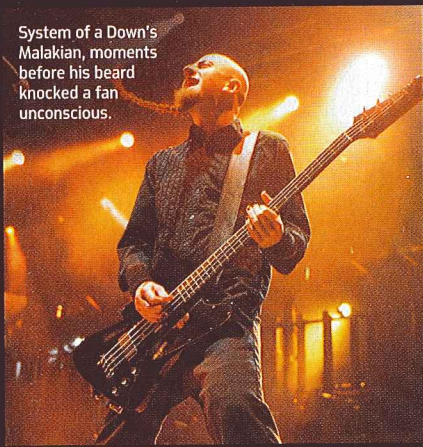
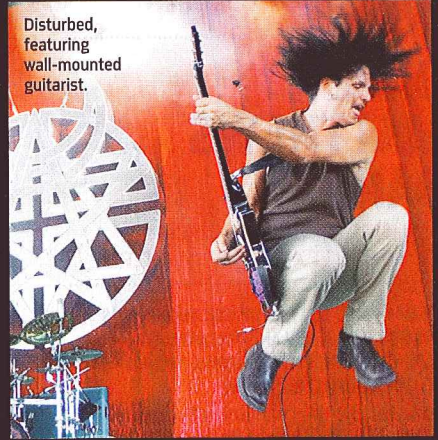


System of a Down's Malakian, moments before his beard knocked a fan unconscious.



Ozzy: "Step away from the catering table, Jack!"

Disturbed, featuring wall-mounted guitarist.



## OZZFEST

COME FOR THE BLISTERING METAL; STAY FOR THE RITUALIZED GOAT DECAPITATION!

### HOW WILL THIS YEAR'S OZZFEST BE DIFFERENT FROM PAST YEARS?

For the first time since its inception in 1996, tour founding father Ozzy Osbourne will often be there in name only: Ozzy will perform on just 10 of the scheduled 27 dates.

### WHO WILL BE REPLACING THE UNREPLACEABLE OZ?

System of a Down will close most nights, preceded on the main stage by Avenged Sevenfold, Hatebreed, Lacuna Coil and Disturbed. On the second stage—which helped break Slipknot and SOAD—junior metallers Atreyu, Bleeding Through and Norma Jean will have regular slots, while other bands rotate in.

### SO WHY IS THERE LESS OZZY IN OZZFEST THIS YEAR?

"We really want to have a summer together before we croak!" says **SHARON OSBOURNE**, Ozzy's mis-sus and Ozzfest's matriarch. "If Ozzfest isn't established by now, it never will be."

### WHAT DOES THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS REQUIRE PRE-SHOW?

Long gone are the rider requests for plates of cocaine and a colony of bats. "Ozzy's catering requests are so pathetic," says Sharon. "It's teabags, water, Diet Coke and fruit. Sad, really."

### THAT'S DISAPPOINTINGLY SANE. IS THERE ANYTHING REMOTELY SATANIC GOING ON BACKSTAGE?

"It's still a traveling circus," assures Sharon. "Like a holiday camp for little boys." System of a Down's **DARON MALAKIAN**, now on his fourth Ozzfest tour of duty, says not to worry. "There are girls getting their tits spraypainted, someone getting tatted up on the side. Crazy shit happens."

### WHAT "CRAZY SHIT" CAN WE EXPECT ONSTAGE?

"A few years ago, I ended up taking off all my clothes, and so did [drummer] John [Dolmayan]," says Malakian. "The person who works for Sharon took us into her office, and she was pissed. She said, 'You can do whatever you want when it's System-of-a-Down-fest, but not when it's Ozzfest.'"

### WHAT ELSE CAN'T YOU DO AT OZZFEST?

You can't take potshots at Sharon's man, unless you want to be pelted with eggs. During the final show of Iron Maiden's 2005 Ozzfest stint, Sharon, working from rumors that Maiden singer Bruce Dickinson had been bad-mouthing Ozzy, cut the PA during Maiden's performance and allegedly encouraged audience members to chuck eggs at Dickinson. When asked to apologize, Sharon responded by calling Dickinson "a prick."

### WHAT OTHER POTENTIAL PERILS AWAIT OZZFEST PARTICIPANTS?

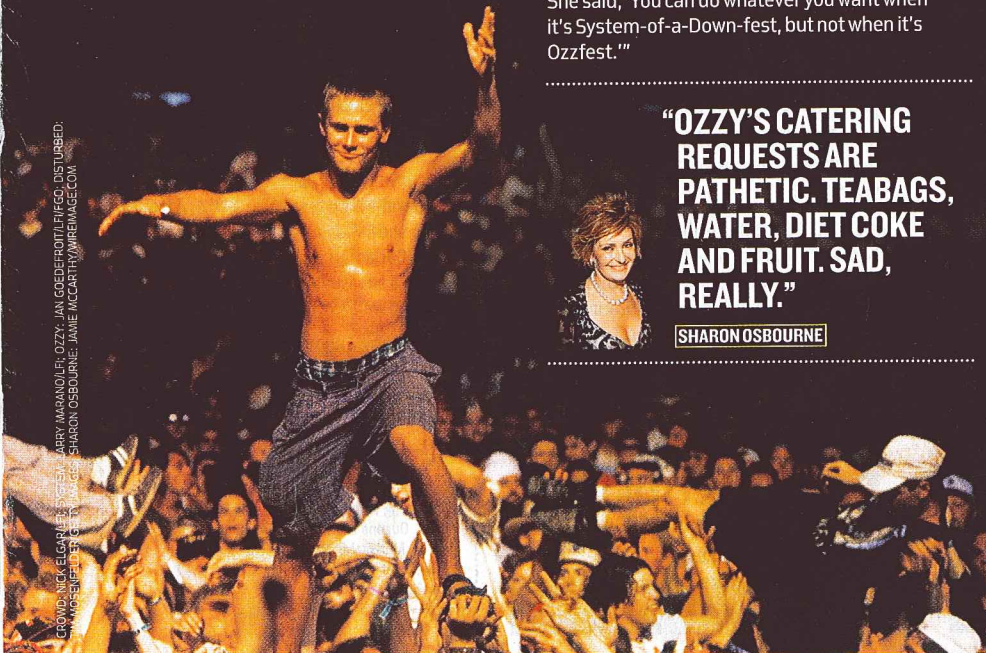
Beyond even endemic summer festival maladies like alcohol poisoning and eggings, Ozzfest can be hazardous to your health. Guitarist Malakian finished out his second year on the tour in a wheelchair. "I tore my meniscus in my knee—I jumped off a riser onto the stage and landed wrong. I couldn't walk." Worse still, says Sharon, "When Black Sabbath play Ozzfest, I can never stand on the side where Geezer Butler is. The bass shakes my chest bones, and that's not good for the implants!"

### DEBILITATING KNEE INJURIES, DWINDLING BAT SUPPLY ... WHY PLAY OZZFEST?

"Sharon has been so good to System of a Down," says Malakian. "From the first Ozzfest we did to this one, she's always treated us with respect." The feeling is mutual, says Sharon. "We watched System grow, before they ever had a record out. And now here they are, headlining. That's what the festival's about."

**"OZZY'S CATERING REQUESTS ARE PATHETIC. TEABAGS, WATER, DIET COKE AND FRUIT. SAD, REALLY."**

SHARON OSBOURNE



CROWD SURFING: JEFFREY MARRANQUIN; OZZY: JAN GOEDEROT/LEIFCO; DISTURBED: MICHAEL O'NEILL/GETTY IMAGES; SHARON OSBOURNE: JAMIE MCCARTHY/REX USA

### OZZFEST

7/18: Pittsburgh, PA; 7/19: Detroit, MI; 7/21: Columbus, OH; 7/22: East Troy, WI; 7/23: Indianapolis, IN; 7/26: Scranton, PA; 7/27: Buffalo, NY; 7/29: New York, NY; 7/30: Hartford, CT; 8/01: Boston, MA; 8/04: Philadelphia, PA; 8/05: Virginia Beach, VA; 8/06: Washington, DC; 8/09: Raleigh, NC; 8/13: West Palm Beach, FL