

Music

Dead Prez gets the vote in hip-hop



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The Revolution will not be televised
There will be no highlights on the eleven o'clock News
The revolution will not be televised
The revolution will be live
-Gil Scott-Heron
And yes, the lyrical revolution is right now...LIVE!
If Webster's Dictionary defines "Free" as: *having the legal and political rights of a citizen. Enjoying civil liberty. not subject to the control of domination of another...* then free most come at a very high cost.

So to help us get free, southern born Florida rapper Stic.Man and his Brooklyn-bred partner M-1 are spoon-feeding hip-hops hungry ears with their LOUD Records full LP debut "Let's Get Free".

Just as Gil Scott-Heron's "Revolution" lyrics were blasted as highly political poetry by linking it up to jazz-funk fusion with soulful deep vocals, the Dead Prez are bringing the same needed public awareness by hyping their own attention ... in stereo.

The duo comes by way of 7G Entertainment founded by Lord Jamar of Brand Nubian.

This not just substance but social hip-hop duo speaks the truth on themes of black nationalism, and self discipline. Most of all, the determination to free ones self physically, emotionally, but most of all mentally.

Rap artist like Common, Mos Def, KRS-ONE, RasKass and now, newcomers, Dead Prez, are bringing political, but more important, social and conscious hip-hop headlines to you, in your face; but oh so poetically, positively and non-pretentiously.

As a hip-hop connoisseur, my vote is that both Dead Prez's "Let's Get Free" and Commons "Like Water for Chocolate" will be two of the best rotating in 2G.

Prez lyrics could be inflammatory to some, but hands down and five mics up, that if you pause, you will catch much needed lyrical lessons. When the two met back in 1990 in Tallahassee, FL, who would have known but these social prodigy's that they would be not just preaching, but to really put their money where their mouth is; by teaching their refugee lyrics to the masses. This twosome also participates in such movements as the *National People's Democratic, the People's Army, Uhuru Movement and the Black Survival Movement.*

These modern day Huey P. Newton's, Steve Biko's and new millennium KRS-ONE's wants you to listen. Listen to their oh so precise open, honest and yes mind levitating lyrics.

These brothers are on some serious and no fluff or bluff mission, so let the Prez music ministry begin. They're bringing and preachin' their street but social knowledge to hip-hop stage pulpits across the world.

The Prez are like vocal vessels of how to maintain that what you preach & teach, you should practice. Lyrics like my favorite, "Mind Sex" will resuscitate your mind.

*We could have mind sex/we ain't got to take our clothes off yet
We can burn the incense, and just chat/Relax I got the good vibrations
Before we make love let's have a good conversation*

Another case & point. All of their tracks are mind-freeing & lyrical head-trips; definitely all of their worthy, but pay attention to both titles "Be Healthy" & "Discipline".

The dynamic duo doses melodic ministry for your physical as well as mental. These songs are about nutrition and the benefits of a vegetarian lifestyle.

The Prez are currently on tour, most recently appearing in places like London, England, and throughout New York City. Their next stop is Houston, TX, on April 15 as they share the stage with D'Angelo and Mos Def. Also look for them on the "Black & White" movie soundtrack where they collaborate on a serious track with the Marley Bros & The Ghetto Youths Crew titled "Dem Crazy"

Local resident, Robert H. confirms that... "The Dead Prez project is one of the most aggressive thus far in 2000. And since Public Enemy, likely the most controversial. It's a must have; not just for the social economic & political views of the two MC's..But it's entire lyrical content & style."

They're giving it to you straight, no chaser.

The Dead Prez are truly, and just think, only in their respected early 20's ages, ahead of their time. But to those of us ready always searching for that mental medicine, they're right on time. So, wake up and pay attention.

In an recent BLAZE magazine interview, the twosome explained their reasoning over the now, controversial CD cover. "The artwork depicts a group of South African students in 1976 demonstrating over

being taught English in lieu of their native language. Anxious about the automatic weapons the demonstrators in the picture are raising in defiance of the Apartheid-era police, who are firing upon them, Loud Records at first "suggested" that they scrap the cover. The guns displayed on the top half of the cover were concealed with a message stating that the artwork was censored due to its political content." M-1 proclaims proudly, "We fought for it [the complete cover]."

Hopefully, radio stations will give

the Prez their fair share of air time. It's socially unfair when it's so noticeable that when artists really have something worthwhile to say in their music, it only gets played once or twice, then it gets shoved to the back of the play list.

Although it might sting to some, if you take just a mental swallow of their street ministry or even a pinch of their poetic salt, my vote says you're bound to walk away with a full plate of and some conscious seasoning for your mind. The Dead Prez might just help you.. get free. Once again, it's on.

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