

In 95, hip-hop's self affirming battle cry has been to 'keep it real'. Where did you get your name, and what does it represent for you?

"My name goes back to when I was bangin'. It just represents being me, not trying to be someone else, you know, no gimmicks, just be real. That term ['keep it real'] has been overused and misused. We don't even associate ourselves with it. Usually the people who are saying 'keep it real' are the ones who ain't."

What about the 'Paid in Full' mentality? Is it wrong to concentrate so much on the materialistic money aspect? Is hip-hop losing sight of its spirituality and art, such as breaking and bombing, which seems to have lost out to gangsta ideals of 'bitches and money'?

"To us, music is the most important thing. If you make good music, then people will like it, you'll sell records and you'll get your money. The hip-hop industry is vital as a means to get paid for a lot of niggaz and Latinos that don't have a lot of other options. If you're just making music for the money, with no love for it, then people can see through that. And I'm to old for breaking, I forgot all my moves!"

In what seems to be the hip-hop cliché, you dropped out of school and fell into gang banging. What was it like to live that lifestyle, and how did you get out?

"Intense, you never knew what was going to happen. It was like rolling the dice — maybe you win, maybe you lose. It was a bad time, you know. I was selling drugs and just not thinking about what I was doing to people. One day I rolled the dice and got shot, which starts to make a brother think, and not long after that Muggs and Sen Dogg convinced me to start a group with them."

In hip-hop, at the moment, it's fashionable to smoke and rap about dope, but before you guys came out, hip-hop was pretty much anti-drugs. What happened?

"I think everyone's just jumped on the bandwagon. People are always biting our shit, but dope is dope, if you like it, smoke it."

What about the politics of legalisation? You are a spokesperson for NORML, so you obviously support it. What effects do you think it would have on society?

"Well, I'd like to see decriminalisation, not legalisation. If it were legal, then you don't know what they are going to put in it. You'd have the government and big companies putting chemicals in it, like they do with tobacco, and that's not what it's about."

The new album is called *The Temples Of Boom* which relates to the group's love of chronic and music. Can you elaborate?

"The studio is our temple and everyone's body is their temple. It's just a kind of concept, you know. When you're listening to our album you're locked down in the Temple of Boom."

Your music can be described as paranoid, bleak, ominous, blunted and, er, dark. Where does this darkness come from?

"Just the kind of lives we've come from and are leading. It's a dark world we're living in. Are we paranoid? I'm just aware of my surroundings. Some people get jumped because they are not aware of their surroundings, and where I been, that shit goes down, OK. So, if you're leading a certain lifestyle, you got to watch your back. That's not paranoid, that's smart."

On 'No Rest For The Wicked' you dis Ice Cube. Wassup wit dat?

"We had let him hear 'Throw Your Set In The Air' a long time ago, and he asked if he could put it on the *Friday* soundtrack. We said no, because we wanted to save it for our first single. Two months later, we're listening to 'Friday', and there's a lyric that goes: 'Oh, yeah, throw your neighbourhood in the air,' and he titled Caution's album *South Central Los Scandalous*, which is also from 'Throw Your Set'. He ripped off our terminology."

Have you spoken to him about it?

"Yeah, he denied it. That's typical though, no man wants to admit he bit another man's shit"

Do you expect a rebuttal?

"I would expect nothing less, he has to. He's got to know this is like a war. It's not just gonna be, he says something, we say something. It's not gonna be over until he either admits he bit another niggaz shit, or one of our careers is over."

After all the talk about this album being better than *Black Sunday*, now it's out, what has the reaction been, how do you feel about it, and will there a fourth?

"A lot of people are saying it's more like the first album, and I think its a stronger album than one and two. At the moment, we all have a few side projects happening — Muggs is doing a lot of producing and remixing, I'm working on an animated movie I've written called 'Psycho Realm' — but yeah, at this stage I think there will be another album."

Thanks, B Real. Anything else we should know about?

"Yeah, Cypress Hill will still be in effect for 96. Watch for the Hill tour coming at ya."

ANDY

Reel News

Sticking in the literary mode, **Leonardo DiCaprio** follows his role as Jim Carroll, in forthcoming film *The Basketball Diaries*, by stepping into the shoes of Arthur Rimbaud, in *Total Eclipse*, which co-stars **David Thewliss** ... eager to prove he's more than simply sex on a stick, **Brad Pitt** gave himself a home haircut for his part as a wealthy eccentric activist in *Twelve Monkeys*, a time-travel tale directed by **Terry Gilliam**. Pitt follows this up with a part in *Sleepers*, based on the book by Lorenzo Carcaterra. The story follows four friends whose lives take different paths after their harsh experiences as juvenile delinquents. The Pittster will also co-star alongside **Harrison Ford** in *Devil's Own*, which is about a cop who unknowingly shelters an IRA terrorist ... **John Travolta** is joined by **Rene Russo**, **Gene Hackman** and **Danny DeVito** in the screen version of Elmore Leonard's book *Get Shorty*. DeVito also produces, and **Barry Sonnenfeld** directs ... filming has begun on **Jane Campion's** adaptation of the Henry James novel *Portrait of a Lady*. The cast includes **Nicole Kidman**, **Barbara Hershey**, **John Malkovich**, **Christian Bale**, **Mary-Louise Parker** and **Martin Donovan** ... **Anjelica Huston** is to reprise her Best Supporting Actress Oscar winning role in *Prizzi's Honour* in the prequel, *Prizzi's Family*. She will also be reunited with ex-husband **Jack Nicholson** in **Sean Penn's** *The Crossing Guard* ... an American remake of **Pedro Almodovar's** *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* is on the way ... **Kenneth Branagh** will direct and act in a film adaptation of *Hamlet* ... **Jeremy Irons** and **Melanie Griffith** have signed up for **Adrian Lyne's** continuously delayed remake of *Lolita* ... **Robert DeNiro** will star in *Affirmative Action* as a cop who gets tangled up with a bunch of LA right-wing extremists ...

Liz Hurley will join **Leslie Nielsen** for the action spoof *Spy Hard* ... the 'it' girl of the moment, **Sandra Bullock**, has just finished filming *Two if by the Sea* with 'Asshole' man **Denis Leary**. She has also signed on for *A Time to Kill* ... following the recently completed *Beyond Rangoon*, **Patricia Arquette** will play an English woman in *The Secret Agent*, based on the book by Joseph Conrad and co-starring **Gerard Depardieu**, **Bob Hoskins** and **Robin Williams**; the wife of physicist Richard Fienman, who helped create the atom bomb, in **Matthew Broderick's** directorial debut, *Infinity* (Broderick also co-stars); and take a place in *Spanking the Monkey* director **David Russell's** forthcoming farce, *Flirting With Disaster*, which co-stars **Ben Stiller**, **Mary Tyler-Moore**, **George Segal** and **Lily Tomlin** ... **Spike Lee's** newest film, *Girl 6*, stars **Theresa Randle**, **Madonna**, **Quentin Tarantino**, **Debi Mazar**, **Naomi Campbell**, **Richard Belzer**, **Peter Berg**, **Halle Berry** and the director himself ... **Clive Barker's** new film is *Lord of Illusions*, starring **Scott Bakula**.



Jim Carroll & Leonardo DiCaprio

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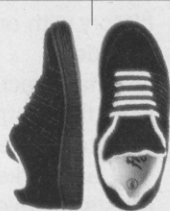
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