

Taboo Gomez: The 'Jamesy Boy' Interview

Born in L.A. on July 14, 1975, Jimmy "Taboo" Gomez began dreaming about show business at an early age. The versatile four-pronged threat is a multilingual rapper, singer, dancer and emcee who got his big break in 1995 when approached by will.i.am to form the Black Eyed Peas.

Among the popular hip-hop group's hits are the Grammy-winning "I Gotta Feeling," "Let's Get It Started," "Boom Boom Pow" and "My Humps," to name a few. Besides music, Taboo is also the designer of his own line of footwear, Taboo Deltah, and has added acting to his bag of tricks.

Here, he talks about his latest outing as Guillermo in "Jamesy Boy", a fact-based tale of redemption co-starring Ving Rhames, James Woods and Spencer Lofranco. Although he wants to make more movies in the future, he is currently focused on his own solo album releasing later in the year, as well as on an upcoming tour with the Black Eyed Peas.

Kam Williams: Hi Taboo, thanks for another interview.

Taboo: Thank you.

KW: Like last time, I'll be mixing in my questions, with some from my readers. How did you get interested in acting?

T: Well, I had actually been taking acting classes prior to joining the Black Eyed Peas in '96. In fact, I originally thought it was going to be my introduction to the entertainment world, because Black Eyed Peas was more of a local, L.A. underground band. I kept up with the acting classes as a

safety net, until we took off a couple of years later, after the release of our first album. Once we started touring, I had to put acting on hold, although I still wanted to act. Fast-forward to 2005, when I made my feature film debut playing a character named Ramirez in "Dirty", with Cuba Gooding, Jr., Clifton Collins, Wyclef [Jean] and a couple other people. Then I did a

I really wanted to challenge myself, so that I wouldn't just be Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas up on the big screen.

movie called "Cosmic Radio" and, after that, one called "Streetfighter". And now, "Jamesy Boy."

KW: Editor/Legist Patricia Turnier asks: What drew you to the story of James Burns and what is your perception of him?

T: The reason I got the movie is because my acting coach presented the script to me, and I fell in love with the role of Guillermo. I'm a big James Woods fan, so when I found out he was already attached to the film, I was sold.



Taboo

KW: Patricia also asks: How did you prepare to play Guillermo?

T: I really wanted to challenge myself, so that I wouldn't just be Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas up on the big screen. I did something that's a no-no in the music industry. I cut my hair. For years, my hair was my stamp. "Oh, that's the long-haired guy from the Black Eyed Peas." But when I did it, it was like a breath of fresh air. So, I immersed myself into the character Guillermo to the fullest, with intense power, since I wanted to show the world that I'd go that extra mile because I believe in this project and in my acting abilities so much, and

because I want to continue to do films.

KW: Well, you definitely disappeared into the role. I barely recognized you.

T: Thanks, Kam. That's what I want to hear. I love when people say that.

KW: Did you base your character on a hardened convict you know?

T: Guillermo was kind of a reflection of my family, on my dad's side. My father came from a gang lifestyle. My brother, who passed away last year, God rest his soul, had been in prison for many years. He had the bald head, the tattoos, and served as an inspiration for Guillermo, being the closest person to me in prison and living that hard lifestyle. But also, there was an insecurity I saw in him that I brought to Guillermo who was a bully and antagonistic as a defense mechanism.

KW: Sorry to hear about your brother. I do remember how in your autobiography you credited your grandmother for saving you from the streets.

T: Yeah, if it wasn't for her and my mom taking me away from that lifestyle, my life would've gone in a totally different direction. When my mom divorced my dad, she introduced me to a new world. I'm blessed that I had a strong grandmother who gave me a second chance at life. So, I owe her a lot.

KW: Jamesy Boy had a pretty impressive

See TABOO on page 6

TheSkanner.com
has a new look

CHECK IT OUT NOW:
www.theskanner.com