

REQUIRED INTERVIEW DEFINITIVE JUX

Founded by former Company Flow member EL-P, Definitive Jux has been catching quite a buzz in its two-year existence. "I see it [Def Jux] as a mechanism to facilitate the dreams of musicians," he said. "And it's that way because I am a musician." After some sore dealings with other labels, EL-P has found that if you want something done, you have to do it yourself.

Definitive Jux is currently on the Fantastic Damage Tour. At a recent sold-out show in Wedontcarolina, I caught up with Juxies EL-P, Mr.Lif, Camu Tao and RjD2—whose debut album *DeadRinger* is one of my favs for the year!

What kind of car do you have? EL-P: A car that's fueled on cigarette butts. **Mr. Lif:** My girlfriend and I have a Honda Civic. I like nice cars but I can't bring myself to really give a fuck about them.

Camu Tao: A Lincoln Town car, but I'm upgrading to a '96 M3. **RjD2:** '96 Toyota Corolla. I would like to have my '72 Beamer back again.

EL-P—What is the name of your new album? "Fantastic Damage." Does the artwork on Elton John's *Captain Fantastic* kinda freak you out? "Elton John actually did my artwork. Yes, it freaks me out." What is the reasoning for your record label? "It's an evil money scheme." Where do you see Def Jux in the next five years? "Bankrupt." What happens when you make your beats? "Lots of crying." You performed at a Ralph Nader rally at the Garden, do you think one day you might get into politics? "Hell Motherfuckin No."

MR.LIF—"Mr. Lif, how long have you been growing your dreads?" Seven short years. On *Emergency Rations* you were M.I.A.—are you still? "Mostly." What is the deal with your new album/video game? "Two of my greatest passions are making music and playing video games. I Phantom presented the opportunity to bring both together. The CD booklet opens up into a board game. People who find the hidden golden tickets hidden in 250 of my CDs will get to play my new game online." Why is your voice so comforting and soothing? "Penis enlargement pills, steroids and milk." If you could be anything other than a human being what would you be? "A dog. A well taken care of dog in a nice home. Either that or an ostrich."

CAMO TAO—Is Camu Tao your birth name? "No. Camu was made up by my mother. So I ran with it. I love my momz." How old were you when



K8 & Mr. Lif ; RJD2; El-P & Camo Tao

you started to rhyme? "Twelve. I had a group called Night and Day. It was a spin off of Kid n Play—don't ask." Do you like dinosaurs? "Yes and no. Yes, because they would be good friends to have and no because if they got mad at me...well, you know." What are your feelings about gangstafag.com? "It's a maritime marvel. Plus I'm scared they'll kill you if they find out you don't like them." What is the craziest thing to happen during a show? "Got drunk in Denmark and passed-out in a restroom and these girls kidnapped me."

RjD2—What does RjD2 stand for?"It's a dumb take on my real name, RJ. This old friend of mine gave it to me." Where are you from and what did they feed you to make you so BADASS? "Columbus. I eat other producers." How old are you and when did start working with MHZ? "Twenty-six; when I was 21." What kind of android was R2D2? "A bitch. A real bitch. He intimidates me about as much as Moby's new record. He's a bitchbot 1200." What records are you rocking most now? "Anything with breasts or butts on the cover. Cash money, Skywalker, etc."