

Music

# Kurupt goes one-on-one

BY FELICIA L. SLIDER  
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

On the eve before Kurupt flew back to Cali for the video shoot of Dr. Dre's video "The Next Episode", Kurupt gave a one-on-one interview to discuss The "R's"...the rhyme & reason for politikin' hip-hop for the streets.

One could say that Antra Records artist Kurupt is very well rounded. First of all, although Ricardo "Kurupt" Brown raps about the streets of South-Central Los Angeles, the 27 year-old father of two is originally from the East Coast of Philadelphia, PA.

As I conversed with the Kingpin, Young Kalhoun a.k.a. Young Gotti (given this name by the Late Tupac Shakur), we discussed his latest project *The Streets is a Mutha*.

*First lets, talk about the whole Kurupt/DMX thing...I think people, especially media heads uncaring and unfamiliar with hip-hop, its rules & culture, have put words in your mouth about the whole supposed feud. You basically said what you had to say in your "Callin Out Names" track. Would you like to set any records straight? Let's just say the DMX situation is dissolved.*

*I know the whole East Coast vs. West Coast thing is played out. Meaning that I know that you're originally from Philly, PA, but base yourself from LA. Do you think that there's any particular sound that represents the different coast? I just know that producers have been and who remain hot are always having their style copped. You have a lot of camps and artist out there from all four corners (N,S,E,W) that all have a little gangsta-boogie in their sound, a*

little west coast flava, etc. I know that I've been in this business for almost a decade now there's a lot of sounds out there that are West Coast oriented.

*What part did Daz play on this solo project for you?*

He supplied production & made lyrical appearances

*Let's talk about your recent visit to Portland at the Jammin' 95.5 Birthday Bomb. When I was backstage, even the crew and camps from the other artist erupted to the stage when your name was announced just to get a glimpse of you. Did you feel that?*

Peeps are always goin to represent that connection.

*Who produced your slammin' "We Can Freak it" cut?*

This cat...A producer out of New York

*Tell me about the new Antra label. After speaking with your publicity camp, I can tell that Antra Music*

*Groups really stands behind their artist, their promotion and sales. Is this a relationship that you look forward to taking to the next level? Most definitely. Everything's been great.*

*Tell me what artist are you peepin' right now?*

Eve, Beenie Segal, Black Rob.

*And what artist were you really peepin' at the 95.5 Birthday Bash? Sole'..no doubt!*

*I hear you come to Portland often. I'm out that way on a regular. I've even got a spot up in Portland. I got a lot of folks who show me love in PO.*

*I heard your little brother Roscoe is coming with a project? What would you like to tell your fans about his style?*

Mos def. My little bro' Roscoe will be geared more towards the younger crowd. I'm really doin' the big brother thing with him. I want him to know all the perks and put-downs of this business. I don't want him comin in no funny style business. He's gonna know the real deal...you know what I'm sayin'?

*What's next on the shelf for Kurupt? Glad you asked that. I'll be out on Cali with Dr. Dre for the shoot of his next video "The Next Episode".*



Hip-hop artist Kurupt at a concert held in Portland Last week

I'm also appearing on the *D.B.A (Doing Business As...)* The Album. I'm appearing on a track called "Fa Shiesty Cats"...I'm on there with WC. It's a tight track that was produced by one of Portlands own..Bosko. There are a lot of other tracks on there too like E-40, The Luniz, Rass Kass and Maniac Lok. Make sure you tell Portland folks to pick that up.

# Beenie Man lights up Portland

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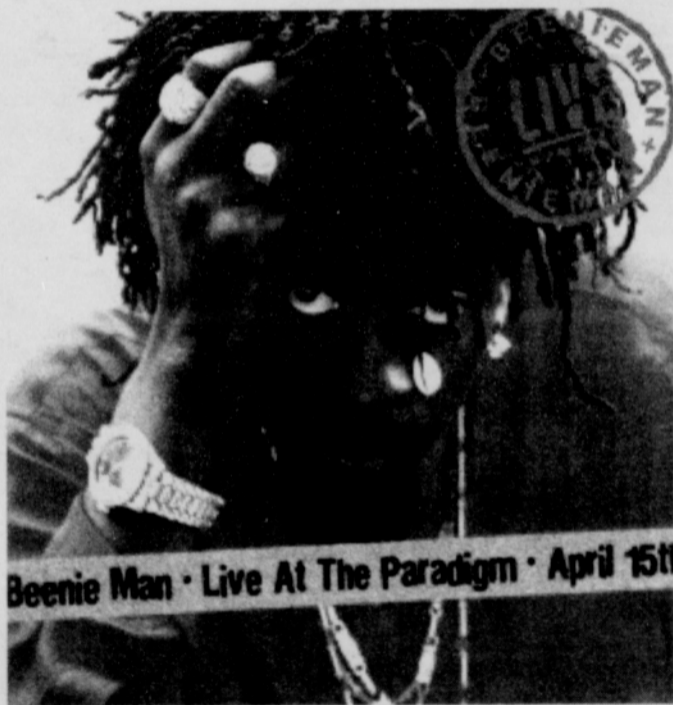
Wearing a bowler hat and donning a 3-piece suit to match, the dominant king of dancehall delighted NW fans last Saturday night at Portland's Paradigm Club (formerly LaLuna). Born Moses Davis, the Jamaican born, Kingston-bred artist is to dancehall as Africa Baambatta is to hip-hop. Where would either culture be without them?

Beenie Man proved that he is no amateur to the sound stage and sound system of Jamaica and its culture.

But if you were ever confused by the difference of dancehall vs. reggae, Beenie Man set the record straight. Beenie Man is one of hardcore dancehall's top artists who continuously brings it to American audiences.

From his hit of "Girls Sugar", Beenie Man delivered nothing but a phenomenal performance. Watch for Beenie's new video on rotation on BET and The BOX featuring Wyclef Jean - "Love Me Now" from Beenie's new Virgin Records "Art & Life" CD.

If you didn't catch the last *Direct* promotion featuring BM at the Roseland Theatre, you missed an island treat. But thanks to Beenie & company, he also treated the Portland crowd with another appearance by the alto singin' Tanthro Metro from the hit single



"Everyone Falls in Love Sometimes." Not only did Tanthro get the crowd swaying to the island sounds, but he also blasted out his own a Caribbean rendition of the Backstreets Boys crossover pop hit "I Want It That Way"

Said best by Beenie Man... Dancehall is about the chant. Reggae is about da riddim..."

And most def... There sure was a lot of chantin' going on, at yes, another successful *Direct* Productions showcase. A showcase that opened up with Portland's own DJ Soul, DJ Unity & Hungry Mob who hyped

the crowd. From rude boys boggle-in and rude gals butterfly-in, there was more egyptian musk and non champa incense in the air than a West Indian bodega market on a Saturday afternoon on Brooklyn, New York's Eastern Parkway Street.

And speaking of Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn, NY, if you've already spent your Rapid File Tax Return and fear a chartered flight to islands is not in your financial future, no fear mon'... some of the best

(Please see 'Bennie' page 8)

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