

**ZODIAC MINDWARP
AND
THE LOVE REACTION**

Its been well documented that Zodiac Mindwarp, lead singer of alt-metal rocker band The Love Reaction, is mad, bad and dangerous to know. So it is with trepidation that I make my way to his pad in Clerkenwell, armed with my dictaphone plus a crucifix for protection to investigate about his latest album release WE ARE VOLSUNG (wild Nordic tribesmen, apparently).

“I don’t fookin know why people write shit about me! I’m a good man!” laughs Zodiac.

In Zodiac’s cramped council flat, the hallway is covered in rock’nr’oll ephemera. His living room is filled with books covering subjects such as art, magic, the occult and plenty on Nazi Germany.

“I like the fashion, that’s all. I’m not into the politics. The uniforms look good. How anyone could think I’m a Nazi is laughable! It’s a joke!” Which it is, considering that his ex-wife is Indian and his current amour is Hispanic. Does he dabble in magic? “Yeah, I do. Nothing dark. I do card tricks and sleight of hand”.

The name Zodiac Mindwarp was derived from an underground comic book

and “Love Reaction” from a Bruce Springsteen lyric. Formed back in the mid-1980s, they had considerable success and were credited for changing the look of metal bands. Out went the then-current vogue for spandex and big hair: in came leather, chains and tattoos. “Why would I want to wear leggings? I’m from fookin’ LEEDS!”.

The intervening years have been lowkey but steady. “We’re about to go on a world tour to promote the album. It’s had good reviews. We still sell.” He attributes the band’s longevity to the fans. Zodiac explains that the band’s reputation for bad behaviour comes from scenes backstage involving his band members. “When I come off stage, my adrenalin’s buzzing – there’s no better high than that. I don’t want to shag some fookin’ ugly bird but they do. I just observe.”

Off the road, Zodiac devotes himself to painting on canvas – as a former artist, he finds it therapeutic – and has a current exhibition at L13 gallery in W1. “It’s a stark contrast to the shenaigans that go on with touring. I’m doing a series of Rupert The Bear paintings – it represents lost innocence”. He’s also an accomplished writer, for – among others – The Idler magazine and indulges in his ‘old man’s hobby’ of collecting knives. “I’ve ’undreds of ’em.” Zodiac shows me an American scalping knife from 1860. “I love history and historical things. I’m fascinated.” I am, too. Zodiac is very considerate: offering food when he hears my tummy rumble and, sensing my nervousness when I needed to pee because the bathroom offers only a beautiful antique flag draped for modesty rather than a door, he politely whistled whilst I tinkled. My mind boggles as to how this kind mild-mannered northern man could be so misinterpreted. “Do you take a lot of

drugs?” I ask.

“Did do – not anymore.”

Well, that explains it then.

**ZODIAC MINDWARP AND THE LOVE REACTION / ALICE
COOPER / THE JIM ROSE CIRCUS @ THE ROUNDHOUSE
SATURDAY 30 & SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER.**