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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Rap artists Snoop Dogg, left, and Wiz Khalifa have been touring together and are releasing new music, including a soundtrack for their upcoming stoner movie "Mac + Devin Go To High School." (AP Photo)

The Next Cheech and Chong

Snoop and Khalifa unite for stoner comedy

(AP)—Snoop Dogg remembered watching all of the Cheech and Chong movies growing up, idolizing the pothead tandem's ability to always escape from danger in their comedy films.

Wiz Khalifa revered Snoop Dogg for his weed-smoking, ultra-smooth West Coast swagger shown extensively throughout his rap career.

One is the mentor, the other is the protege. Since the two rappers met for the first time last year, they've built a strong rapport with each other and have united to create their own album, "Mac & Devin Go to High School," which was released this week.

The album is the soundtrack of the rappers' upcoming stoner comedy, "Mac & Devin Go to High School," which is expected to be released early next year. The duo feels they are capable of following the footsteps of Cheech and Chong, who gained fame through their marijuana humor.

"They smoked joints, they were funny, they were cool and they would get into real situations," Snoop Dogg said. "To me, that's what me and Wiz represent. A lot of kids growing up don't understand who Cheech and Chong are. So we're the modern-day image of them. We're bringing it back."

Snoop Dogg and Khalifa have embodied the fun-filled, carefree life, with a devotion to smoking marijuana. Their easygoing demeanor is displayed on the

duo's single, "Young, Wild & Free," featuring Bruno Mars, which peaked at No. 10 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart.

The rappers are the latest popular hip-hop characters to create an album and movie revolved around their pothead excursions. Rapper Redman and Method Man appeared in the 2001 film, "How High."

But Khalifa said he and Snoop Dogg are "trying to create our own lane."

"There have been others to pave the way for us, so we're just trying to keep it going and tell our own stories," added Khalifa.

Snoop Dogg, 40, took a liking to the 24-year-old Khalifa after he noticed his kids' infatuation with the Pittsburgh-bred rapper's ubiquitous 2010 hit "Black and Yellow." From there, Snoop Dogg invited Khalifa to his home in Los Angeles.

"We have built a bond and a friendship that's going to last a lifetime," Khalifa said. "People will hear it in the music, and see it in the movie."

In "High School," Khalifa stars as a senior valedictorian named Devin who is only focused on his academics. He breaks out of his shell after meeting Snoop Dogg's character, Mac, a teenage student (yes, he is playing a teen) who has street smarts but struggles to apply them in the classroom.

Snoop Dogg described his partnership with Khalifa as "a magical situation."

"I've been around magic a lot of times from being with Dr. Dre, Tupac, Master P. and Nate Dogg. What me and Wiz had was a magical moment right there."

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People's Portlandia Video Competition

A collection of "Portlandia" inspired skits made by Portland residents will kick off preview of a new season episode of "Portlandia" on Friday, Jan. 6 at 10 p.m. at the Hollywood Theatre in northeast Portland.

Last year, the TV show drew attention to some of the qualities

that make our city unique. Those skits and characters may have paled in comparison to your own experiences living in Portland.

In partnership with Portland State University's Master of Fine Arts degree program in Art and Social Practice, the Hollywood Theatre will

host the first ever "People's Portlandia." Admission is free.

Submissions will be judged by a diverse panel of Portland residents with a "best of" screening scheduled for March 23. Video entries are being accepted now through peoplesportlandia.com.