

Iommi, Osbourne meet again

NEW YORK (AP)—Guitarist Tony Iommi sits in a midtown hotel room, reflecting on Black Sabbath's 30-year history. Next to him is singer Ozzy Osbourne. Years ago, both vowed never to share the same stage again.

Black Sabbath is the band that pioneered heavy metal music with its amplified dirges brimming with bone-crushing riffs. During the early 1970s, the band's exploits became synonymous with the hard-rock lifestyle of all-night parties, groupies and exhausting tour schedules.

On the band's first American tour, Iommi and Osbourne knocked down a hotel wall in Virginia.

"We were angry guys," Osbourne explains. "And we just thought, 'Hey, let's just scare everybody.'"

Now Osbourne and Iommi are getting ready for Black Sabbath's North American tour to promote a new record that is appropriately titled "Reunion" (Epic Records).

The tour is the first to feature the original lineup since Osbourne left the band in 1978. It is scheduled to begin in Phoenix on New Year's Eve. Other cities on the tour: Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Boston and Detroit.

"I always felt that the original Black Sabbath was unresolved," says Osbourne, his eyes hidden by tinted eyeglasses. "We just kind of flicked it away."

If a recent in-store signing for the new album is any indication, the reunion tour will attract as much attention as the band's first American tour

nearly 30 years ago. The line of Black Sabbath fans stretched a block long at a record store in Times Square.

"We got our success from the people," Osbourne says. "Everyone said we wouldn't last five minutes, said we couldn't play, couldn't sing, couldn't write songs. Lo and behold, 30 years later, we're more popular than ever."

"Reunion" features heavy metal classics "Iron Man" and "Paranoid." The songs were performed by Iommi, Osbourne, bassist Geezer Butler and drummer Bill Ward before an adoring audience in the band's hometown of Birmingham, England. The live material is complemented by two new studio tracks, "Psycho Man" and "Selling My Soul."

The band's name was snatched from a 1963 horror film starring Boris Karloff.

"The whole image was built up based on the name, Black Sabbath," Iommi says.

Black Sabbath has a host of aberrant admirers, from worshipful witches to professing pious groups and famous murderers.

Osbourne recalls a police photograph that showed his lyrics etched on a wall inside the apartment of serial killer David Berkowitz.

Then there was a man in California who erected a tombstone in his backyard as a tribute to Osbourne. He sent the singer a videotaped invitation to be buried in the shrine.

"The guy's a stalker," Osbourne says.

Mounting egos led to Osbourne's departure in 1978. While Iommi continued to record and tour as Black Sabbath, succeeding lineups never commanded the attention of the original.

"We've all been around long enough in different lineups, but when we get back in this one, there's no comparison," Iommi says.

Black Sabbath was among this year's nominees for induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. It was the band's second nomination.

When asked about Black Sabbath's musical legacy, Osbourne shrugs, "Don't ask me what that means, because I'm clueless about that. There was no mystique about it. Jam, smoke a few joints, get a few bottles of beer."

Since the breakup, Osbourne has enjoyed a controversial, prosperous solo career.

In 1992, he announced his retirement from music but returned to the road three years later with a Retirement Sucks tour.

A year later, he launched Ozzfest, heavy metal's answer to Lollapalooza.

"We all have to carry on somehow," Osbourne says. "We have to survive and feed the family, you know."

His solo career is on indefinite hold while he and his old chums decide how much longer to extend the reunion.

Osbourne would like to record a full-length album, but says the decision is not his to make.

"It's not my band," Osbourne says. "I just sing."

'A Bug's Life' tops charts

'Psycho' comes in second with \$10.5 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Color the new "Psycho" green.

The shot-by-shot color remake of Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 black-and-white terror classic opened in second place with \$10.5 million, estimates showed Sunday.

Disney's computer-animated "A Bug's Life" led with \$17.4 million in ticket sales.

The Will Smith thriller "Enemy of the State" collected \$9.5 million for third place, followed by "The Rugrats Movie" with \$8 million and "The Waterboy" with \$6.6 million.

"Psycho" offered a rare bit of good news for beleaguered Universal Studios. A year of flops contributed to a recent management shakeup and its two big-ticket films, "Babe: Pig in the City" and "Meet Joe Black," continued to do poorly.

Both cost about \$100 million to make and market. They were tied for sixth place with \$2.4 million each. "Pig" has grossed just \$11.4 million after two weeks, and "Joe Black" has amassed \$39.2 million after four weeks.

But "Psycho," which cost a modest \$25 million to produce, should be a rare film that turns a profit for Universal, joining "Bride of Chucky." The success comes despite or because of controversy surrounding the decision to remake the classic from the original script, recreating nearly every camera angle.

Starring Anne Heche in the Janet Leigh role and Vince Vaughn in the Anthony Perkins role of Norman Bates,

the remake wasn't screened for critics, usually a bad sign.

Producers insisted they did that only because Hitchcock also didn't screen the original.

The film was marketed with a provocative poster from the shower scene, and Universal said the movie attracted its target audience of younger theatergoers.

"Psycho" also had the best debut of a film by director Gus Van Sant, topping the 1997 hit "Good Will Hunting" and 1995's "To Die For," although both had better per-screen averages.

Meanwhile, Drew Barrymore's quirky romance "Home Fries" tied with "Elizabeth" for eighth place at \$2 million. "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer" was 10th with \$1.8 million.

Estimated grosses at North American theaters for Friday through Sunday as compiled by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. (final figures to be released Monday):

1. "A Bug's Life," \$17.4 million.
2. "Psycho," \$10.5 million.
3. "Enemy of the State," \$9.5 million.
4. "The Rugrats Movie," \$8 million.
5. "The Waterboy," \$6.6 million.
6. "Babe: Pig in the City" \$2.4 million.
7. "Meet Joe Black," \$2.4 million.
8. "Home Fries," \$2 million.
9. "Elizabeth," \$2 million.
10. "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer," \$1.8 million.

200s For sale



213 Clothing For Sale

The Jean Outlet, 3241 South 13th, 420-5151. Already broken-in Levi's, \$4.95 - \$15.95, also colored cargo.

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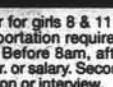
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