

# Zion I & The Grouch – “Rockit Man” Feat. Silk-E



## The Song:

Today, West Coast triffecta Zion I & The Grouch drop the latest single from their forthcoming album, Heroes in the Healing of the Nation, “Rockit Man” which features Bay Area singer/rapper Silk-E. This album is this super group’s sophomore album and follow-up to 2006’s critically acclaimed Heroes in the City of Dope, and will be released on March 22, 2011.

“‘Rockit Man’ is loosely based on maturation and ascension as a person,” explains The Grouch. Zumbi further explains, “This song is about struggling to shake old fears and misgivings. Once we let them go, we make way for the next level of transcendence. This is what a Rockit Man does... daily.”

“Rockit Man” is now available for free download at [ZioniAndTheGrouch.com](http://ZioniAndTheGrouch.com) and the full album is available for pre-order. Fans who pre-order the full album from the site will receive a free instant download of the album track “Drop It On the 1” and the bonus song “Heroes.”

Finally, the trio have announced additional tour dates for their Healing of the Nation Tour, which kicks off at the Fillmore in San Francisco on March 19, with Blu, One Be Lo, and The Jazz Mafia’s Shotgun Wedding Quintet. For the tour, Zion I & The Grouch have partnered up with different community organizations in every city and will be donating 100% of all ticketing fees sold through [ZioniAndTheGrouch.com](http://ZioniAndTheGrouch.com) to these organizations.

Download “Rockit Man” here:  
<http://zioniandthegrouch.com/download/>

Alternate link: <http://bit.ly/fRToA7>

For a full list of organizations, go to [ZioniAndTheGrouch.com](http://ZioniAndTheGrouch.com)

Zion I & The Grouch Healing Of The Nation Tour Dates:

\* w/ Blu

% w/ The Jacka

# w/ The Shotgun Wedding Quintet (Jazz Mafia)

3/16/11 Austin, TX @ Mohawk (SXSW)

3/18/11 Austin, TX @ Beauty Bar (SXSW)

3/19/11 San Francisco, CA @ The Fillmore \* % #

3/20/11 Fresno, CA @ Fulton 55 \* #

3/21/11 Sacramento, CA @ Ace of Spades \* #

3/22/11 Petaluma, CA @ Phoenix Theater \* #

3/23/11 Arcata, CA @ Humbrew \* #

3/24/11 Eugene OR @ McDonald Theatre \* #

3/25/11 Portland, OR @ BRANX \* #

3/26/11 Seattle, WA @ Nectars \* #

3/27/11 Missoula, MT @ Palace Lounge \* #

3/29/11 Park City @ Star Bar \* #

3/30/11 Aspen, CO @ The Belly Up \* #

3/31/11 Ft Collins, CO @ Aggie Theater \* #

4/01/11 Boulder @ Fox Theater \* #

4/02/11 Denver, CO @ City Hall \* #

4/15/11 Madison, WI @ Majestic #

4/17/11 Chicago, IL @ Abbey Theater #

4/18/11 Cleveland, OH @ Grog Shop #

4/19/11 Syracuse, NY @ Westcott Theater \$ #

4/20/11 Burlington, VT @ Higher Ground #

4/21/11 Boston, MA @ Middle East Club #

4/22/11 Brooklyn, NY @ Knitting Factory #

4/23/11 Baltimore, MD @ The Quarter #

4/24/11 Philadelphia, PA @ The Blockley Poorhouse #

4/25/11 Tempe, AZ @ The Club House #

4/26/11 Los Angeles, CA @ El Rey Theatre #

4/27/11 San Diego, CA @ House of Blues #

4/28/11 San Luis Obispo, CA @ SLO Brewing Co. #

4/29/11 Santa Clara, CA @ The Avalon #  
4/30/11 Reno, NV @ Grand Theatre #  
5/01/11 Santa Barbara, CA @ Velvet Jones

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## Shad Releases iTunes EP & Remix Contest, Announces Tour Dates

Following up on last year's US breakthrough album TSOL, Canadian MC Shad is following up today with his first iTunes Session. Recorded live at Metalworks in Toronto, the EP features six tracks, including new versions of previously released songs in addition to the much anticipated studio debut of his renowned YouTube a capella "The One In Front of The Garage". In commemoration of the new single, Shad and Dallas Green (of Canadian post-hardcore titans Alexisonfire) are hosting an online remix contest for their recent single "Live Forever". Additionally, Shad will be touring the US with Macklemore and Ryan Lewis this April, full dates below.

Shad & Dallas Green Remix Contest

<http://www.indabamusic.com/opportunities/shad-and-dallas>

Shad's New "Keep Shining" Video:

[youtube]V3nbTB2KHuM[/youtube]

### TOUR DATES

4/13 Allston – Brighton Music Hall  
4/14 South Burlington – Higher Ground  
4/16 New York – Webster Hall  
4/17 Philly – Kungfu Necktie

4/28 Fort Collins – Aggie Theatre

4/29 Denver – Bluebird Theatre

4/20 Boulder – Fox Theatre

\*(all dates with Macklemore and Ryan Lewis)

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# **C1RCA Teams Up with Hip Hop Pioneer, Afrika Bambaataa to Create the Zulu Collection!**



San Clemente, CA – February 28, 2011- C1RCA Select is proud to announce the collaboration with Hip Hop pioneer, Afrika Bambaataa, on the Spring 2011 tee and sneaker collection entitled the Zulu Collection.

Bronx native Afrika Bambaataa is one of the originators of break-beat deejaying, and one of the architects of Hip Hop Culture. In fact, he is credited for coining the phrase, “Hip Hop” to name the whole culture, pulling all of the five elements together. He also helped fuel the development of other musical genres such as Freestyle or Latin Freestyle, Miami Bass, House, Hip House, Electronic and early Techno. He was the first to use a synthesizer on a Hip Hop record, ultimately creating the Electro Funk sound.

C1RCA is proud to work with Afrika Bambaataa again (initially in a sponsored concert 10 years ago), and is excited about the sneaker and t-shirt offerings in the Spring 2011 Select Collection.

Afrika Bambaataa and C1RCA have teamed up to create two shoes for the Spring 2011 collection, the Convert and the 99 Vulc.

The Bambaataa Convert features a High Top design with a molded EVA insole for added comfort. The Bambaataa Convert comes in a green, black and red color way with Suede, Patent Leather, Perf Action Nubuck, and a 3M reflective Upper. The Convert advertises the collab with “UZN” on the heel and “Zulu Nation” on the bottom sole representing the Universal Zulu Nation.

The Bambaataa 99 Vulc features a Mid-Top design with specialized, unique logo and material treatment. The Bambaataa 99 Vulc comes in black and gold with soft Nappa and wrinkle patent leather and the UZN branding on the tongue.

The Zulu collection also features three Zulu tshirts.



### Bambaataa 99 Vulc

Be a part of World Hip Hop History and get yourself a pair of Universal Zulu Nation First Family of Hip Hop Culture Sneakers.

For more information on Afrika Bambaataa visit [www.zulunation.com](http://www.zulunation.com) and to view all Afrika Bambaataa/C1RCA Select products visit [www.C1RCAselect.com](http://www.C1RCAselect.com) and e-mail everyone and help support the Universal Zulu Nation Cultural Center of the Universe Dome Building (a United Nation for the streets of the world). Make your donations at [www.zulunation.com](http://www.zulunation.com) and while you're there buy the sneakers or other products.

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## Signif The Gift and The Soul Of Hip-Hop (Interview)



"I would describe my style as laid back, realistic, and honest."

The battle over the soul of hip-hop is always a pessimistic one. Questions of authentic prescriptions to folk art get posed and then disposed by the dominant argument that capitalistic imperatives have to be the ultimate concern. But the human spirit will never tire of the need to hear stories that speak to the heart. Signif the Gift is answering that question with her brand of no-frills hip-hop that recalls the early days of MC Lyte with a timbre in line with Jean Grae. Her video for "Drifting" is a pared down aesthetic sustained by her coherent rhyme style, self-affirming lyrics and the background of New York City. The former Milwaukee resident has laid down her music manifesto with her *Beautifully Flawed* EP from 2009 and 2010's *The Transition*. Unsigned and free to follow her creative whims, the artist is looking to make her sound translate to hip-hop's conflicted mass of fans.

**Where are you from?**

Born and raised in Milwaukee, WI.

**How did you start rapping?**

After watching my brothers partake in rapping I decided to try it. I was already writing poetry so I tried converting some of my favorite poems I had written previously, and it sounded awful. So I figured I better start from scratch. I quit more than a few times it was frustrating knowing what I wanted to say but not executing it on paper properly.

**Who produced your album *The Transition*?**

More than a few people helped with the production on the *Transition*. Tay Lee's a producer from Memphis ("Drifting," "The Transition," "Never," and "Flaws Remix.") He delivers a

16 on the "Flaws" remix too. JBM's from Fayetteville ("The Wake Up," "Make Moves," and "Magnetic") Gee Wiz is out of Baltimore ("Welcome Intro", "High," "Gone," and "New Shit.") Wiz is also behind my new EP *Significant Wizdom*, which will be available for free download soon. Haz Solo from Milwaukee ("Afternoon Jazz," and the "Transition" remix.) Haz and I also put out a *Transition Remixes* EP as well. Lucchi's from the Uk ("Pure Pleasure") and TrellMatic from Milwaukee "(What's Going On.)" Each producer has a different sound that worked in the direction I was shooting for so it was definitely a pleasure working with these guys. As an artist for me I'm on an all time "high" when I collaborate with other artists that see my vision and the main thing that matters is the art, that's a beautiful thing! Finding people that see and understand your vision will eliminate a lot of BS out of the gate. Shout out to Darren Cole as well, he directed a few videos for me so check those out as well.

[vimeo]16432896[/vimeo]

### **Why is your album called *The Transition*?**

I named my album *The Transition* because it seemed fitting at the time. I felt my state of mind was different from the previous years. I had evolved and it was important for me not to only show it but also express how I was feeling. With that theory in mind I was listening to Elzhi's *Preface* album one day and the "Transitional joint" came on, I was like that's it, *The Transition*! That's one of my favorite songs. The beat and his flow are flawless.

### **Who are your musical inspirations?**

I have a lot of musical inspirations from jazz to hip hop to rhythm and blues. James Brown, Teddy P, EWF, Marvin Gaye, Mos Def, Elzhi, Pac, PE, Common, The Roots, Jill Scott, and Erykah Badu just to name a few.

### **What's the story behind "Drifting"?**

“Drifting” is about losing yourself in this crazy world. It’s about taking chances while leaving your troubles, and the naysayers behind. “Drifting” is knowing if one door closes, then another one somewhere will open just waiting for you to walk through it. “Drifting” owns up to your mistakes and taking responsibility for them, it’s about conquering fear. I was going through changes with my music and people when the song came about. Tay Lee hit me with the track out of the blue one day, and needless to say it was right on time. The same day he sent the track is the same day I wrote the song. I called my mom up and started reciting it to her. It was like a revelation for me in some ways, and from there the Transition began. I kept a journal I brainstormed a lot of ideas and watched them come into fruition.

**Your style takes it back to the old school of rap, how and why did you choose to express yourself in that way?**

The thing is I’m not trying to sound like no certain style or era but I’m definitely pleased when people say my music has an early 90’s vibe type of hip hop feel to it. That’s not what I’m shooting for but I’ll definitely take it!

**If a major label comes knocking do you think you would compromise your brand?**

It would have to be worth the risk. I’m really watching to see what happens to some of these front-runners putting themselves in certain situations that look bleak from the start. Some of these artists have great potential too but it’s like why would you sign with that label and the last few guys before you that signed still haven’t dropped? I would have to have a good buzz and or hit because that’s the only way they come correct nowadays. I would most definitely rock out with a few Indie labels though.

**Who do you listen to in today’s music?**

I listen to a lot of underground and local music nowadays



since the industry likes to regurgitate so much disposable music. I also listen to a lot of classics and oldies to mellow out.

### **How did you come up with your MC name?**

Signif is short for significant. It just came to me one day while thinking about what my name would be for a while. It was supposed to be spelled Sig Nif like Mos Def but that was too much.

### **How would you describe your style?**

I would describe my style as laid back, realistic, and honest. It really depends on my mood and the tone of the music Iâ€™m working on. My vibe right now is focused on the listeners getting to know me, and where I come from.

### **Have you toured or opened for anyone yet?**

I haven't had the pleasure of touring yet, but I have shared the stage with some notable names. I donâ€™t think that matters when youâ€™re trying to build your own foundation. Itâ€™s like I rocked out with so and so and now Iâ€™m back at my 9-5 the next morning. I donâ€™t want to use the same recipe that so many rappers are using to try to gain exposure.

### **Where do you want to go with your career?**

Honestly. I want to reach as many people as I can, if I can make a good living off of my music I'll be more than happy.