



NEIL ZLOZOWER

Chris Robinson and The Black Crowes debut LP, 'Shake Your Money Maker,' has already yielded the Atlanta blues rockers four hit singles.

CHRIS ROBINSON COMES CLEAN

by Mordechai Kleidermacher

A year ago, if you mentioned The Black Crowes to a rock fan they would have thought you were talking about the cartoon characters Heckle and Jeckle. At this writing, the Atlanta-based, blues-rockers' debut LP, *Shake Your Money Maker*, has yielded four hit singles and is the nation's number-five album.

Now, wiry Chris Robinson sets the record straight in this *Circus* magazine exclusive.

Your jabs at your peers have earned you an image as this raging,

seething guy.

When people meet me they realize that's not the case.

I don't have anything against any fellow musicians. We're saying, here's the differences. We think that it's wrong to fake it on stage. What's the difference between New Kids On The Block and people that lip-sync? I don't have anything against people who do. I like a lot of them, but we just *don't*.

But don't you really get pissed off about it sometimes?

Well, you would be pissed off when you see something that you love

deeply and dearly, tainted and dirtied. It's like your virgin love becoming a whore—to be melodramatic.

Your stance for totally live performances has left you open to criticism that you don't care about your live sound.

By saying we hit bad notes, I didn't mean that we go out and play poorly. Maybe my voice is going to crack one night out of 20. But every other night there's not a band that touches us out there right now.

Were you and Rich in any other bands?

No. Most people go from band to band just looking for a record deal, a big advance check and getting all the free women they want. If you want that, cool. Me and Rich never really gave a shit about that. It wasn't like with some bands who put up a million fliers, get their *look* together, promote their shows, and send out demos to labels. We were just a giant fuck-you drivin' down the highway looking for gigs. If we happen to become the biggest rock band in the world, good. But we're not going to let anyone tell us how to do it.

How did you hook up with the other band members?

We just started playing and the guys who were supposed to be there ended up being there. You just don't hire people because they have a good hairdo. It's like if you're making a painting, you don't want someone you don't know to show up and start slappin' paint all over it. You want people to make it more beautiful.

Does your brotherly relationship with Rich affect your working relationship?

He may punch me. I may throw a bottle at him. But ten minutes later the riff sounds like the best sex you ever had.

Your record was number five on the *Billboard* chart this week.

Cool for us. But I'm not going to get all bent out of shape about it. I'm just Chris Robinson, man.

Do you feel pressured to keep up the momentum?

That pressure's there, but I choose not to feel it. The only pressure I'm under is to feed the cats when I'm at home.

What are your aspirations now?

Not having my teeth fall out. I have a cavity that hurts like shit.

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