DEVILDRIVER OUTLAW BIO

Going against the grain comes naturally for Devildriver. The globally-renowned California Groove Machine have been a constant and effective force in the heavy metal world for the best part of two decades now. Thanks to widely lauded albums like 2005’s epoch-shredding *The Fury Of Our Maker’s Hand*, 2011’s ante-raising, ultra-brutal *Beast* and 2016’s acclaimed career peak *Trust No One*, the band led by vocalist Dez Fafara (ex-Coal Chamber) are firmly established as one of the most consistent and best loved bands in modern metal. Their almost psychotic dedication to the road is legendary, their mastery of the circle pit beyond dispute: but in 2018, expectations are about to be torched on the mother of all campfires. A monstrous collection of savage and slamming metal interpretations of Dez and his comrades’ favourite outlaw country songs, *Outlaws ‘Til The End* is both a startling curveball /and/ a ferocious statement of individuality from a band with *cojones* to spare.

“I think *real* music has always gotten to me, whether it’s the blues, outlaw country or even real Goth music like Bauhaus and Sisters Of Mercy,” Dez explains. “That stuff has always attracted me, and this is absolutely the *real* stuff. The blues and outlaw country are what made rock’n’roll. They were around *before* rock’n’roll… and in my head, I’ve always heard these songs *heavy*. Lyrically, these are some of the most poignant songs on the planet. So they fit the heavy genre very well… as you can hear! (laughs)”

From the opening seconds of Devildriver’s face-flaying version of Hank III’s *Country Heroes* (featuring the man himself on guest vocals) onwards, *Outlaws ‘Til The End* is simply one of the most vicious records the band have made yet. More importantly, these evocative, irresistible songs have all been wholly rebuilt from the ground up, powered by the classic Devildriver sound and embellished with Dez’s unmistakable feral roar.

Completing this unprecedented project is a host of metal and country luminaries providing unforgettable cameos: horror metal icon Wednesday 13 lends his incensed rasp to George Jones’ *If Drinking Don’t Kill Me*, 36 Crazyfists frontman Brock Lindow brings fire and soul to Steve Earle’s *Copperhead Road* and Fear Factory’s Burton C. Bell helps to turn Richard Thompson’s anti-war classic *Dad’s Gonna Kill Me* into a brooding gothic metal extravaganza. Meanwhile, Lamb Of God men Randy Blythe and Mark Morton contribute to an exhilarating decimation of Willie Nelson’s *Whiskey River* before Randy makes a second appearance on Devildriver’s insanely brutal version of cowboy standard *Ghost Riders In The Sky*; the latter featuring the son of Johnny Cash himself…

“I knew right away that I wanted to have guests on this record, and the first guest I wanted was John Cash Jnr.,” Dez recalls. “I didn’t want this thing to /exist/ without John, without Hank III or without Randy [Blythe, Lamb Of God]. Basically, there were a certain amount of guests that I definitely wanted on it, but as I kept asking people, everyone kept saying yes! Randy and Mark [Morton, Lamb Of God] are both from the country and they were /immediately/ on board. With John, we wound up talking for two hours when we first met, all about his love of heavy metal and my love of outlaw country and my love of his dad’s music. All he wanted to do was talk about metal and all I wanted to do was talk about outlaw country. It was the craziest thing.”

Not content with a collaboration with John Cash Jnr, Devildriver’s eighth studio album also features the iconic voice of Fear, US punk rock legend Lee Ving. Accompanying Dez through blistering, riff-driven reconstructions of Johnny Cash’s *The Man Comes Around* and David Allan Coe’s darkly moving *The Ride*, Lee’s presence brings yet more red-blooded passion to this celebration of true grassroots music and the unerring power of heaviness.

“Lee has a country band called Range War and when he first started in music, his mother gave him her mandolin to play, so he played country music before he ever did punk rock,” Dez notes. “You know what? I’ve been fortunate enough in my career to do songs with Ozzy and some of the greats, but doing a song with *Lee Ving*? What can I say… he’s my ultimate hero in life. I had a Fear shirt on the first time I ran away from home, you know?”

Still charging forward, proudly against the grain and on the form of their lives, Devildriver have never made a record like *Outlaws ‘Til The End* before. But then nor has anyone else. The perfect marriage of badass country grit and neck-wrecking groove metal supremacy, it’s a pistol-packing game-changer delivered by true heavy metal outlaws.

“We knew it was going to be at least three years before the next Devildriver record, so I wanted to give people something to digest while we keep writing,” Dez concludes. “But don’t you think the scene needs a kick in the ass, man? Everybody’s kinda doing the same shit now. If you can scream, you’re in a fucking band. So we needed to shake things up a bit. This is outlaw country, Devildriver-style. And it’s fuckin’ brutal.”