



# KILLING TIME

**THREE STEPS BACK** By Jason Walsh  
Photo Credit Helena Bxl

**W**ith the decade drawing to an end in the late 80s, the New York Hardcore movement had grown extremely large from its early days, and its influence had spread to most of the major urban neighborhoods. From a few bands came hundreds, yet two very influential groups from the scene now ceased to exist and their absence was missed. However, frontman Anthony Comunale of **TOKEN ENTRY** got with Carl Porcaro, Anthony Drago, and Rich McLoughlin of **BREAKDOWN** to continue their hardcore legacy as **KILLING TIME**. Originally dubbed **RAW DEAL**, their first release together, **Brightside** in 1989, is undoubtedly one of the greatest hardcore records of the era and representative of the change the music was undergoing during this period. **KILLING TIME** was a rise from the ashes of two very original and inspiring hardcore outfits, now progressing in a faster, heavier direction. The follow up to **Brightside** was 1996's **The Method**, but as time crept on not much was heard

from **KILLING TIME**. Forward fourteen years later, the guys have been hitting some venues and are back with their third release, **Three Steps Back**, on **Dead City Records**. Those old hardcore flames have been re-ignited, a flashback to the older NYHC style that was great, and that meant something. As the third blizzard of the season was bearing down on the Eastern Seaboard, I had a chance to talk with guitarist **Carl Porcaro** prior to the release of "Three Steps Back," about the new album, returning to the old practice garage, and **KILLING TIME**'s plans for the new year.

So you guys got a new record coming out. What's

that all about?

Well, it's our third record, aptly titled **Three Steps Back**, and yeah, we're psyched about it, man. It sounds really good and it's coming out on **Dead City Records**. We're all about having people hear it and getting out and playing some shows. We're starting to set up at the moment and we have a record release party later in the month at the **Knitting Factory** in Brooklyn, New York. So yeah, man. We're ready to go.

What made you guys decide to get back together and write some new songs and put out a record? Were these songs you already had? It's been a long time collectively since you guys put something out like this. What inspired you guys to do this?

The inspiration came from, well, we got back together to play a few shows and then as soon as we played, you know, we had some great shows. There were loads of people, people were going nuts, the band sounded great, and we like playing music with each other. We saw a lot of old heads in the crowd and we also saw loads of kids coming out to see us. We just got energized again. We got energized and it's like, we're a creative band. We're going to play music. We're going to write music. We're going to record music. We just love to do this, you know, and we went to work and kept playing shows and we've been pretty active for the last four years or so. Our personalities I guess, you know, kind of work in a way where it's hard for us to stand being together, being a nice kind of business where we do records and we tour. It's kind of an explosive situation when we're together and I think that comes out in the music and I think people get into that. Anyways, we were inspired to play music together and write this album and play. So that's what we're going to do.

So where did these new songs come from? What's the origin of them for you guys?

We're really bringing the sound that we started off doing



in the 80s and bringing it back in a way, that at least to me sounds like all that same aggression and all that same anger and energy. Great lyrics and it still sounds fresh. It sounds different. It's got the speed, it's got the punk influence, it's got a lot of metal influence. I'm psyched and the songs just came from us, you know, writing, and that's what came out. We didn't really think in terms of trying, you know "we're trying to do anything, we're trying to create a certain sound." We're just creating a sound that came out of us and all the elements that we bring are the same elements that we brought originally. I like to think we just kind of let it come out of us and whatever came out is what the album is. For that reason, I think it's pretty eclectic and a common kind of feeling throughout it, but there's a lot of variation, a lot of different kinds of grooves and sounds and stuff. Lyrically, it came out of ideas that have been kicking around, some for nearly 20 years, some from things that are like fresh and current experiences.

**I got the record maybe a week ago and I did the car test. Best way for me to check out something new.**

**Yes. I agree with that. That's perfect.**

Yeah, so I put it in, I started driving, and it totally took me back. It took me back to the late 80s, early 90s, when hardcore was a lot different than it is now, you know, with newer bands and directions they're going. For one, I thank you for that, that was awesome. I appreciate it and I guess I'm happy to hear you say that, you know, because I've talked to a lot of people about the record so far, in doing various interviews and stuff and they've all been cool people but I don't get the sense that a lot of people have heard or a lot of the writers are really aware of that sound so much. I mean how do you say...that means a lot to me.

**And it's cool because you guys have been playing new shows with some newer bands and some older bands that have stuck around. But these new fans that come out, they're like "wow, this sounds so different" and the older guys are like "no, it doesn't." This is how it started. This is the roots.**

Yeah, because when we play hardcore, I mean you asked about the origins. The origin of this record was really in the same shit-ass garage where he did the first record and the second record. It's like we never play in that place because it's out in the suburbs and it sucks in there, like it's fucking freezing. Fucking freezing in the winter. People have tried out for the band and just had to like go home because they couldn't even move their fingers. It just sucks and it's steaming ass in the summer but it's free, you know. We went in there and we worked it out and we made the record, but like what I was trying to say, we just wanted to make a hardcore record. We wanted to make the best hardcore record we can and in us doing that, with our histories, it sounds nothing like all the other new hardcore. It's got a lot of the same elements but the sound is just coming from a different era.

**What was it like for you guys, you know, a decade later going back to that same place where you guys gathered to do the first two records. Was that kind of weird for you all to go back there and do that?**

Yeah. It was weird. It's weird because it's like, you go in there and it's like a totally different context, you know. Everything else in your life is completely and totally different, but then you're just going back to this same space that we were in, like 1987 and then the same place in 1995, and then now. You know it's like you keep going

back to this space that's not quite a comfortable space, sonically not quite a great space, one of those kind of rooms where the sound is bouncing everywhere. Yeah, it's weird man. It's like a time warp.

**What's the rest of the year hold for the band? What do you have going on?**

We're planning our different shows to promote the record. We're releasing it here in the States and releasing it in Japan, Korea, where we played last year, and then we're releasing it in Europe. We're also releasing a vinyl copy to which I'm psyched about because I'm a real music head and I have a tremendous amount of music on vinyl. Lately, I've just kind of been putting records on so I'm psyched that I'm going to have my own new album on a record. That's what we're doing and we're going to bring it, man. We're going to bring this shit to the streets. We're rehearsing right now, gearing up to play, planning where we're going to play, but right off the bat we're doing a couple festivals. We're doing a festival that goes down in Philly in the summer called THIS IS HARDCORE and then a festival called the NEW ENGLAND METAL FEST, which is up near Boston. We have the record release party, which I mentioned before at the Knitting Factory and we're going to be down in Baltimore playing with the CRO MAGS, so that's going to be off the hook. Then, taking it all from there, you know, and who knows, maybe even write some new songs while we do all this stuff. That's what we're up to.

**This is kind of like a resurgence for you, man. Does this feel good? Has this been fun for you?**

It's fantastic, man. Yeah...yeah...we're having an amazing time otherwise we wouldn't be doing it. ☺