



Like Tucker Automobiles getting shut down by the Big Three,

who later bit their innovations, or a Geek Boutique designer finding their stolen souls stitched into a pair of Le Shiteau jeans, Aceyalone has been robbed. Ten years ago, as a member of the LA's Freestyle Fellowship, Acey and his partners PEACE, Self Jupiter and Mikah Nine inspired a generation at the now-mythic Goodlife Cafe "please-pass-the-mic" sessions – the incubator for Jurassic 5, the Alkaholiks and the Pharcyde. If only the Fellowship had gone a little more gangster, Freestyles-N-Harmony might've blown up a little differently.

After the Fellowship released two breathtaking albums, *To Whom It May Concern* (Sun Music, 1991), and the major label debut *Inner City Griots* (4th & Broadway/Island, 1993), Acey broke solo with *All Balls Don't Bounce* (Capitol, 1995), and the conceptual magnum opus that was 1998's *Book of Human Language* (Project Blowed). The past couple of years have found him recording an album with Abstract Rude and Mikah Nine under the name of Haiku de' Tat; working on the Freestyle Fellowship reunion record; and part of the collaborative A-Team project where "Acey the Faceman" teams up with "A.B. Baracus" (Ab-Rude). We caught up with Mr. Eddie Hayes Jr. in L.A., on the verge of releasing his latest solo offering, *Accepted Eclectic*.

fritzthecat. Tell me about the new album.

Aceyalone. It's already available on the internet at emusic.com, you can download it there. The hard copy'll be out soon, with a couple more songs. It's produced by Fat Jack (Mass Men), Evidence (Dilated Peoples), Joey Chavez and Nick. It's kind of a throw-together to be honest. It's not really a well thought-out, artistic super-album; it's just the latest work I've done over a period of time. I'm working on a more concentrated record after that – one producer, one type of sound. This one's just more straight ahead hip hop, my type of flavour.

f. How do find the experience of releasing your music online first?

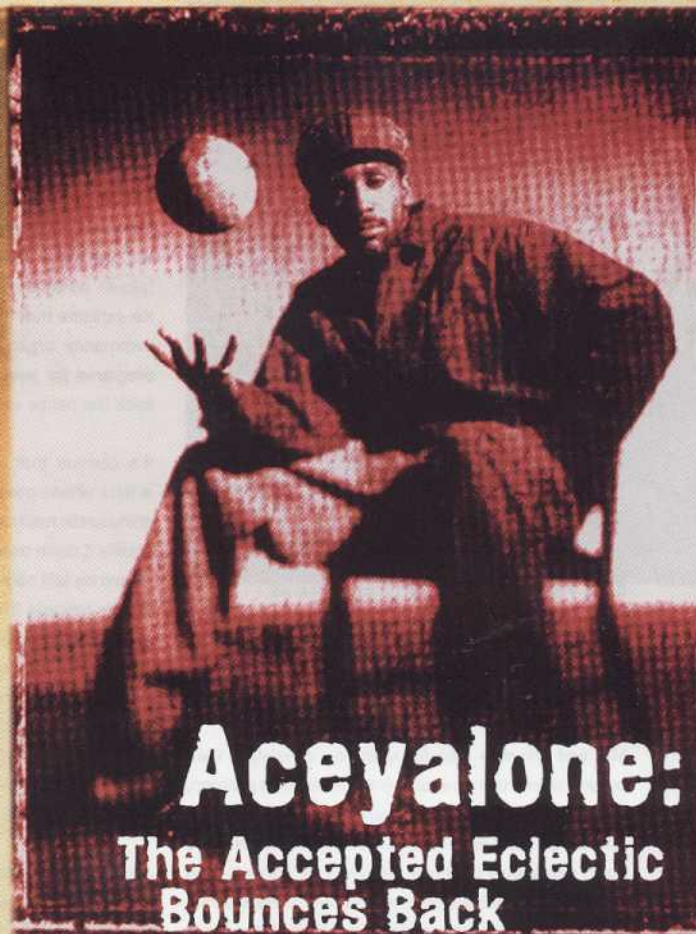
A. It's a little tricky. It's a whole lot of people in there, false people, false in everything – what they're doing, who they are, what they're about, and what their intentions are. I mean, through business, when people have the opportunity to conceal who they are and what they're really about, god damn, so many people will. It's just money, that's all it's about.

f. You worried about bootlegging?

A. Yeah, fully. If somebody really wants to do that off my back, I can't really stop them. That's a lot of effort to put towards robbing somebody, but I guess it's like that. But if I catch them, it's on, you know what I'm saying?

f. On the song "Project Blowed," you have a line where you say you "made the whole world go off the dome." The Fellowship really influenced a whole culture of freestyling.

A. It's developed itself through unwritten rules and traditions, the activity and the ability to teach it from youth all the way up, to put your efforts and soul into it. Freestyling is a culture; people live it everyday.



Aceyalone: The Accepted Eclectic Bounces Back With a Book of Blowed by fritzthecat

f. How does that relate to your life on a daily basis?

A. It's all encompassing; it's everything. You bring family into it, you bring religion into it; it's being able to communicate with the world. My culture is universal. I'm a student of the world. I try to take it all in.

f. What about outside of hip hop?

A. That's like asking me, "what's my culture outside of my culture?" Of course I can put the mic down, if I don't listen to nothing I'm still a student of the world, giving praise to the almighty and learning everything about the planet that I can learn, so I can pass it down. But music is the medium through which everything goes in and out. My views on life are translated through music and hip hop culture.

f. Speaking of putting the mic down, last time we spoke you were talking about retiring.

A. Yeah, most likely I will. But I can't do that unless I feel I made a significant enough mark, or expressed everything I'm trying to get off, you know? 🍌

Check out Aceyalone's *Accepted Eclectic* (Project Blowed Records) at emusic.com, or in stores soon. Also look out for him on stage in your city this summer. For info on Acey, A-Team, Ab-Rude, Freestyle Fellowship, and Haiku de' Tat, log on to b-boykingdom.com

