

HIT PARADER SALUTES SLIPKNOT!

THE OFFICIAL SLIPKNOT POSTER MAG!

Slipknot

16

INCREDIBLE
POSTERS!



OUTRAGEOUS

**INTERVIEWS
& PHOTOS**

COREY

**LETS
LOOSE!**

JOEY

**HAS HIS
SAY!**

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THE
INVASION
CONTINUES!

SLIPKNOT

**SPEAK OUT
ABOUT VOL. 3!**

SPECIAL

**"AUTOGRAPHED"
POSTERS!**

**THE ULTIMATE
SLIPKNOT QUIZ!**



SU P K N O T

PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

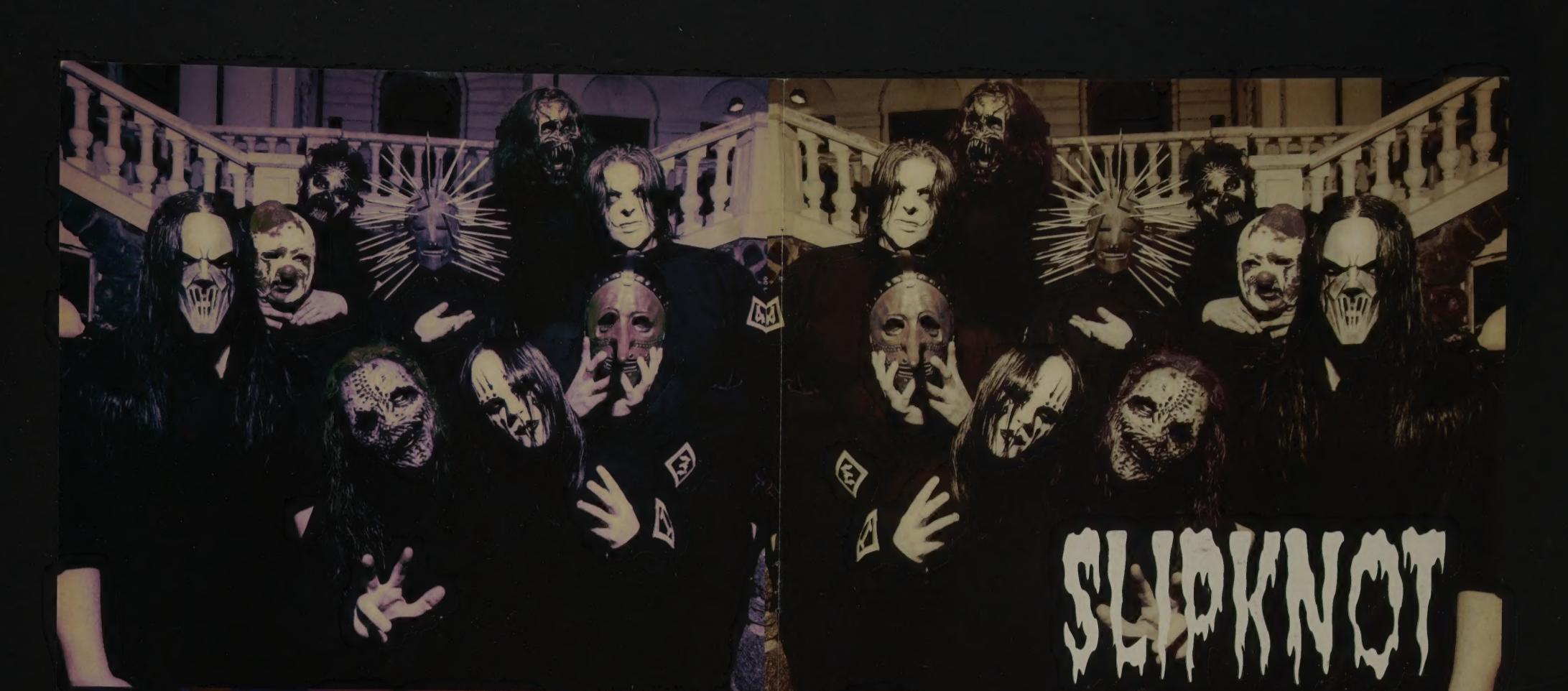


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SLIPKNOT

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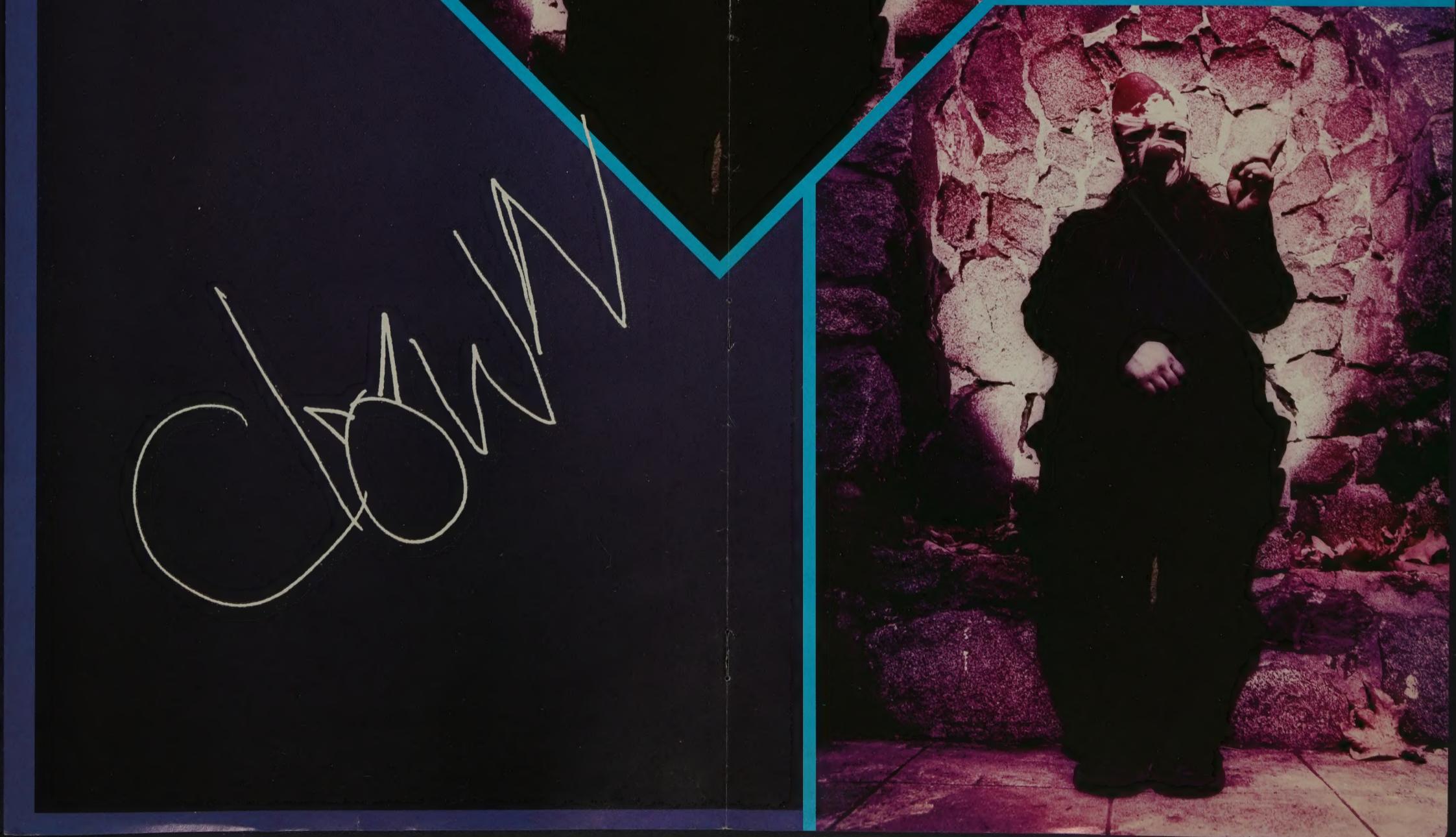
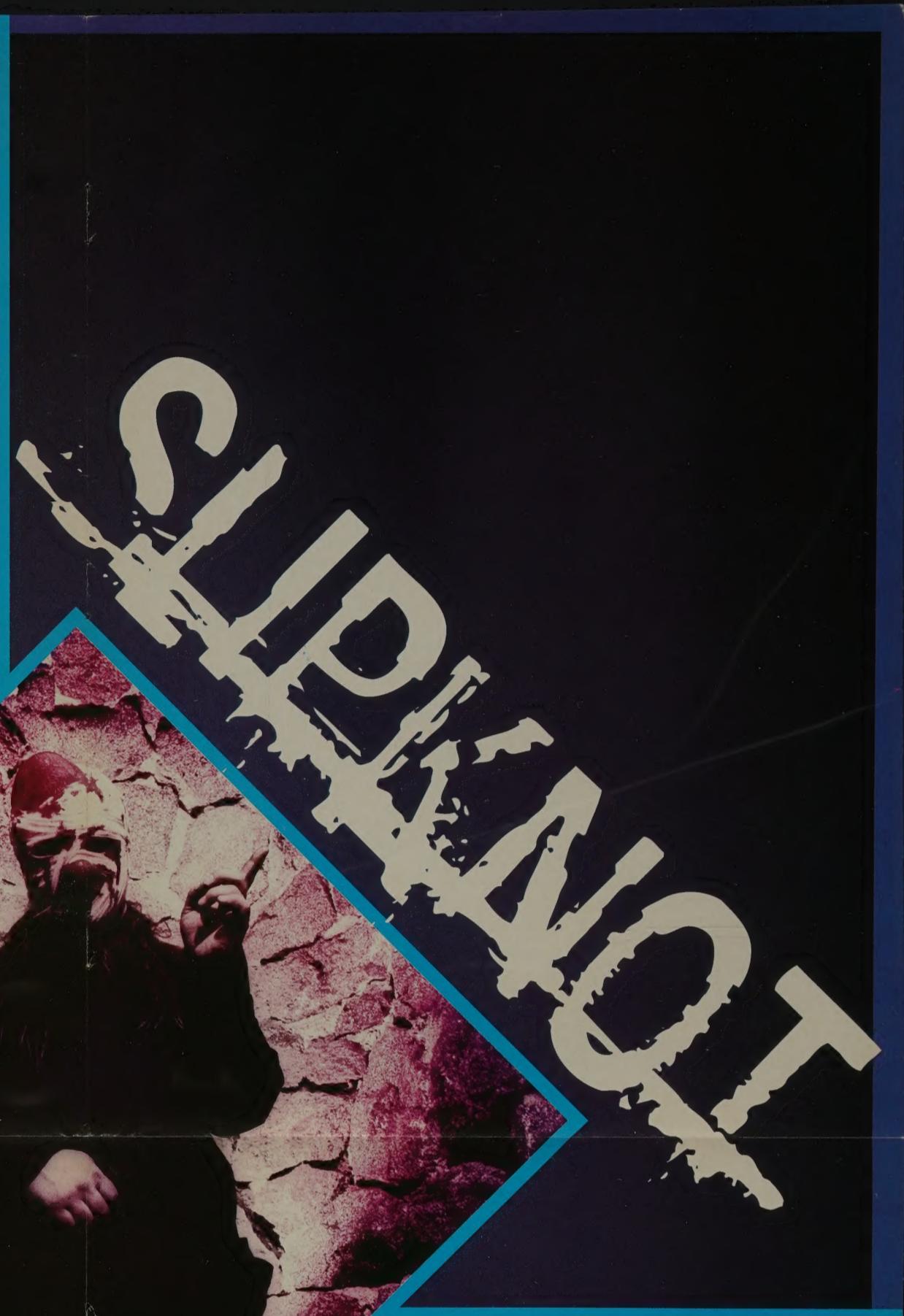


SLIPKNOT



SLIPKNOT





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Slipknot

Corey Lets Loose!

Slipknot are back. And they're wilder, more intense and more insane than ever! For this legendary unit comprised of d.j. Sid Wilson, bassist Paul Gray, guitarist James Root, drummer Joey Jordison, keyboardist Craig Jones, percussionist Chris Fehn, percussionist Shawn Crahan, guitarist Mick Thompson and vocalist Corey Taylor (aka 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8), the time is right for the Knot to once again take over the metal world. As their album, **Vol. 3 (The Subliminal Verses)**, scales the heights of chart success, and as they tour the nation as part of both the Jagermeister and Ozzfest road packages, it appears as if the Knot are causing a commotion of unparalleled proportions wherever and whenever this Nine Man Mutant Metal Army appears. Recently we caught up with the ever-informative Taylor to learn all that we can about the latest happenings in the always-fascinating world of Slipknot.

Hit Parader: Let's talk about **Vol. 3**. On a visceral level, how do you feel about it?

Corey Taylor: It excites me; it excites every atom in my body. I have that kind of reaction because I'm not sure if the world is ready for this one. It could be the biggest album of the year, or it could just explode in our faces. Not knowing how people will respond

is something I find very exciting. We've stuck our necks out all the way this time and we've left zero room for middle ground. Either you're going to "get" where we're doing and love it, or you're not gonna get it and you're gonna hate it. Either way is fine with me.

HP: You make it sound like the prospects of possible failure excite you.

CT: It may sound a bit sick, but they do. I've always been that way. It's not like I'm sitting here after two successful albums and saying, "I don't care how people react." Just the opposite is true. I care totally. I want them to react—but I want that

reaction to be total... either love it or hate it. And please understand, it's not like I'm some big, rich Rock Star who can afford to blow off album sales in exchange for a little added excitement. I'm far from rich. I can make my house payments and make sure my kids have clothes, but I wouldn't go much beyond that. On some levels I guess I need this album to be successful, but on a lot of other levels success isn't that motivational to me.

HP: In your heart-of-hearts do you think this album

will be a success?

CT: It's an incredible, awesome, mind-blowing album. That's all I can say. I know I'd buy it and I'd love it if I was a fan. But I'm not the one who's going to make the final determination whether or not it's a success. But I've already heard from a lot of the fans and the reactions they've had are exactly what I'd expect. They're totally into it. They understand what this is about for us. What I think I liked best is the way they felt anticipation waiting to hear the new music. Nothing had been conveniently "leaked" on the internet. No singles were advanced to radio. You waited for the record to come out the same way that I waited for Slayer's **South of Heaven** to come out years ago. You woke up every morning ready to run to the record store to buy it. That's the kind of excitement I think this album built within our fan base, and I'm very proud of that.

HP: You worked without your "safety net", producer Ross Robinson, for the first time on this album. How different was it working with Rick Rubin?

CT: I don't know if I'd go so far as calling Ross our safety net, but it was very different working without him. Ross tends to be a very hands-on kind of producer, almost like he's another member of the band. He's in the studio with you all the time and he's not shy about voicing his opinion on things. Rick is quite different. He's someone who kind of leaves you to your own devices, then swoops in and analyzes the work you've done. But the bottom line is that they're both great to work with, and they're both successful because they both love music. I don't know if we could have made this album with anyone other than Rick because at times he was very subtle in getting us to expand our scope and really go for it.

HP: How many songs did you actually record for this album?

CT: We wrote and recorded 18 songs, and the toughest part for us was deciding which ones weren't going to make the final cut. Some of the things that didn't make the album are amazing—in fact, some of us voted them among our favorite tracks. So hopefully we'll find places for them in the future... maybe movie soundtracks, video games or something along those lines.

HP: How do you feel the band has grown on **Vol. 3** from **Slipknot** and **Iowa**?

CT: As the vocalist, I get the chance to kind of sit back and listen to all the playing that's going on. That's one of the things that's blown me away. If you listen to what Mick and Jim have done on guitar your jaw just drops! And Sid and Craig have come up with some really crazy stuff that makes this album really rock. Joey's percussion work is awe-inspiring and the rhythms we produce are just so heavy that it's amazing. That's where a lot of the growth has come in. And on top of that, the song writing has taken a major step ahead. They all work together to make this the best album we've ever done.

HP: People had noted the more expansive feel that permeates a lot of this material.

CT: Yeah... they should! A lot of times people have gotten caught up in the heaviness of the music, or the way we look, and they tend to ignore other aspects of what we do. Sure we have our heavier

"It's an incredible, awesome, mind-blowing album."



COREY

influences like Slayer, but we also have our more progressive influences like Pink Floyd and King Crimson. The trick for us is to utilize them all without every losing sight of what makes for a great Slipknot song.

HP: You bring up the subject of the band's appearance. How has your "look" changed in 2004?

CT: The changes have been subtle—just as they were when we moved from the first album to **Iowa**. The masks have evolved to reflect how we've evolved as people. There's a bit more depth to them in their design and execution. And the uniforms we're wearing have become much more streamlined. There's almost a militaristic feel to them now. They look really sharp!

HP: People have gotten the chance to see your new look—and hear your new music—as you've headlined the Jagermeister tour.

you came along in 1998. How do you view the state of metal right now?

CT: For the most part it sucks. Please don't get me started on the whole New Metal thing! Here's what I want to know: what was new about it then, and what's new about it now? It's pathetic! The whole atmosphere of music these days is so safe and so predictable. So many bands are trying so hard to be quirky just so they'll get noticed. The only new bands I admire are groups like Jet and the Darkness because at least they're playing rock and roll. They're not trying to reinvent the wheel or stand on their heads to get noticed. As far as I'm concerned you can just blow everything else up.

HP: As you look back on Slipknot's amazing five-year run, is there one particular moment that stands out for you?

CT: Hmmmm... not really. I hope it hasn't hap-

each other and the music we're making, then things have a pretty good shot at staying together. But the moment that it stops being fun, then it's over. Right now, things are great within the band. We're getting along better than we have since the first album came out, but we'll see if that lasts. I think we all hope it does, but there's still a long, long way to go before we need to think about making another album.

HP: You almost make it sound like the band is going through a prolonged trial period.

CT: I guess that's a way of looking at it. It's not like we get together every day and talk about how this may be the last album for us. We try not to even think about it. But it has been discussed. The last thing we want is for Slipknot to ever become a parody of itself. If we ever lose once bit of the intensity, of the energy, of the focus that made this

"This album excites every atom in my body."

CT: That tour gave us a chance to really get back in touch with the fans. It's been great for us. We've stripped a lot of the stuff away from the last tour so that the focus is back where it was at the beginning—on us, on the music and on nothing else. When you come see us, you see nine guys thinking as one, going totally crazy on stage and hopefully carrying the entire crowd with us.

HP: Now it's on to headlining the Second Stage at *Ozzfest '04*. Some might consider that a strange choice at this point in your career.

CT: Why? The Second Stage is where things are really happening. It's where you can get up close with everyone and the atmosphere is totally electric. We were invited to be on the Main Stage, but the Second Stage is where our hearts were. It just fits in with the whole Slipknot vibe. On the Main Stage your just so removed from the kids. That's the last thing that we want.

HP: Slipknot changed the face of hard rock when

opened yet! It's all been so amazing that to pick one moment over another would be kind of ridiculous. Maybe getting three Grammy nominations would be up there, as would having **Iowa** debut on the Top 5 of the sales charts—the first real heavy album to do that. Those were all special. But just interacting with the fans, and interacting with one another within the band, will always be the most special moments for me.

HP: There were rumors a few months ago that this could be the band's last album. How much truth is there to that thought?

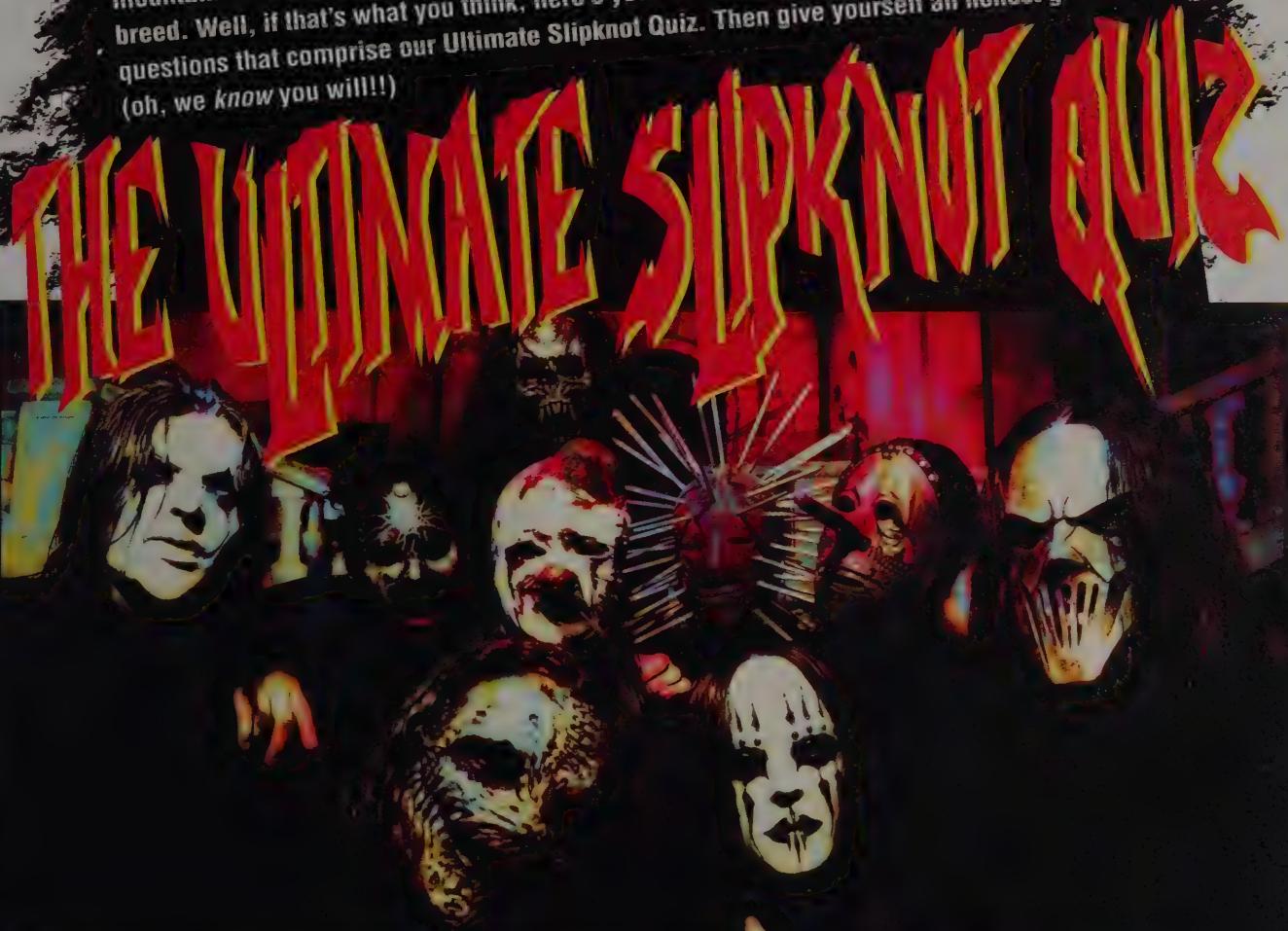
CT: That's such a tough question for me to answer right now. We're in the middle of touring, so it's about the last thing on my mind. But I'm not going to lie about it, or avoid the question because the answer to it is that this may be our last album. Right now we're just taking everything day-by-day and seeing where it leads us. For us it's all a question of happiness. As long as we're happy with

band explode in the first place, then that's what will cause us to fall apart. I think we can hold it together as people. That's not a big concern. We started off as nine friends from Des Moines, and I'm determined to see that's the way it remains.

HP: Did the success of your side project, Stone Sour, and of Joey's band the Murderdolls, make all this end-of-the-line talk more palatable?

CT: I don't think it had very much to do with it. It's great that those bands had some success, and I know that at some point I'll go back to Stone Sour, Joey will go to the Murderdolls and Clown will do his thing with To My Surprise. That's the reality of the situation. But that doesn't necessarily mean that we'll do it to the detriment of Slipknot. There's probably room for everything in our lives. At least I hope there is. Right now the plan is just to do a lot of touring behind this album, take a break to do our own projects, and then see how we all feel about things moving ahead.

Sooooo.... you think you know Slipknot? You think you're specially attuned to the top of the rock pile time after time. You think you've scaled the top of the Knot metal mountain and can now look down upon all others who follow this Des Moines based breed. Well, if that's what you think, here's your chance to prove it! Take a shot at the 20 questions that comprise our Ultimate Slipknot Quiz. Then give yourself an honest grade (oh, we know you will!!!)



1. Before they joined forces in Slipknot, Shawn, Joey and Craig worked together in another band. Can you name that group?
2. Name the demo album that started Slipknot mania.
3. What is the name of Joey's other band?
4. Name the band the opened for Slipknot on their 2002 European tour?
5. Who produced the first two Slipknot albums?
6. Who produced **Vol. 3 (The Subliminal Verses)**?
7. Which band member sports a tattoo of an elephant's head?
8. What is the "hidden" track on the band's original demo disc?
9. What was the title of the band's 2002 DVD?
10. Name the Des Moines tattoo studio in which Knot members have had much of their tattoo work done.
11. In addition to being known as "Clown" what is Shawn Crahan's other nickname?
12. In what Western city was Paul Gray living before returning to Des Moines to join Slipknot?
13. What is Corey's preferred nickname?
14. Name the two Knot songs on that appeared on **Tattoo the Earth: The First Crusade**.
15. What is the name of Shawn's "other" band?
16. Which Knot member customizes his coveralls most?
17. Which two band members often paint their fingernails black?
18. What is Joey's real first name?
19. Which word appears on all of Mick's guitars?
20. Which Knot member has used the name Star Scream during his DJ stints?

All 20: C'mon Clown this ain't for you!

15-19: You are a true Knot Head.

11-14: Be loud and be proud.

1-10: It's time to crank it to "11".

ANSWERS

20. Sid

19. Hate

18. Nihilist

17. Jim and Corey

16. Joe, who cuts off the sleeves to make drumming

15. To My Surprise

14. Liberate and Striking

13. Los Angeles

12. Kong

11. The Skin Lab

10. Dogfish Head

9. Disasters

8. Dogfish Head

7. Shawn Crahan

6. Mick Rubin

5. Ross Robinson

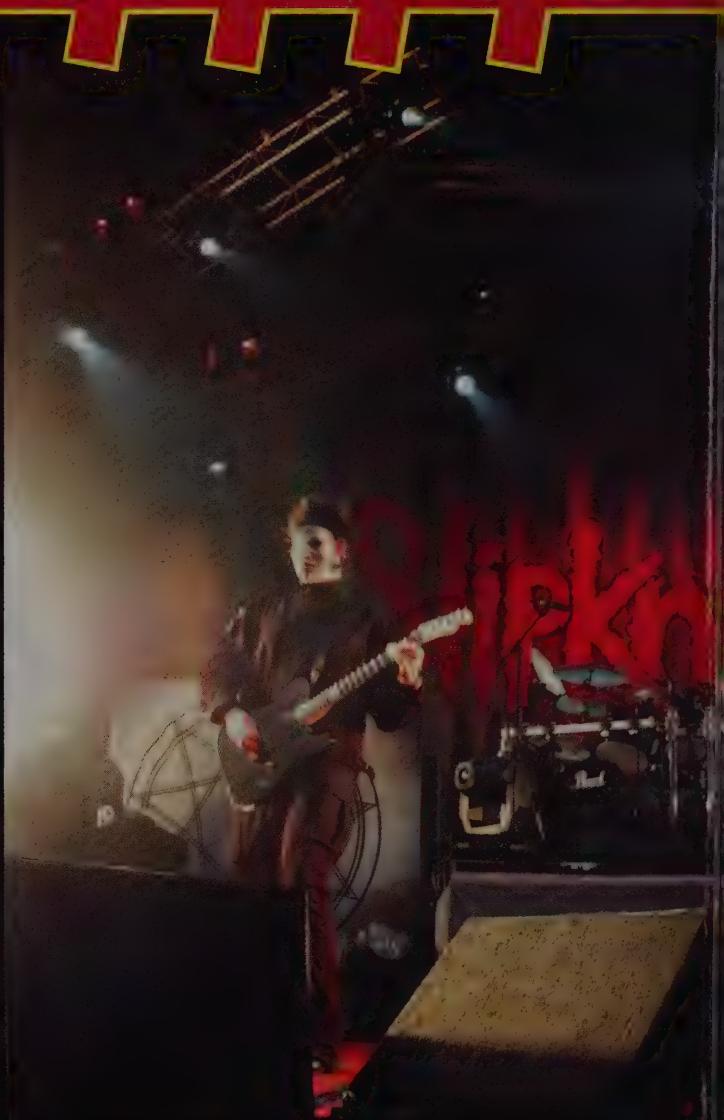
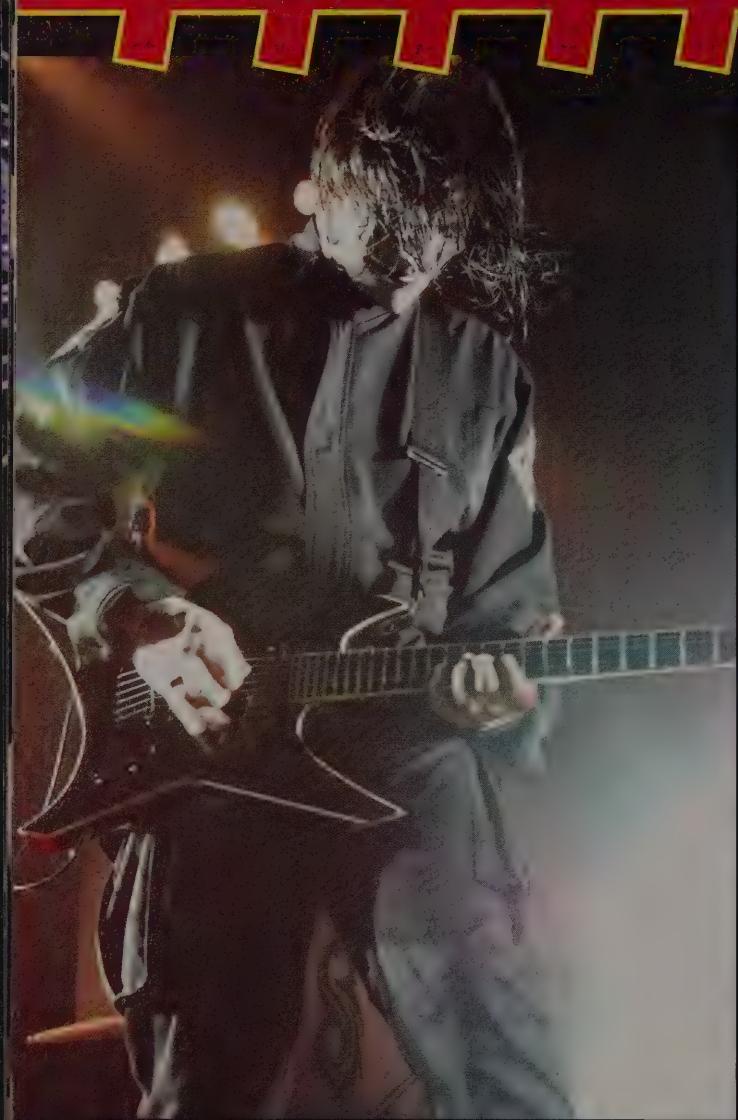
4. American Headcharge

3. Murderdolls

2. Motivational Feed, Kill, Repeat

1. Motivational Feed, Kill, Repeat

SLIPKNOT LIVE



The four teenaged guys had gathered outside of the surprisingly small venue, hoping against hope to obtain tickets for Slipknot's headlining performance at that night's *Jagemeister* tour event. The show had been sold out for weeks, but that didn't seem to deter our industrious amigos. Dressed almost identically in well-worn jeans and black T-shirts adorned with the horrific, masked images of d.j. Sid Wilson, bassist Paul Grey, guitarist James Root, drummer Joey Jordison, keyboardist Craig Jones, percussionist Chris Fehn, percussionist Shawn Crahan, guitarist Mick Thompson and vocalist Corey Taylor (a.k.a. 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8), the hyperactive quartet seemed ready to try just about *anything* to get into the show. First they shouted at random passers-by, begging for available tickets... to no avail. Then they whipped out their surprisingly stuffed wallets and started waving money in the faces of anyone they believed might be able to gain them entry—fellow fans, security guards, crew members. Nothing seemed to work.

Finally, almost out of desperation, one of the four had a brain-storm. He walked up to the club's "advance sale" window, and casu-

ally requested four tickets for that night's show. Much to his shock, he was informed that due to a recent change in the theater's layout, about 50 additional tickets had just become available. Faster than you could say Des Moines, the four had made their purchases (for a lot less than they had been offering on the street only minutes before) and had happily bounded inside the theater's already packed-to-the-walls confines to join in on the raucous festivities with their fellow Knot-heads.

So what is it that makes thousands-upon-thousands of fans on a nightly basis seem willing to sell their proverbial souls in order to attend a Slipknot show? Perhaps the answer to that query is akin to understanding the crux of life itself. After all, attending a Slipknot concert is quite unlike anything else known to mortal man. Rather than being directly linked to other music-oriented events, a Knot show bears striking resemblance to stepping into an alien hive—a place where a collective consciousness seems to both pervade and control the proceedings. To those in-the-know—which thankfully seems to be a vast majority of those in attendance—this decidedly

THE CONCERT EXPERIENCE



different ambiance seems to be embraced like a long-lost love. But for those perhaps not fully initiated into the severity and intensity of the Slipknot shock-rock experience, encountering the masked, uniformed images of these nine rockers, as well as confronting the incredibly intense sound barrage they create, is a situation clearly not designed for the faint-of-heart.

"When we go on stage, the goal is to create an environment of total chaos," Taylor said shortly before beginning the show.

"It's a feeling that draws the nine members of the band together, and at the same time links us directly with everyone in the crowd. It doesn't matter if it's indoors at the Jagermeister shows or outdoors at Ozzfest, that's the atmosphere we want to create."

Creating that chaotic ambiance now seems almost second nature to this Midwestern metal unit. Drawing evenly from their

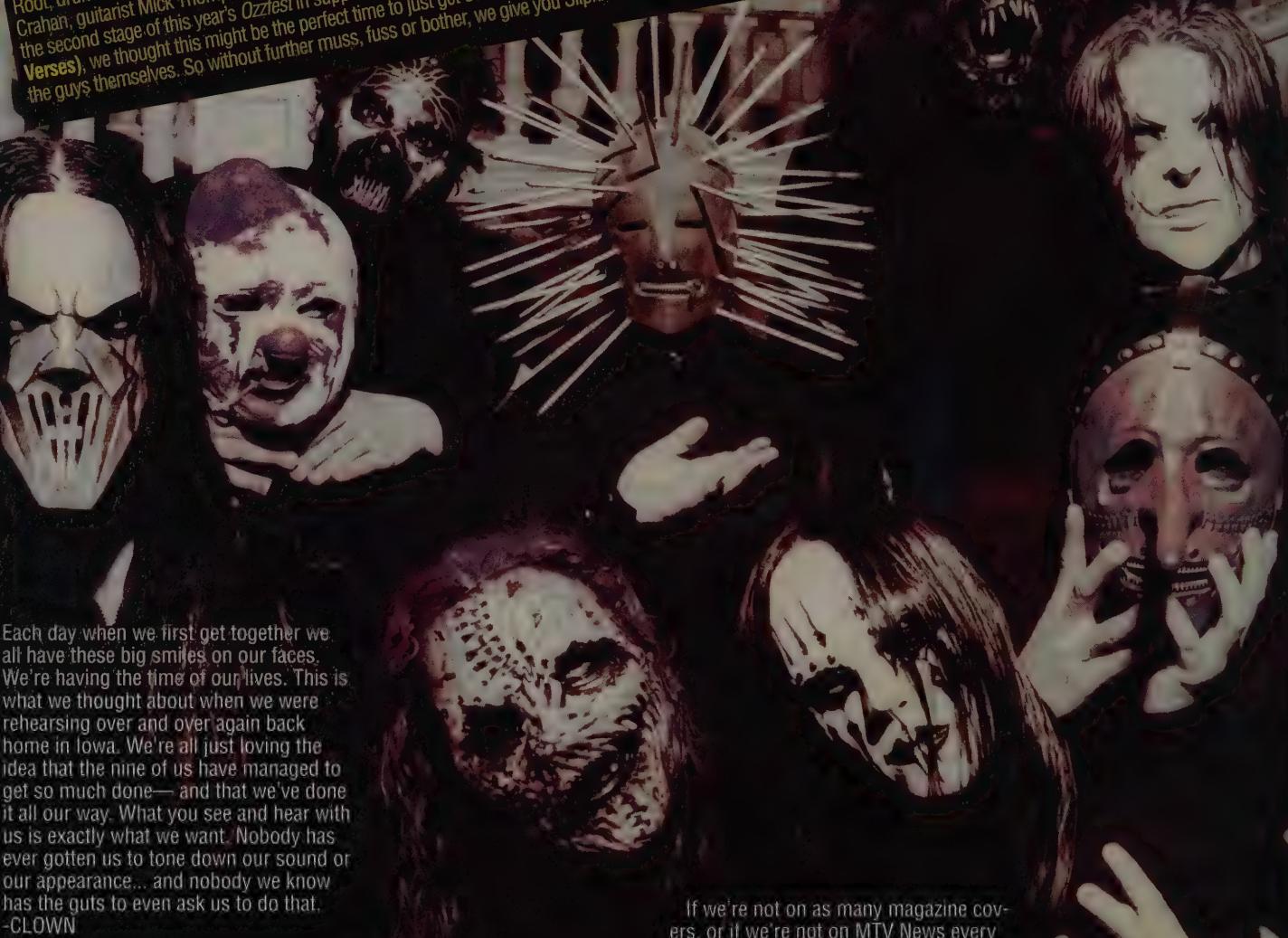
three albums, *Slipknot*, *Iowa*, and their latest, *Vol. 3 (The Subliminal Verses)*, this Nine Man Mutant Metal Army proceeded to put on a 90 minute stage spectacular that was a non stop feast for both the eyes and ears. Part ritualistic celebration, part wall-of-sound spectacle, part pure shaman-inspired metal mania, the Knot managed to convey their decidedly off-center ideals to their adoring throng while never sacrificing an iota of their us-against-the-world integrity. Those who "got it" reveled in the band's highly idiosyncratic "charms". Those who didn't stood in wide-eyed wonder as Slipknot's highly theatrical musical barrage washed over them.

"We love it when someone who might not know what to expect comes to one of our shows," Taylor said. "We've heard some of the stories about them running out of the theaters—or being carried out."

"There's a feeling on stage that draws the nine of us together."

SLIPKNOT SPEAK OUT!

For Slipknot, every day is an adventure. When these Iowa-based rockers wake up each morning (or whenever they wake up) they know they're gonna face a day filled with the kind of intensity and insanity that would drive most of us crazy. But that's all in a day's work for d.j. Sid Wilson, bassist Paul Gray, guitarist James Root, drummer Joey Jordison, keyboardist Craig Jones, percussionist Chris Fehn, percussionist Shawn "Clown" Crahan, guitarist Mick Thompson and vocalist Corey Taylor (respectively, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.) And as the Knot hit the second stage of this year's Ozzfest in support of their latest dose of metallic mayhem, Vol. 3 (The Subliminal Verses), we thought this might be the perfect time to just get out of the damn way and turns these pages over to the guys themselves. So without further muss, fuss or bother, we give you Slipknot: In Their Own Words.



Each day when we first get together we all have these big smiles on our faces. We're having the time of our lives. This is what we thought about when we were rehearsing over and over again back home in Iowa. We're all just loving the idea that the nine of us have managed to get so much done—and that we've done it all our way. What you see and hear with us is exactly what we want. Nobody has ever gotten us to tone down our sound or our appearance... and nobody we know has the guts to even ask us to do that.
—CLOWN

We take everything to the limit. I think that we're all more committed and dedicated to the Knot right now than we've ever been in our lives. You know, we had gone at it for six years without a stop. We didn't give ourselves a chance to catch our breath or even look around. We needed that chance—and we took it. Now that we've had a little break we're ready to take everything up the ladder of intensity. But it's not just gonna be the same thing you've grown to expect from us. It's gonna definitely be the Knot, but just taken to the ultimate extreme.
—JOEY JORDISON

I think we all needed a little break from the craziness that was going on within the band. We were all beginning to get on each other's nerves a little bit—but that's to be understood. We had gone through a lot together, including some major hassles with our former management. So it was time for a break. Some of the guys went off to do their own thing, and that was good. But right now there's like a signal to everyone out there that Slipknot is back and we're more determined than ever to do some real damage.
—CLOWN

If we're not on as many magazine covers, or if we're not on MTV News every other day, that's not something we have no control over. Maybe some of the initial shock value has dissipated a little bit, but that's why we're continuing to push things to the extreme as often as we can. We like to think that just as you believe you have a grasp on what Slipknot does, we push it to the next level.
—PAUL GRAY

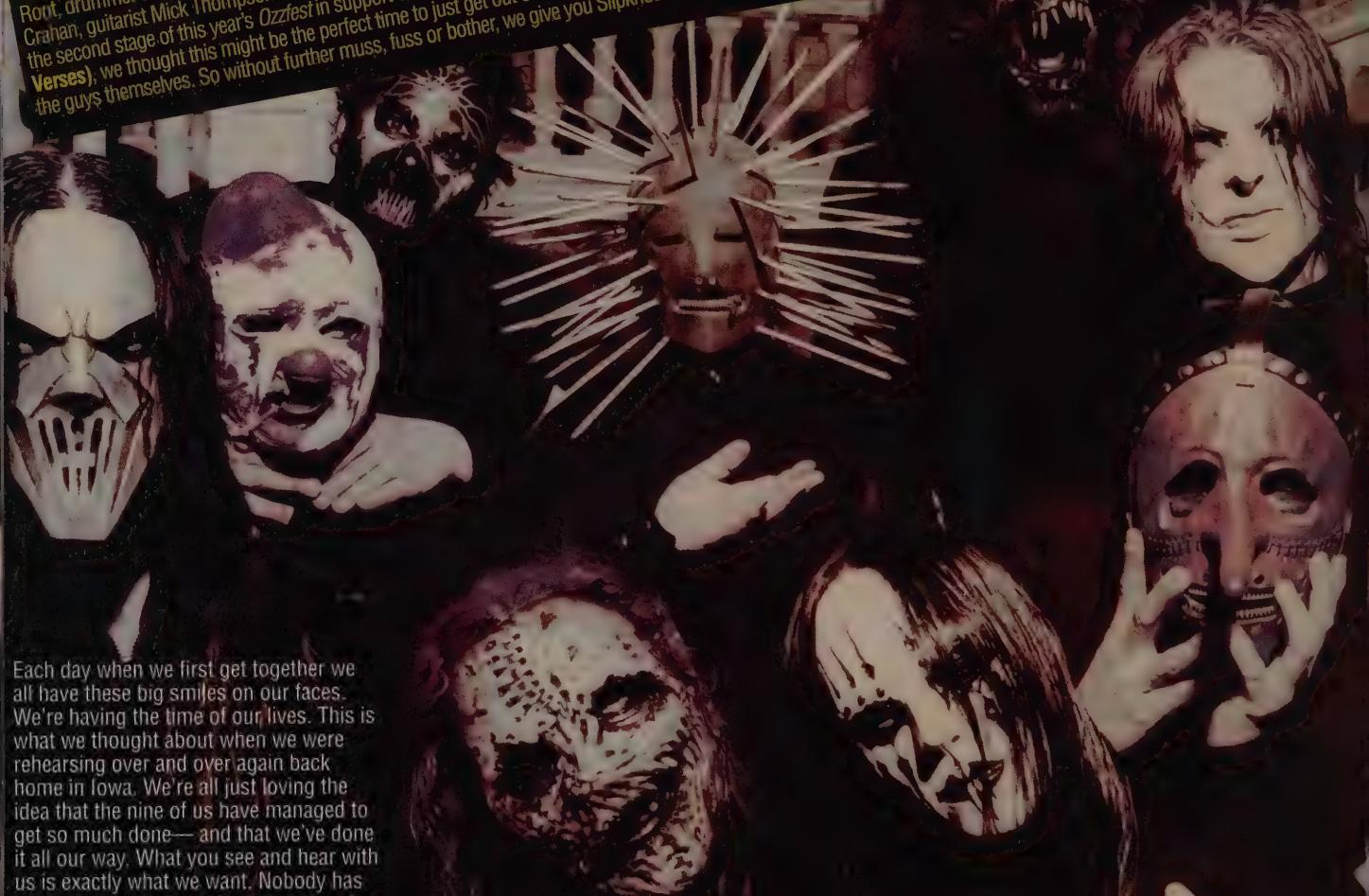
This isn't an act for us. It's a true representation of the people in this band. I don't have any fear that we'll ever lose that edge. If we ever begin to lose it, then we simply won't exist any more. The musical beast that is Slipknot needs the kind of energy and attitude that we bring to it, or it will die. That could happen tomorrow, or it might never happen, you never know for sure.
—COREY TAYLOR

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SLIPKNOT SPEAK OUT!

For Slipknot, every day is an adventure. When these Iowa-based rockers wake up each morning (or whenever they wake up) they know they're gonna face a day filled with the kind of intensity and insanity that would drive most of us crazy. But that's all in a day's work for d.j. Sid Wilson, bassist Paul Gray, guitarist James Root, drummer Joey Jordison, keyboardist Craig Jones, percussionist Chris Fehn, percussionist Shawn "Clown" Crahan, guitarist Mick Thompson and vocalist Corey Taylor (respectively, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.) And as the Knot hit the second stage of this year's Ozzfest in support of their latest dose of metallic mayhem, Vol. 3 (*The Subliminal Verses*), we thought this might be the perfect time to just get out of the damn way and turns these pages over to the guys themselves. So without further muss, fuss or bother, we give you *Slipknot: In Their Own Words*.



Each day when we first get together we all have these big smiles on our faces. We're having the time of our lives. This is what we thought about when we were rehearsing over and over again back home in Iowa. We're all just loving the idea that the nine of us have managed to get so much done—and that we've done it all our way. What you see and hear with us is exactly what we want. Nobody has ever gotten us to tone down our sound or our appearance... and nobody we know has the guts to even ask us to do that.

-CLOWN

We take everything to the limit. I think that we're all more committed and dedicated to the Knot right now than we've ever been in our lives. You know, we had gone at it for six years without a stop. We didn't give ourselves a chance to catch our breath or even look around. We needed that chance—and we took it. Now that we've had a little break we're ready to take everything up the ladder of intensity. But it's not just gonna be the same thing you've grown to expect from us. It's gonna definitely be the Knot, but just taken to the ultimate extreme.

-JOEY JORDISON

I think we all needed a little break from the craziness that was going on within the band. We were all beginning to get on each other's nerves a little bit—but that's to be understood. We had gone through a lot together, including some major hassles with our former management. So it was time for a break. Some of the guys went off to do their own thing, and that was good. But right now there's like a signal to everyone out there that Slipknot is back and we're more determined than ever to do some real damage.

-CLOWN

If we're not on as many magazine covers, or if we're not on MTV News every other day, that's not something we have no control over. Maybe some of the initial shock value has dissipated a little bit, but that's why we're continuing to push things to the extreme as often as we can. We like to think that just as you believe you have a grasp on what Slipknot does, we push it to the next level.

-PAUL GRAY

This isn't an act for us. It's a true representation of the people in this band. I don't have any fear that we'll ever lose that edge. If we ever begin to lose it, then we simply won't exist any more. The musical beast that is Slipknot needs the kind of energy and attitude that we bring to it, or it will die. That could happen tomorrow, or it might never happen, you never know for sure.

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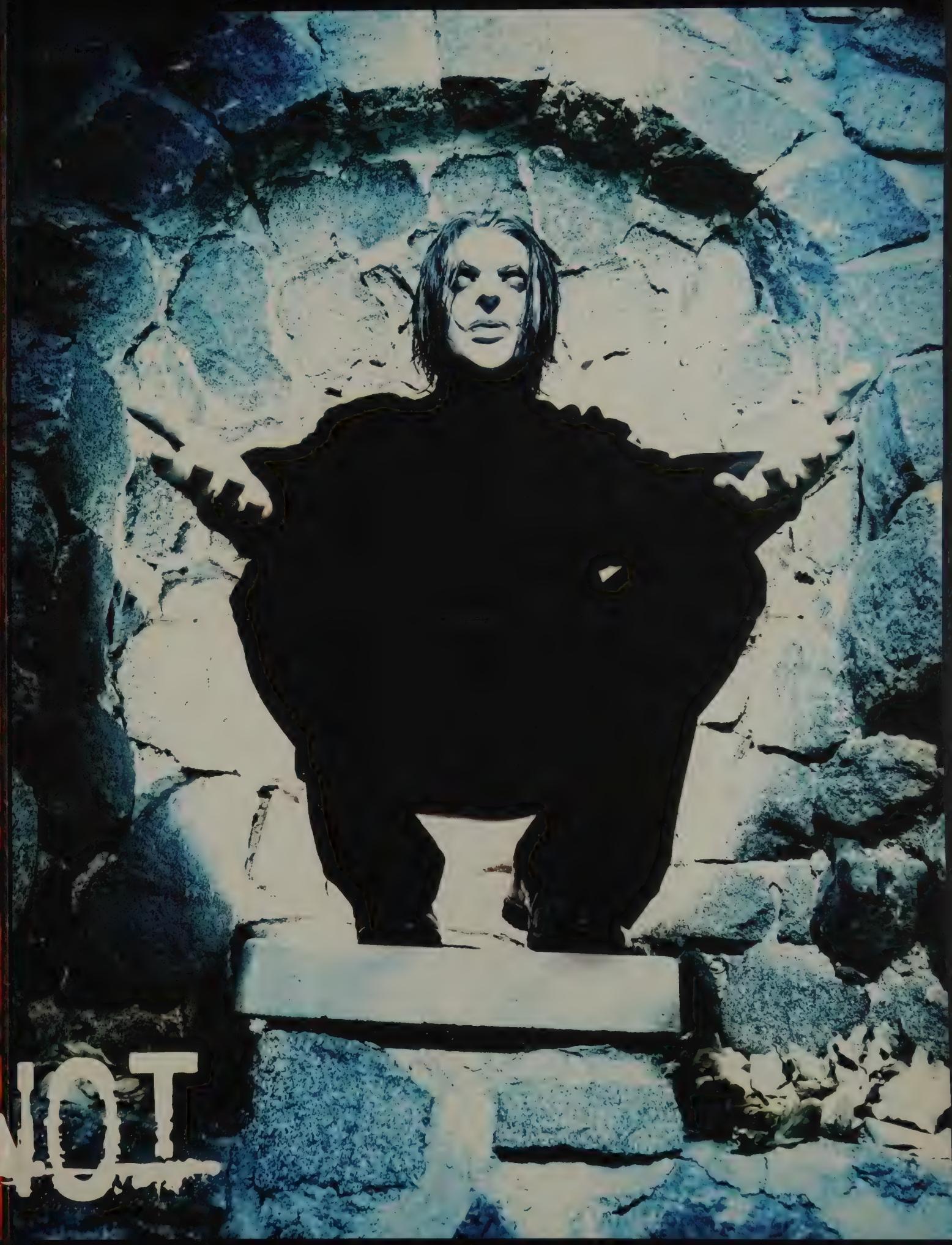
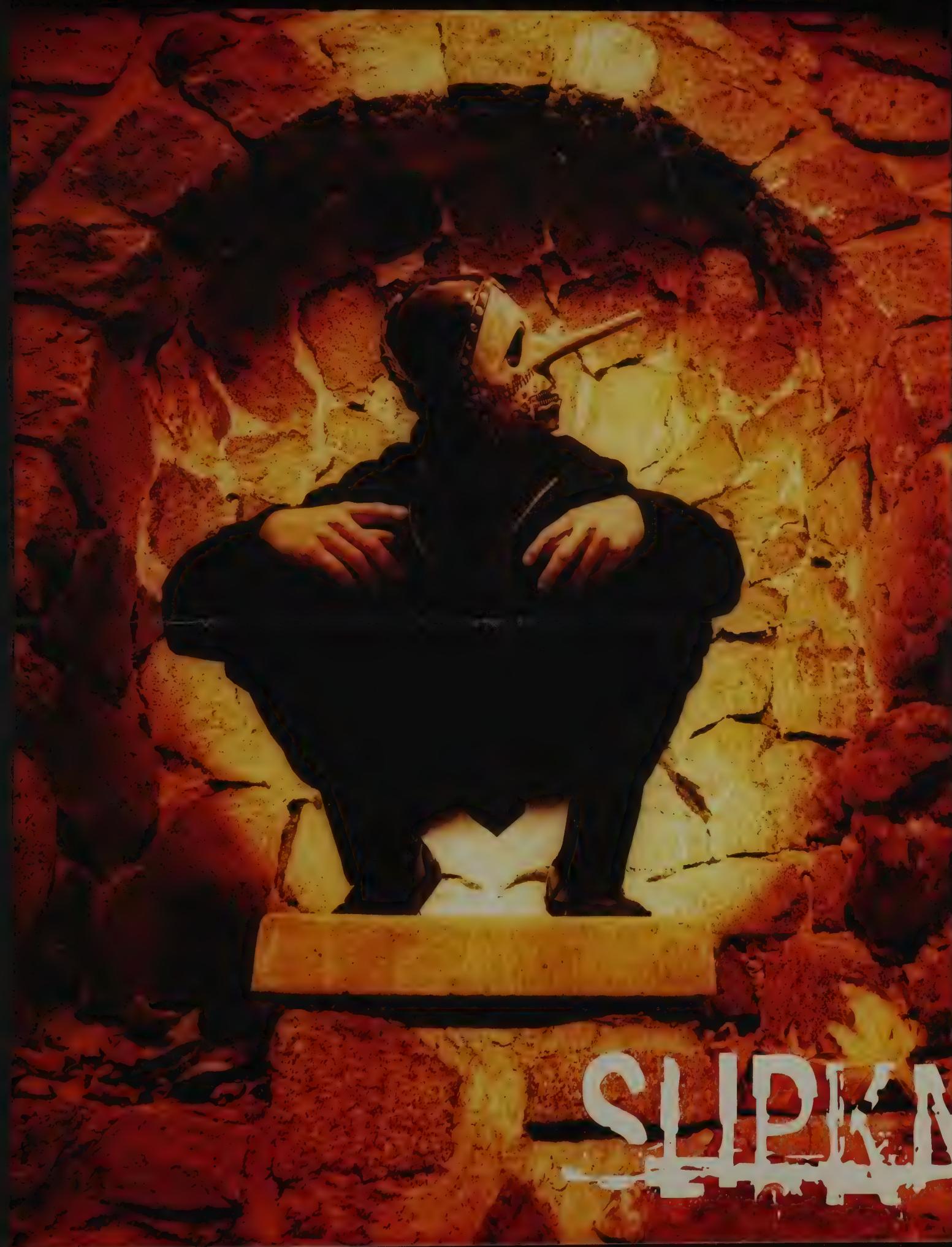
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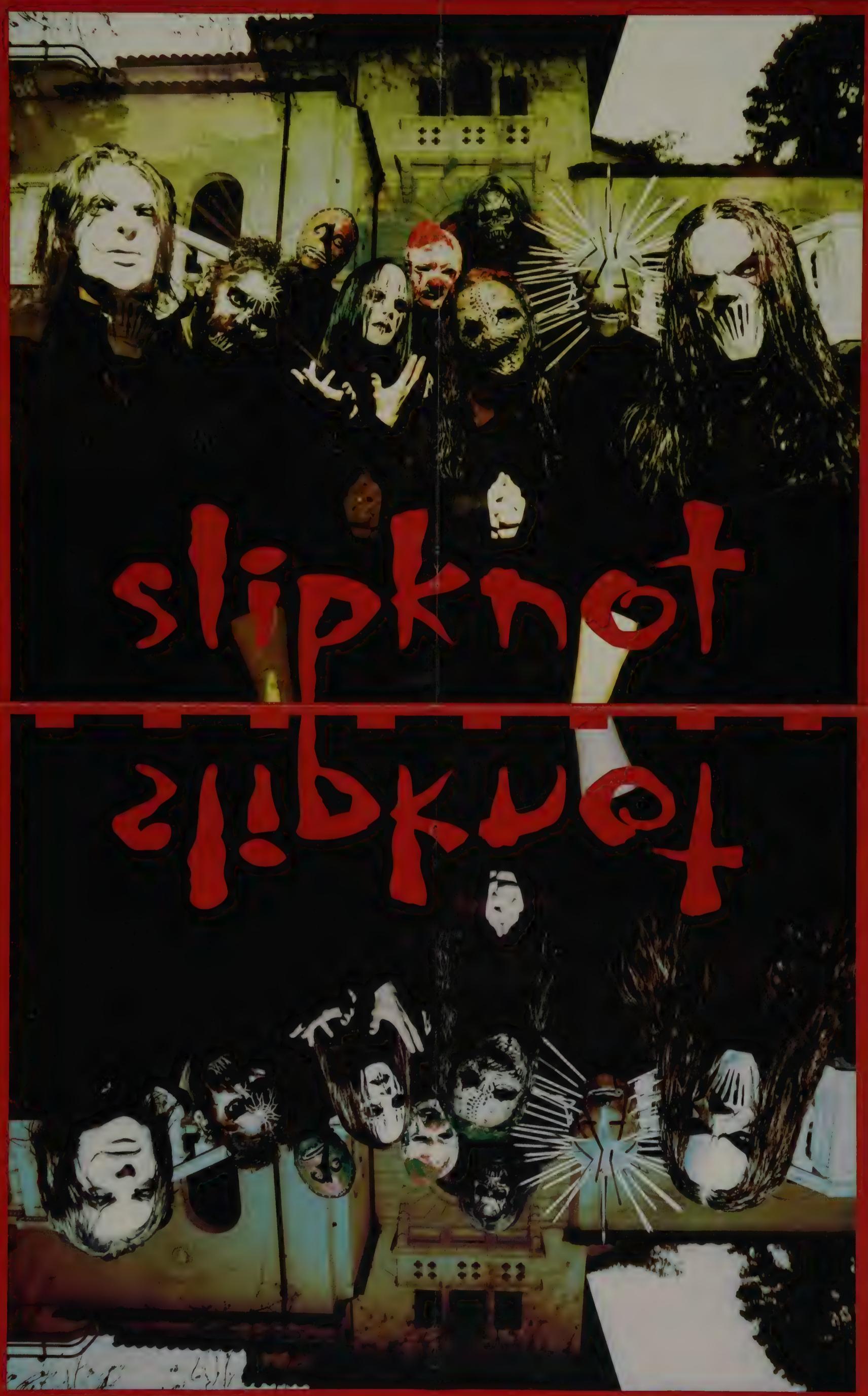


SLIPKNOT





SLIPKNOT



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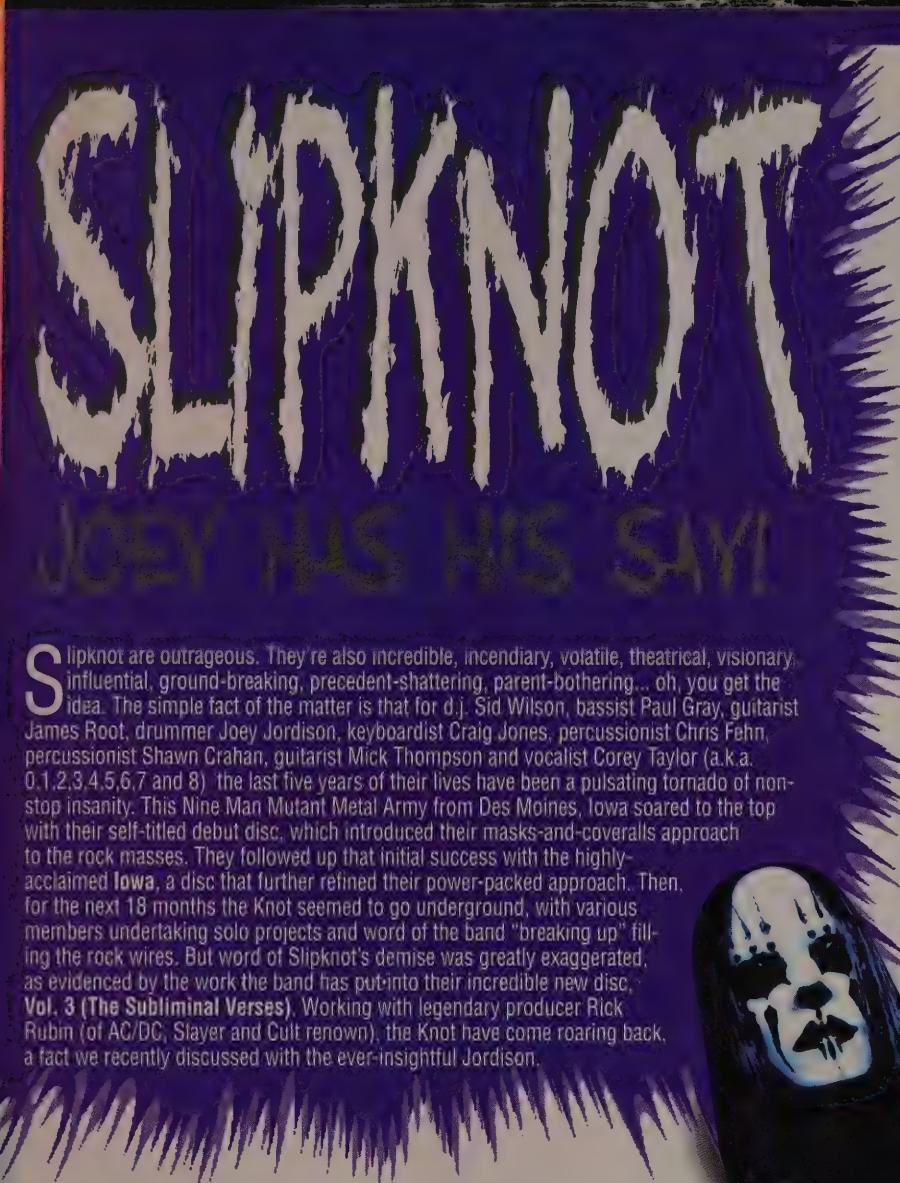












Slipknot are outrageous. They're also incredible, incendiary, volatile, theatrical, visionary, influential, ground-breaking, precedent-shattering, parent-bothering... oh, you get the idea. The simple fact of the matter is that for dj. Sid Wilson, bassist Paul Gray, guitarist James Root, drummer Joey Jordison, keyboardist Craig Jones, percussionist Chris Fehn, percussionist Shawn Crahan, guitarist Mick Thompson and vocalist Corey Taylor (a.k.a. 0.1.2.3.4.5.6.7 and 8) the last five years of their lives have been a pulsating tornado of non-stop insanity. This Nine Man Mutant Metal Army from Des Moines, Iowa soared to the top with their self-titled debut disc, which introduced their masks-and-coveralls approach to the rock masses. They followed up that initial success with the highly-acclaimed *Iowa*, a disc that further refined their power-packed approach. Then, for the next 18 months the Knot seemed to go underground, with various members undertaking solo projects and word of the band "breaking up" filling the rock wires. But word of Slipknot's demise was greatly exaggerated, as evidenced by the work the band has put into their incredible new disc, *Vol. 3 (The Subliminal Verses)*. Working with legendary producer Rick Rubin (of AC/DC, Slayer and Cult renown), the Knot have come roaring back, a fact we recently discussed with the ever-insightful Jordison.

Hit Parader: Give us your insight into *Vol. 3 (The Subliminal Verses)*.

Joey Jordison: It's an amazing album. We approached it in a very different way. In the past, we wrote in various separate combinations, and then brought our material together. Usually we'd end up with 13 or 14 songs and take it from there. This time we all wrote together from start to finish, and we ended up having 30 songs. The toughest job we had was deciding which ones to use! At one point we even joked about putting out a double album. But we thought that would just blow too many minds. The good feeling is that we have a lot of great stuff already written, so if we want to stay on the road a little longer after we release this album, we know we've got a solid head start on the next album.

HP: How would you describe the material on *Vol. 3*?

JJ: In some ways it reminds me of the material we wrote for the first album. The songs have that kind of intensity and focus. But we've been able to add to the mix all the experience that we've gained over the last five years. That's a lethal combination! What a lot of people may not realize is that we started writing this stuff together back in January. That's when everyone was saying that we weren't together and that we were supposedly "breaking up." But just as those stories were coming out, we were all sitting around together starting to write songs.

HP: Did you feel a lot of heat while recording because you had been away so long... and because

Iowa hadn't sold as well as your first album?

JJ: No we didn't... and I'll tell you why. In some ways this is like a fresh start for us. It's given us a chance to reinvent the magic that first turned the Knot into a phenomenon. So the feeling we had was one of excitement and anticipation, not of pressure. The fact that we've been away for a long time is a dual-edged sword; it's made us work that much harder in order to reclaim what's ours, but it's hopefully also made a lot of people more hungry for the kind of magic that Slipknot can create.

HP: You mention "reclaiming what's yours." What do you mean by that?

JJ: Some bands have come along over the last few years that have tried to latch onto what Slipknot has created. We have nothing against them or what they've tried to do. But our attitude is that they'd better step aside because we're back, and we aim to pick up where we left off a few years ago.

HP: We know that you worked with producer Rick Rubin on this album. How did that impact your efforts?

JJ: We first met him a few years ago, and even then

we expressed an interest in working together at some point. When the opportunity came with this album, we jumped at it. We thought it was a good time in our career to bring someone fresh in and get a different perspective on what we're doing. Rick comes in with his own point of view and his own way of doing things. He's so professional, and so cool that he was the perfect choice for us. And the best part of all is that he's been able to get some amazing audio quality. The sound on this album just blows me away.

HP: Did the experiences you had with the Murderdolls have any impact upon your return to Slipknot?

JJ: What the Murderdolls did for me was give me a very fresh perspective on the fans. Because I played guitar in that band, I was able to see a side of the stage that I never get to see when I'm playing drums with the Knot. I was able to get right on the edge and look into the eyes of the fans and see the way they responded to a lot of things. I brought that point of view back with me.

HP: How difficult was it getting your drum "chops" back after playing guitar for a year?

JJ: I never got too far away from my drum kit. I really missed playing them on a nightly basis, but I practiced all the time, and I think I'm probably a better drummer now than I was a few years ago. My time playing guitar made me appreciate the drums a lot more. And with Rick's help, the sound my drums have gotten on this album is really amazing.

HP: We've talked about the music and your inner-band relationships, but what about the Knot's famed image? How did you each come up with your look for this album?

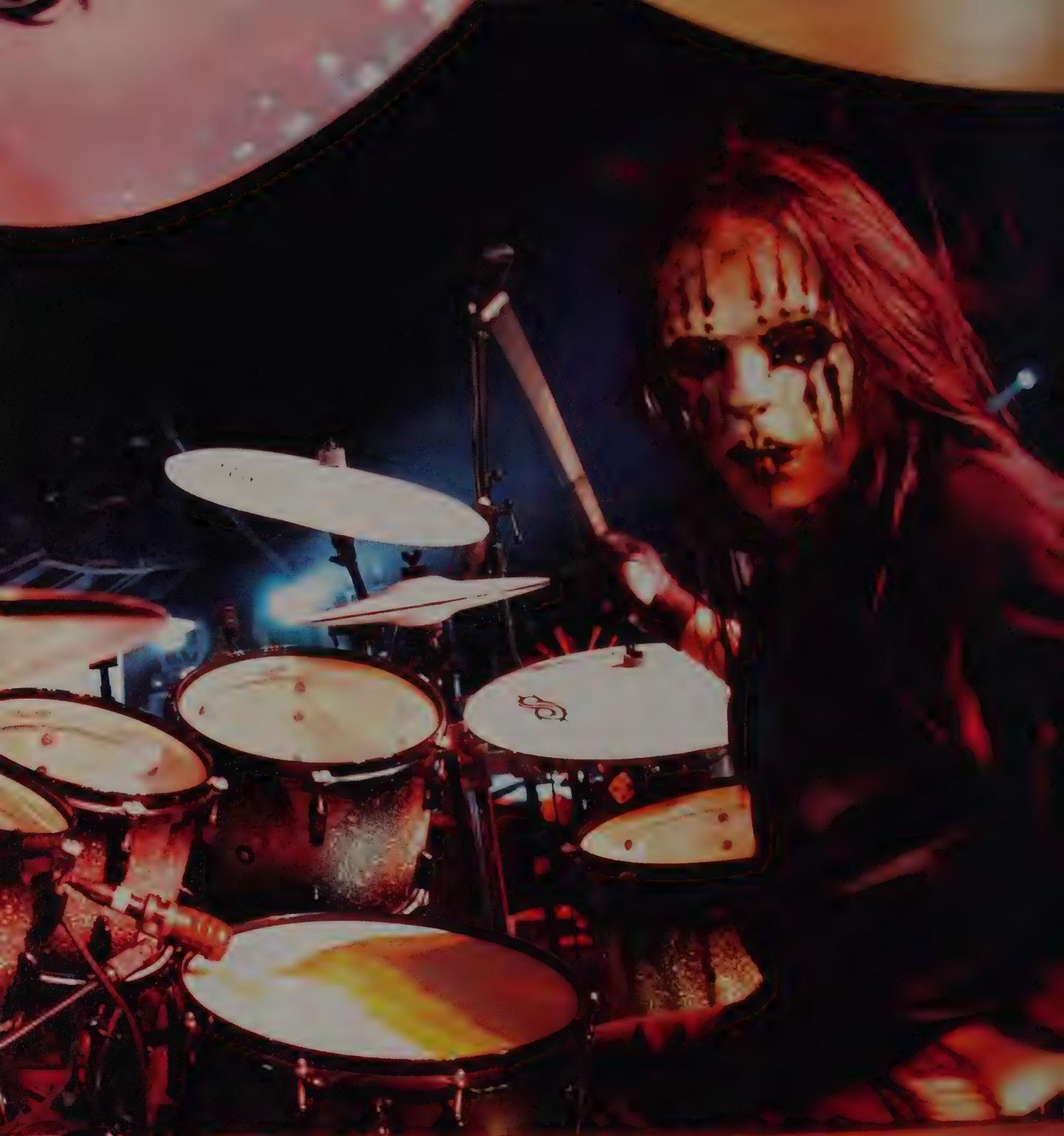
JJ: The masks have changed a little bit. The masks will always be there because they're a vital part of what Slipknot is. But they continue to evolve. The goal is to make them age like human faces do, so what might have been kind of smooth and sleek last time, might show some sags and wrinkles this time. That's not to indicate anything about us or the music, but just a bit of band evolution.

HP: What about on-stage theatrics this time around?

JJ: It's a little too early to say, and even if I could I'd be a lit-

tle wary of discussing too much about that. We want the fans to come see us and be totally blown away.

That's the main goal we have. We know that we owe everything to those



JOEY

fans. I want to thank them right now for having the patience to wait for us and the dedication to stick with us over the last few years. That's why we want this show to be the most amazing thing they've ever seen. We want them to leave the arena each night saying they've never seen or heard anything like Slipknot before.

HP: A few months ago, there were so many rumors concerning Slipknot's demise. How close did the band come to breaking up?

JJ: That was much more a case of media confusion than anything to do with us. Some people in the media apparently took the fact that some of us were involved in solo projects, and that others seemed quite content with a little time off, and they expanded some ideas from that. Well, it's now quite obvious that those ideas were wrong.

HP: But that was a loooong break you guys took.

JJ: We were exhausted. We needed to do that. If we hadn't, I really don't know where we'd be today. Nobody but the nine of us really know what it's like to do what we do on a night-in and night-out basis. It was beginning to get to us. Taking some time off was a matter of survival. We pour so much into this band that you need to recharge your batteries every once in a while.

HP: How would you describe the current relationship between the band's nine members?

JJ: It's probably stronger now than it's been at any point since before our first album came out. We spent three solid months living together from September through November, working on this album and just getting to know each other again. That time was incredible for all of us because it unified us in ways that perhaps even we hadn't imagined. We had been apart for over a year doing our

own things, but as soon as we got back together, all the great old feelings and attitudes came back right away. We had an incredible time together, and a lot of the energy we felt about being back together carried over into the music.

HP: As you look back over the last five years, do you ever think that perhaps Slipknot got too big, too fast?

JJ: All I can say is that I'm very proud of everything we've accomplished. I don't think it came too fast for us because we've handled it, and we continue to make great music. Maybe there were a few people out there who got excited because they thought that this "menace" known as Slipknot may have done themselves in. Well, I'm sorry to say that this is only the beginning. Anything you've seen and heard before has just been a warm-up for what's still to come!

"Our bond is stronger now than at any time since our first album."



SLIPKNOT

INSIDE THE HIVE

"Obviously, some things have changed over the last five years."

There's no way to avoid the fact that in 2004 Slipknot may still be the ultimate heavy metal "anti-stars." After all, most fans know DJ Sid Wilson, drummer Joey Jordison, bassist Paul Gray, percussionist Chris Fehn, guitarist James Root, sampler Craig Jones, percussionist Shawn Crahan, guitarist Mick Thompson and vocalist Corey Taylor by their Knot numbers (respectively 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8) rather than by their names. And with each band member sporting a matching on-stage coverall, and hiding his visage behind a horrific self-designed mask, the members of this chart-topping Midwestern unit can stroll down virtually any main street in America without getting besieged by the normal array of autograph seekers and attention grabbers.

All of that is according to the plan this Des Moines-based unit first constructed over five years ago as they sat around their small at-home rehearsal studio. Back then, they couldn't have imagined that their self-titled debut disc would become their label's first platinum-seller, or that their follow-up, *Iowa*, would rank among 2001's most controversial and successful album releases. Nor could they possibly have envisioned the year-long hiatus the band's nine members took from one another during 2003, during which they explored a variety of exciting solo projects. But with the Knot all once again focused squarely on their group's unique "hive" mentality, as they continue to tour in support of their eagerly anticipated third album *Vol. 3 (The Subliminal Verses)*, it seems apparent that this band's well-designed game plan for notoriety still works like the proverbial charm. Indeed, despite their lack of individual "face" stardom, Slipknot still rank among the brightest stars in the hard rock heavens.

"Obviously some things have changed in this band over the last five years," Jordison said. "But at the same time, no matter what else we may have going on in our lives, the moment we all come together in the same place we all instantly fall into Knot mode. It's like magic. It's also very cool."

Despite Jordison's words of excitement, it has also been the drummer (who also serves as guitarist for his side-project, the Murderdolls) who has indicated that this may prove to be Slipknot's last round-up. Indeed, much industry speculation centers on the notion that their current Rick Rubin-produced epic may serve as the Knot's swan song to metal mayhem. But we have to wonder, if the group members do decide at some point in the not-too-distant future to permanently split off on their own, what can possibly replace the inherent excitement of the Slipknot Sound for them? After all, this is the band responsible for creating some of the most intense, thought-provoking and downright disturbing music ever presented within a rock and roll context.

As shown throughout *Vol. 3*, the Knot have clearly not squandered one iota of their artistic drive or their off-the-wall perspectives in order to reach for greater notoriety or acclaim. With an image still straight out of some "Grade B" Hollywood horror movie motif and a philosophy designed to expose the darker side of the human condition, it would superficially seem as if few bands have ever forged ahead with less inherent commercial appeal. But despite such apparent "deficiencies", the Knot remain a true 21st Century rock and roll phenomenon—the band most responsible for providing style and substance to the already flagging New Metal movement. How can Jordison, or anyone else for that matter, possibly consider moving away from that?

"It's not something any of us are thinking about on a day-to-day basis, but it has been discussed," Jordison said in regard to this being the band's last album. "We know that we're going to do more work with our other bands when this round with Slipknot comes to a close... and after that who knows? But right now, that's a long way in the future."

No matter where their career decisions may eventually carry them, it has become clear that Slipknot have solidified their position as one of the leading lights of their heavy metal era. For some, such a notion may be more frightening than a hell-bound train. But for the group's ever-loyal legion of supporters, the group's reemergence at the very pinnacle of hard rock success signals a major change in both the approach and attitude of the contemporary music form—and those followers embrace that change like a long-lost love. Indeed, it is apparent that just saying the word "Slipknot" to an entire generation of rock and roll fans is still enough to send them into a state of near-frenzy. Whether it's the strange masks they wear, the powerful, hypnotic quality of the music they play, or the overwhelming aura that this nine-man musical strike force projects, Slipknot remain one of the most amazing success stories of recent rock history. With the immediate critical and commercial success of *Vol. 3*, perhaps the Knot's dizzying trip from their small-town roots to world-wide renown is complete. But despite the aura of finality that currently surrounds them, in the minds of their followers there is still *so much more* for these rockers to accomplish.

"I've been blown away by everything that's happened to us," Gray said. "I've enjoyed every second of it, and why shouldn't I? I mean I get to do something I really love with a bunch of my best friends. To me that's just about the definition of the perfect job. What really trips me out is to think that some guitar riffs that were written in Des Moines, Iowa so many years ago are still being heard around the world. It's really unbelievable when some fan comes up to me and says, 'that guitar riff is the best thing I've ever heard,' and I think back to when it first came together on some relatively quiet night back in Iowa. That's what gives me a lot of satisfaction. We've all come a long way, and perhaps there's still a long way to go."

SLIPKNOT



SLIPKNOT

DEEPER & DARKER

The members of Slipknot had gathered together in the band's crowded LA-based recording studio to listen to a final mix for *Don't Get Close*, one of tracks featured on their new album, **Vol. 3 (The Subliminal Verses)**. In the center of the room, located behind a humongous mixing console, producer Rick Rubin not-so-gently twisted this knob and twiddled that one. The anticipation was almost palpable as d.j. Sid Wilson, bassist Paul Gray, guitarist James Root, drummer Joey Jordison, keyboardist Craig Jones, percussionist Chris Fehn, percussionist Shawn Crahan, guitarist Mick Thompson and vocalist Corey Taylor (also known by the Knot names 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8) did their best not to show any anticipatory angst in the second

clearly done so with a vengeance.

"It's amazing how things have changed for us with this album," Taylor said. "It's still as dark and as menacing as anything we've ever done, but there's another side to everything as well. At times there's a lightness that's very surprising, and it works to make the darker side of things that much more powerful. A lot of that has to do with Rick (Rubin), who has always had this attitude that you don't always have to take things to an extreme to make them effective. Sometimes you can communicate just as much—if not more—by creating an incredible melody as you can by just trying to crush skulls with the power of your music. That balance is what makes this album special."

Indeed, it does appear that this will be a

While at times it seems as if Taylor is bursting to come out and say something radical about the Knot's future, for the time being at least, the vocalist continues to restrain himself. Will this be Slipknot's last album? Are we staring at the demise of one of the most important and successful bands of the last decade? While no one will come right out and admit it, there's no denying that such thoughts have crossed a number of minds over the last few months. With Taylor and Root enjoying a highly successful run in 2003 with their side-project, Stone Sour, and Jordison planning on working again with his other band, the Murderdolls, there's no question that Slipknot's future is murky, despite the current excitement that surrounds the band.

"This album is dark, but there's another side, as well."

before the music would begin to play. Off-color jokes flew back and forth and casual conversation masked (pardon the expression) any anxiety that the group's nine members may have felt.

Suddenly, almost without warning, the studio's largest speakers burst to life, cutting the air with the powerful, overwhelming, off-the-wall sound that is Slipknot at its best. Slowly the realization dawned on everyone present—that this was exactly what they had been working so hard to achieve for more than six months. It was raw and it was wild, but it was also pulsating proof that the legendary Knot was back in all their costumed, mask-wearing glory. As feet tapped and heads bobbed to the hypnotic beat, smiles of satisfaction—mixed with relief—could be seen on each member of this Nine Man Mutant Metal Army.

Such a reaction is rather understandable when you stop to consider the position in which Slipknot find themselves in 2004. It's been five long years since this Des Moines-based metal unit first scored big with their self-titled debut disc. During the intervening years, they've seen their career fortunes fluctuate with a moderately received follow-up disc, *Iowa*, and a chart-topping DVD, *Disasterpieces*. But following a two-year interval during which the band's members pursued various solo projects amid rumors of band breakup, the Knot have returned, and they've

new, more mature, more musically aware Slipknot this time around. Yeah, the coveralls will still be in place, along with those trademark masks, but now it seems as if these boys from the heartland have all grown up—and they've done so without losing one iota of their trademark heavy metal intensity. While they may longer feel the need to continually rail against everything at the top of the lungs, throughout their new disc, the Knot's whisper-into-a-scream philosophy has provided their music with a depth and a degree of accessibility sorely lacking on their previous efforts. And with much of their original audience having significantly grown up over the last half-decade, perhaps this new sound will reflect their fan base's changing tastes... while hopefully bringing a few new converts into the Slipknot camp.

"I honestly believe that the fans who've been with us from the beginning are still there," Taylor said. "They've just been laying low waiting for the chance to come out. Everywhere that any of us went during our time apart, we'd have kids come up to us asking when the next Slipknot record was coming out. It's a big deal to them and it's a big deal to us. Who knows where things go from here? But for the time being, everyone in this band, and everyone out there who's been a Slipknot fan, are focused on only one thing, and that's making sure that this album, and the next tour are as sick and as overwhelming as they possibly can be."

"I can't lie to anyone and say that we haven't thought that this might be our last album," Taylor said. "But that doesn't mean that it's going to be. We've learned that there's life outside of Slipknot for us, though this band still means so much to every one of us. Nothing has been determined so far. We're just taking it day-by-day and seeing how things evolve. I know that there will be another Stone Sour album and tour next year, and I think the other guys have some plans as well. But Slipknot will never really go away, no matter what happens."

Taylor's words can't make long-time observers of the Slipknot scene feel any more confident about this band's future. But at the same time, if commercial and critical response to the band's latest work continues to escalate, that may serve to turn the tides against any future musical defections. Whether this disc is to represent Slipknot's bold Last Stand, or merely an important building block on their long-term plan for world conquest, one undeniable fact stands loud and clear: Slipknot remains one of the most potent metal bands in the world.

"It's all about change," Taylor said. "We never would have imagined that Slipknot's music would go in the direction it has on this album. It's made it all very exciting again for all of us."



SLIPKNOT

SLIPKNOT SPEAK OUT AGAIN!

The masks did change a bit on the last tour, and I imagine that'll continue whenever we come up with something we like. It's not some corporate-style decision. It's not even a band decision. If we each come up with something different that we like, we use it. We don't want to lose the whole purpose of what the masks and the coveralls were originally designed for. They weren't there to make any sort of statement—it was more of an anti-statement. We didn't want the focus to be on the way we looked, the way we cut our hair or the clothes we were wearing. That focus had to be on the music. Once we start drawing a lot of attention to the masks, that goes against that original idea.

-PAUL GRAY

I'll talk to some fans after a show, and they'll say, 'I've been waiting for a band like Slipknot to come along.' That's really amazing to us. In some ways we're still these nine guys from Iowa, and in other ways we're a band that's performed all around the world many times. But we make sure not to let any of this go to our heads. That's one thing you can count on—there's no room for big egos in this band. I know very well that it could all end tomorrow, which is exactly why I'm trying to enjoy every second of what's happening to us.

-PAUL GRAY

The only thing we don't like is when what we do doesn't create some kind of reaction. We thrive off of the responses that we get. If people are cheering for us, that's very motivational. But if we know that there are people who don't like us, that's motivational too. We're not trying to make anyone love us. That's kind of the opposite of what this band has set out to do. But we are trying to get people to listen and react. If we can do that, then I think we've all had a very good day.

CLOWN

To be honest with you, Slipknot's not competing with anyone else. We do what we do, and the other bands do what they do. If it works for them, good. There are some really good bands out there right now. What I guess pisses me off a little bit more are the bands that have come along over the last few years and want to jump on the metal bandwagon when they've got absolutely no metal credibility. Those bands make us all sick. I won't mention them by name, not because I'm afraid to, but because I don't want to attract any more attention their way. I guess it always happens where a few bands come along that really are doing something different, and then a whole bunch of other bands come along who just basically copy what the first few are doing. Then they all claim how unique and special they are. C'mon... don't make me puke! Too much of what you hear on hard rock radio stations all sounds the same, and now the bands even all look the same. It's really pathetic.

-COREY TAYLOR

The fans are the best, whether they're in Europe, America, or wherever. Without them, there is no Slipknot. They're the reason we exist. You can't believe how motivated we get when we stand on stage in front of thousands of fans who are going crazy for us. It makes us want to give everything we have every night. That's what we owe them—everything.

-JOEY JORDISON

SUPERKILL

SLIPKNOT SPEAK OUT AGAIN!

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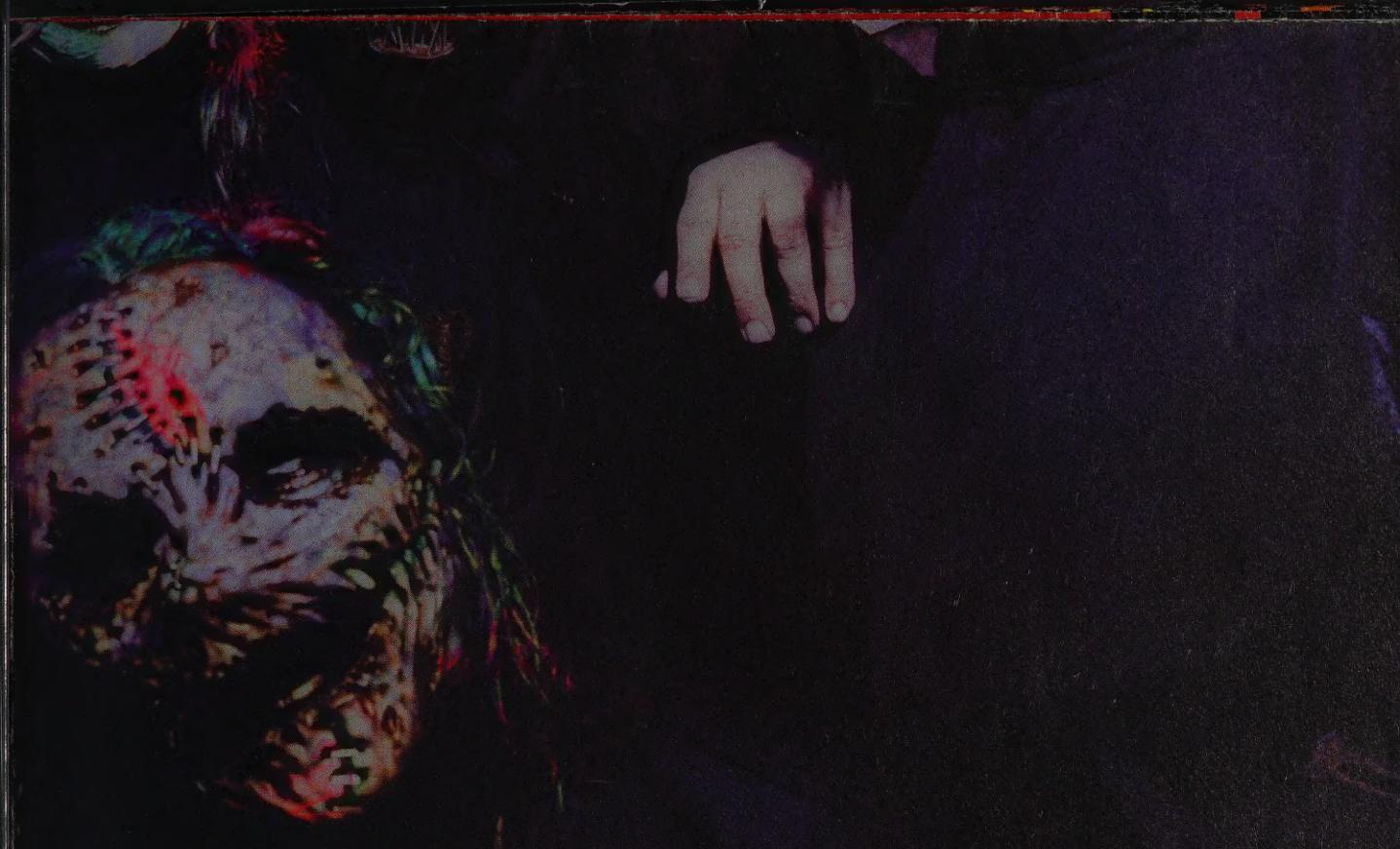
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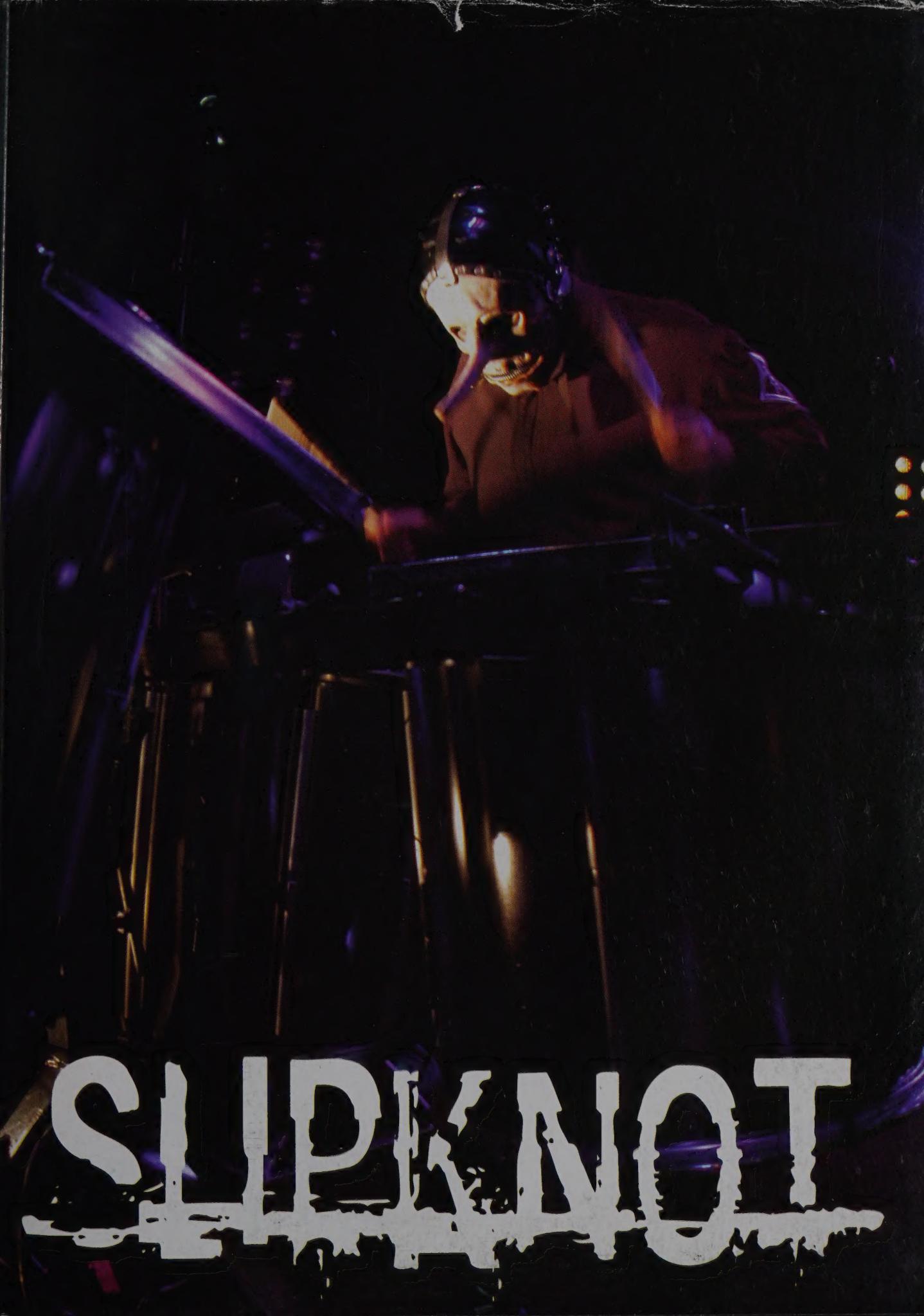
To be honest with you, Slipknot's not competing with anyone else. We do what we do, and the other bands do what they do. If it works for them, good. There are some really good bands out there right now. What I guess pisses me off a little bit more are the bands that have come along over the last few years and want to jump on the metal bandwagon when they've got absolutely no metal cred. Those bands make us all sick. I won't mention them by name, not because I'm afraid to, but because I don't want to attract any more attention their way. I guess it always happens where a few bands come along that really are doing something different, and then a whole bunch of other bands come along who just basically copy what the first few are doing. Then they all claim how unique and special they are. C'mon... don't make me puke! Too much of what you hear on hard rock radio stations all sounds the same, and now the bands even all look the same. It's really pathetic.

-COREY TAYLOR

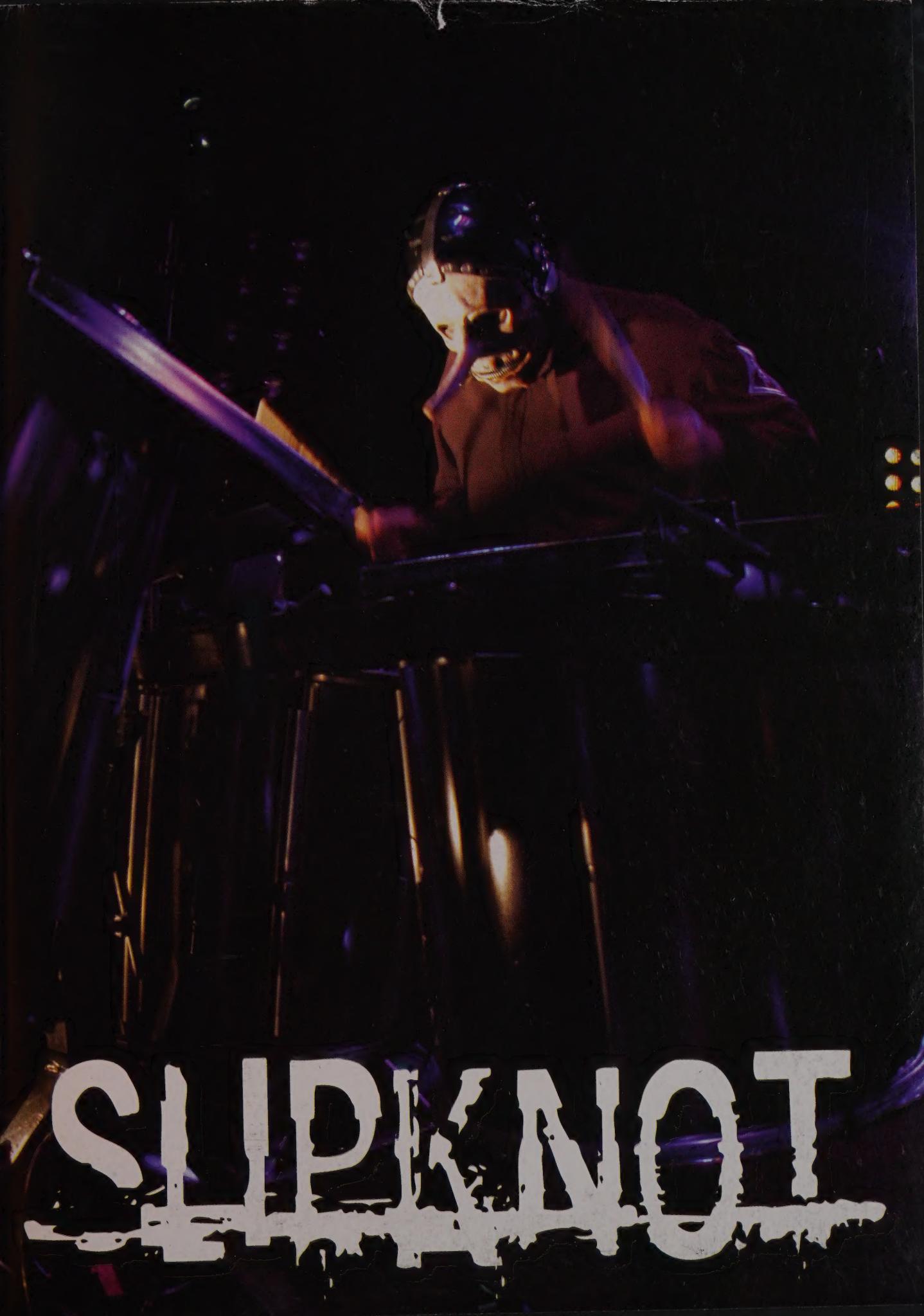
The fans are the best, whether they're in Europe, America, or wherever. Without them, there is no Slipknot. They're the reason we exist. You can't believe how motivated we get when we stand on stage in front of thousands of fans who are going crazy for us. It makes us want to give everything we have every night. That's what we owe them—everything.

-JOEY JORDISON

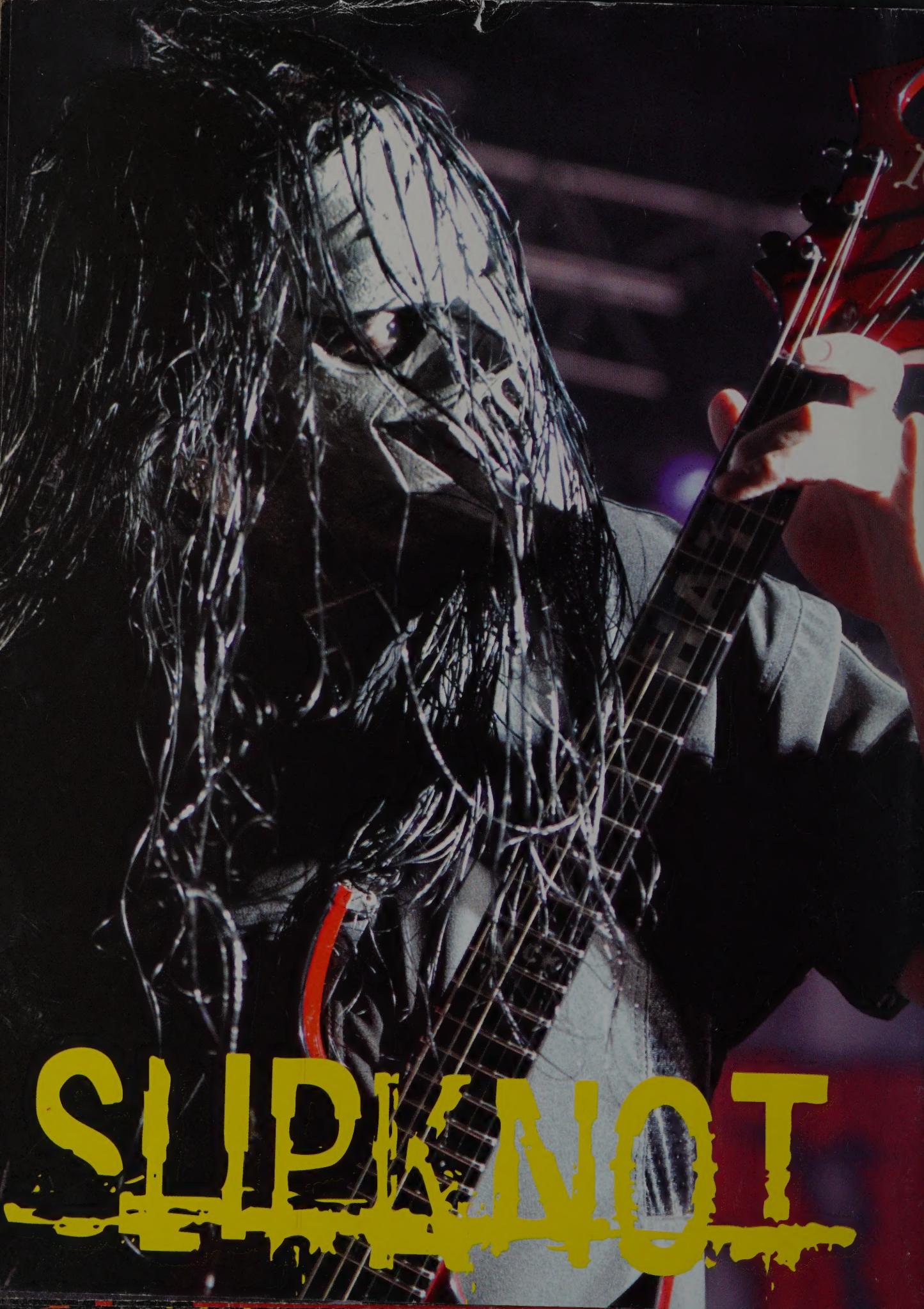




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