

# REQUIRED AUDIO

## HEARD BEFORE THE HERD

TEXT BY JOEL MARASIGAN



### 718 Theodore Unit

Here's the new Wu-Squad featuring OG Ghostface who pulled guest appearances from Method Man and Cappadonna. But even without the help Trife, Shawn Wigs, Solomon Childs, and others don't disappoint the void left by the missing homies. The standout cut is "The Drummer." There's a reason why Method Man is offered TV and movie parts and consistently hits radio. He's talented.—sureshotrecordings.com



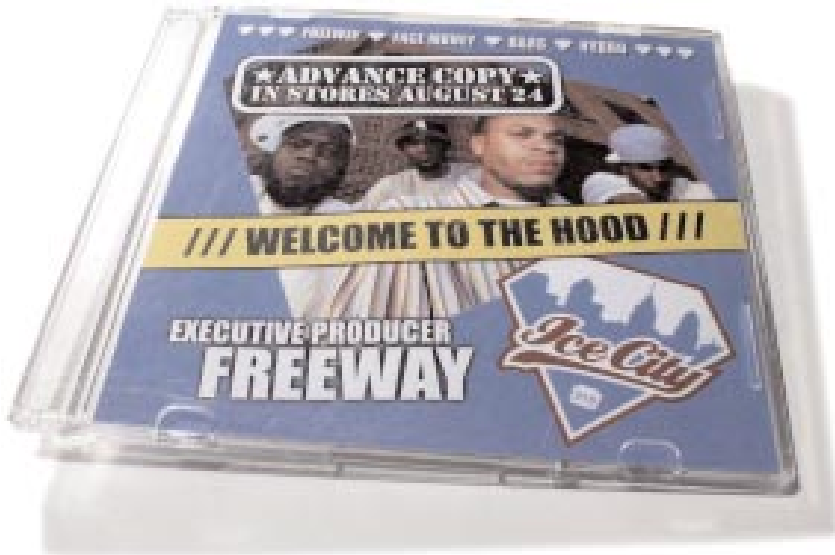
### Free Kamal Radioactive and AntiMC

What is an emcee if he can't rap? Radioactive wouldn't know because he can. AntiMC's dynamic combination of traditional drum programming, live instrumentation, and world-influenced samples blend jazz and rock into a sound that somehow stays within the realm of hip hop.—mushrecords.com



### One Day, Everything Changed Wale Oyejide

Listed in *URB* as one of the "Next 100..." Nigerian Wale Oyejide steps behind his Afro-beat and soul instrumentals and comes out as a vocalist. His respect gets him assistance from Slum Village's Jay Dee and the metal-faced villain MF Doom. His music will get you to hold your fist in the air and face the music.—angyrobotrecords.



### Welcome To The Hood Ice City

Freeway, introduced by Jay-Z on "1-900 Hustler," had his debut "Philadelphia Freeway" see gold. Now his introduction of extended rhyme family, Ice City, gives him the opportunity to return the favor. It won't be too difficult since group members Hydro, Face Money and Bars have both style and rhymes that are already gold. Back from his bid, Peedi Crakk spent some positive time dropping a verse for the album. Check for assistance from Joe Budden as well.—sureshotrecordings.com



### A New White Subtle

Subtle is a sextet comprised of Jel, Doseone, dax, Marty Dowers, Jordan and Alex. By donning electronic drums, kit drums, an electric cello, three keyboards, three samplers, a guitar and winds they form a self-sampled band. Adding a live emcee, they cross into a genre where rock, hip hop and electronic all apply.—lexrecords.com

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**Super Structure Baby**  
Keston & Westdal

U.K. native Keston busted out with his Rhodes electric piano and played live hip hop back in the early '90s. Westdal is a Bay area native who was known for being one of the freshest bass players in the scene. Their combo quickly charted them on college radio and found them touring internationally. File this goodie under electronic hip hop.—78recordings.com



**Florida Diplo**

Sometimes it's just gosh-darn good to hear something with a refreshing down-tempo, and with Diplo behind the boards it's a surefire thang. Some of the music is spacey stuff non-drug users think e-tards listen to, and some of the music reminds me of that Brit two-step shit similar to *The Streets* except Diplo puts a funky spin to it—especially "Indian Thick Jawns f/ P.E.A.C.E." Get the record, don the headphones and pretend you're high.



**Soul Heart Transplant: The Lamp Sessions**  
Ebony Rhythm Band

Old funk and soul groups should give love to Now Again Records but not for resurrecting them from an unremembered past but for exposing forgotten talent. The label isn't known for putting out pop hits but rather Pop's hits. This one is for you beat diggers, music buffs, or 60+ year olds. This may be the last release under the Stonesthrow moniker but that doesn't mean that it'll be heard again.—stonesthrow.com



**Outlaw Warriorz**  
DJ Warrior & The Outlawz

Mixtape. Get your mixtape! Here's 25 gangsta cuts for your creep. These guys are one of the few left that give love to the memory of Tupac.



**6 O'Clock Straight**  
Truth Enola

Truth Enola burst onto the scene in 1996 with his appearance on the critically acclaimed De La Soul album, *Stakes is High*, alongside up-and-coming artist, Mos Def. He ended up touring internationally with the group twice in 1996 and 1998. On this attempt at claiming his rightful spot in hip hop music, he assembles respected producers DJ Spinna, Da Beatminerz, De La Soul, and Phife of A Tribe Called Quest. Look for the b-side cut "Voicetress f/ De La Soul" to make strides.



**The Human Element**  
Various Artists

Slated to be a historical worldwide release *The Human Element* is the first collection of human beatbox music. Jazzy Jay (Def Jam co-founder), Scratch (The Roots), Click the Supah Latin (Los Angeles' premiere beatboxer), and Q-Bert's Q&A with B-Shorty, take center stage on this one. Here's where you can get all the mouth music without all the spit.—108recordings.com



**Hip-Hopulation**  
Main Flow

With guests like Raekwon, Planet Asia, Black Thought & Donte, Talib Kweli, Hi-Tek, Defari, Micah 9, 7L & Esoteric, and Killa Priest & Master Foul, I would venture that either the guy has a vault of money or he's well connected. Well, if you ask partner in crime, Hi-Tek, he'd tell you it couldn't be the connections. Hi-Tek lies. He'd also tell you that this album ain't hotter than his.—wannabattle.com; brickrecords.com