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Home Page



DJ Urchin
History



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Club Archive



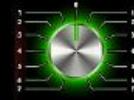
Rockscene
Club Archive



WTF
Club Archive



Club X
Archive



Radio Interview
Archive



Hear Club
Music Podcasts

INTERVIEW WITH CYPRESS HILL LONDON, 22/3/2000. PRESENT - B REAL, MUGGS, SEN DOG



So what inspired you to turn back to the rock side again on your new album? B Real- I think it was a natural progression it wasn't something we decided to do. We had twenty or thirty hip hop songs already done, we were ready to turn our album in - we had more time than we needed, so we put the Spanish album together. We did that in two weeks so then we started experimenting with the rock hip hop fusion we'd done it years back in '93 but we never pursued it, we liked the way the first song came out (which was used for the Mayhem soundtrack

for WCW, I like wrestling it's entertaining, I'd like to write for those guys cos some of them need better lines and I could do better)..... anyway so we decided to do a bit more experimentation and it was like a natural progression, the one direction we hadn't gone in

Do you see your take on it as unique or alongside bands now like Limp Bizkit?

Muggs- Our music is just straight hip hop, we've come from a hip hop approach, even with the rock, we keep it separate because first off we're a hip hop group, don't get that twisted, but we're also a band that's not scared to experiment, we set that whole rock rap trend off in '92 with the Judgement Night thing but it wasn't our time so we had to hold that shit till now, everyone's caught up and they're all down with that game now

Are you afraid you'll alienate your core fans with the rock stuff?

Muggs- No cos you still get the hip hop, it's a choice we didn't mix it, we kept it separate

B Real- We felt like mixing it would put off the hip hop purists, so if they want to hear the rock stuff they can, or they can just keep that CD as a collectors piece, it's priced as one CD so it's kind of a bonus

Why do you think there's so much rock rap crossover at this moment?

Muggs- Kids are growing up with both musics, both sides are listening to Dre and Metallica or whatever, so when it's time for them to make music they have both influences

Are you going to tour with Fear Factory since they guested on your album?

B Real- We've done shows with them before that's how we met them, in Germany. We really clicked with them and so Muggs asked them in when we were doing our album, Christian and Dino came in and heard what we were working with and said - you guys need to do this and that and sorta helped us

along, built up our confidence to do this, so definitely we anticipate some tours with them

Is the single (Rock/Rap Superstar) a dig at anyone in particular?

B Real- No the single is just about what anyone who's ever had any sort of success goes through, people come into this business and they think it's gonna be real easy, but it's hard, you have to make sacrifices, and we just write about what we're going through at the time, our experiences, it's almost like an educational piece for the kids before they get into this game, like a manual

What do you think of mainstream hip hop like Puff Daddy etc.?

Muggs- It's all good, to each his own, there's always going to be mainstream it doesn't bother me, we don't worry about what anyone else is doing, we've got our own plan and enough things we want to get done. I think everyone should see it like that, y'know just get on with your own shit

B Real- People like variety, if it's not for you, it's for somebody else - you know

Is there going to be another Soul Assassins album?

Muggs- I'm in the middle of doing one right now, with a lot of new and underground groups, stuff no one's heard yet

What did you make of the Jason Nevins Remix?

B Real- It was what it was. I hadn't actually heard the track till we went to do the video, but it was cool

You did a track with Groove rider?

B Real- I liked the track personally. I like to challenge myself, to prove what I can do over different things and I thought that was pretty different, I was happy with that one

Do you have a problem with having to do clean versions of your stuff?

B Real- In the States they always make us do both, you always have to have a clean version. Profanity huh? I guess that's a bad habit I'll have to break in the future...

Muggs- That's just the way we talk man, we curse a lot so we just fuckin' put it on the record like that, some stores won't carry the record otherwise but I mean if someone wants their 11 year old kid to listen to Cypress Hill but they don't want the bad words, that's cool I see that.....

B Real- We don't pull punches, I mean with the marijuana and stuff some parents might not even want their kids listening to that, but that's how we see it, that's how we live it

What sort of stuff did you listen to as child?

B Real- We all listened to loads of different influences, mainly through our families, my mother used to listen to a lot of salsa and stuff like the Beatles so I had that and my brothers and sisters listened to old soul, r'n'b, other relatives listened to heavy metal. I think Led Zeppelin had the biggest impact on me and Public Enemy. I guess they were just the best at the time and those two were my favourite bands

How much do you feel has changed over the band's 12 years career?

B Real- Well financially we're able to take care of our families better and ourselves come to that, before we were struggling. I think we became more professionally responsible, this business makes you grow up real fast, we're a bit wiser, we see what people are capable of, how people change, if you pay attention and learn from it, I believe it strengthens you but if you don't it'll be a weakness later

What are your current fave bands?

B Real- Rage Against the Machine, Korn, Deftones.... I guess. Sen Dog's new band is gonna come up soon and kick everyone's ass SX10, when that comes out he'll be the best one doing that shit

Sen Dog- It's all done, anytime now it'll be out there

What did you think of the Columbine shooting media thing?

B Real- People are always pointing the finger at something, music isn't going to influence some kids to kill a bunch of kids. There was obviously something else wrong with that kid, whatever made him snap wasn't no music, that's just a way out, so parents can blame someone else because they didn't raise

their kids right. The guys out here (UK) went through it years ago Ozzy, hell even Judas Priest....

Do you have any regrets about the Ice Cube killer-song?

Muggs- Naah that was funny

B Real- It was great to see people's reactions cos people thought he had buried us with the king of the hill song and 7 days later we were resurrected. One of the DJ's somewhere sent one to his house, where he got to listen to it at home with his family and then we became super friends again right after that

What does your skull logo mean to you?

We thought it was different from what anyone else was using when we came out, it became the centrepiece, we liked it so we stuck with it, it's just a symbol really it doesn't really have any particular meaning except when you see that on the wall with a date - Cypress is coming through to wreck your fuckin' town!