

DILATED PEOPLES Biography

Don't be fooled by the title of Dilated Peoples' latest release, "Expansion Team." This trio is far from new to the game.

Having already stomped their footprints into hip-hop's official underground scene, leading LA's hip-hop renaissance, Evidence Rakaa (Iriscience), and Babu are about to take it to the next level and establish a new platform for themselves.

Evidence explains, "An expansion team is a new team in the league. We're coming into the game. We've been doing this for a while, but this is our major league run."

Though "Expansion Team" marks Dilated Peoples' second major label release, it is still hip-hop in its purist form. With their usual blend of hip-hop elements (Mcing, Djing, and graffiti writing), the LA-natives have expanded their sound to appeal to the masses,

"This album was recorded as a complete piece, so it will show more continuity and flow," says Rakaa, of the careful recording process that went into the record. "We have a broader range of topics to speak on. We're still showing our wordplay and battle rhyme skills, but on this record, we tried to stay away from doing just that. It's more concept-driven. We're still the same machine, just more oiled," Rakaa assures.

And the explanation is the science behind the soon-to-be anthem "Worst Comes To Worst." Produced by Alchemist, a close member of Dilated's extended family, the song shows Dilated at it best, complete with clever rhymes and a sophisticated backdrop. Evidence remarks, "It's a feel good record. We went through 100 beats and this is the one we picked."

In addition to handling their own production, Dilated has enlisted the help of a couple of East and Left coast heavy hitters, including the beat maestro himself DJ Premier, to add their expertise to "Expansion Team."

Dilated recruited Da Beatminerz to blaze "Trade Money" and on the Juju (of Beatnuts fame) produced "Self Defense," the crew kicks battle rhymes that will have heads hitting their rewind button. Guest vocalists include Black Thought of the Roots on the Babu-produced "Hard Hitters" and Tha Liks on "Heavy Rotation" produced by Evidence.

Widely recognized for their solid performance skills, the group transfers that energy onto wax with "Live On State." On "Dilated Junkies," Babu showcases his ill-turntablism, making Expansion Team a more complete rap music experience.

Dilated Peoples will continue to build bridges that connect hip-hop purists to the masses. Babu sums up, "I feel like this is our first album. It's an album of all three minds on the same path. The growth is tremendous. I think it's going to open new ears, while still being true to original base."