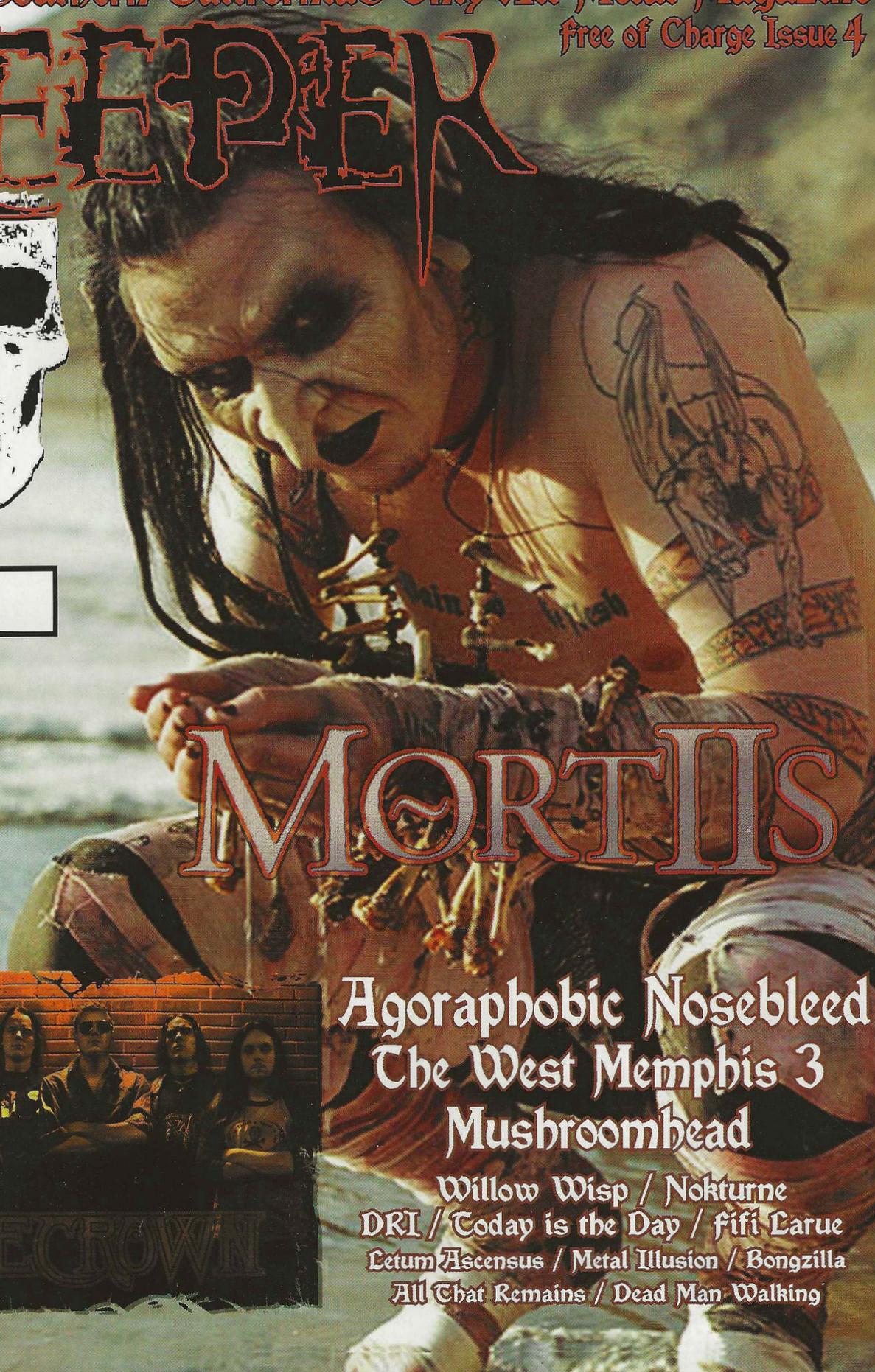
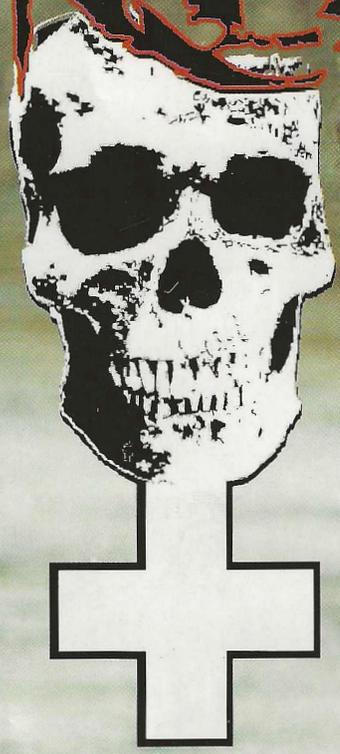
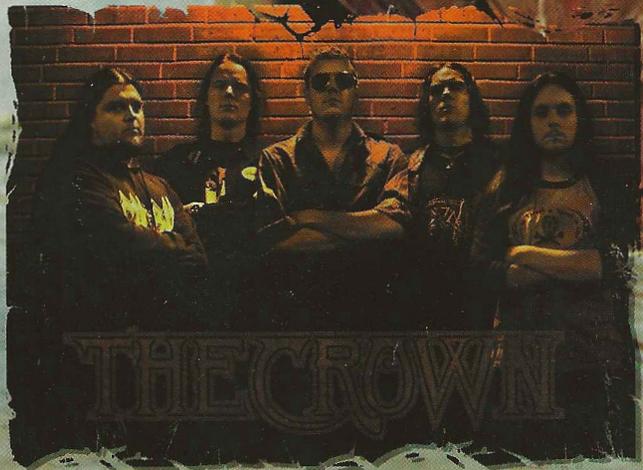


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KEEPER



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Fifi Larue

The Gig, Hollywood

November 1, 2002

Text by: Bruce Forrest

Currently, we are all drowning in a sea of faceless, bland Creed-wannabe bands. Every so often, the rock scene needs a good kick in the ass to stir things up. Enter FifiLarue. If you're in the mood for yet more Pearl Jam clones, this isn't the band for you. Fifi LaRue brings back the glory days of theatrical rock and roll, ala Motley Crue, Alice Cooper, and WASP. From the first notes of show opener, "Welcome to My Flying Circus," you are grabbed by the throat, and pulled into a nightmarish funhouse, with a soundtrack of heavy, but melodic, rock anthems, not heard since the peak years of KISS. The band members resemble, in image, barbaric circus clowns, who escaped from the depths of hell; the stage set consists of coffins, skulls, bloody mannequins, lots of fog, and hypnotic lights. Fronted by the bands namesake, Fifi LaRue cast an ominous and eery presence upon the Gigs rabid, enthusiastic crowd, working them up into a frenzy, on songs such as "Sex Like Dynamite," "Say Goodbye," and the catchy "Gothic Killer Clown." The heartbeat of this musical monster features bassist Andy Monic, (whose stage makeup resembles that of The Crow), with grooves only the wicked spawn of Gene Simmons could produce. His rhythmic partner is the amazing Johnny Lust, formerly

of Creature, on drums. Typically, drum solos are the cue to head to the bar, but Lust isnt out to simply display his percussive ego: his thunderous, yet melodic, drum solo on "Kiss 2 Kill" was pure entertainment, combining the talents of Carmine Appice, with the showmanship of Tommy Lee. You couldnt tell this was guitarist Marcus Sins first live show with the band. his stage presence and 6-string talents making a smooth transition, turning these four hellions into one helluva tight unit. There's obviously a legion of rock fans hungry for this return to theatrical glam rock: "Welcome to My Flying Circus" was the number one downloaded song on MP3.com for nine straight days, and still hovers near the top. If you want to get your moneys worth and see what a full-blown rock arena stage show looks like in a small venue, you'll have another opportunity, Dec. 13, at the Shack in Anaheim, and more info is available on the band at their website, www.fifilarue.com. I'd suggest joining their rapidly growing fanbase now while you still can. There's no telling how far this band will go.