

Hip-Hop Artists Ali Big Gipp 'Kinfolk

Written by Robert ID2661
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Rap artist Ali, of the platinum selling hip-hop group St. Lunatics, and "Dirty South" impresario Goodie Mob alum Big Gipp score the #1 most added record at the rhythm crossover radio format this week with their debut single, "Go "Head" from their collaborative CD Kinfolk.

Kinfolk, due in stores late summer '06 is on superstar hip-hop rapper Nelly's record label, Derry Ent., an imprint with Universal Motown Records.

"Go "Head," produced by up and coming St. Louis native Trife, is an anthemic summer song that combines the two hip-hop genres of "midwest swing" with southern crunk. The "Go "Head" video was directed by newcomer Melina and will be serviced to video outlets soon.

"Gipp and I started hanging out a while back and found that we had a lot in common," says Ali. "We're both considered leaders in our crews, we're fathers and even though we have different styles, we respect each other's skills." Gipp describes their collaborative effort as "the best of both hip-hop worlds -- the St. Lunatics kicked off the midwest movement and Goodie Mob helped establish southern rap, that's why I say it's the best of both worlds. Plain and simple."

In that spirit, Kinfolk has a mix of songs featuring "St. Louis" kin: hip-hop and rap artists Nelly, Murphy Lee and Derry Ent. newcomers, Chocolate Tai and Avery Storm; "Atlanta" kin Cee-lo and other southern hip-hop and rap all-stars include Juvenile, David Banner, Three 6 Mafia and Bun B. The album collab also contains a mix of mid-west and southern producers including the St. Louis hit-makers Jason "Jay E" Epperson and The Track Starz, Atlanta's uber-producer Dallas Austin and other talented newcomers.

Ali made his debut on Nelly's hip-hop 9X platinum groundbreaking rap debut, Country Grammar (2000). The St. Lunatics member was also featured on the groups' platinum certified album, Free City (2001). In 2002, he released his own noted solo album, Heavy Starch. Ali guested on various albums including the Longest Yard soundtrack as well as the Coach Carter soundtrack. Gipp has been one of the main cogs in the "Dirty South" movement since the mid-'90's as a leader of the groundbreaking, platinum-plus group Goodie Mob. The thought-provoking, Atlanta based foursome broke down the wall of East Coast/West Coast dominance in 1995 with their debut album Soul Food. The pioneering group's subsequent albums, including 1998's Still Standing, and their steadfast alliance with fellow "Dirty South" phenoms Outkast, forever cemented their reputation as one of hip-hop's most innovative groups. The original members

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began embarking on their own journeys in 2002, with Gipp releasing his first solo album, *Mutant Mindframe*, in 2003.

Currently, Ali & Gipp are gearing up for promotional performances. You can find out more at the Universal Motown Web site: <http://www.universalrecords.com>