

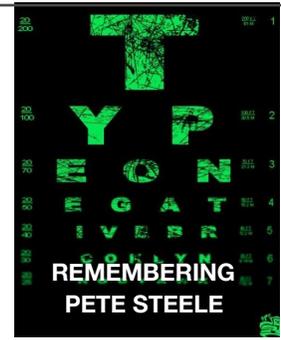
Randy Rhoads
Remembered
ALWAYS AN HONOR
TO HAVE THE
CHANCE TO PLAY W/
BASSIST **RUDY
SARZO!**



**JOHNNY KELLY
DRUMMER!**



THE BAND DANZIG'S
FORECOMING ALBUM
IS IN THE WORKS!



Johnny Kelly snatched the opportunity to play drums w/ Rudy Sarzo of Ozzy and Quiet Riot, in Randy Rhoads Remembered- a tribute to the late guitar player onboard Axes and Anchors Cruise '16!

Hek82 had to catch up the drummer Johnny Kelly, because he's a very active man. Very popular musicians are always in demand to start new projects, and fill in when there's an empty seat. **Danzig**, is the main national touring band he's

Johnny wanted to play like John Bonham, so early on he played to Zeppelin records and joined his uncle's band...

currently known for and now he also plays with **Kill Devil Hill** taking Vinny Appice's place. You may well know him from the band **Type O Negative**, their music was prevalent of course, and raging in Doom metal from the 90's until '10 when Peter Steele died.

Very industrious drummer Kelly is too cool and doesn't place himself in Doom or Gothic metal exclusively. A very classic rock tradition of playing especially with influences like Led Zeppelin, he plays Bonzo, Oz and Black Sabbath, whoah!

Since then, the members of Type O Negative have been successful as musicians with different bands. Have you ever seen a **Pale Horse Named Death**? That is one of Kelly's cool bands.

Most recently, Kelly was playing with **Seven Witches** and sat in for a few songs with the **Randy Rhoads Remembered** band on the cruise. Unbelievable but true! I heard he got to play Paris once with **BLS**, now he also had just filled in with **Hookers and Blow** on their Midwest tour. Awesome!

Johnny enjoys playing classic Rock and Metal songs,

especially with cool bands like at Bonzo Bash and Randy Rhoads Remembered... "I was prepared to play the whole set but instead Brian Tichy and I played it together it was cool. I got to play with Rudy Sarzo, that was big for me it was great. Marzi Montazari a phenomenal guitar player and sweet person, good vibe. And Alex Skolnick from Testament... Brian Tichy played guitar on a song... hanging out w/ Dewey Bragg is always cool because we're both in Kill Devil Hill..." Win, win!

He thinks the cruise ships like Motorhead and Axes and Anchors are an absolutely great time and appreciates the fans that turn up!

Hek82: What's new with Kill Devil Hill? I know that it's a great band and Vinny Appice started it, and decided to step down not long ago in '14. What has it been like taking his place? Is the group promising a new record or tour soon?

JKelly: Vinny stepped down just after their second record was

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Johnny Kelly will be appearing with Kill Devil Hill, Danzig, and/ or other local or touring bands very soon, soon to promise shows in the LA county areas...! Stay tuned!

released. I already knew Rex Brown because back in the day Type-O-Negative did a lot of touring together with Pantera. When I was touring with Danzig, Kill Devil Hill was out and our buses were parked not far from each other at a Burbank hotel. So I recognized the bus and went over and knocked. I met the guys who they were all hangin' out and I got to meet Vinny. Well, it was only a few months later when Rex called me and found out I was interested and I decided to take the job. I went out to California, and we hit it off! It's totally different dynamics, when you're friends with somebody compared to when you're touring together. So, it worked out well playing together, and then they asked me to join.

Hek82: Sweet!

JKelly: The rest they say, is history.

Hek82: Am I going to get the chance to see this band play soon?

JKelly: I hope so, we have some Demos done already, we've recorded a few songs earlier in the year. It's just a matter of scheduling the next get together to put forth the effort and get it going.

Hek82: You're all very busy guys! Not always on the road but living life and balancing family and work. Not to mention East coast and West coast...

JKelly: I am very used to the touring life, it's part of who I am and I'm very comfortable with that. The schedules can be grueling, but you know when you wake up in the morning that you're going to play and I love that. At the same time, I do have a family life- going away is tougher than it used to be. It's more responsibility as you get older.

Hek82: Right, of course!

JKelly: There are other people who depend on you, we have to make all of these adjustments in our lives. Type-O-Negative would tour for 18 mos. like on the Bloody Kisses record. That's a long time! Bands don't usually tour like that anymore.

Hek82: Intense! A very well-known national touring band. Too bad we had to say "Goodbye" to the group in 2010 when we lost Pete Steele. A loss felt by many and it really is too bad that you lost your friend Pete at that time, and the band decided to call it quits at that point.

JKelly: There wasn't really any discussion about it, it just was clear to us that the book was closed on it and that we would move on. So, we knew it was finished. When or how it was going to end we didn't know, we couldn't plan as to when we would call it a day. Anything but one of us passing away, would've been better.

Hek82: You and the other band members were able to move on, and recovered by continuing to play.

JKelly: I'm not sure if recovered is the right word. For a long time, it was soul searching...

Hek82: I see.

JKelly: I just went into like a work mode, I mean right after Pete died I played a show or two with Danzig.

Hek82: It wasn't long after that you joined the band, isn't that so?

JKelly: Type-O-Negative was the centerpiece of my adult existence. Soul searching... like Josh Silver did, (and he became an EMT;) even saying- should I close up this chapter of my life or not?

Hek82: Such a loved and well-known band.

JKelly: When you're in the band it's a whole different perspective. It's great to see that even now 6 years later people come up to me and want to talk about how much the band still means to them. I even get messages stating that it was Type-O helped that them through tough times, and so forth. Are there any unreleased songs...? Of so much importance, very validating.

Hek82: Yeah.

JKelly: So, being in the band is a different way of seeing this. The fans will tell you what it means to them, but when you're actually in it and living it and part of it- it's not the same.

Hek82: A lifestyle for you.

JKelly: Type-O was for me 24/7, 365 days a year for almost 20 years. There was always something going on, if not the tour schedule that required you to put your time and effort into it.

Hek82: Mm-hm.

JKelly: Here we are, Pete's anniversary is coming up and well, it still takes time and effort.

Hek82: It's remembering too, and the appreciation of so many fans of the group. The other members too, founding member Sal Abruscato, Josh Silver, Kenny Hickey... you must still see each other and I've heard you have played too...

JKelly: Oh yeah, we stay in touch. I've played with them not Josh- him I don't see very often but we do stay in touch. Type-O Negative still lives and breathes in us. There's also the business side of it. We're still friends.

Hek82: A question of styles... Are you based there, has there been a stylistic movement? As far as Metal- since we were chatting about Randy Rhoads, and Led Zeppelin...

JKelly: I played in a band with my Uncle for years before I joined Type-O Negative. He was always playing guitar in the basement in Brooklyn. He turned me on to Zeppelin, and in music- so many different things. The kid up the block started teaching me how to play drums. I handed him the records and we started playing. He laughed and said- whoah, slow down! We had to start at the fundamentals...

Hek82: Ha, ha! Speaking of good influences...

JKelly: Black Sabbath and Bill Ward, were a huge influence on me- so big! Type-O Negative always wore that on our sleeve.

Hek82: Mm-hm, cool- I can hear that in the music.

JKelly: Ozzy's Diary of a Madman, feat. Randy Rhoads when it came out was a soundtrack for my whole summer that year. We would blast it constantly through our boombox! ... and in my first car. I

was just blown away by the first two Ozzy records... So much part of my youth, my upbringing and my playing...

Hek82: Well, I have to take the time now to ask you what Danzig is up to, because I think I can speak for everyone and say we'd like to know!

JKelly: Right now, Glenn's working on a new record. I'm just waiting for him to buzz me again. We toured through the month of October, and now he's doin' his thing out in California, and so hopefully we'll have news soon!

Hek82: That'll be cool... what year was it when you first joined the band?

JKelly: The first tour I did with Danzig was 2002.

Hek82: Oh, 2002! So it's been a long time.

JKelly: Yes, it's been a long time now. I played on the Deth Red Sabbaoth record, I played on the covers record that came out last year... And with the new one I've played on two or three songs so far.

Hek82: Cool!

JKelly: It's been great and we're playing with Tommy Victor and Steve Zing... great friends of mine! This line up has been stable. We've been in the band for a number of years, and it's a lot of fun picking it right back up where we left off even though we might've been apart for a while.

Hek82: That's awesome.

JKelly: Our catalogue is extensive. It's vey cool to play that music. Glenn's an icon.

Hek82: Yes! Glenn Danzig. He definitely is.

JKelly: At the end of the day, the fact remains- he's an icon that guy.

Hek82: Great to be a part of that family tree, huh?

JKelly: Absolutely. What a blessing.

Hek82: You weren't on the Circle of Snakes album...

JKelly: No, that was Bevan. After that I got thrown back into the mix... they need someone then to take a permanent seat and that's when Glen called and said he had touring coming up and so on. The year they were busy and Type-O was not, so I took the position. I was able to manage a balance between both bands then.

Hek82: So it worked out.

JKelly: There were only a couple of instances where Bevan had to sit in due to the schedules.

Hek82: The line up is still Tommy Victor on guitar and Steve Zing on bass, you know the name is so popular now with the movie Hotel Transylvania, they say "*Zing!*" all the time... Well, I'm really looking forward to hearing you play with the bands Danzig, Kill Devil, and what's up next!

JKelly: The main thing for me right now is to get the **Seventh Void** record finished with Kenny from Type-O.

Hek82: You were playing with Seven Witches, and Randy Rhoads- so many projects!

JKelly: Playing with a lot of bands, that's how these things come up.

Hek82: So much creativity taking place.

JKelly: I've always enjoyed playing with other people. Even as a teenager. I've always wanted to because when you're involved with different people you learn from it. It's always been a constant learning experience.

Hek82: Was it you that just played with the band Hookers and Blow?

JKelly: Ha, ha! Yeah.

Hek82: Did you play in Wisconsin?

JKelly: Yeah! Okay.

Hek82: That's right where I'm from.

JKelly: We did 5 shows in the Midwest. We played in Green Bay, Milwaukee...

Hek82: What did you think of those shows?

JKelly: That was so much fun. The best part was really just hangin' out with the band and drivin' together. Goin' from show to show. We had Don Jamieson from That Metal Show. He's funny, always joking when he's not working so it was fun, and then we get to lay at the end of the night. Not that playing is the least fun part of it.

Hek82: That's interesting!

JKelly: So, I go through like a depression when we finish a trip. They're my best pals, I've known Dizzy Reed for 12 years. They're such great players.

Hek82: These are bands that I don't want to miss! Talk about depression. What do you think of Gothic or Doom Metal, as a genre; are you used to hearing your music described in this way?

JKelly: We all had black hair and our singer had fangs. We couldn't get away from that. We never really looked at the band as being a Goth band. We thought of ourselves as much more like Black Sabbath.

Hek82: That's actually what it sounds like to me.

JKelly: Danzig, I might say is more blues based. Rock-n-roll based but the presentation is different. Think of Black Sabbath and AC/DC and what's in between. That's my impression. In studio, Glenn will give me riff and then say- this is what I want, play AC/DC style. Just give me a kick on the eighths or quarters, or whatever. His approach to songs is based in that classic rock idea. That's how I see it. I don't see it as this other genre...

Hek82: Well, it's been so interesting to hear from you!

JKelly: It's classic...

Hek82: Say, didn't you join the band Black Label Society one time for a tour of Paris?

JKelly: I toured with them for a month in Europe.

Hek82: Oh, okay!

JKelly: It was about 5 yrs. ago.

Hek82: That must've been enjoyable! I wish you could've played with them on the cruise but you were already playing with Seven Witches and RRR. Zakk and Dario played a super sweet acoustic set...

JKelly: The set is pretty cool, I do talk to Zakk all the time. That whole month I played was trial by fire. It was exciting and a little terrifying. Another situation where I was covering for somebody else. Will Hunt had been playing and he had to leave to do some stuff with Evanescence. So he called me and asked "Can you come out, right now?" A couple days later he sent me a set list. A couple days after that, I watched Will perform with the band for two nights. And then, during sound checks I would work with JD and Nick. I never played with Zakk until the first show. I wasn't sure what to expect. Not to mention that I had to learn an hour and a half's worth of material in a couple of days.

Hek82: Oh, boy! I've seen drummers in a similar situation... the best of the craft!

JKelly: Ha, ha- you know, why did I say "Yes" to this? But it wound up workin' out. There were a couple of little bumps here and there but nothing major. I did feel that I was rehearsing on stage in front of like 30,000 people a night. It did get better with each show. Remember songs, remember cues, a stop in the set... a lot to absorb in a very short amount of time. We all had fun and it was great getting to know the guys. It was cool playing together, great experience.

Hek82: Well, I tell you it has been wonderful hearing from you about your incredible journey as a drummer! A whole lot of inspiration here, and nothing but great music. Thank you Johnny Kelly! Let's keep on listening and keep on watching for all of these awesome bands Johnny's involved in!

JKelly: Thanks, I appreciate the support and it means a lot. Especially when people still like to hear about Type-O Negative and talk about it, like it's very relevant. They're still interested. Four guys from Brooklyn. We got out of the neighborhood, and we made a mark. It's cool.

Hek82: I got to thank you again! My wireless show will definitely feature your music soon.

JKelly: Thanks for your time.

