

# ARSENAL

WHO DO YOU PHONE WHEN  
YOU'VE ONLY GOT THAT  
ONE CALL?

OUR CATH GETS SANTIAGO  
DURANGO IN A HALF NELSON  
AND RECEIVES INAD-  
MISSABLE EVIDENCE.

Better than Rapeman  
shrieked the young  
menfolk of Northampton as  
'manipulator' came to  
light up their lives 18  
months after the  
vaporisation of  
snugglebunnies, Big Black.  
Santiago Durango, you  
stand accused of being  
The Grand Old of  
Rock (with special  
reference to Chicago...)

"I am? Because I refuse  
to retire? Everybody's  
waiting for me to ride  
off into the sunset but  
I'm just too stubborn to  
do it. I've been playing  
in all sorts of bands  
since the late 70's..."

Just to recap, that  
includes Silver Abuse  
, Naked Raygun etc, etc  
, prior to which he was a  
founder member of Annette  
Funicello's Mouseketeers.  
They are still playing  
his riffs today.

So. What's it all about,  
hermano? No-one could  
understand what the fuck  
you were going on  
about in your press  
release and the NME  
interview was mighty  
morbid. Do you have a  
strong sense of your own  
mortality?

"Uh. Yeah. I think  
people don't have enough  
sense of your own  
mortality, they don't  
appreciate the gift of  
life. Too many times they  
look back in their old  
age and realise life has  
slipped through their  
fingers. I try to take as  
much advantage of this  
little gift as possible."

Little... ahhh. Is that  
what 'Memento Mori' is

about?

"Yeah... Memento mori  
loosely translates  
remember you will  
die. People should be more  
aware; instead of the  
blind pursuit of money  
they should pursue a  
quality of life more  
strenuously."

Does that sense of  
mortality manifest itself  
every time you, say, take  
a train. Do you think it's  
going to crash?

"No I'm not like  
that. I'm at the point  
where I could say I've  
done something with my  
life, left some tracks. I  
have a morbid fear of  
wasting my time. Musically  
I've built something out  
of nothing."

So when do you qualify as  
a rich bastard lawyer?

"Well, if I, er, heh  
, heh, heh pass all my  
very difficult courses,  
sometime in 1990. What  
will I do? Swindle old  
widows out of their  
money."

That's the spirit. So  
there is a follow up to  
'Manipulator'?

"There's an E.P. with  
about six  
songs, eventually there  
will be an L.P., but my  
time is not my own so  
it's very limited."

According to Albini, you  
have been working with  
the worst bass-player in  
history. And his name has  
been taken off the record  
sleeve.

"I have. Yes. There was no  
need to have Malachai  
Richter on the record but  
I am such a sap, I am a  
bleeding heart."

Here was a gentlemen, 36  
years old, who hadn't done  
anything with his life,  
getting drunk and  
attaching himself to my  
ankles, begging me to let  
him play. Oh, OK... Once  
I gave way he decided he  
was going to make all  
these unreasonable

demands. It was very  
ungrateful on his part  
and it showed no bit of  
class. Anyway, I corrected  
a lot of him in the mix  
but you can judge his  
ability for yourself if  
you listen to those  
riveting, awe-inspiring  
breaks on 'Memento Mori'.  
I'm now working with the  
bass-player from another  
Chicago band but their  
record company won't like  
it so I can't say  
who. They toured Europe to  
the end of last year."

Ooer. Anyway, what do  
you think of Naked Raygun  
these days?

"ah-uh-gngh. Gahhhhd. I  
knew that was coming..."

Oh dear. Santiago is  
hyperventilating. A magic  
editing fairy saves him  
by temporarily severing  
all transatlantic phone-  
links. Come back! Let's  
talk about the record.

'Half Control' has  
somehow managed to  
capture the essence of  
the heavenly  
'Cheree, Cheree'. You a  
suicide fan?

"No. Well, uh, I'm not  
familiar with them. I'm  
not a big audiophile. If  
you ask me about certain  
bands, the chances are I  
won't be sufficiently  
informed to give you some  
kind of intelligent  
comment on them..."

Who-ah. Spot the  
lawyer. That's...  
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