle album. I am wondering who is

woman in black. In left hand she is holding..." and she goes on to describe the artwork in great detail. She's getting all this really advanced metaphysical stuff going that's pretty specific -- I was a little bit shocked. And then she goes, "My dog die the day I get this album. This artwork represents my dog..." She's going "this is my dog" and then she's talking about how this part of it is her, after correctly going through the rest of it. And then she says, "I must ask you to tell me how to die." That was not good.

TGII: Is there any music that you're embarrassed to admit that you like?

TREY: Oh yeah. I like a lot of pretty lame dance music. Like goa, trance and house music.

TGII: It's a fun scene, too. I sort of like the whole industrial, techno, gothic scene.

TREY: Sure man! I'm totally like a closet goth, myself. I think it comes out a little bit in some of the music.

TGII: I think I'm the most embarrassed to admit that I own the Alanis Morissette CD.

TREY: That's definitely something to be embarrassed about. But you know who else is a proud owner of that? Mr. Trevor Dunn. He was her biggest fan. He always falls for the new girl pop singers.

TGII: You know, he reminds me of Donnie Osmand. [Laughs] He's got that sort of mama's boy look to him. Even though, if you meet him you know it isn't really true.

TREY: He's probably the lewdest person out of all of us, though he rarely shows that side of himself.

TGII: Okay, well I don't have any more questions, but I do have a final comment. Every band I've been in and every tape I've made myself, there's always someone saying, "Oh, Mr. Bungle! You're trying to sound like Mr. Bungle."

TREY: It's the same shit that -- we always get compared to Frank Zappa, and I'm sorry man, I never listened to fuckin' Frank Zappa. It's infuriating.

TGII: What I always say to people when they compare my music to Mr. Bungle is, "Look, the clown on the front of my album is holding a lighter, not a match."
[laughs]