

In the Spotlight

Deez nutz bring back Northwest cool

The first time I ever saw or heard of Cool Nutz was in 2005 during a Common show at the Crystal Ballroom in Portland. DJ Chill was warming up the crowd during the opening act when someone sauntered onstage, two-steppin' and wearing the familiar Furley grimace of piss recognition. "Who's this guy in the glasses?" I asked my friends. But after being met with blank faces and shrugged shoulders, I figured he must have been just another area rapper who had earned a quick set thanks to some local clout and lucky connections. I didn't think much of it at the time, but when Too Short came to town the next year and this guy appeared onstage once again, I started to take notice. Now, it seems like you can't

talk about the Northwest rap scene without mentioning Cool Nutz. With a hip hop pedigree that spans over a decade, the Portland native has finally started to make his way into the spotlight. This year alone he's been featured in *Spin*, *The Source* and *Murder Dog* magazine as the man who is putting the Northwest on his back and Portland on the map.

And why not? Although the upper-left portion of this country has done a great job of producing many underground, conscious hip hop artists (see Swollen Members, Common Market, Blue Scholars, etc.), it has been lacking mainstream representation for a hot minute. Hey, Sir Mix-A-Lot, "Baby Got Back" is as great as it is ridiculous, and I anticipate it will live on forever at middle



E-40, Cool Nutz
8 pm Sunday, Dec. 2
McDonald Theatre
\$22.50 adv.,
\$27.50 door

school dances, weddings and bar mitzvahs across the country, but I refuse to believe that you will go down in history as the biggest rapper to hail from these rainy Western states. It's time to pass the torch. And with E-40 and the rest of the Sic Wit It Records crew behind Nutz, it might not be too much longer before this relay starts. Nutz's newest, *King Cool Nutz*, is due out December 4th through his own Jus Family Records. These tracks mash the undeniable pop and tweak of Bay Area hyphy with a touch of locced out Cali funk and unabashed Southern stomp to create a lyrical playground that has the ability to be catchy enough for the rest of the country

EW

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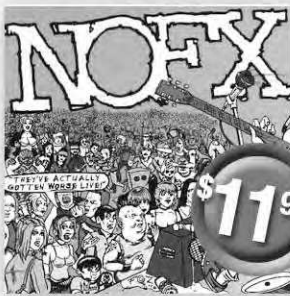
Bone Thugs-n-Harmony
T.H.U.G.S.
\$10.99

'T.H.U.G.S.' the new Bone Thugs album is really dope :) Bizzy is back :) hoorayyyy All the tracks have a dope beat favorite tracks include 'Everyday Thugs', 'Young Thugs', 'Many Places' & More.



DURAN DURAN
RED CARPET MASSACRE
\$12.99

Massacre is one hot record. Timbaland, the brilliant knob-twister on a couple of tracks, most notably 'Skin Divers,' which includes a short rap verse --that enhances the hypnotic sheen of Duran Duran.



NOFX
\$11.99

If you already love NOFX or know about them, then you already know what you are getting yourself into. This CD is great. This is another fine addition to the NOFX library. Terrific sounding through 24 songs.



SARA BAREILLES
\$9.99

As Bareilles explains in 'Love Song,' 'I'm trying to let you hear me as I am.' (Not surprisingly, her degree is in communications.) Fans of Sarah McLachlan and Alicia Keys will find much to like here.



Once
\$12.99

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Even those allergic to musicals may be won over by Once, a tender-hearted Irish romance with songs by Czech Republicborn Marketa Irglov and Frames frontman Glen Hansard in a special CD / DVD version.



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