

by Fritz the Cat

F: All right, my first question is where the hell have you been?

A: Doing this, plus um...establishing a record company. Just trying to get our stuff out independently, you know. We was waiting on labels for a minute, but then we got it all together. Got a distributor we're dealing with, and we're trying to make sure we put our records out timely. We've just been working on the business side of things. Now we're ready, and everything after this is gonna be timely, it's gonna be records coming out back to back.

F: You're in a pretty good spot as far as having already been out, and having some recognition. It's not like you're an unknown just starting out.

A: It's about time. That's how we originally started out, then it went in another direction and eventually came back to this.

F: So how was it dealing with Island and Capitol?

A: It was cool, but you know, they have a lot of people on their rosters, and different things like that, and you gotta compete with these other artists and your return is so much less than if you would do it independently. You know I learned a lot from labels, I learned how to get my shit going, and do it like that, or at least I'm definitely trying on that angle, successful or not. The difference is just being free. Artistically I can just concentrate on what I want to do and the people I want to reach.

F: Are you able to actually make a living doing this like you deserve to be?

A: [pause] hmmm... yeah. A low one, but yeah.

F: So you don't have to have little McDonald's hustle on the side, eh?

A: Well yeah, I'll always do that until I have about, maybe 10, 20 million dollars [laughs]. That'd be cool but, in between it's always gonna be other things. But this is, you know, a life thing. For right now... I see it ending in a couple years.

F: What ending?

A: I'll just be cool, I'll be done.

F: With hip-hop?

A: Yeah, I'll probably wanna leave the game when it's cool. When I'm not like warn-out, or you know, lame. Cause the hip-hop community and fans, they'll like you one minute then the next minute they'll be like aah, fuck you... we got somebody else come out who's fatter.

F: What about the promise, we will never fall the fuck off?

A: Stepping off and falling off are 2 different things. And by the way, that's the name of our first single the Fellowship, Freestyle Fellowship. It's about to come out, it's called We Will Never Fall the Fuck Off We Promise. It's a trip you said that.

F: I've heard rumours about the reunion.

A: It's already done, so don't worry. If I die tonight, you'll eventually get a copy.

F: What's been up with everyone the last couple years, you're the only one I've really heard stuff from.

A: Well, me, Mikah 9 and Abstract Rude got together and did this album called Haiku De' Tat. We was busy on that for a minute. And we started back working on Fellowship we're like a little bit more than half way through the album, so that album is on deck too.

F: So where has everybody been the last few years?

A: Peace recorded a solo album, it should be coming out on Project Blowed. You know, I did my solo album, and I did Project Blowed, and worked that, and then we recorded haiku, I recorded this album that I'm putting out right now. As far as the Fellowship, we're just going back in the studio. And Mikah's got his project going, he just works at his own pace. Everybody's been working, but our channels have been getting clogged the last couple of years forgetting our shit out and into peoples hands.

F: How did you get into the vibe you got into man, cause your music has touched me in crazy ways.

A: Yeah? Like how? Tell me what kind of ways?

F: Well, just to sit there and listen...

A: To me, the beats, or a combination of both?

F: I'm a lyrical listener.

A: Yeah, I'm a lyrical listener too.

F: Yeah, sometimes I won't really notice the beat 'til after I've heard the song 10 times.

"Loeymoov"

Well, some people listen like that, and some people listen the opposite. I used to listen like that first, then I started learning like, people listen to the music first, they don't even hear the words. I tripped off that. In fact when I first hear somebody say something, I'm hearing what they're saying over the beat. But then a lot of people hear are like I didn't even catch what he said but that beat was bumping. How can you tune out what a motherfucker's saying? I'm just trying to be smart about the shit I do you know? When you make records and shit like that, I wouldn't say [it lasts] forever but it's a time long-lasting. A lot of people capture the here and now, it's different ways that people [are] speakers, they're speaking to different people. Cause I represent a certain number of people who listen to what I say and say Oh, I can hear that, this music is speaking for me. Certain people may speak way more aggressive or way more, you know, to the point to where, okay, certain people... he has to say things a certain way o where oh yeah, he's speaking for me, you know what I mean? That's how I think music represents the people but man, it's like, all the shit I know, I'm just trying to put it down, all the conscious shit I know. I don't want to be responsible for it, cause I know that records are responsible, and music is responsible for how people think a lot of the time. I know it is. I couldn't put nothing out there like - just some stupid shit. I try to stay conscious cause that's what I know, that's what I think is right. That's why at that level, a lot of stuff might not seem as conscious to other people. I'm trying to explore all the way around, you know what I mean? As opposed to one-sided, I got a lot of interests and differences in aspects of doing this hip-hop stuff. As my career goes on, I'm trying to make sure I cover a lot of ground. I can't just keep repeating ground.

F: I think your stuff will be sought after years from now. When we're all in our sixties people will be digging for your records you know. Or like when a painter dies and everyone starts checking for their artwork after, you know?

A: Yeah, I know how that is. I look at the past, I know a lot of people who I really respect, you know musicians, jazz musicians. They didn't sell a gang of records, you know? That was a time, the 50's and 60's, where rock'n roll was selling all the major records. But you look back at these intricate artists, the Charlie Parker's and the Miles', and they couldn't sell a million records. I mean, combined [they would], but they wouldn't sell it like one releases, one song, and as many people buy it, you know what I mean? The name of my next album is called Accepted Eclectic. It's a self explanatory title to let people know, I accept the way that I'm different. I know that the stuff I do is not for every body, so I really concentrate on people who really want it, and are really trying to get it.

F: So when can people expect the new stuff?

A: The album has been released. It was released yesterday. Haiku is on hold right now, but it definitely should come out this year. Besides Haiku, the Freestyle Fellowship should release a single, which you definitely gonna be able to get your hands on. We're gonna really try to pump that up, cause we gotta return you know, and make this album real solid. My other album's coming out later on this year called Accepted Eclectic. All of these projects are definitely coming. Look ut for A.T.U., Abstract Rude & Tribe Unique, they got an album coming out called Thynk Taynk. Also, the rest of the Project Blowed players, like C.V.E. [Chillin' Villain Empire], Legion, all them you know? We constantly build material, we got stuff. If we do a big tour, we'll bring everybody. Global Phlowtations got tapes and stuff, you can get that from J-Smoov. You can also get Classified and Declassified from C.V.E. from him, we got everybody on it.