

# OMEGA RED

## HIGHLIGHTS

2008 "TURN IT AROUND" SINGLE  
FT. RAY J

2008 "SHE LOVES IT" SINGLE  
PRODUCED BY DETAIL OF KONVICT MUSIC

2008 "MY ENDZ" SINGLE  
PRODUCED BY DETAIL OF KONVICT MUSIC

2007 NE URBAN MUSIC AWARDS  
RAP ARTIST OF THE YEAR

2007 MIC AWARDS  
NOMINEE LYRICIST OF THE YEAR

2007 "MAGIC" SINGLE

2007 "FOREVER YOUNG" SINGLE

2007 MIXTAPE RELEASE  
THE RED TAPE VOL. II  
HOSTED BY DJ SAMMY SMOOVE

BOSTON GLOBE  
ARTS FEATURE ARTICLE  
"PUTTING THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER"  
APRIL 13 2007

2006 NE URBAN MUSIC AWARDS  
RAP ARTIST OF THE YEAR

2006 NE URBAN MUSIC AWARDS  
JUGGANAUTZ  
PRODUCER CO. OF THE YEAR

2006 MIC AWARDS  
NOMINEE LYRICIST OF THE YEAR

2006 NEMO  
HIP HOP SHOWCASE FEATURE

2005 SCION NEXT UP COMPETITION  
TOP TEN FINALIST

2005 SOURCE MAGAZINE  
BEST OF THE BEST MIXTAPE FEATURE

2005 MIXTAPE RELEASE  
THE RED TAPE VOL. 1  
HOSTED BY DJ ROY BARBOZA

2004 "SOUL CLAP" SINGLE

2004 "IS U HOLD'N" SINGLE





**Contact:**

Thanousone "Pitt" Volarat  
Stay Grindin' Inc.  
304 Newbury Street #537  
Boston MA 02115

tvolarat@staygrindin.com  
860-838-7168

[www.omegaredstar.com](http://www.omegaredstar.com)  
[www.myspace.com/omegared](http://www.myspace.com/omegared)

---

*"If I haven't experienced it, I don't want to write about it."*

**- Omega Red**

As music artist, producer and arranger Omega Red, otherwise known as Robert Grant, has refined his blend of reality rap that has earned him critical acclaim and wide spread appeal. Omega Red has an infectious charisma on and off stage and is known for his dynamic live performances, whether he is backed by DJs or rock bands.

Omega Red started 2008 recording the single **"Turn It Around"** featuring **Ray J**. Following up with the success of this record, Omega Red has recorded two singles **"She Loves It"** and **"My Endz"** produced by **Detail of Konvict Music**. Presently Omega Red is in the studio with **Snoop Dog's Bam Tha Bo\$\$** and **Knockout Entertainment's Shorty Mac**.

Omega Red is a two time recipient of the **New England Urban Music Awards Rap Artist of The Year** (2006-2007). Omega Red is also a two time nominee for **Lyricist of The Year** by the **Massachusetts Industry Committee Awards** (2006-2007). Omega Red's musical impact in the Boston scene has not gone unnoticed by the **Boston Globe**, which did a major feature on him in April 2007.

Omega Red's music singles **"Soul Clap"**, **"Magic"** and **"Forever Young"** have been spun by radio and club DJ's nation wide. He has also maintained his exposure through the release of two mix tapes, one of which was hosted by Boston's JAMN 94.5 DJ **Roy Barboza**. Omega Red has been featured in **Source Magazine** and was a top ten finalist in the **Scion Next Up** competition.

Growing up in the streets of Beantown, Omega Red had previously led a troubled life. Realizing that he did not want to be another statistic, Omega Red changed his environment and joined the U S Air Force. His service introduced him to many cultures, which ultimately influenced his perception of music and the world.

With his string of recent successes, Omega Red remains humble and keeps close to his roots. Omega Red mentors youth in Hip Hop culture through Boston's Citizens Schools, an after school education collaborative.

Fans of Omega Red's seem to identify to his pain, joy and laughter about his life story. In the process, he has attracted a large female fan base that is steadily growing in numbers throughout the East coast, which makes him a street credible renaissance man.

Omega Red is co-founder and a principal for music entertainment company **Stay Grindin' Inc.** and is co-founder of the award winning production group **The Juggernautz**. Omega Red honed his craft of rapping from major influences such as LL Cool J, Big Daddy Kane and Jay Z. Make no mistake, Omega Red lyrical flow and music has an undeniable distinctive and remarkable sound and he is committed to winning over audiences around the world.

THE EXCLUSIVE LIL' KIM INTERVIEW YOU'LL ONLY FIND HERE!

# THE SOURCE

FOR MUSIC, CULTURE & POLITICS

## LIL' KIM DEMANDS RESPECT & DELIVERS THE TRUTH

DJ QUIK JUSTIFIES HIS THUG

DAVID BANNER: A CONSCIOUS PIMP GETS CERTIFIED

2005 FALL GAMING PREVIEW

D'S BACK FLANGIN'

LAWYER SACHS IS CASE

## BEST OF THE BEST OFS

THIS MONTH'S HOTTEST STREET ALBUMS AND UNDERGROUNDS



**GRINDTIME & DJ SENSE OF THE APHILLIATES PRESENT THE KILLER STARRING KILLER MIKE**

The outcast of OutKast is back to set the streets on fire in anticipation of his sophomore release Chetto Extraordinary. He easily shows why he's arguably one of the best lyricists in the game and why he's got the support of all the real players Down South.



**J. PERIOD PRESENTS THE BEST OF LAURYN HILL, VOL. 1 FIRE & 2 WATER**

With the Fugees reunion looking more like a reality instead of a mirage, J. Period has put together a mix of Ms. Hill's best live, album and freestyle performances and collaborations. While fans wait—hopefully not in vain—this spiritual mix lets us know why she's the sweetest thing Hip-Hop has ever known.



**SO SO DEF & DJ ENVY PRESENT T. WATERS: FLOOD WATCH**

T. Waters aims to prove why he's the future of So So Def. Whether kicking some player verses for the females or showcasing his G on the mic, Waters is making the kiddie-rap persona of the label seem like a thing of the faraway past. J.D. looks to be



**OMEGA RED: THE RED TAPE VOL. ONE**

Boston's Omega Red sets tracks ablaze and shows off his lyrical dexterity with his latest street banger. Spitting gangsta and introspective rhymes about surviving the game of life, the kid continues to set the record straight about what goes down in the streets of New England.



**DJ CHUCK T PRESENTS YOUNG CITY A.K.A. CHOPPER OVER DUE/THA OFFICIAL MIXX TAPE**

Da Band may be a wrap, but it's just the beginning for Young City, a.k.a. Chopper, as he shows why he's a general in P. Diddy's Bad Boy South movement. Sticking to the G-Code, the N.O. soldier has reloaded with an arsenal of heat.

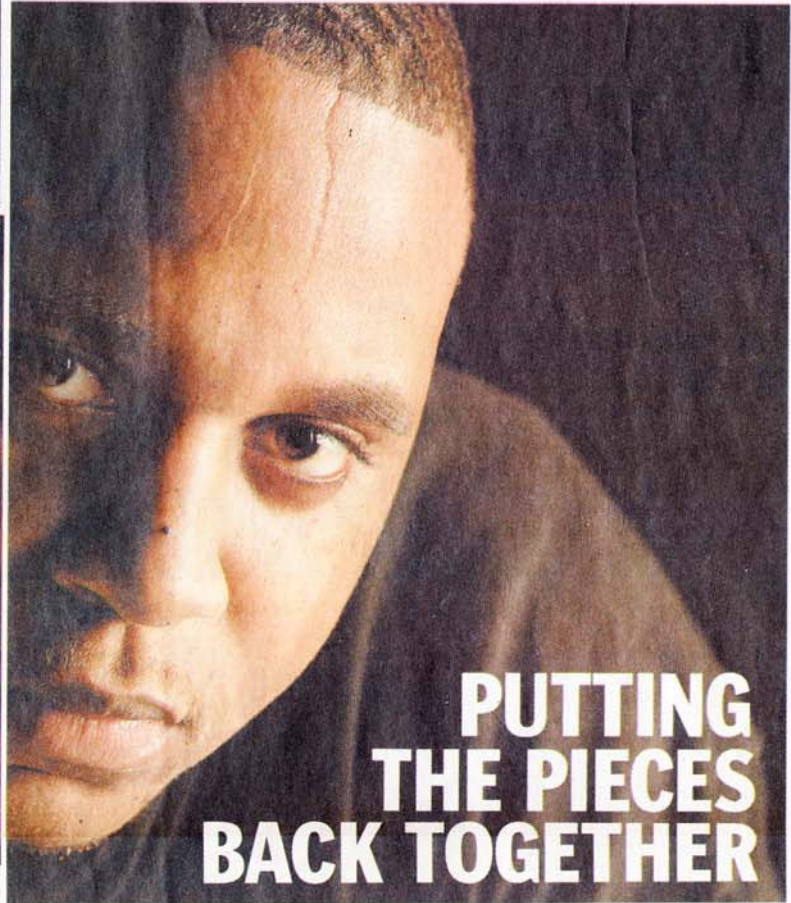
SEAN PAUL, BUJU BANTON & DAMIAN MARLEY ARE GHETTO RED HOT

Package

# The Boston Globe Weekend

Movies • Music • Arts • Performance

THE BOSTON GLOBE FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2007



**PUTTING  
THE PIECES  
BACK TOGETHER**

PHOTOS BY JOSH REYNOLDS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

**AT 28, RAPPER OMEGA RED HAS LEARNED HARD LESSONS.  
NOW HE'S WORKING HARD TO MAKE IT IN MUSIC AND LIFE.**

By Matthew M. Burke  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

he rapper Omega Red is talking about his fall and rise.

"I was given a second start to do it all over again right," he says. Born Robert Grant, the Dorchester-bred artist is up for four awards at the second annual New England Urban Music Awards tomorrow night, including "favorite rap male" and "favorite producer/company" for the Juganautz, a collaborative effort with his manager, Francis Phan. He won both those honors last year at the awards' inaugural event and is the favorite for them again this year. He is also nominated for single of the year for both "Forever Young" and

"Magic."

In addition, the 28-year-old artist's latest mixtape, "The Red Tape Volume II," is selling well online and on the streets. This exposure is bringing him more opportunities to perform. "The music gets out there," he says, "and people just start hitting me up [for gigs]."

But this success has been hard won. That might seem surprising — Grant happens to be the nephew of disco and soul legend Donna Summer. But the rapper has never been one to choose the easy path.

OMEGA RED, Page E15

# Omega Red learns from his mistakes

## ► OMEGA RED

Continued from Page E1

"People think, 'Your aunt's Donna Summer, why haven't you blown up, dog?'" he says. "It doesn't work like that. She'll give me advice, but she's not going to hold my hand. I need to learn like she learned. . . . I want people to say, Red got there because Red got there, not because his aunt put him there."

## LISTEN TO OMEGA RED

Hear his Urban Music

Awards-nominated single "Magic" at [boston.com/clips](http://boston.com/clips)

Red got there because he got there. His journey has taken him around the world in the Air Force, landed him behind bars, and brought him to where he is now, working his hardest to make it in music and in life.

Grant grew up on Ballou Avenue with his mother (Summer's sister), father, two sisters, and a half-brother and half-sister, surrounded by music. His father was an avid jazz fan. Grant took up the saxophone, playing in a jazz quartet as a youth. Fellow Boston hip-hopper Dre Robinson lived nearby; the two used to attend block parties sponsored by the Jamaican community. That Jamaican influence is still evident in his music today. On "The Red Tape Volume II," he teams up with Boston dancehall artist Mighty Mystic for the song "Mardis Gras." The jazz influence remains, too; he sometimes performs live with a full jazz band.

It wasn't until Grant was 7 or 8 years old, when he was introduced to Barbra Streisand and Chaka Khan, that he realized his Aunt Donna was a celebrity. As he grew older and his interest turned from jazz to hip-hop, he began rapping in Summer's West Coast studio with a cousin. Listening to the Sugarhill Gang, Nas, LL Cool J, Run-D.M.C., and Das EFX, he started to get serious about hip-hop when he was about 15. Around that time, Grant moved from Dorchester to the suburbs. He attended Randolph High and befriended Clinton Sparks, now an acclaimed hip-hop DJ and producer, through mutual friends. "My first impression was that he was a quiet, cool kid," Sparks says. "I thought he had potential, but he wasn't rapping the right stuff. . . . He had a Jay-Z swagger before everyone liked Jay-Z. The producer in me came out. I said, that's



JOSH REYNOLDS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

"It's all about taking risks and having passion," says Omega Red (above, during a Boston performance in January).

what you should be catering to."

And Jay-Z is now undeniably an influence on Omega Red (named for an "X-Men" character); his voice, pronunciation, and stage presence evoke the Def Jam president and CEO. His fashionably preppy style — white low-top sneakers, designer jeans, baggy designer T-shirts — echoes Jay-Z's, too. But he's his own performer. His beats show the influence of the West Coast and the South. He puts together simple, laid-back raps and often sings his own hooks. Onstage, he performs with confidence and swagger; offstage he is quiet yet passionate about his pursuit of music.

"It's all about taking risks and having passion," he says. "It's almost addictive. It's a dream, but it could be reality. You see people doing it around you. You just have to find a way to get in that circle of people. That's what keeps me doing it, because I know it can be done."

That can-do attitude may in part be a legacy of his time in the Air Force, which he joined after finishing high school and having his first child. He spent time in Germany, Turkey, Tokyo, and Amsterdam. "I got to experience different cultures and lifestyles, so it was a good thing," he says. "I was learning about many different world cultures and about life itself."

After an honorable discharge in 1998, Grant decided to focus on a career in hip-hop. His mind was blown when he discovered the Wu-Tang Clan through Jeff Rivera, an Air Force friend from Staten Is-

land, N.Y., who grew up with members of the influential group. Grant and Rivera started a group together called Underground Madness, and Rivera helped Grant bring his hustle and flow to the next level by teaching him to read the dictionary. "It made me able to articulate myself and gave me a broader choice of words to make a rhyme, without cussing or swearing," Grant says.

He began rapping with the influential Boston hip-hop artist Krumbsnatcha, got married, and focused on fatherhood. (By now he had a second child.) But he also began to get involved in things, he says, he shouldn't have, including distributing drugs. A deal went bad, and he was arrested. Convicted of assault with a dangerous weapon and illegal firearm possession, he was sent to prison.

It was, of course, a dark time. His wife left him. His friends abandoned him. "Everything got taken away," he says.

And yet, he says, being incarcerated probably saved his life. He changed behind bars. While he was in prison, he wrote the lyrics to more than 200 songs. "It made me focus more," he says. "It made me hungrier, stronger, and wiser."

"I really learned who was there for me and who wasn't there for me," he continues. "The people who were pretending to be my friends when I was hustling weren't there for me when I went to jail. That brought me back to my roots, and to the people who really cared about me, to get me through this."

**The New England Urban Music Awards are at Berklee Performance Center tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50, available at the Berklee Performance Center box office; 617-931-2000 or [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com); or [urbanmusicawards.org](http://urbanmusicawards.org).**

Like his famous aunt. "He's come a long way," Summer says by phone from Los Angeles. "I like where he's going. [His music] is connected to his heart. He's trying to learn from his mistakes."

When he got out of jail in 2002, he was ready to take the music world by storm. He began networking, trying to meet every DJ on Boston radio. He eventually connected with Jam'n 94.5 DJ Roy Barboza, who mixed "The Red Tape Volume I," released in December 2005. "Volume II" followed in January of this year, a final chapter of songs written by a man looking deep within himself behind bars. Since his release from prison, Grant has been working to get his life back on track. He returned to school, at the New England Institute of Art in Brookline, hoping to earn his bachelor's degree in audio and media technology. He works two jobs and is intent on being the best father he can to his two daughters, now 9 and 10.

"I was heading down the wrong road," Grant says. "God had something else planned for me. Jail saved me; I'd probably be dead. . . . It's like I lived four lives already."

So whether or not he takes home honors at the Urban Music Awards tomorrow, he's already won. He's recording his next album, "Red October," which he plans to release in October 2008. And Summer says there may even be a collaboration in their future. (Omega Red and his aunt have recorded together in the past, with Summer singing the hooks and Grant rapping, but nothing's been released.)

"I'm very proud of him," Summer says. "If he puts in the time and comes out with greatness, nobody can deny greatness. Robert has some genuine poetry in him."

# the edge

ON SUNDAY



TV  
**EASY DOES IT FOR ANDERSON**

P. 41

# BOSTON Herald



**HITS AND MARISAS**

P. 40

ENTERTAINMENT • ARTS • LIFE • STYLE • FOOD • TRAVEL



www.bostonherald.com

SCENE OF THE RHYME: Chris Conroy of Citizen Schools and his partners from the Boston Youth Hip-Hop Shop outside their Congress Street office along the Fort Point Channel. Left to right are DMoney, Nodoz, DL, Nancia, Cindy Diggs, J-Gomz, Conroy, Omega Red, Marlene Boyette, Castro, Al-jabra and Yusef.

STAFF PHOTO BY MATT STONE

# School of RAP

## Hub students learn from pros in Hip-Hop 101

By CHRIS FARAONE  
**MUSIC**

If you thought Jack Black's "School of Rock" was cool, meet Chris Conroy and his Boston Youth Hip-Hop Shop (BYHHS).

Rather than learning how to headbang and smash guitars, students at eight schools in Boston will spend afternoons this fall writing rhymes and scratching records thanks to the BYHHS.

Overseen by the Boston-based after-school education collaborative

Citizen Schools, the BYHHS doesn't rely on middle-aged suburbanites for lesson plans. For mentors, Conroy has enlisted local big-name rap artists such as Jake the Snake, Omega Red and Akrobatik, who all will perform Tuesday at a BYHHS benefit at the Paradise Lounge.

"We're not just teaching kids to be rappers. There are a lot of people who make livings as producers, promoters and engineers," Snake said. "We're also teaching the background of hip-hop culture to a generation that doesn't know about where this came from."

Conroy, a three-year teaching fellow, developed the BYHHS in response to what he felt was a gap in after-school offerings. While Citizen Schools offers apprenticeships that expose middle-school students to professionals from around Boston, opportunities to meet successful hip-hopppers were limited.

"It's important for kids to learn from members of the larger Boston community, like the lawyers and businessmen who work with kids in other apprenticeships," Conroy said.

See HIP-HOP, Page 36

SEPTEMBER 16, 2007 BOSTON SUNDAY HERALD



**LISTEN AND LEARN: J-Smooth directs students at last year's hip-hop apprenticeship at Gavin Middle School in South Boston.**

## Hip-hop lessons have class

**HIP-HOP, from Page 31**

"But they also need to feel that there are talents and specific skill sets that can help them succeed within their own communities and traditions."

Having grown up in Dorchester, Conroy says hip-hop was a vehicle that helped him learn about himself. Determined to build on that experience by creating a model curriculum, he sought like-minded allies such as Everett rapper J-Smooth, who first met Conroy when he sold him a CD at Downtown Crossing.

With Smooth on board, Conroy introduced the BYHHS at Gavin Middle School in South Boston last September.

"First (Conroy) just asked me if I wanted to come in and talk to the kids," Smooth said. "From there, I just took the ball and ran with it. We had the kids writing songs the first week, making beats the second week, recording on the third week, and by the fourth week they were performing in front of their whole after-school program."

At the end of their 10-week apprenticeship, Smooth's students named themselves the Gavin Go-Gettas and pressed a four-track CD.

"We didn't just give them something positive to do after school," Smooth said. "We gave them a project that they can look back on and say they accomplished something."

Riding on their success at Gavin, Smooth and Conroy convinced Citizen Schools to expand the workshop.

"The support that we've gotten from the hip-hop community has been unbelievable," said Conroy, noting that artists such as Akrobatik, DL, Golden Brown, Lou Armstrong and Blak Madeen volunteered to perform at Tuesday's fund-raiser. "I think that a lot of them were like these kids and they realize the potential in these students."

In addition to rhyme-writing and production, this year's apprenticeships offer lessons in concert photography, music journalism and other less obvious occupations. Neighborhood activist and TOUCH 106.1 FM DJ Cindy Diggs will lead a broadcasting workshop; Boston club promoter Marlene Boyette will teach event planning.

"The main thing is that we want students to see the value of the resources that are right in their own communities," Conroy said.

"I want to help these kids grow as artists," Boston MC and BYHHS volunteer Omega Red said. "A lot of them have the same passion and hunger I had at that age. They're the future. When my generation is done rapping, they can sustain this."

— fara1hiphop@gmail.com

*Boston Youth Hip-Hop Shop Fund Raiser, with DJ On&On, Akrobatik, Golden Brown, the Greater Good, Jake the Snake, DL, Lou Armstrong, Omega Red, Blak Madeen and Nancia, Tuesday at the Paradise Lounge. Tickets: \$10; call 617-562-8800.*



# Rap happy

GET YOUR HIP-HOP ON  
WITH FREE CONCERT, AWARDS SHOW  
AND BBOY COMPETITION



**HIP-HOP AWARDS:** Performing Sunday will be Lyrical, Irv 'Bizznezz' Alcindor and Dana 'Daneja' Bradley, top from left, and Omega Red, above.

By CHRIS FARAONE

**M**usic fans who like everything except rap and country should skip town this weekend.

No, there won't be any line dancing or bull riding on Boston Common. But break dancers, MCs and DJs from across Massachusetts and beyond will descend on Boston for what could be the grandest weekend in local hip-hop history.

Tonight, urban dance squads from as far away as Los Angeles compete in the third annual Battle for BBoy Supremacy at Villa Victoria in the South End.

Tomorrow afternoon, legendary acts Slick Rick and De La Soul join Boston rap stars including Akrobatik and Edo G at the Peace 2007 Hip-Hop Festival on City Hall Plaza.

And Sunday, the Mass Industry Committee (M.I.C.) hosts its second annual hip-hop awards show at the Back Bay Events Center.

Factor in the complimentary after-parties, break-dance battles and performances, and Boston's three-day smorgasbord rivals the summertime rap happenings offered by New York, Chicago or any other hip-hop scene.

"This is a massive weekend for Massachusetts hip-hop," said Cambridge rapper and promoter Lyrical, who helped plan both the City Hall festival and M.I.C. Awards. "We're hoping that even people from outside the state will see this and say, 'Wow, look at what's happening in Boston.' We want everybody to hear the noise that we're making."

It isn't mere coincidence that all these major hip-hop events are going down this weekend. Boston has a close-knit rap community, in which organizers, fans and performers share at least two common goals: to support local hip-hop and promote peace.

"For the local and national acts at the City Hall festival, I



**ON THE MOVE:** Project Move is a headliner at United Styles 3: The Battle for BBoy Supremacy tonight in the South End.

wanted to involve artists who bring the real hip-hop essence," said Lino Delgado, president of Boston's Floor-Lords break-dancing crew and a mastermind behind tomorrow's City Hall blowout.

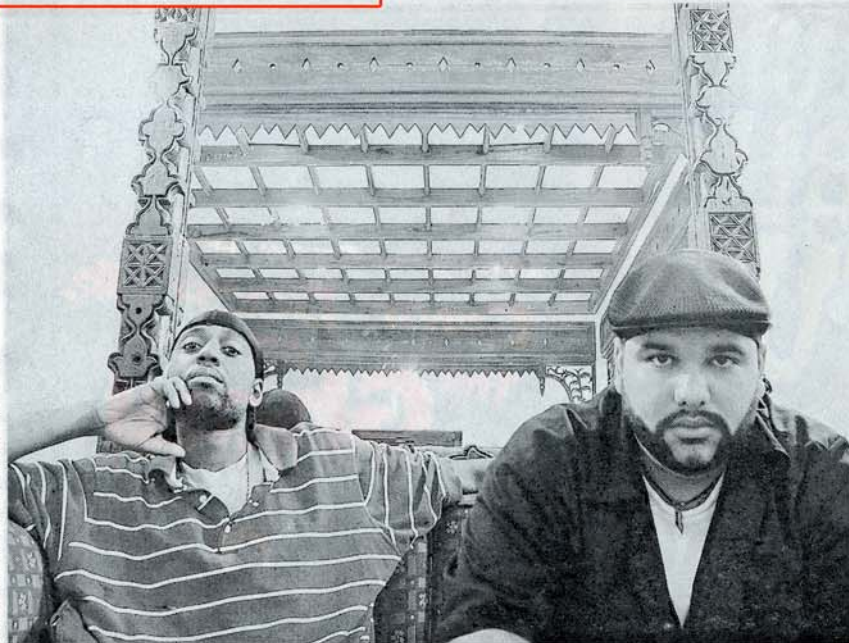
"A lot of hip-hop that kids hear on the radio these days is negative," Delgado said. "We want them to see that rappers who do their thing and stay positive can stick around for a lot longer than these guys they see on MTV."

Last year, Mayor Thomas Menino assembled a Hip-Hop Roundtable of local activists

and artists to organize the annual City Hall concert and mobilize Boston rappers against violence. Bugged in bureaucracy, the coalition evaporated. But to their credit, Boston rap advocates remained in cahoots.

"The Roundtable didn't have much to do with planning the show this year," Delgado said. "But the city is still helping with volunteers, and our sponsors were able to help us get the right performers to make this a classic hip-hop weekend."

Though Lyrical and his partners Irv and Daneja couldn't persuade the mayor's office to

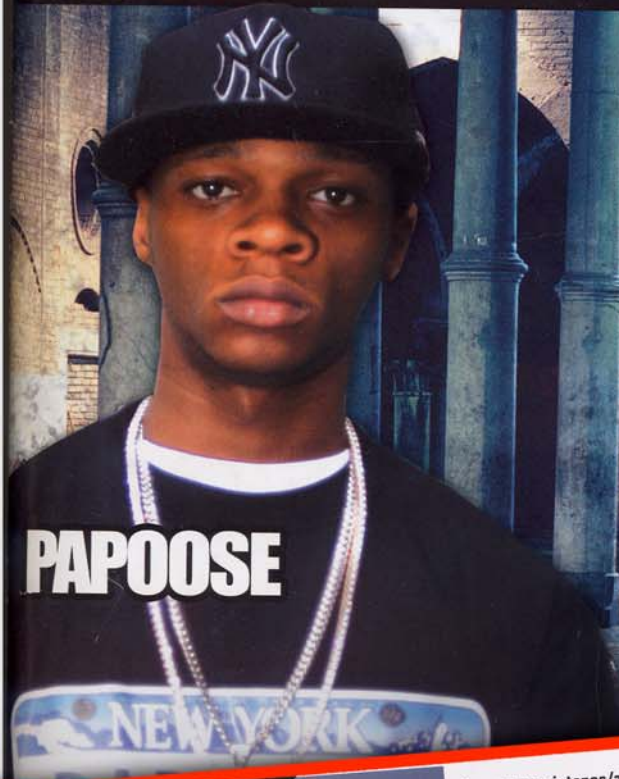


**HIP TO THE SCENE:** DL, above, and Foundation Movement, left, perform Sunday at the M.I.C. Hip Hop Awards.

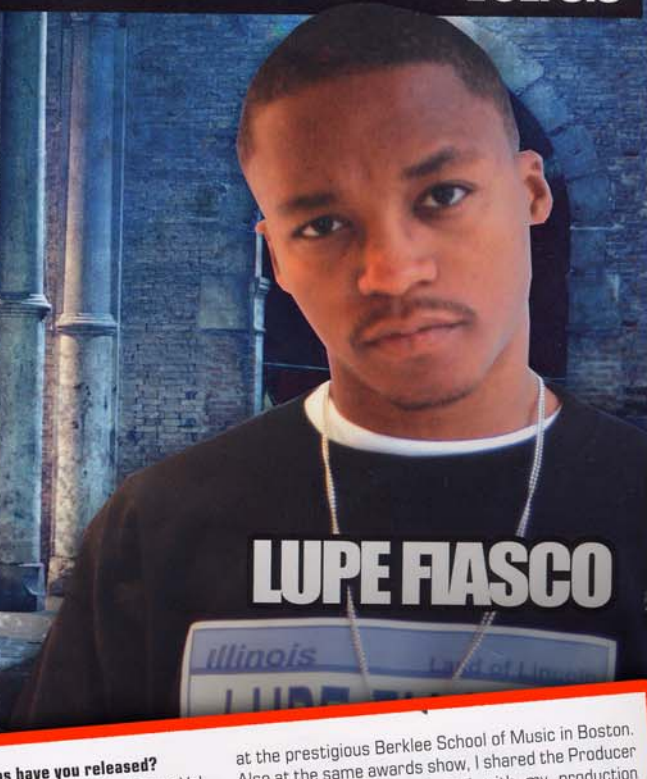
# MIC MAGAZINE™

EVERYTHING UNDER DA MIC

VOL. 3.3

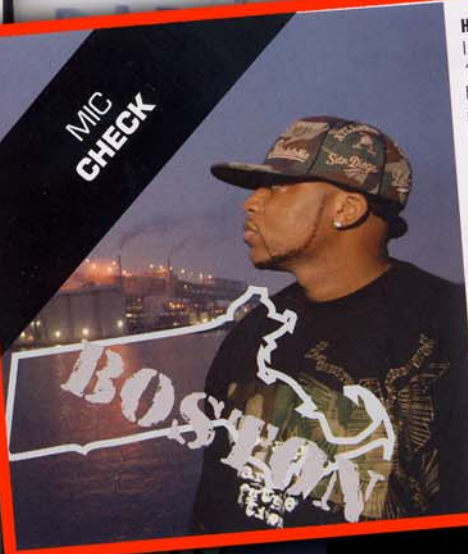


**PAPOOSE**



**LUPE FIASCO**

**MIC CHECK**



**How many mixtapes/albums have you released?**

I have one mixtape officially out, *The Red Tape Vol. 1* and I'm about to drop *The Red Tape Vol. 2* at the beginning of this summer. I also have a couple singles released, *Is U Holdn'* and *Soul Clap*, which has had major radio play.

**When did you get started in music game?**

I've been a musician since I was a kid. I started jazz saxophone at the age of nine, which is also about the time I started writing and rapping. A few years back, I had been incarcerated for three and a half years. In this time I wrote over a couple hundred songs.

**Highest accomplishment?**

My highest music accomplishment is being featured in the October 2005 issue of *The Source*, in which my mixtape, *The Red Tape Vol. 1*, was highlighted in Best of the Best Mixtapes. I'd also like to mention that I recently won 2006 Rapper of the Year for the New England Urban Music Awards, which was hosted

at the prestigious Berklee School of Music in Boston. Also at the same awards show, I shared the Producer Company of the Year Award with my production partner, Francis Phan. Collectively we are known as *The Juggernautz*, a force to be reckoned with!

**What do you hate about the industry?**

It just seems that there just isn't that much emphasis on originality anymore and that it's all about how much shine you got.

**What's your plans for your career?**

To be CEO and cutting checks! I look to be releasing my upcoming full LP and doing so on my terms, including doing whatever it takes to win fans over on the East Coast, West Coast, South and everywhere in between. I'll continue to reach out to other artists for collabos and am producing up and coming talent. I am multifaceted as a writer, artist and producer. I'm in this for the long haul...

**OMEGA RED**

MIC COMEDY W/ E-40 & TRICK DADDY



# OMEGA REED



A MANAGEMENT  
ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

[omegaredstar.com](http://omegaredstar.com)  
[myspace.com/omegared](http://myspace.com/omegared)

**Contact:** Francis Phan  
Stay Grindin' Inc.  
304 Newbury Street #537  
Boston MA 02115

[francis@francisphan.com](mailto:francis@francisphan.com)  
tel: 617-851-1899



# OMEGA RED



A MANAGEMENT  
ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

[omegaredstar.com](http://omegaredstar.com)  
[myspace.com/omegared](http://myspace.com/omegared)

**Contact:** Francis Phan  
Stay Grindin' Inc.  
304 Newbury Street #537  
Boston MA 02115

[francis@francisphan.com](mailto:francis@francisphan.com)  
tel: 617-851-1899