

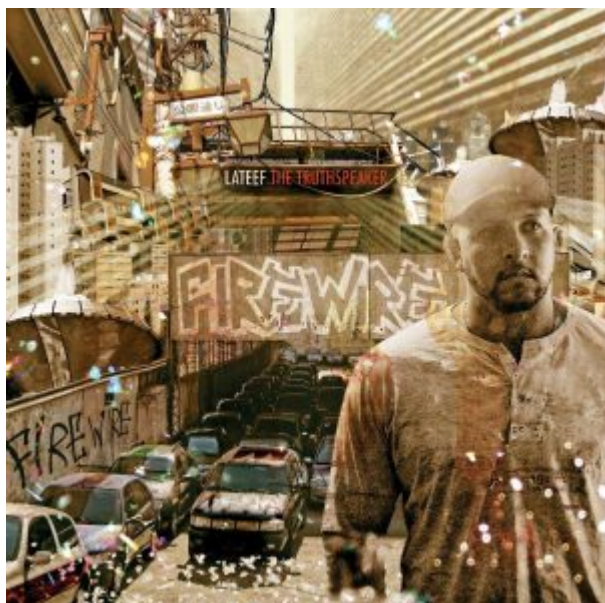
Lateef The Truthspeaker - Truth At Sea Mixtape



Lateef the Truthspeaker's *FireWire* comes out November 8th but until that time he is offering the *Truth At Sea* mixtape as a free download. Several producers are on the tape including Chief Xcel, DJ Shadow, Dan the Automator, Somehow at Sea and Headnodic (Crown City Rockers, Mighty Underdogs). His Bay Area peers Lyrics Born, Del and The Grouch appear as well.

[Download *Truth At Sea*](#)

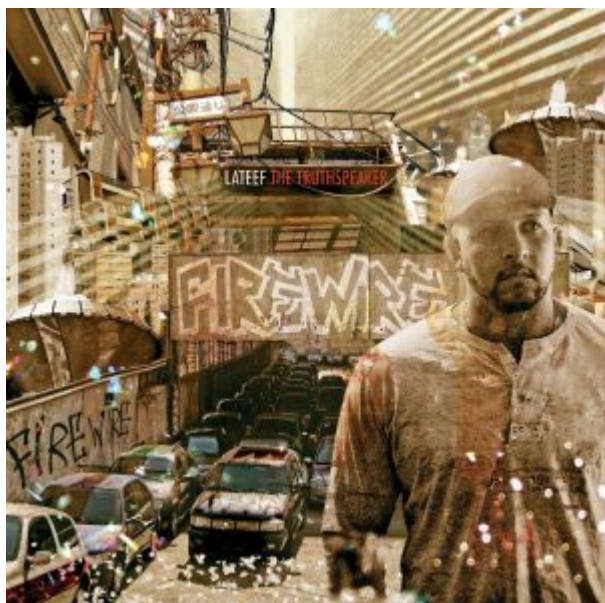
Lateef The Truthspeaker – Oakland (Mocky remix)



Lateef The Truthspeaker just premiered the Mocky remix of “Oakland” that features Del The Funky Homosapien and The Grouch. His Firewire solo debut will be released on November 8th.

[Download “Oakland” \(Mocky Remix\)](#)

**New Lateef The Truthspeaker
LP out 11/8 + 20 years of
Quannum**



Recorded over four months in Oakland, Lateef the Truthspeaker's FireWire brings together some of the best producers in hip-hop on one album, including Chief Xcel, DJ Shadow, Dan the Automator, Somehow at Sea and Headnodic (Crown City Rockers, Mighty Underdogs). Bay Area stalwarts Lyrics Born, Del and The Grouch turn up as well, giving the album a congenial, familial feel. Lateef's debut solo LP is coming via Quannum Projects on November 8th, 2011. In the meantime, listen to the premiere of his "Testimony" single via [Wired Magazine online](#).

On "Testimony," a 1970s AM radio track filtered through squelchy synths, the rapper's reflective, poignant lyrics could double as an overall life mantra. "Somehow I stay smiling/Even with the world swirling with violence/'Cause while no man is an island/I'm still sole proprietor of what's behind my eyelids."

The son of two Black Panthers – his mother was a roommate of famed activist Angela Davis – Lateef was part of an anti-apartheid group at the age of 4; the same age he first hopped on a mic. After co-founding legendary hip-hop collective SoleSides (later renamed Quannum Projects) in the early '90s, Lateef became an integral component in the Bay Area hip-hop scene, co-founding Latyrx (with Lyrics Born), Lateef and the

Chief (with Chief Xcel) and The Mighty Underdogs (with Headnodic and Gift of Gab) and collaborating with everyone from Z-Trip to Fatboy Slim. 2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the Quannum / Solesides family.

FireWire stands as Lateef's most musically ambitious and diverse project to date; the musical equivalent of hip-hopsters, hipsters, dance heads, R&B lovers and unapologetic pop fans all doing shots at the same party. "We The People" opens with a Kraftwerk-style intro before morphing into a New Wave track that would make Gary Numan proud. "Oakland," a heartfelt, candid tribute to Lateef's native city, hits with dirty funk drums, while "Left Alone" fuses Steely Dan-esque '70s rock with retro '80s drum machines. Inspired by everyone from Toro Y Moi to Radiohead, it's as if Lateef found his inner Rakim, Paul Simon, Juan Atkins and R. Kelly simultaneously. "You have to make an album that you like and enjoy performing and that you like to listen to," says the rapper

"I wanted a name that encapsulates the organic and digital aspects of the album," Lateef says of the title. "The album's sonic cohesiveness comes from the marriage of the two sounds. I wanted to showcase both aspects of my versatility in terms of singing and rapping. I'm not D'Angelo or Luther Vandross, but I can definitely carry a tune."

"Social consciousness is integral to all my work. It informs my baseline moral values, politics and my attitude toward propaganda. A lot of those values are out of favor and not as popular as they once were but I'm not afraid to tackle more difficult subject matter or stuff other people may not feel comfortable speaking on." On the DJ Shadow-produced "Say What You Want," for example, Lateef imagines a revenge tale born out of the real-life shooting of his cousin and the death of the shooter at the hands of another cousin.

In the end, talent, intellect and charisma have allowed Lateef

the Truthspeaker to stand on his own two feet; rising past all internal and external challenges. Look out for the new album this fall and be sure to check out Lateef on tour with Latyrx for their reunion shows coming up.

TRACK LISTING

1. Let's Get Up (prod. by Chief Xcel)
2. FireWire Interlude
3. Oakland (feat. Del & The Grouch)
4. Only Thought
5. We the People (prod. by Chief Xcel)
6. Heckuvit
7. Hardship Enterprise (feat. Lyrics Born)
8. So Sexy
9. Testimony
10. Left Alone (prod. by Dan the Automator)
11. Say What You Want (prod. by Shadow)
12. Sara
13. Inside You

LATEEF & LYRICS BORN REUNITE AS LATYRX AFTER 10 YEARS

08/14 San Francisco, CA @ Outside Lands Festival

09/04 Chicago, IL @ North Coast Music Festival