



WHY YOU SHOULD CARE Sure, the group's most famous member, David Pajo, co-founded indie-rockers Slint, but don't let that make you think Dead Child are a bunch of hipster-metal posers—the truth is that each member of the upstart NWOBHM-meets-thrash band originally came from the wonderful world of extreme music. "I feel like I have to prove that I earned my stripes," Pajo says. "I saw Iron Maiden in '83 and got my teeth knocked out because of heavy metal. I was 15. [Laughs] Admittedly, it was a guilty pleasure for a while. The indie-rock world can be...well, any kind of music genre can have its snobs. I think I became a snob for a while."

EARLY 10 DEAD. EARLY TO RISE Returning to metal took a long time for Pajo, who began again by playing bass in Early Man. "I think it took awhile for me to realize I was still an angry young man," says Pajo. "I thought I lost all my rage and teen angst for a long time, and then certain life events kind of made me realize that I'm still pissed off about the same shit." He laughs. "That's when I met the guys from Early Man. It was actually playing in Early Man that made me want to not do any other music than that."

first full-length, Attack (Quarterstick), was recorded by one of Pajo's friends, Rockford, Illinois-based record producer Brad Wood. Much like the band members, Wood has an indie-rock past, being best known for having recorded hit albums for Liz Phair, Veruca Salt, and Smashing Pumpkins. To their surprise, he was a fan. "He was like, 'This is my favorite music to put in the car. I just got a speeding ticket because I was listening to you guys." KORY GROW

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INDIE-ROCK HERO REDISCOVERS HIS HARD-ROCK ROOTS

