

# Phat Kat Representing Motor City To the Fullest With New Album Entitled Carte Blanche



Brooklyn, NY April 23, 2007) Detroit native Phat Kat, aka Ronnie Cash, is set to release his second solo album, Carte Blanche on May 8th on Look Records. Carte Blanche marks the first time Phat Kat was given total creative control to cherry-pick the best beats and the best emcees to work with. The result is an example of the finest in Hip-Hop Detroit has to offer.

In the early 90's Phat Kat, the emcee also known as Ronnie Cash, was busy making his first album in the basement of his buddies' mom's house. The group was called First Down and his partner was Jay Dee, now known as legendary DJ/producer J Dilla (R.I.P.). Since then, Phat Kat has become a permanent heavyweight on the Detroit scene. He appeared on the Representing The Streets compilation with the now-classic "Front Street," contributed to albums by Dilla and Slum Village, and in 2004, after inking a deal with Barak, he released his first solo album The Undeniable LP. Phat Kat is now set to release a new solo effort entitled Carte Blanche.

Phat Kat speaks of major players in the rise of Detroit such as Proof, Eminem, D12 and Dilla with the insight of a sibling. "We all knew Detroit hip-hop had some real lyricists, more than the drug dealing, violent types that everyone assumed Detroit would be full of, and whether it was in 5 or 15 years the songs we were putting down would get their due. Unfortunately for Dilla, he had to be gone for people to come

out and say he was the greatest. I've always said that," says Phat Kat. In the wake of Dilla's passing and with the national spotlight securely focused on Detroit Hip-Hop for more than a minute now, Phat Kat puts it on his shoulders "To give the world a crash course of Detroit Hip-Hop. This is what it is." Almost everyone associated with Carte Blanche represents the D. Dilla contributes five tracks, but the work of up-and-coming producers Nick Speed, Young RJ, and Black Milk is just as impressive. Other guests include SV's Elzhi and T3, Truth Hurts, Melanie Rutherford, Fat Ray, Loe Louis and Guilty Simpson. Rather than pursuing cameos and features from overexposed stars, Phat Kat chose instead to work with his peoples from the D, figuring "The people I got on my album is just as hot as people that's out."

Detroit Hip-Hop appears to be a mainstay on the mantle of Hip-Hop's elite cities. Phat Kat has been in the mix before it was on anyone's radar and associated with all the major players thereafter. With Carte Blanche, Phat Kat delivers an album that gives us all we've come to appreciate about Detroit MCs: it is intricate but still intimate, hardcore but still lyrical. Along the way, we are introduced to the up-and-coming torchbearers of Detroit Hip-Hop and we are also given another chance to vibe with a fallen legend. Carte Blanche will be released on May 8th on San Francisco based Look Records.

Phat Kat's MySpace page:

[read more](#)

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# Book Review: Total Chaos



Hip-Hop's transformation from an organic folk culture bred in the Bronx with roots in Afro-diasporic cultural practices into a commercially-successful zeitgeist of cool has put a lot of the artform's core values at stake. After 30 years of popping, scratching, emceeing, tagging, Phat Farm, Def Jam, BET and The Source questions of hip-hop's death, authenticity and its ability to empower future hip-hop heads are some of the concerns addressed in Total Chaos. Veteran hip-hop journalist Jeff Chang who's *Cant Stop Wont Stop* history of hip-hop earned him the Deems Taylor award last year assembled various practitioners to tease out these arguments about the past/present/future of hip-hop. Understanding the cultural rhythm of hip-hop by dissecting its creed seems to be the adventure of hip-hoppers 30 and over. The fans who lack the intimate knowledge of the Golden Era and before don't gripe as much about the various turns corporate politics has created in the mainstream distributions of the music. Some argue that times have changed and the old guards of the art need to accept the new voices and their values which reflect contemporary times. Nas's declaration that hip-hop is dead has stirred this conversation both ways and it situates the concerns of Chang's book which hopes to dismantle hip-hop's canon from the inside. Chang's interview with Tim'm West and Juba Kalamka tramples the official idea that hip-hop is heterosexual art. The two founders of the Bay Area homohop group Deep Dick Collective address the invisible queer history of hip-hop by their presence and discussion of downlow boys in the cipher and gay visual pioneers Keith Haring and Jean Michael Basquiat. Long before the praises of hypermasculinity hip-hop heads and house music lovers shared the same dance floor but openly gay emcees are still new to the mainstream. You can "hear" the chip on their shoulders obviously coming from the irony that hip-hop was a response from the powerless to take power and by the early '90s the artform was mimicking its original oppressor.

Accomplished graffiti writers Cey Adams and Brent Rollins argue that the same big company attitude that has enveloped hip-hop has caused its commercial art direction to suffer as well. From spray-painting trains to pen and pixel images and

the popularity of professional photo-editing software Photoshop, hip-hop's visuals have been cheapened. Snoop's Doggystyle is cited as the best example of poor illustration thanks to nepotism (his cousin did it) and Public Enemy's Fear Of A Black Planet's superior visuals and sales captured the awe of record companies, fans and fellow artists. As much as the computer is derided for making lesser quality optical outings cheesiness has always had its place in hip-hop one specific example being the Jazzy Jeff and Fresh Prince second album cover. The usual issue of misogyny in gangsta rap is traced to its roots in American stereotypes about Black women by Joan Morgan and Mark Anthony Neal. They compare notes from racist ideologies of the red-hot mamas to the words and actions of male rappers and journalists. Morgan's previously unknown admission that Mike Tyson's rape trial was handled by tax lawyers who cast him as a small-brained big phallus-carrying animal explains why hip-hoppers of both genders need to leave the hypermasculinity and hoedom alone. By the end of the book Chang successfully travels over several mini histories of hip-hop that answers Nas's decalaration with proof of hip-hop's life in crisis not death. KRS-One said that Nas's stance was more of a warning than a definitive casket-closing. These essays within the anthology stake out problem areas in the music and culture that can be healed and force hip-hop to turn on its head and reclaim its insurgent but fun spirit.

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## **Brother Ali's "Undisputed**

# First Week”



AN INCREDIBLE FIRST WEEK FOR AN INDEPENDENT ARTIST WITH...

#6 ON BILLBOARD INDIE CHART  
#24 BILLBOARD RAP ALBUMS  
#48 BILLBOARD R&B/HIP HOP ALBUMS  
#69 ON BILLBOARD TOP 200 (10,781 SOLD)  
#1 SELLING ALBUM IN MINNEAPOLIS (2028 UNITS)  
#3 HIP HOP RELEASE ON ITUNES  
#63 TOP 100 ON ITUNES

Brother Ali’s new album “The Undisputed Truth,” released April 10th on Rhymesayers, has taken off to an amazing start! Soundscan reports have charted first week sales at an impressive 10,781, making “The Undisputed Truth” the #1 selling album in Minneapolis, #69 on the Billboard Top 200, #6 on Billboard’s Indie chart, #24 Billboard Rap Albums, #48 Billboard R&B/Hip Hop Albums, peaking at #63 on iTunes Top 100, and also charting as the #3 hip-hop release on iTunes.

Brother Ali’s buzz is certain to build with his national headlining tour in full swing. His dates continue throughout June (including a show at Coachella) and are selling out fast, so be sure to catch his intense live show with Rhymesayers labelmate Psalm One.

WATCH THE NEW MUSIC VIDEO FOR BROTHER ALI’S “UNCLE SAM GODDAMN” HERE:

[read more](#)

ON “The Undisputed Truth”:

“Ali fuses formidable mic skills and unvarnished honesty...with a voice that veers between the tremolo authority of a

storefront preacher and a syrupy baritone suited for a Mississippi Delta juke joint"- VIBE

Brother Ali's got that sound, that drive, that believability and, crucially, that affection-inspiring passion on The Undisputed Truth. -LA WEEKLY

"If his first album, Shadows on the Sun – one of 2003's best hip-hop releases – was meant to introduce Ali to his would-be fan base, The Undisputed Truth – which sees Ali's life taking a total 180 – seals the damn deal." URB (four star album review)

"Producer Ant perfectly underscores Ali's gruff cadence, simultaneously self-assured and stressed, with a melodic lope that scrunches soul vocals underneath loops of bluesy guitar." -SPIN (four star album review)

"Brother Ali, Rhymesayers' righteous albino wordsmith, is a powerhouse who spits tricky rhymes with the force and consistency of a steel piston." -XLR8R

#### UPCOMING TOUR DATES:

THU-APR-19 MENOMONIE, WI BLUE DEVIL LOUNGE

FRI-APR-20 MADISON, WI HIGH NOON SALOON

SAT-APR-21 CHICAGO, IL SUBTERRANEAN

SUN-APR-22 BLOOMINGTON, IN BLUEBIRD

MON-APR-23 ST. LOUIS, MO WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

TUE-APR-24 LOUISVILLE, KY UNCLE PLEASANTS

WED-APR-25 ANN ARBOR, MI BLIND PIG

FRI-APR-27 INDIO, CA COACHELLA

SAT-APR-28 COLUMBUS, OH SKULLY'S MUSIC DINER

SUN-APR-29 CLEVELAND, OH GROG SHOP

TUE-MAY-01 BURLINGTON, VT HIGHER GROUND LOUNGE

WED-MAY-02 BOSTON, MA MIDDLE EAST

THU-MAY-03 NEW YORK, NY KNITTING FACTORY

FRI-MAY-04 PHILADELPHIA, PA THE CHURCH

SAT-MAY-05 BALTIMORE, MD OTTOBAR

SUN-MAY-06 CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA STARR HILL  
TUE-MAY-08 CARRBORO, NC CATS CRADLE  
WED-MAY-09 WILMINGTON, NC SOAP BOX  
THU-MAY-10 MT. PLEASANT, SC VILLAGE TAVERN  
FRI-MAY-11 ORLANDO, FL THE SOCIAL  
SAT-MAY-12 ATLANTA, GA DRUNKEN UNICORN  
MON-MAY-14 BIRMINGHAM, AL THE NICK  
TUE-MAY-15 NEW ORLEANS, LA PARISH @ HOB  
WED-MAY-16 AUSTIN, TX EMOS LOUNGE  
THU-MAY-17 ALBUQUERQUE, NM LAUNCHPAD  
FRI-MAY-18 TUCSON, AZ CLUB CONGRESS  
SAT-MAY-19 FLAGSTAFF, AZ ORPHEUM  
SUN-MAY-20 POMONA, CA GLASSHOUSE  
TUE-MAY-22 SAN DIEGO, CA BELLY UP  
WED-MAY-23 LOS ANGELES, CA TROUBADOUR  
THU-MAY-24 SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA DOWNTOWN BREW  
FRI-MAY-25 SAN FRANCISCO, CA SLIMS  
SAT-MAY-26 RENO, NV NEW OASIS  
TUE-MAY-29 EUGENE, OR WOW HALL  
WED-MAY-30 PORTLAND, OR HAWTHORNE THEATRE  
THU-MAY-31 SEATTLE, WA VERA PROJECT  
FRI-JUN-01 BELLINGHAM, WA NIGHT LIGHT  
SAT-JUN-02 MISSOULA, MT THE LOFT  
MON-JUN-04 SALT LAKE CITY, UT URBAN LOUNGE  
TUE-JUN-05 DENVER, CO BLUEBIRD THEATRE  
WED-JUN-06 KANSAS CITY, KS RECORD BAR  
THU-JUN-07 DES MOINES, IA VAUDEVILLE MEWS  
FRI-JUN-08 MINNEAPOLIS, MN FIRST AVENUE

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## **Sly And The Family Stone**

Now that Sly has resurfaced to perform with comedian George

Wallace in Vegas we would like to remind people of how nice  
Sly is!