

Freddie Gibbs & The Alchemist Share 1995 From Upcoming Alfredo 2

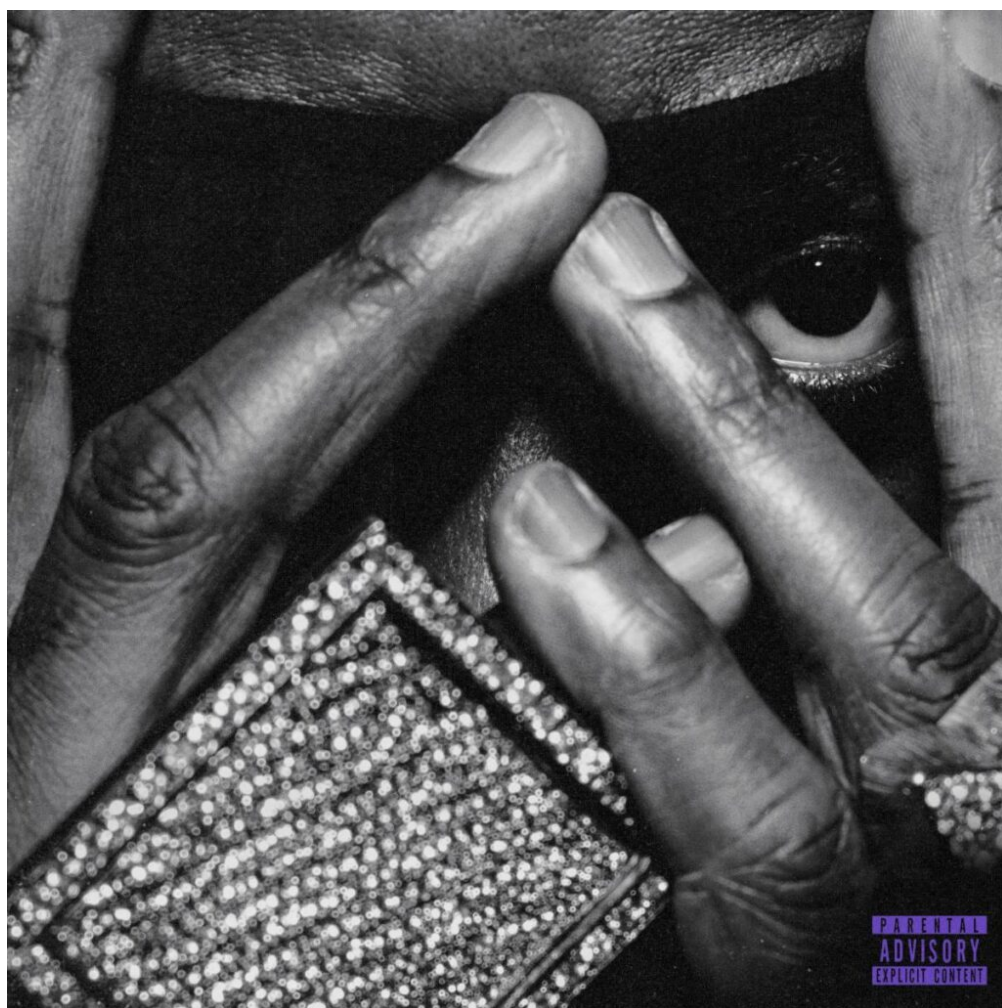


Credit: Nick Walker

Freddie Gibbs and The Alchemist are following up their *Alfredo* album with *Alfredo 2*. Today they share "1995" from the project and *Alfredo: The Movie*. A select group of fans attended a screening of the film yesterday at Brain Dead Studios in Los Angeles. Nick Walker directed the movie, which takes place in Japan and sees the rapper and producer playing the roles of noodle masters and underworld bad guys. Gibbs has been comfortable in front of the camera since his critically acclaimed performance in *Down With The King*. *Alfredo 2* will be released this Friday, five years after they debuted *Alfredo*. One hundred fans were able to procure signed vinyl copies of the album last weekend during an event at HVW8 Gallery in Los Angeles that was sponsored by Rotation, a Black music brand with Amazon. Gibbs raps about his steady come-up that moved

him from being a grinding underground rapper to a presence on Netflix in “1995.” The Alchemist has been busy working on an album with Erykah Badu, which shows three decades of relevance as a producer. *Alfredo II* promises to be as rugged as the Grammy-nominated initial release and “1995” delivers on Gibbs’ brand of no-nonsense, but at times humorous, street-inspired rhymes.

Slick Rick Claims Victory



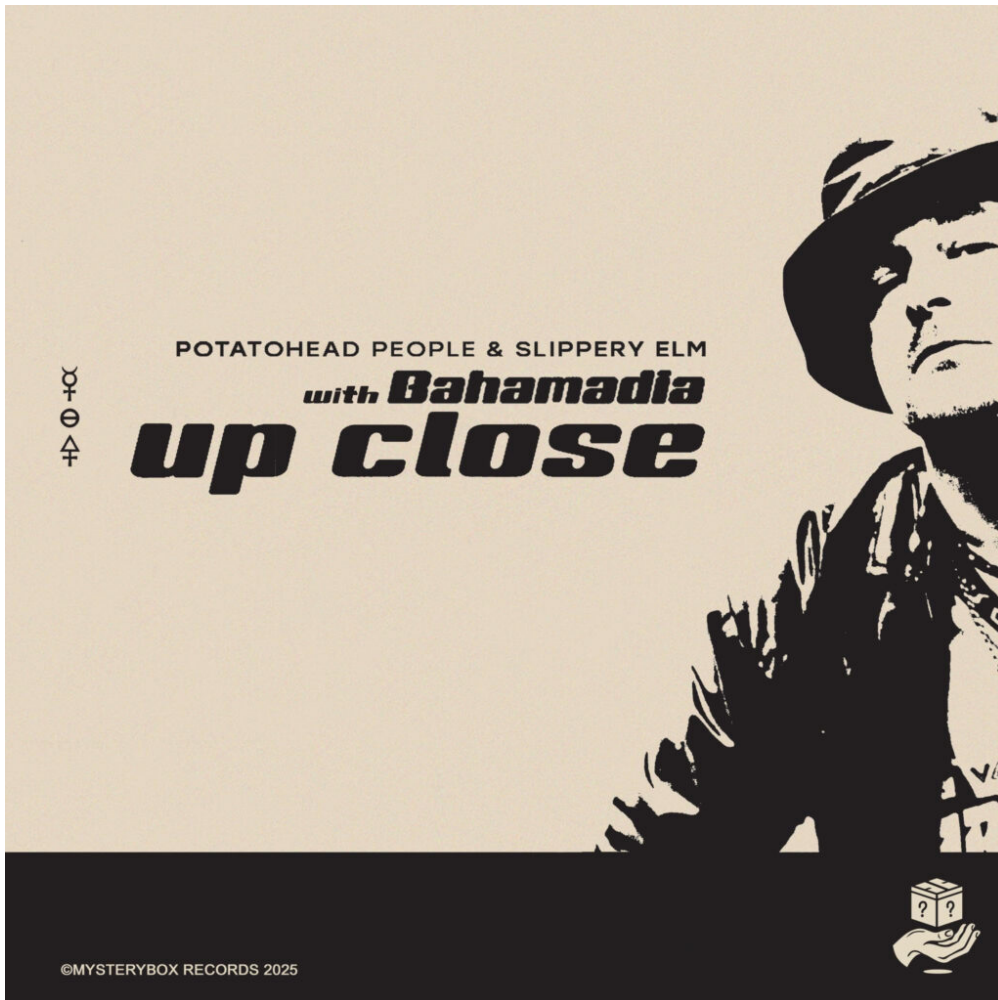
Slick Rick the Ruler has reemerged with his *Victory* album after an almost three-decade hiatus. Clocking in at 27

minutes, Rick gives a condensed version of the storytelling that made him a legend in the '80s. The guest list includes British rapper Giggs, who makes an appearance on the smooth but frantic "Stress." Nas fulfills a personal dream and joins Rick on the album standout, "Documents." Rick's "Landlord" lists some of the headaches of being a New York City property owner with humor, frustration, and resilience. Q-Tip, who had an amazing 2024 producing LL Cool J's F.O.R.C.E., creates another Gen X moment as the producer of "Another Great Adventure," which taps the nostalgia of Rick's 1988 classic debut album.

Idris Elba is an executive producer and his 7Wallace label with Mass Appeal partnered to release *Victory*. The visual component is a continuous play of vignettes for each song. *Victory* feels brief and at times thin but legends are always given grace, especially when they are a foundational artist in the genre. The album is another sign along with MC Lyte, LL Cool J, Ice Cube, Kwamé, Public Enemy, The Roots, Snoop Dogg, and Dr. Dre, Generation X is not done expressing themselves with hip-hop. In the case of Slick Rick, he triumphs by staying true to his muse instead of pandering to a new generation. He managed to release an album in his sixth decade that still sounds like home.

Bahamadia, Slippery Elm & The

Potatohead People Are Up Close



Philadelphia's Bahamadia has connected with Canadian producers Potatohead People and their fellow countryman, singer-rapper Slippery Elm for "Up Close." The '90s underground legend's flow is still smooth and unbothered after all these years. She maps out the plan for an intimate relationship with each step explained verse by verse. The vibe of "Up Close" is very similar to Slum Village's flavor and Slippery Elm even enunciates like Young RJ. The single is included on Potatohead People's *Emerald Tablet* album that comes out on July 11th.

LL Cool J Releases Video For 30 Decembers Feat. The Overlordian

LL Cool J has new visuals from his native New York City in the video for “30 Decembers,” featuring The Overlordian. He takes a tour of the subway, Queens, and Manhattan and realizes how much things have changed literally over the time span of 30 Decembers. The subway no longer uses tokens and people no longer read newspapers because they are playing with their smartphones. He can walk around freely because he has on a mask. This is the latest video from *The FORCE* that was released in 2024 and is exclusively produced by Q-Tip and one of the best albums of LL’s career.