

## The Latest News

# A Boy Named Dweezil



ENTERTAINMENT FEATURED

By Alexander Baron



9  
SHARES

Back in 1969, Johnny Cash recorded a now legendary **novelty song** about an absent father who named his son Sue. In the song, the boy hunts down the old man intending to kill him, but after finding him and beating him in a stand up fight, the father explains why he did it, and the two walk off into the sunset not only as father and son reunited, but friends.

On that basis, one might expect a man who named his son Dweezil to be hated intensely by his offspring, but Dweezil Zappa remains the biggest fan of his father, the legendary innovative genius who took his particular brand of rock, funk, fusion...to new heights and new extremes.

Frank Zappa died in December 1993 at the relatively young age of 52, but he was a prolific composer, churning out over fifty albums during his lifetime; there have also been more than two dozen posthumous releases. His music is kept alive not simply by his recordings but by tribute acts. Pre-eminent among these is **Ike Willis**, who actually played with Zappa, and son Dweezil.



Last month, Dweezil Zappa was on tour in the US performing his father's music when he took time out to speak to [Jon Solomon](#), telling him he still thinks some of it is from the future. Frank Zappa was a multi-instrumentalist but on stage he played lead guitar; like father like son, and Dweezil has also produced a fair amount of his own material, including the 2006 album *Go With What You Know*. Although he is not as off the planet as his famous father, Dweezil Zappa is a fine guitarist who is not afraid to experiment. His [official website](#) contains details of current tour dates, which in July includes appearances in Quebec and France.

Take you time to get acquainted with the son, but if you haven't heard the father, check him out too. It is difficult to pick a handful of songs from his enormous body of work, but start with the guitar instrumentals *Black Napkins* and *Watermelon In Easter Hay*. The latter is from his triple concept album, *Joe's Garage*. Be warned, not only can Frank Zappa be an acquired taste but some of his lyrical content is not for those of a sensitive disposition!

9  
SHARES