

BLESSTHEFALL * KITTIE * SAOSIN * BARONESS * SKELETONWITCH

OUT+BURN



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"I MAY LOOK BRIGHT AND HAPPY, BUT I AM KIND OF EVIL."

JEFFREE STAR

INTERVIEW WITH JEFFREE STAR BY JESSICA SCARRETT
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEREMY SÄFFER

IT SHOULD COME AS ABSOLUTELY NO SURPRISE that Jeffree Star has two Pomeranian pups. They are fabulous creatures, which is pretty much how the singer/musician/makeup artist/fashionista/internet celeb fancies himself. But with fame and fabulosity comes a whole lotta of haters that criticize Star's every move and love to verbally take him out with charged barbs. The flamboyant Star, the self-styled "Queen of the Internet," remains unintimidated by his detractors and was fresh off a stint on this year's Warped Tour when he was in promotional mode for his first full-length album, the sugar coated and synthesized *Beauty Killer*. The 23-year-old phenom, who refers to himself as "the gay Mike Tyson," has never once censored his words nor does he hesitate to reveal his thoughts about his fellow web celebs and the haters that trash him.

So, you're the "Queen of the Internet." Is such status passé these days? Or do you think you are just the tip of the iceberg for the celeb culture created by the web?

It's always little people who try to copy me, but I don't like to be associated with other web stars like Tila Tequila since I am not a prostitute. If someone created a profile today, these people aren't going to get a million friends and do what she and I have done right away. I don't agree with what she stands for, but we took the internet and made it our business and transcended real life. I have been doing music for two years, but I started posting pictures, doing blogs, and giving my opinions, and I never thought people would care about or pay attention to it. And it got thrown into my life, and now here I am.

What's the biggest drawback of internet generated stardom? Too many people knowing who you are? No more privacy? Tons of haters?

Now, with music, I finally get taken seriously. Before, I was the crazy guy online, and then I had my clothing line and more music, so it is like a joke turned to real life. Earning respect is a hard thing.

You wear many hats and, of course, you sport them stylishly. You do makeup,

music, and are a drag queen. What's your favorite?

It used to be the makeup. I love doing it for my friends once in a while, but I am obsessed with making music and my album is finally finished. Now it's all about touring and getting it out there and seeing what happens. There is nothing shocking or great about music right now. I am glad Lady Gaga is out there telling people she is a hermaphrodite. She is someone who knows how to fuck with people and have fun. Finally! Everyone is over Britney Spears. It gets old.

Is Lady Gaga your kindred spirit? Or do you just think she is outrageous?

She came out of nowhere a year ago and boom! It's cool she got the chance to make it huge, and she makes me want to work even harder.

You are from Orange County, California, where there are so many stereotypes. Have you always stuck out?

High school was fun. Me and Gwen Stefani are from Orange County, and we're weird. I wasn't interested in learning about Christopher Columbus in high school, so I would sneak to LA and go to clubs with my fake ID. I started so young. I was doing makeup for porn and music when I was 18, and I wore so much makeup no one knew how old I was. I lied about it, and no one thought twice. As soon as I graduated, I was starting to do makeup for celebrities, and when you are around those people, they want you to be a part of their stuff and their life. Musicians said I should do music, so I did it as a joke, put it on the internet, and people wanted more. So, I thought, "Maybe I should take it seriously," and I did.

Would you call what you do pop music?

No, it's hymen breaking music! It's music to have sex to. They are good fuck jams.

How did you enjoy your summer vacation on Warped Tour?

It was huge. It was great for me and was one of the most fun tours I have ever done. Sure, people were talking shit about me and the other electro acts, who all did great, but of course I did better than them.

Of course you did!

I played the tour last year and that was a taste. I had no record in stores yet. This

year on the first day, I went on stage with 5,000 people watching me, and I was always in the top 10 out of 50 bands when it came to selling merch. It was a great experience, so maybe I will play main stage next year.

Who was talking shit? The other bands or the crowd?

It was a lot of the older punk fans that still don't get it when they see me. When Fat Mike of NOFX says I am more punk rock than him, they shut their mouths. NOFX and Bad Religion had my back, but the singer of Gallows talked shit about me every day. He never said anything to my face, of course not. He even watched my show. But he never came up to my face. No one can ever confront me, but someone sprayed me in the face with water in New Mexico, and I tasered him. It was a random dude with a squirt gun, and I know it's hot out, but I have perfect makeup on and I don't need to be squirted in the face. I did it to set an example. It was a huge ordeal, so I had two bodyguards with me for the rest of the tour.

Do you take all the haters in stride?

I think it is funny. By now, I thought people would have quit or gotten over it. I have a lot of confidence, and I don't care. I am doing it for fun, and I want everyone to listen to my music and have a good time. I am not trying to change the world. I am not Kid Rock.

Androgyny is usually more accepted by women. Are you finding that you have a more female audience because of this?

I do. I'm glad you know that. Everyone thinks my fan base is gay guys. It's more like *Hannah Montana* fans, who are 11-to-18-year-old girls. I am like their human Barbie, because who doesn't want pink hair and cool makeup? I wanted that when I was little, so I made it happen when I'm not little!

"Prisoner" is a fun romp. On *Beauty Killer*, did you work with co-writers like all the great divas do?

This time, with a full CD, I wanted to take the production to another level. Before me and my friends were making music in a house and with ProTools helping me make music for fun. Now that my music has gotten so much attention, I wanted to take it to the next level, and this is the first one I recorded with a good single. It's way better than my

older stuff, which was more like Peaches, like rappy electro. I was 18, and those lyrics were what I wanted to get away from. It's not all about fucking again. That gets so boring, right? The producers were like, "Go deeper. Try to write about love." But I am not interested in love, so I wrote my take on it. I spun it in a darker way. I may look bright and happy, but I am kind of evil.

Tell us about another song!

There is one called "Get Away with Murder." I wrote both songs, that and "Prisoner," in the same day. I say, "I am going to break your heart and get away with murder," which is a darker love song. There are five songs like that, and the rest are crazy with different subject matter. I am outside the box, and I am not going to talk about going down on people. Everyone already knows I am good at that!

You worked with Matt Skiba of Alkaline Trio, who is pretty revered in the punk rock realm. I love in that song, "Louis Vuitton Body Bag," we collaborated. It was great. He doesn't

collaborate with just anyone, so it's an honor that he did for me. We are close friends and like each other's dark side. He listened and was like, "Alright. I want to work with people I wouldn't be expected to." Why would Alkaline Trio work with Jeffree Star? When they hear it, it is good. People are like, "I hate Jeffree, but that 'Prisoner' song is catchy."

Does drama follow you wherever you go? I want you to give me the answer. I do

antagonize it out of people. If people start it, I will antagonize. I am getting over it. If someone says, "Ew," when I walk into a store or if it's a band talking shit at a concert, I make it a big deal. But why not make a big deal a bigger deal? I will taser them so they know not to fuck with me.