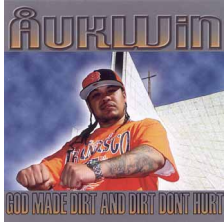


REQUIRED AUDIO



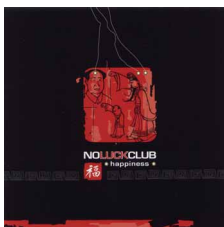
GOD MADE DIRT AND DIRT DON'T HURT

Aukwin
Bay Area-ins would remember back in the day there was a group called KNT (Kali Noize Terrorists). They got props throughout the 1990s and shared stages with the likes of Black Sheep, Souls of Mischief, Tha Alkaholics, Pharcyde, Organized Konfusion, Masta Ace...even took over for Sho Biz & AG! At one point their hit "Come See Us (feat. San Quinn)" was Rap Central's most requested song. The '99 bitter-sweet dissolve of KNT allowed Aukwin to explore. Blazing SF's KMEL 106.1 is his recently-released single "My Drama Weighs A Ton." The future seems positive. —Aukwin.com



DJ. Lt. Dan presents PACAVELI: THE DON RETURNS

I know, I know. There are countless stacks of CDs dedicated to Tupac but here's a mixtape for all true 'Pac fans as well as distant admirers. Lt. Dan blends beats from some of today's music to the cadence of 2Pac rhymes on 13 of the 31 cuts. This collection contains two performances from Saturday Night Live ("California Love," "So Many Tears"), "Let's Get It On" feat. Biggie, "Many Men" feat. 50 and Jay-Z, "How We Ride" feat. Shyne and a special "Until the End of Time." This is one of the few 24-track (excluding exclusive shouts from various artists) compilations that actually pay homage without bringing down the legacy of the "One." —RockMarketMixtapes@yahoo.com



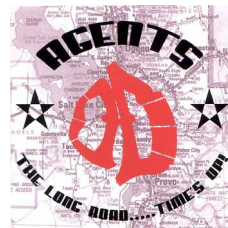
HAPPINESS

No Luck Club
It's a weekly hip hop college radio show called "Straight No Chaser" out in Vancouver, Canada that's been hosted since 1992 by The Chan Brothers (Matt & Trevor Chan) that gave the idea to produce a CD that assimilates the many facets of the progressive hip hop sound. Their Newfangled Moments was the compiled result that tickled the ear of Dan the Automator. With his 75Ark Records label, the second album Happiness was on its way. In short, the Ark sunk and Ill Boogie records (home of Lexicon, Styles of Beyond, 4-Zone) signed them and rebuilt the album by adding newer music. The latest release of the brothers will be followed up by a 2nd and 3rd installment themed around Chinese symbols of luck and good fortune. If you fancy the sound of hip hop tinged with funk, jazz, and turntablism this one's a keeper. —illboogie.com



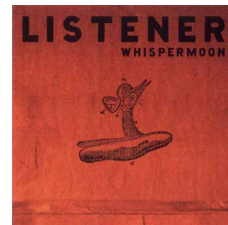
8,000,000 STORIES

Soul Position
Here's the highly anticipated full length album from Ohio's Dynamic Duo RJD2 & Blueprint. 8,000,000 Stories will make any storytelling emcee silently tuck their microphones away in shame. RJD2 moves from his 2002 Def Jux release "Deadringer" and Blueprint breaks from his 62 date Godloveugly tour with Atmosphere to give birth to Soul Position. They set the stage for the Team by putting out their impromptu EP "Unlimited" off the Rhymesayers label. This official full-length release is an auditory checklist for any and all emcees ready for the limelight. Anyone ready to "make-it" should grab a pen and paper and start their note-taking here. —rhymesayers.com, fatbeats.com



THE LONG ROAD... TIME'S UP!

Agents
The state of Utah is one of the least likely starting points for a rap crew, but the uncovering of some of the skills they've grown in its Mormon closet is exposed through emcee trio, the Agents. Their submission to the urban community is 15 tracks of hard drumming and intricate samples that accent hip hop's golden era. Producer Brisk One (who has worked with Rasco, Planet Asia, and Bahamadia) and Finale help the team-up of Facts, Illumino, and Flow Everest—along with cohort MCs MC Eneel and Mark Dago of the Numbs—to bang out The Long Road... Time's Up!, a statement proclaiming their drive to exposing their home state's—and their own—long-tempered underexposure. Six years of collecting fans by paying dues at any and every venue in the state led to their album release and an important tide-changing spot on stage for the 2003 Vans Warped Tour. A secret is coming undone out by Salt Lake City; it might be the Agents. —Agentshiphop.com



WHISPERMOON

Listener
Atlanta emcee Listener sets free an album that is constructed on a freshly introspective, richly poetic, spoken-word level of thought, and delivered atop darkly melodic tracks that brings into being a final product that captures the essence of underground hip hop—a shortage in his neck of the woods; a region most recently popularized by radio-ready hip hop. When spitting as a solo emcee his detailed, although at times abstract, verses are shaped the way a seasoned painter's brushstrokes transform color and canvas to art; well-chosen assistance on different levels of production and lyrical communication (by Manchild, Sivion, Fred Bruno,

REQUIRED AUDIO

Playdough, III, Syntax, Sev, Elected Official, Ohmega Watts, and X of TDP) do well to only enhance the narrative depth of his 15-tracked *Whispermoon*. His imaginative storytelling skills take hold on tracks like "FYI," "Decadence," and "Behind These Doors," but it's "Train Song," with its strangely familiar story of waiting at a depot and the distracted, interaction with a transient, that takes you on a hair-raising, self-realizing trip to the Twilight Zone. Essentially challenging your mind to a duel of wits, the song will either have you succumb to skepticism—culminating with a strong desire to stop the track—or experience a spiritually introspective eye-opening feeling that arouses the desire for more. Whatever the choice a simple bit of clarity remains—thought-affecting, emotion-inducing wordplay is the gold that is searched for by every emcee, Listener is among the few that can move on and search for something else. Go grab headphones, a seat, and Listener. —Dirtyloop.com



MONOLITH

Omid

He's produced for Freestyle Fellowship ("Can you find the level of difficulty in this?") and branded himself with the past release of "Beneath the Surface".

He adds to his middle-eastern tinged beats by

employing contributions from some of the world's most important emcees simply by throwing down his credibility card. Joining for production credit are: Buck 65, Slug (Anticon); Spoon (of Iodine); Busdriver, Abstract Rude, 2Mex, Aceyalone (Freestyle Fellowship); Luckyiam.PSC, and Murs (Living Legends). He's remixed for Beastie Boys, Anti-pop Consortium, El-P, Dilated Peoples. Omid is definitely a dope producer; his Monolith helps to sound-off a testimonial as to why it is so. —Dirtyloop.com



YOUTH IS YOURS

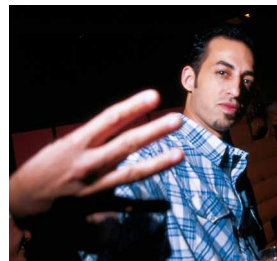
Lexicon

Raised with the groundbreaking hip-hop of the mid/late '80s, Lexicon is a group that truly appreciates the music as an art-form. They're a

underground staple that's sure to make it a lot easier for DJs to make a houseparty filpout and, during performances, get hands in the air and heads bobbing. The duo of emcees are brothers, Oak and NickFury along with DJ/Producer Cheapshot (Styles of Beyond) release 13 cuts of club mahem. Look for my favorites, "Party, Party People," "Gotta Believe," "I'll Be Alright If You Stay The Night," and "Bar Night". *Youth is Yours* is the album, if played loudly possibly with alcohol, helps make good friends. —LexiconMusic.com; SpyTechRecords.com

DUCK SEASON 2 - DJ Babu

Here's the skinny: Talib Kweli, Chase Infinite of Self Scientific, Rakaa, Phil da Agony, and the Likwit Junkies (Derafi and Babu) contribute exclusives while A.G., Jaylib, Kron Don, Planet Asia, Defari, Medaphoar, Oh No, Wildchild, Gang Starr, KRS One, and Sly Boogie back up the rest of the minutes on this 20-tracked follow-up installment; 10 of which are Babu produced bangers. Being a turntablist and battle DJ and the stereotype of banging out battle ready cuts and scratches are only a side of Babu; his other half set up the Duck Season series to showcase his production skills. Babu holds three titles: 1995 DMC Champion, 1996 Vestax Team World Champs, and ITF's 1997 Scratching Champ. He's also the man behind the world's first break record "Super Duck Breaks". —DilatedPeoples.com; BeatJunkies.com



"Duck Season 2" Album Release Party - October 2003 - Bigfoot Lodge - Los Angeles, Ca - DJ Babu of the Dilated Peoples (www.DilatedPeoples.com) and Dj crew World Famous Beat Junkies (www.BeatJunkies.com) had a bash that included hip hop stars Rakka Irisience of Dilated Peoples, Truly Odd of Everlast fame, Peanutbutter Wolf, and of course, fellow DJs Melo D, What?!, and Rhettmatic. Look for *Duck Season 2* in stores now.

REQUIRED AUDIO



Name: Abstract Rude

A.K.A.: Ab Rude of Abstract Rude & Tribe Unique - ATU

Age: 26

Emcee years: 15+ years naturally, 10 years professionally

City: Los Angeles (the part known as South Central)

Label: Battleaxe

Discography: '94 - Project Blowed (Various Artists - Grand Royal), '96 - Underground Fossils (ATU - Basement), '97 - Mood Pieces (ATU - Massmen), '98 - Thynk Taynk (ATU - Massmen), '99 - Haiku De' Tat (Aceyalone, Mikah 9 & Ab Rude - Meanstreet), '00-Who Framed The A-Team? (Acey & Ab - Meanstreet), '01 - Codename: Scorpion (Ab Rude, Prevail Wonder & Moka Only - Battleaxe), '02 - P.a.i.n.t (ATU - Battleaxe), '03 - Showtyme (ATU - Battleaxe)

Website: www.abstractrude.net

Who have you produced for?

Y?Nvee (old school R&B/Hip Hop female group back in '94), but aside from that I've written songs for many developing artists, AND generally produce the hook on most songs I appear on. They call me Captain Hook. But I mainly work under the tutelage of my longtime producer, Fat Jack.

If you we offered a couple million to put out a pop record would you do it?

If I wrote it & if I dug the record. Funny thing is I think I've written a few unexploited pop records.

What's the biggest common mistake an emcee makes when making music?

The mistake isn't in making the music; it's deciding what to release to the public or not.

Schwarzenegger... for or against?

I like his movies... some of 'em.

What do less exposed artists need to know about the music industry?

You still must invest your own money back into your project, and when you're less exposed, you should be dumping every cent back in till you see progress. Then

once you see progress, keep working harder. Don't waste time & money either.

If you were to form a line-up for a 2003 "Stop the violence" or "Self-Destruction" record who would you want to star on it?

Well that was the East Coast version so I'd say hmmm, it'd have to be people I could believe wanna stop the violence like KRS One of course, Talib Kweli, Common, Nas, Mos Def, the Roots, Missy, Rah Diggah, Bahamadia, Rakim, Supernatural, Immortal Techniques, Pharoah Monch - cats like that. If it were a 2003 "We're All In The Same Gang" record it'd be emcees like Jurassic 5, Rakaa, Aceyalone, Medusa, Mikah 9, Del, Ahmad, Ras Kass, myself, Pharcyde, Murs, Awol One, OMD, CVE - heads like that.

If your rhymes were worth its weight in gold what could you buy?

A few gold records would look nice in the collection.

If you could do a remake which would you do?Why?

Several, I can't name one. I'd wanna go back and fix some track is all. Add or fix some vocals. Maybe Fat Jack would wanna fix a snare or mute something different. But hey, no pillars of salt for us - foward.

Do you have a favorite dish?

Unagi or Sesamee Seed lightly charboiled Ahi Tuna.

If fans wanted to catch you walking the streets where would they most likely find you?

Crenshaw Thursdays or Venice beach weekdaze.

Can you think of a oneliner that disses "fast and furious" type cars?

"I'm for the old cars - the ones made of something."

What are your plans for 2004?

Tours & more tours. Promote - promote - promote this new SHOWTYME record.

SHOWTYME

Abstract Rude & Tribe Unique
Battle Axe Records 2003



Abstract Rude has been a mainstay in the Los Angeles underground and has proved his talents in relatively unconventional and abstract ways. During Los Angeles' high-

profile era of hardcore gangsta rap he executive produced the groundbreaking albums Project Blowed and Haiku d'Etat; albums that highlighted the quick-thinking skills of freestyle rapping and the poetic use of word play and storytelling prowess to metaphorically create multiple mental images. Showtyme is no different. This time he picks up his soulful, jazzy sound (production by Fatjack, Rob the Viking, Daddy Kev and DJ Drez) and adds in small doses of Aceyalone, Swollen Members, Awol One, 2Mex, and Busdriver.
—Abrude.com