

## Bilingual Hip Hop Star Pitbull Drops El Mariel 1017

Written by Robert ID2969

Sunday, 27 August 2006 14:05 -

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Bilingual Hip Hop Star Pitbull Drops El Mariel 10/17.

Cuban-American MC's Debut Album M.I.A.M.I. Was the Biggest-Selling Bilingual Hip-Hop Debut In More Than a Decade, Selling More Than 600,000 Copies; Not Since Cypress Hills Debut Has a Spanish-Fluent Rap Artist Achieved Such Sales Levels.

The #1 Latin Artist on Myspace Has More Than Culo On His Mind; New Album El Mariel (Oct. 17th - TVT Records) Addresses Subjects Ranging from the Current State of Cuba to President Bush's Misguided War in Iraq.

Best-selling Cuban American MC Pitbull is gearing up for the October 17<sup>th</sup> release of his highly-anticipated second studio album El Mariel (Diaz Bros./TVT Records). Although he makes songs about getting "culo," Pitbull is more preoccupied with preserving the image of his isla bonita, Cuba, and unmasking Pres. George W. Bush's misguided war.

With his new sophomore album, El Mariel, named after the infamous Cuban boatlift that relocated almost 125,000 cubanos to Florida, Pitbull will make the biggest impact a Latino has made in hip-hop since Big Pun.

Inspired by one of the most dramatic events in Cuban history, El Mariel is overflowing with enlightening gems, rap ballads and club bangers. After the success of his gold-selling debut M.I.A.M.I. the music community was having a difficult time placing a label on Pit. They have this misconception about Pit, says the 25-year-old MC. Theyll say, Hes just this Latin rapper, hes a reggaeton act, hes crunk. They dont know what to say about me. [After El Mariel] a lot of folks are gonna start saying, You gotta watch out for that boy Pit.

Last year, Pitbull surpassed gold status for more than 500,000 copies Sold of his debut album M.I.A.M.I.: Money Is A Major Issue in the United States. The feat gave Pitbull the biggest-selling bilingual hip-hop debut since Cypress Hills 1991 self-titled debut, and put him in the rare category of Latino rappers who have achieved major success at English-language radio. Bolstered by such breakthrough singles as

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Culo, Dammit Man, and Toma, Pitbulls debut - as well as its highly-successful successor remix album Money Is Still a Major Issue - have made Pitbull an unstoppable Latino voice in urban music.

The Miami-based rapper has collaborated with a who's who of hip-hop and reggaeton artists, including Lil Jon, Ying Yang Twins, Orishas, Daddy Yankee, Twista and Rick Ross. Pitbulls recent speaking appearance at the Latin Alternative Music Conference (LAMC) Tres Crossovers panel nearly stole the show, with Billboard honing in on Pitbulls self-identification as a successful rapper who also happens to be Latin. Unlike many other Latino rappers, Pitbull has managed to achieve success in the mainstream hip-hop world with bilingual lyrics and potent beats laced with reggaeton.

He is equally comfortable sharing the stage at the VIBE Awards with Lil Jon as he is collaborating with Paulina Rubio at the MTV Latin America Awards.

Born to Cuban immigrants, Pitbull was raised by a single mother in Miami. With his mother, who worked three jobs, Pit was frequently relocating as a youth. The constant moving made Pit adapt to any environment and interact with different types of people. His absent father reemerged in his life when Pitbull was 18. Since then until his passing this year, Pit remained on friendly terms with his father. All the while Pit was falling for hip-hop.

Through his constant winning verbal warfare, his VIP friendships (Lil Jon and Luke Campbell) Pit signed with TVT and released his gold-selling debut, M.I.A.M.I. (Money Is A Major Issue) in 2004.

Crossing over different cultures is one of Pits strong suits. On Dime, his collaboration with Puerto Rican crooner Ken Y, Lil Jon produces his Latin version of Ushers Lovers and Friends. Ay Chico finds Ying Yang Twins producer, Mr. Collipark, providing Pit with a bass-heavy booty shaker.

Still, Pit isn't satisfied with being a successful artist solely in the U.S. market. Witnessing how reggaeton has exploded with his help, Pit is not one to play the wall. After the release of El Mariel, he will debut his first full-length Spanish only album, Armando, at the top of 2007. But don't expect the flavor of the month genre to be his backdrop of choice.

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[Armando] is an Afro-Cuban based project. A lot of energy and just a different movement, says Pitbull. Lil Jon, Orishas, the Diaz Brothers, Jim Jonsin, Echo from Puerto Rico and Mr. Collipark are gonna be working on it.

I would love for me and Jon to have a number one record on the Latin charts. It would be me bringing him over just like he brought me over to his side.

While his Spanish-language debut is still months away, Pit is concentrating on delivering an educational and entertaining opus with El Mariel. From being a rising underground MC to an internationally known artist, Pit is following in the footsteps of those who came in the infamous 1980 boatlift.

Some [Marielitos] yes were criminals, some came from a negative backgrounds but you have those who became politicians, lawyers, judges, and doctors, you name it, says Pit. Now that I got my foot in the door its time to take opportunities like the Marielitos did.

Spoken like a perfect example of an ambassador.

El Mariel drops Oct. 17th on TVT Records.