

B.K. Work

Short bio example:

Like the Tampa native responsible for its creation, Desmond South's music exists in the murky Floridian waters between humor, turn up, and depression. Rapper, producer, actor and director Desmond South knows this place well, as will most who have ever waded through their late twenties, unsatisfied with the results of life's lottery. But sometimes you've got to bop your way through, and the combination of punchy drums and South's delivery makes his releases a lighted walkway for that path. Or as South says, "If these jobs don't want to pay me, I can pay myself, and if these hoes don't wanna date me, I can date myself!"

Blog album write-up:

A Mixtape Wayne 8 Retrospective

By B.K. Habermehl

Mixtape Wayne 8 exists in an eerie yet inviting world that loops between 3AM and 5AM.. never earlier or later. Simultaneously hazy and precise, this isn't the first exploration in sonic dichotomy that the prolific Y2 has presented to the world. In fact, it's actually his 13th project in under 3 years, and there is certainly no sacrifice of quality for quantity. At times weightless and singsongy and others hard hitting and rhythmic, Mixtape Wayne 8 is a manifestation of natural talent and self made opportunity.

The tale of the Pied Piper is one with a debated history. Most of the iterations of his origin story stem from a deep betrayal by society, leading him to take his revenge by hypnotizing the children of the village into following his music wherever he chooses to take them. There's a sympathetic but sinister nature to the tale that echoes throughout Mixtape Wayne 8, as if it was transposed from Germany in the Middle Ages to modern day Los Angeles. Y2 may be hip-hop's reincarnation of the Pied Piper, and his trancelike music makes hypnotized children of us all. You can hear it particularly on the opening track "Randy" and its follow up "G7ng 2hit", as Y2 lyrically dances over ghostly flutes and spritely mellotron loops. Just as you think you're about to defy gravity, the drums ground you, and activate an instinctual head bob.

There's an improvisational quality to this project that emulates the style of the namesake for the Mixtape Wayne series, who is of course the five foot five assassin himself, Lil Wayne. Don't let any stylistic slurs or mumbles fool you though, Y2's lyrics are packed with poetic imagery and clever wordplay. Some of the project's most booty bouncing moments are sandwiched between its most expressive. For example, "Hell Boy" begins with Y2's legato and pitch shifted version of the Lord's Prayer, but then quickly escalates to rapid fire spitting and some comedic taunting: "Poor little baby/Pull up on bitches like Huggies/I'm at the ball like rugby/All I do talk money/Surprised I'm not buck teeth."

Mixtape Wayne 8 is more than just flex and bravado though. The project's most vulnerable moment happens on "When Fools Fall In Love", an ode to the Harley Quinn to Y2's Joker. He croons, "Know I got your back, I keep your stash right where I'm at so know I'll find ya/Really all depends where you wanna spend your time at/Won't be one of them that tells you you should make your mind up/You got all this pressure on you, you my little diamond." He lovingly lets his sometimes estranged lover know, "Just like me, I know you're crazy."

There are many stand out tracks on this 17 song album, but "Yanarchy" is the tire squealing bop you would want your getaway driver to have queued up as the soundtrack to the biggest heist of your criminal career. And considering that Y2 shows absolutely no signs of slowing down, his echo of "I tried to be nice" on the hook serves as a warning: this is only the half. Only his upcoming releases will tell how rogue he plans to go. Stay tuned, because you definitely want to be front seat for this Grand Theft Auto ride.