

Throwback: Common - 1-9-9-9 Feat. Talib Kweli & Sadat X



[youtube id="0bbT7WUW9sY"]

Common's "1-9-9-9" collaboration with Talib Kweli and Sadat X was one of the jewels from the Rawkus Records catalog. The label, which was dedicated to underground hip-hop, gave an important platform to the careers of Kweli, Mos Def, Pharoahe Monch, Hi-Tek and Bahamadia in the '90's. *Soundbombing 2* featured several prominent underground stars including Pete Rock, DJ Spinna, Diamond D and Dilated Peoples among others. Q-Tip and The Beat Junkies performed on the intro to "1-9-9-9." The video had cameo appearances from late skateboarder/actor Harold Hunter and Jeru The Damaja. Common addressed Black consciousness using the style of The Black Panthers, a police state and the future of hip-hop in the song and video. In 1999 Common had just moved to New York City and he was recording for his critically acclaimed album, *Like Water For Chocolate* which came out the following year in 2000. This time was also the era of The Soulquarians hip-hop/neo-soul collective of which Common was a member. In 2014 he released his tenth album, *Nobody's Smiling* exclusively produced by longtime friend and collaborator No I.D. The album's inspiration comes from the violence and poverty in his Chicago hometown that continues to make national headlines.