

# Jonathan Davis

Mr Korn on nu-metal, band-naming and losing a guitarist to the church...

**Where does the name Korn come from? Is it from that old horror movie *Children Of The Corn*?**

No. These two homosexual guys that I knew jumped up on a table at a party and told this story about how they were having sex, and the one guy was eating out the other guy's ass, and he blew diarrhoea in the guy's mouth. When he opened his mouth, he had a corn kernel on his tongue!

**That's utterly horrific.**

Yeah, so we called it "The Corn Story". Then, when I was around people who'd heard about it, I'd just go "Corn!" and everyone would be like, "Dude! Shut up!" It was just so horrible. When I joined the band I said, "Why don't we call the band Korn?" It was either gonna be that or "Larry" – our manager's name. He was like, "You can't name the band Korn," and we were like, "Well, we're naming it Larry then," and he said, "Okay, it'll be Korn."

**Tell us about the new album, *Untitled*. You guys went a different route...**

It was like no-holds-barred experimenting. It wasn't like any of the other Korn albums, and we got more into electronic stuff. When we did *The Untouchables*, we started to experiment and then a lot of people reacted weirdly to it, so we went back to our roots. But with *See You On The Other Side* and with this new one, we were like, screw this. We're just gonna experiment because it's boring making the same stuff over and over again.

**We believe your drummer David Silveria's buggered off and you've been using different okes?**

We were touring with Joey Jordison from Slipknot for a while, which was awesome. In the studio, we played with Terry Bozzio. He's the best drummer in the world.

**You've been rocking a long time. When last did you get a sensible haircut?**

Last haircut was probably in, ummm... 1992? I had to have it short because I worked at a funeral home. That was my job before I was in Korn, so I had to have a "respectable" hairdo. I wore a suit and tie and all that.

**Do you miss it?**

Not at all.

**Got any interesting side projects going on at the moment?**

I'm going on a solo tour! Well, I have a band, and we do weird Korn songs that never get played, songs that I did for the *Queen Of The Damned* movie soundtrack and some covers. But that's just the start. I wanna get around, do some shows for the fans – but after that, I wanna get in the studio and do a solo record.

**And what about Korn?**

We'll probably start working on a new album around the end of the year.

**What do you do when you're not playing metal? Got any hobbies?**

I'm into just chilling with my kids, man. That's my whole life – my wife and my three beautiful sons. I talked to my son today on the phone, his name's Pirate. I called my wife and said, "Lemme talk to him." He just said, "Daddy, come home!" And hung up on me! Then I called him and tried to explain that I'm on tour, and he just threw the phone on the ground! He's three! He don't wanna hear no crap

[guitarist] Munky and [bassist] Fieldy. We're still rocking it, with great guys playing with us.

**Do you still hang out with Head?**

No. We don't talk to him at all.

**That's gotta be tough.**

It sucks. He traded one addiction for another. I mean, it was a *good* thing for him to get his life straightened out, but he's really hardcore into the Christian thing right now.

**Does he denounce you guys?**

Yeah. Sometimes. And sometimes he wishes us the best. But he thinks our music was evil. It can go round and round. Fieldy's Christian, but he doesn't play that. He doesn't do that kind of

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about touring, and you can't explain it. He's just so literal – "Come home now!" Ha, ha! Every moment I have, I'm with them, because I do this so much. They mean the world to me.

**What else do you do for fun, dude?**

I shoot.

**Shoot? Shoot what?**

I like long-range precision shooting. I shoot 50-calibre guns, that fire out to a mile and a half [2,4km] to maybe two miles [3,2km].

**Like heavy artillery stuff? Sweet.**

Yeah. And I do traditional shooting; hunting, handguns, anything. I'm a real gun nut. I might fly back to South Africa and go hunting. I just wanna go out in the Jeep [in a bad British accent] hunting! Like the traditional English. *With* my tweeds and my hat. You know – "Cheerio, mate!" and all that!

**There must have been some crazy groupie action back in the day...**

There's all kinds of stories, dude! I saw the most insane things! We had techs who would bring chicks back to piss in kitty litterboxes – you name it! It was the rock 'n' roll fantasy, and *anything* went. It was ridiculous! I saw deaf chicks bone each other and chicks getting power tools inside them. You name it, I've seen it. It was good back in the day, but now, I'm kinda jaded to all that.

**Your guitarist Brian "Head" Welch left you guys for Jesus, now your drummer David Silveria's on long-term hiatus. How does that affect Korn?**

It sucks. It's like losing a family member. But those guys had to go do their thing, and they had to be happy, you know, so I just wish 'em the best. It happens all the time with bands. We ain't the first! The core of the band is me,

thing. Everybody's entitled to their own religion and their own spirituality, and whatever's good for them is good for them. But for Head... probably for him, just looking back and seeing all the drug use and all the bad crap that happened to him, I *understand* why he shuns us. I just miss him. I wish I could talk to him.

**The whole "nu-metal" thing kinda came and went, and Korn was one of the poster bands for that genre. Now Korn is still strong. Does it bother you being called "rap-metal" or "nu-metal"?**

Yeah, it bothers me because we're something so different! We were the band that probably ushered in that sound – but so many bands hopped on the wagon, they had to invent a term for it like "nu-metal". It was all the bands that wore Adidas – the Limp Bizkits and the rest. Suddenly it was "nu-metal". I'm not into that. I think we're a heavy rock band. You don't call Nirvana just "a grunge band". You don't call the Chili Peppers "a funk band". You don't call Metallica just "a thrash band". It seems like the bands that did innovative things at the time just transcend all the titles, but instead they get lumped in with their own clones. I think we got through that. We're the last guys standing and we're still doing our thing. It's good.

**You having fun in South Africa? What struck you when you got here?**

It's beautiful.

**What do you think of the South African metal crowd?**

They were going off! I'm totally happy. **FHM**

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