

Pete Rock's New Album



Legendary hip hop producer Pete Rock is preparing for the release of his new album, NY's Finest, on February 26 via Nature Sounds records.

The album is his first in four years, and was produced almost entirely by Pete Rock, with one track contributed by producer Green Lantern.

"I called it [NY's Finest] because I feel like that's me. I'm one of New York 's finest producers," Pete Rock explains.

In fact, not only is Pete Rock one of New York 's finest producers, but the album itself is one of Pete Rock's finest creations. He even pays homage to the classic James Brown double-disc, Hell, with the cover art.

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Ishmael Reed On The Clintons

During Bill Clinton's first run for President, I appeared on a New York radio panel with some of his black supporters, including Paul Robeson, Jr., son of the actor and singer. I said that Clinton had character problems. They dismissed my comments and said that I didn't know anything about politics and should stick to writing novels. (Clarence Page, who has monopoly on the few column inches and airtime made available to black columnists by the corporate media, said the same thing about me. I should stick to creative writing and leave

politics alone.)

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Talib Kweli Talks To The Detroit Free Press



2007 was a big year for Brooklyn-bred MC Talib Kweli. On New Year's Eve, he released the critically acclaimed "Liberation," his collaboration with Å¼ber-producer Madlib, free on the Internet and followed that up with "Eardrum," a summer release that debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard 200. The masterful "Eardrum" beautifully bangs between mainstream sensibilities and underground edge and is Kweli's first album on his own label, Blacksmith Records (with distribution through Warner Bros). As 2008 begins, Kweli is on top of his game and pushing his two artists: female flow queen Jean Grae and West Coast group Strong Arm Steady. Fans, meanwhile, hope the 10-year anniversary of his breakout classic, "Black Star" (with Mos Def and DJ Hi-Tek), may bring the three back together on wax or live. Kweli recently rapped with the Free Press.

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Michigan's Own One Be Lo To Release New Album Independently



Brooklyn, NY (January 15, 2008) Successful and independent emcee, producer, and business man, One Be Lo will be releasing his second solo album, The R.E.B.I.R.T.H. via his own Subterraneous Records and Integral Music Group on February 19th, 2008. The R.E.B.I.R.T.H., (Real Emcees Bring Intelligent Rhymes to Hip-Hop) is the end product of growth and the obstacles he's overcome since the release of his last album, S.O.N.O.G.R.A.M., which sold over 22,000 units in 2005.

Over the past three years, One Be Lo has kept his ear to the street and his eyes on the prize. A self-empowered artist, Lo has used his business savvy and work ethic to rise above some of the challenges he faced in recent years, which included dealing with shady business partners and phony cohorts, and amicably splitting with his former record label, Fat Beats Records. Instead of dwelling on these unfortunate situations, Lo focused his attention on being pro-active; he toured the world, set up a professional recording studio in his basement, and reached out to collaborate with other producers for the first time in his career. Says Lo, "My focus is stronger, and I'm hungrier than ever before. Whereas before, I was truly a 'one man army,' now I'm delegating responsibilities to a very competent team."

One Be Lo, also known as OneManArmy, first gained recognition in the late 90's as one half of the group Binary Star. Their final release, Masters of the Universe, sold over 30,000 units and at one point, fetched \$90-350 on Ebay. After the group

disbanded, several labels engaged in a bidding war for One Be Lo. The winning label was Fat Beats, who released the incredibly successful album, S.O.N.O.G.R.A.M., which thrust Lo in the national spotlight. The upcoming album, The R.E.B.I.R.T.H., is the end product of personal growth and the obstacles he's overcome. Armed with more business savvy, a hand picked supporting team, and a newfound hunger, Lo carefully cultivated 12 amazing songs, each with a distinct flavor held together by the unmistakable One Be Lo flow and wordplay. Now, officially declaring himself "a free agent," Lo is interested in collaborating with other artists and, if it fits, a new label home.

Track Listing of The R.E.B.I.R.T.H.

1. Rebirth
2. Born & Raised
3. Keep It Rollin'
4. Smash
5. Headlines
6. War
7. Don't Sleep
8. House Rules
9. Snap Shot
10. The G Gap
11. Hip Hop Heaven

One Be Lo's MySpace page:

<http://www.myspace.com/OneBeLo>