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Rob Crow Joins the Rebel Alliance

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Indie rocker Rob Crow from the bands Pinback, Thingy, Optiganally Yours, Heavy Vegetable, Other Men and Goblin Cock, just to name a few, has a soft spot for Star Wars, and has the song lyrics to prove it.

"There's a couple Thingy songs like 'O.B.1.' and an instrumental called 'Kessel Run,'" Crow says. "There's also a song on the Other Men's Wake Up Swimming record called 'Anaglyphic' which is partially about the anticipation of the classic trilogy in 3-D. There's a song on My Room is a Mess called 'Jedi Outcast.'"

Lyrics aren't the only way Crow shows his love for all things Jedi. "I customized my guitar rig to look like an X-wing," Crow says. "And the next Pinback record's artwork is done by Mike Sutfin who drew the New Illustrated Guide to Star Wars Characters."

San Diego-based Crow first came on the music scene with the 4-member band Heavy Vegetable and their debut EP A Bunch of Stuff by Heavy Vegetable in 1993. When the band broke up in 1995, Crow and another Vegetable member started the indie-cred band Thingy.

Crow also released another record with Pea Hix as part of the duo Optiganally Yours. The band uses an Optigan -- a Mattel toy keyboard that uses drum loops, sound effects and a range of organ sounds -- to create fun psychedelic-poppy tunes. Crow's work can be found in an array of bands such as Advertising, Altron Tube, Cthugha, Fantasy Mission Force, Remote Action Sequence Project, Other Men, Alpha Males and Goblin Cock. But perhaps he's most known for his indie band Pinback -- whose new album will be out in 2007.



Compared to everyone from the subtle songster Elliott Smith to retro greats such as XTC, Crow's solo albums -- Lactose Adept (1996), My Room Is a Mess (2003), and the most recent Living Well (2007) -- impressed fans and critics alike. Listening to Crow's many music projects, fans can find Star Wars references (see sidebar) from everything to Jedi Masters to the films themselves. Crow's appreciation for the Star Wars films started, like many fans, with seeing A New Hope as a small kid in the theater. "I remember being in the car on the way to see A New Hope the first Saturday it was out," Crow smiles. "I was drawing in a notebook a bunch of ships and aliens I imagined might be in it. I was close a couple times. I watched A New Hope for the ninth time standing around a drive-in next to the bowling alley that my folks were in."

As soon as the opening scrawl hit the screen, Crow was hooked. "I think I'm really into the idea of good versus evil using 'used technology' to defeat an evil empire," Crow explains. "It's kinda like taking down space-Hitler with a meta-Betamax."

The musical score also resonated deeply with Crow. "It's great," Crow says. "I mean it borrows heavily from Holst's 'The Planets' and Stravinsky's 'Rite of Spring,' but in a cool way that evolved with the saga into its own thing."

It wasn't long before he was fitted for a black helmet and cape. "In first grade or so, I was Darth Vader with calculator pieces on my chest and a flash lightsaber," Crow says. "I'm all about the light side now."

Rebel Alliance ships and Jedi weaponry dominated his holiday wish lists. "I always wanted an X-wing starfighter for Christmas, but my mom got me a TIE fighter," Crow says. "Even as a kid, I had a strong sense of good over evil. I have a bunch of X-wings now. I also had a lightsaber as well, but it was the inflatable kind and broke on the first thing I swung it at."

"Now I have fun Star Wars books, records, action figures and the like," Crow adds. "I have the working R2-D2 robot and the Star Wars Alienware PC. But my prized possession is the Super-8 version of Ep. IV signed by Boba Fett."

He also found himself engrossed in the pages of Star Wars comics. "I had the first 200 or so issues of the classic Star Wars comics (with the fighting space bunnies and awesome stuff like that), but they disappeared when I moved from New Jersey to San Diego in 6th grade," Crow adds. "I'm still into Star Wars Tales and X-wing - Rogue Squadron."

Crow's love for Star Wars comics runs deep and it shows. He makes a point to attend San Diego Comic-Con International every summer, if he's not on tour or in the studio. "I'm always at Comic-Con and it's always awesome," Crow smiles. "In fact, I was in Mark Hamill's Comic Book - The Movie for a second."

Now that he's a dad, he can't wait to share it with his son. "I've been attempting to show the original version of Ep. IV to my son, but he's a little young yet."

To learn more about Rob Crow click here. Also check out Rob Crow on MySpace to listen to music tracks.

Be sure to also check out the latest Pinback album -- Autumn of the Seraphs -- from Touch and Go Records on the Official Pinback site and on the Pinback Myspace page.

Stay tuned to *Star Wars Rocks* for more interviews from some of your favorite bands and celebrities.

***Star Wars* Lyrics ala Rob Crow**

"O.B.1" -- Thingy

Help me OB1

Help me OB1

Me and the Rebel Alliance

Need your help

We need your help

we need your help

Me and the Rebel Alliance (gotta save my home world of [Alderaan](#))

Need your help (gotta save my home world of Alderaan)

We need your help

"Victorious D" -- Pinback

She purrs and sabers light (I thought of you)

She said rebellion (we sink down)

"Jedi Outcast" -- Rob Crow

Checkpoint before I save it.

Force Push.

Engage!

Force Pull.

Engage!

Force jump

Engage!

Mind control

Engage!

Jedi will crush the [Sith](#)!

No surrender to dark side!