

A GUIDED TOUR OF CARVER CITY

With Chad I. Ginsburg, cKy is back By Karen Cleveland



Photos: Roadrunner Records Canada

VITALS

cKy [Camp Kill Yourself]
 Roots in West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1998
www.ckyalliance.com

Deron Miller – singer, guitarist
 Chad I. Ginsburg – guitarist, producer
 Jess Margera – drummer
 Matt Deis – bassist

**WELCOME
 TO CARVER CITY
 I'M YOUR TOUR GUIDE
 CHAD I. GINSBURG**

When I had the pleasure of speaking to Chad I. Ginsburg on a rainy spring afternoon, he was hanging out with some friends outside a clothing store in West Chester, Pennsylvania (incidentally, a friend of his makes punk rock baby clothes - how perfectly appropriate for a punk rock guy).

Over the duration of our chat, Chad's first interview for the new album *Carver City*, he signed someone's t-shirt (happy birthday, Olivia), urinated (without a single break in our conversation) and told me I had a sexy voice (back at you, Mr. Ginsburg).

A self-professed recluse, Chad lives a bit off the beaten path, and would not have it any other way. He has a full hate-on for the long and bitter north-east winters but did not manage to sneak away for any sunshine. "I loved winters in California", he says, "because winters don't exist there."

It's not that surprising that Chad has not taken a vacation lately, nor any of his band mates from cKy, for that matter. Chad admits that he has never worked harder in his career than he has on the upcoming album. And his tone, equal parts pride, excitement

and seriousness, complements this sentiment. These are guys that have built their careers on working hard and playing hard.

Since the band (in its current manifestation) formed just more than a decade ago, it has seen its fair share of ups and downs. Perhaps the band's lowest point, and regrettably perhaps also its most public, was in the fall of 2007 while on tour in St. Louis. Discontent had stewed and festered amongst the guys and finally came to a brutal head on their tour bus. Words and fists flew, and in the end, Deron walked.

When asked about the dynamics between the band, and whether he was the peace-keeper in that inauspicious event, Chad laughs. "No. We were trying to murder each other. There was no peace keeping. Pieces of skulls? Maybe."

Round Two. Gloves Up.

Water long gone under the bridge, clearly, as Chad continues. *"We have grown tremendously. We are at our best. We are all healed up [in reference to the St. Louis 2007 throw down] and are ready for round two."*

And Carver City delivers on Chad's encouraging outlook. The sound is a bit rough, a bit dirty and perfect cKy. Written with intent, studio time was highly efficient and fastidious. *"Every song made the album"*, Chad explains. *"There were no throw-aways. The whole album just fits — it is a good, long listen [in its entirety]."*

Carver City, the band's fourth studio album, is full of fast and robust tracks, but extends to the sinister. Chad concedes that dark has to be present on the album in some manifestation: Deron simply would not have it any other way.

And dark it is. From the cover artwork to the fictional setting of the album, dark is king, albeit with a cKy twist. Carver City, a fictional town dreamt up by the band, was inspired by memories of summers on the Jersey Shore. But something has gone horribly wrong in the sleepy, touristy little hub of Carver City. There's a body under the boardwalk, a haunted shipwreck in the bay, and half a dozen zombies making their way to the shore to seek revenge on the captain that brought them under (Captain Carver, naturally).

And so the sinister Carver City became the jumping off point for the band: conceptually, sonically, lyrically and visually.

Visually, Carver City is a sight to behold. The album art is darkly magnetic. Chad bestows superlatives, *"Travis Smith did it and it was a very collaborative effort with the band. He did a fucking amazing job."*

cKy purists and new fans will love Carver City. A#1 Roller Rager might be the summer anthem of 2009. Canadian fans will get their chance to show some love when the band hits the road to promote Carver City. Toronto is rumoured to be kicking off the tour but Canadian dates are still to be announced.

And the band is pumped to see the Canadian crowd. When asked why their fans are so loyal and effusive (they raged once against Rolling Stone Magazine following a lukewarm album review, a few years back), Chad responds. *"We equally respect our fans as much as they respect us. They are a part of us. There is a show on stage and then there is a show on the floor. Our shows are unlike any other rock show — we play, then walk out and just meet people. There is a mutual respect there."*

For tour dates and more information, visit www.roadrunnerrecords.ca or www.ckyalliance.com.

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