

Latin Hip-Hop's 'El Duro' Magic Juan

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Friday, 14 October 2005 00:46 -

In 2002, Latin Hip Hop star Magic Juan kept his music career hot by releasing *La Prueba*, which included the hits "La Ultima vez" with Eddy Herrera and "Meniando La Pera." The album received a nomination for Urban Album of the Year and Juan was nominated as Artist of the Year for Univision's 2004 Premios lo Nuestro Awards. "La Ultima vez" was also nominated for Tropical Song of the Year at the 2004 Latin Billboard Awards.

Magic Juan, former lead vocalist and composer of the internationally acclaimed group Proyecto Uno, is putting the finishing touches on his second solo album, the highly anticipated *The Sure Bet*. On the collection, which will be released later this year on emerging music powerhouse M.O.B. Recordings, Juan reveals his many personal and emotional dimensions. Lead singles "Fish Grease" and "Mil Horas" are already heating up at radio.

As he prepares for the release of the follow-up to 2002's *La Prueba*, Juan has been touring the world, most recently performing in front of legions of fans in Australia with Latin heavyweight Chayanne. Later this year, Juan will hit the road with Ivy Queen, Don Omar and Daddy Yankee.

Showing his business skills stretch beyond music, Magic Juan will launch in 2006 his own a liquor brand, Gravity. The blue Long Island Iced Tea will be distributed and promoted internationally. He is also launching his own calling card, The Magic Juan Phone Card.

Magic Juan's current ventures should not surprise his loyal fans. He wrote and rapped his way to No. 1 with Proyecto Uno on "Brinca!!," "Latinos" and "El Tiburon," which were wildly successful in South and Central America, Mexico, Europe and the United States. The Washington Heights, New York, native also flexed his acting skills in independent films such as *Harlem Blues* and *Buscando Un Sueno* with Lauren Velez.

A testament to Juan's accomplishments, the Latin Hip Hop Coalition, which aims at educating and defending artist rights, has just appointed Magic its New York Chairman. No wonder Juan's fans have dubbed him "El Duro" (The Best) and "El Rey de Santo Domingo" (The Dominican King).