

Hip Hop's 'Hitchcock' Mykill Miers - Davey D Interview

Written by Davey D ID2989

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Beats Battles and Gangs-An Interview w/ LA's Mykill Miers by Davey D

Depending on where you sit within the diverse spectrum of Hip Hop music and culture, Mykill Miers is either someone you never heard of or a long time fixture in LA's burgeoning underground scene who gave us classic albums like 'It's Been A Longtime Coming'. However, no matter where you sit, you most likely have heard his work. When this longtime vet is not snatching off heads at rap battles or keeping young gang bangers in check at Juvenile Hall, he's busy producing music for a long list of TV shows and commercials. Being Bobby Brown, America's Top Model, America's Top Chef, VH1, Old Navy, Sprite, Diet Pepsi and this upcoming season of The Apprentice are just a few of the many places where Miers has left his musical mark.

"It's extremely important that, I as a Hip Hop artist have multiple streams of income", he explained. He went on to emphasize the importance of artists remaining independent and owning their masters. He noted that he's able to license his material and do business all around the world and not have some major label taking a substantial cut while not seriously breaking him off or pushing him to the next level. "It's all about the hustle", he concluded. He also added that its important for independent artists to ban together, share resources and create avenues that they control that will lead to increased exposure.

In our interview Miers offered up a lot of insight and oftentimes overlooked history about LA's Underground scene. He spoke about central figures like the late Bigga B. He talked about how he came up and earned his stripes at the Good Life Café in South central LA. This is the spot that gave birth to groups like Freestyle Fellowship and Jurassic 5. Miers likened those early days in the late 80s early 90s to the Apollo. He noted that cats were unforgiving if you came on the mic and did not bring the heat. Battles were par for the course and Miers is more than tested. He's one who is set to grab the mic and take a cat down anyplace, anywhere and at anytime. This was evident during our interview when we asked him to lay out the type of approach he would use if he had to battle fellow emcees and friends, Xzibit, Rakaa of Dilated Peoples, Snoop, Game and Jurassic 5.

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Miers also spoke to us about the direction Hip Hop has taken with major corporations running the ship. He had some choice words for a number of rappers who he feels have sold their souls to be promoted by the corporate machine. He says he's sees the type of negative impact much of today's music has on the kids he works with everyday at Juvenile Hall. "They see artists like 50 Cent as a hero or even a brother. Everything these artists do these kids who are locked up wanna do", Miers explained. He stressed the importance of providing balance and guidance.

He noted that him being an emcee has helped him to be relatable to the kids he works with. It allows him to have positive influence over more than a few. He also talked about how he avoided the lure of gangs in both his personal life and his music, while his brother engaged in it hardcore. He noted that being an athlete saved his life and that he wanted to commit himself to changing lives.

Miers is gearing up to release his new album 'Trials of Job' and is also working on doing a big concert inside Juve Hall which will hopefully include everyone from Xzibit on down to Jurassic 5.

Audio interview below with Mykill Miers and Davey D on Breakdown FM

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