

REQUIRED AUDIO

TEXT & PHOTOS (JOEL MARASIGAN)

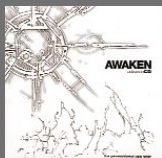


ILL BOOGIE RECORDS PRESENTS THE EARPLUG SERIES

See if you can catch a concept that many attempt but few succeed. Label owner M-Boogie produces the Earplug series. His compilation of artists put together eight or nine of their very best cuts to assemble a “no bullshit” EP. Quality over quantity...ahhh, the concept. Illboogie.com

No. 1 – IntoFreshThings - Yesh - Yesh is the genre of MC that melds together jazzy beats and impressive lyrics to form the basis of a head-nodders stride. **No. 2 – The Godz Must be Crazy – The Demigodz -** Battle MCs Apathy and Celph Titled take the first base leadoff and steal the whole friggin ballpark. Their seven-cut EP

delivers KO punch after KO punch that has you “seeing more black than million man marches in molasses in a solar eclipse wearing ray charles glasses”. Ouch. **No. 3 – Anon & On – Emanon -** Orange County not only bred Ska-girl Gwer Stefani but hip hop heads Emanon (Aloe Blacc and DJ Exile). They were first debuted on DJ Cheapshot’s Spytech records produced “Sometimes”. They’ve since taken their one MC, one DJ brand of smoothed out beats and flows to the Ill Boogie records camp. **No. 4 – Blue Collar Sessions – Mars III -** This story teller, with his chants and sometimes dark beats (“My Coloring Book”), won’t have a problem being accepted as a dope MC. Through his skill you feel his emotion.



SPOTLIGHT: POET NAMED LIFE AWAKEN

TEXT (MANUEL CARLOS)
INTRO & PHOTOS (JOEL MARASIGAN)



About six months back I picked up this promo from Poet Name Life (One of the producers for Black Eyed Peas). He was excited about the project but as soon I put the CD in my player I didn’t get that same excitement. It was dope but not exceptional.

A few weeks back he invited me over to his studios to listen in on the production of DJ Motiv8—one of the artists on the AWAKEN. just hanging out we got to talking about the Awaken promo project and he was not as excited. He said it (CD) didn’t do justice to the DVD it was promoting. It didn’t.

He took me over to the media room, adjusted some levels and played the AWAKEN the DVD. It had all this crazy mood changing mixed media artwork (your mood wouldn’t change if a evil devil bunny flashed on your screen?) playing through like a slide show as the music was playing—not in stereo, but in 5.1 digital surround sound! I had DJ Relm’s

scratching flying right over me like an airplane from Pearl Harbor. I’ve had to turn my head to see where that clicking sound was that was distracting me from the “movie”. The clicking sound was IN the movie. There is NOTHING out there like this. What he’s stumbled upon is the next level.

How many car’s do you see out there rolling with multimedia? You know that little pop down screen in the Navi or Expedition? Most of those are equipped with 5.1 digital but people are still rocking stereo. Watch in the coming months how a mobile THX ready system will antique stereo.

On this one you’ll find Divine Styler, Styles of Beyond, Apl (Black Eyed Peas), Mazik72 (Blood of Abraham) and DJ Relm. Electromatrix.com.

Poet Named Life, start by telling us a about yourself i.e. who you are and what you do? What up! I be a crazy soul representing in the art form of music—trying to make a difference in this world on the positive. I’m a part of the much loving and respectful Black Eyed Peas family...it’s

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TEXT & PHOTOS (JOEL MARRSAGAN)

always the hardest thing to say who or what you are especially now days when we all are crazy souls in one way or another.

I hear you and Will.I.Am appeared on MTV2 during the end of May? Yup! It's Will's show called "Old to the New". All week the week of May 20th on MTV2! It's hard to describe it! Peep your local direct TV listings for future show times.

Growing up, what type of musical influences did you experience? Being part of a musical up bringing in Echo Park (born & raised)—a small section in Los Angeles—there always was a piano in the house. My grandma was a pianist from the Philippines and my dad was, and is still, a straight out guitar expert. I would always fiddle with his equipment when he was at work. I remember when karaoke first came out—and every asian family had it—I turned it into a 4-track. I recorded a beat then switched tapes (rotating), put piano sounds over it, then switched tapes again! I would piss everybody off cuz he Dad was pretty tight on his gear! When junior high came I joined the senior orchestra. I played almost every instrument. I kept switching but I ended up feeling the violin! All 3 years of junior high was dedicated to it...I did a bunch of concerts...did a duet with my grandmother on piano. High school hit then it was all about graffiti, skating, dancing and dj-ing! But every time I fell in love with a girlfriend I'd write a song for her on my grandma's piano. I guess the romance kept me on the compositions! Transitions in life led me to college and got schooled on drum machines—then it was all over. I ended up pressing up and putting out my first vinyl! at the age at 19 called "Elements". After that I was like "I gotta do this once a year".

I understand you were a part of the Foundation, how long were you a part of that and how has it affected your career in the music biz? I was part of it since the beginning. Since Wendell Pascual did Downright Pinoy Clothing. Since Jose Buktaw schooled me on what it is to be beige and to be proud of it! Foundation opened my mind, heart, and soul to the political struggle our people go through...especially our upbringing here as "Asian" American. From being schooled by my friends on that I took edutainment very serious. So now till this day that's why it's either "go all out or don't go at all".

You've been making and producing beats since high school for groups and now your producing for Black Eyed Peas. How did that transition come about and which track do feel expresses your finest work with them? The transition came about like...like...like...I don't know. I guess as you get older lives morph into a path of narrowness in the sense that we have to get serious about the future. It just happened we all are a bunch of positive, hungry, punk rock mothafukas! The track that best describes my shit is called "rock my shit" featuring Travis from Blink 182 on drums. Fat!

The Awakening DVD was sick, how tough was it to help collaborate on the interactive music, art and short films all on one never-been-done DVD? It was pretty tough working with 12 different artists that are from different parts of the United States—not to mention the different styles of musical genre. DVDs have so much space in which to work. Couldn't have done it without the help of my 5.1 crew over there.... geniuses...AJ, Miu, James and Peter Torres too. Much teamwork was the difference for the significance. I'm ready to blow it away with some new shit I got in the works.

Which atmosphere do you prefer working in, your home studio in Glendale or the 5.1 studios? Tell me a little bit about the equipment you use. The studio here in Glendiggy has no bad vibes, no timeframe to trip on, no political ish—and no chicks! Very isolated! But I do got funny-ass Will.I.Am always schoolin on my sloppy-ass programming and stoney-ass Motiv8 schoolin' me on my Macintosh computer skills! I bang on my MPC (I have all 3 except the new 4000), Moogs, Juno synths, Pro Tools, Chaos Pad, Yamaha QY 70. Just a bunch of stuff.

Which producers out there are you digging nowadays and who would you like to work with on a future track? I'm diggin Rockwilder, Hitek, my crew, and of coarse the Neptunes. As for a future track I'd like to work with Portis Head, Zap Mama...and Christina Aguilerra if she agrees to do some ill underground soul shit!

Currently you're working on a project with DJ Motiv8 the DJ of BEP and a good friend of yours. Tell me a little bit about what's in store for heads out there and when you plan on taking it to the streets. It's Jungle hip hop from the Uni-Sci crew (Uni-Sci is short for UniverSoul Scientists. Its basically some hardcore drum and bass) Tippa Iree, the OG dance hall MC from London, should be hittin' the radio by the time this article is out. It's called "Everyday".