

Timb:

Chameleon of Rock

The “b” is silent. He is not.

// WORDS: MARCUS ALEXANDER HART

You pop in the CD and hit play. One track is a Guns N’ Roses-style rocker, ostensibly about a “big lizard.” Another is a bouncy Roger Miller sound-alike about staging an intervention for friends who haven’t seen *Pulp Fiction*. Then a hip-hop anthem, then a heartfelt ballad about a zombie outbreak. Is this your new favorite compilation disc? No, it’s *30 Days*, the new album from Timb, South Florida’s favorite geek-glam rock star. Timb was named best solo musician of the year by the Broward/Palm Beach *New Times* in 2004, and he hasn’t slowed down since. We met up with Timb on his home turf—among the sex toys and latex fashions at Fort Lauderdale’s Fetish Factory—to talk about style parody, rock star fashion and alien booze.

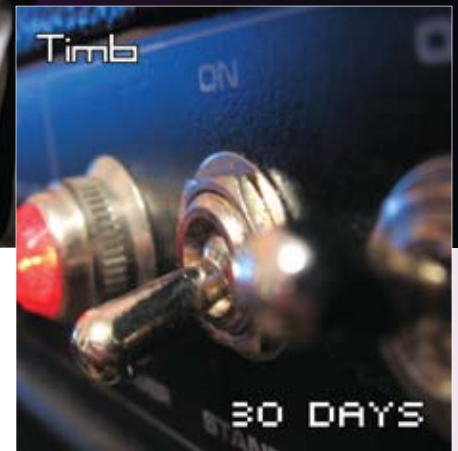
Though he has a sound all his own, Timb is not afraid to mimic other artists. In fact, “style parody” is often his intent. “There are other artists out there who do style parody,” Timb explains. “Ween is one. They Might Be Giants do it to some extent. ‘Weird Al’ Yankovic is a real master of it. He’s better known for his straight parodies—where he just changes the words to an existing song to make it about food—but his original songs are his true masterpieces. ‘Dare to be Stupid’ is an original song in the style of Devo, and a good example of the kind of style parody I like to do. I’ll make an original song

that a stranger will hear and they’ll say, ‘That’s obviously the Dead Kennedys, or White Zombie or Aerosmith.’ But it isn’t.”

Timb’s tenth studio album, *30 Days*, is not only a monument to musical diversity, but a testament to his own talent for rapid composition and execution. The disc’s surprisingly robust 30 tracks were written and each recorded in a single day, one for every day of April 2008. “I wanted to write a whole album that would force me into a more spontaneous work ethic,” Timb says. “I wanted to shoot from the hip, but mostly I wanted to crank out an enormous body of work in a very short amount of time. I also like albums that sound like all the songs were written in a very specific amount of time concurrent with interesting life events. Weezer’s *Pinkerton* and Ben Folds Five’s *Whatever and Ever Amen* come to mind.”

Though he is a master at emulating other bands’ styles, Timb makes his songs his own through his unique subject matter and viewpoint. “My content tends to be more subversive,” Timb says. “I wrote a song about racism post 9/11 from the perspective of a hate-filled redneck. I wrote a Prince-style song about cunnilingus. I don’t do a whole lot of songs about love and breakup; I think it’s more interesting to write a song about getting your muffler repaired in the style of James Brown.”

But being a rock star isn’t all about the music—it’s also about the fashion. From his furry



knee-high boots to his skintight velvet pants, Timb truly dresses the part of a Bowie-inspired glam rocker. “It causes heads to turn when I go to pick up some toothpaste or some deodorant, but I’m so used to it I don’t even notice anymore,” Timb shrugs. “One time a guy asked me if that was my ‘real dick’ in regards to the bulge in the front of my pants. I mean, how do you even respond to that? This is in the electronics section at Wal-Mart. I just proudly told him, ‘Yes, it is.’ Not my most clever of moments, but I admit, he caught me off guard.”

Although he rocks out with the best of them, Timb has some real geek cred. “I once went to party at Dragon*Con with Techno Destructo from G.W.A.R. That’s a geek moment I still brag about to this day,” he laughs. “The same night, I also got shitfaced on Klingon liquor. Before the guy let me drink it, I had to sit through this long explanation of how if I drank any more than he offered me, I would die. Man, he wasn’t kidding. It was brutal. That may count as both my best and worst geek experience.”

Learn more about Timb and check out *30 Days* at TimbRocks.com or myspace.com/timb.