

CELEBRITY AVENUE •



Goodie Mob tears up the stage at the AT&T Elevate Young Black Voices event: (l to r) T-Mo, Khujo, Big Gipp and Ceelo

Photo courtesy of OCG PR

Goodie Mob drops new album after 14 years

Fans have waited 14 years to hear new material from all four members of Goodie Mob, the group that helped put Southern rap in the spotlight with political messages and soulful grooves. So what can we expect Ceelo, T-Mo, Big Gipp and Khujo to bring on their new album, *Age Against the Machine*, due out August 27?

"We're going to give you the message, but we're also going to stretch out as far as music is concerned," Big Gipp said. "I just feel like, in our community, we are so locked in to just one type of music, but if you look around, everybody that's stretching out seems to be reaching a bigger audience. That's why people love Kendrick (Lamar), that's why people love Drake."

Goodie Mob has already given us a taste of their new sound with their first single, "Special Education," an ode to individuality over an aggressive electronic beat, featuring singer Janelle Monáe.

There are also confirmed cameos from T.I. and Big Rube, who, along with Goodie Mob, is a member of the Dungeon Family—the large, Atlanta-based musical collective that also includes Outkast. There may be appearances from other "family" members, but Goodie Mob is keeping details under wraps.

"People bite your s#t overnight," Big Gipp said. "So it's almost like, naw, don't give that out, because people are trying to follow what you do. And I feel like for us, always being leaders, we've never ever exposed that before, and we're not going to start doing that now."

Goodie Mob formed in 1995 and released three albums as a quartet before Ceelo departed in 1999 to pursue a solo career. Now, reunited with his group, Ceelo says that *Age*

Against the Machine is about wisdom. So what's the most valuable piece of knowledge that they've learned?

"Quality over quantity," Big Gipp said.

—Erica Thompson

Goodie Mob's tales from the road

As Goodie Mob gears up for a tour in support of *Age Against the Machine*, as well as the second run of the "Ceelo Green is Loberace" show in Las Vegas, they reflect on past tours and tourmates.

"Lauryn (Hill) was magical. You never saw Lauryn during the day. You never saw Lauryn during sound check. You only saw Lauryn when it was time to do 'Fu-Gee-La' when they started their show." —Big Gipp

"These dudes had got in a fight. The security guard had sprayed mace on them, and some of it got on the stage and it was choking me out. I had to literally run off the stage. ... Almost a quarter of the crowd felt the spray, too, so everybody was sneezing and coughing." —Khujo

"I had on some jogging pants that buttoned up on the side, and ... the girl (in the audience) grabbed my pants and they snapped all the way off. I was fighting to hold my pants up, and then I had to run backstage just so I could button them back up." —T-Mo

TQ gets rid of fairy tales with his new album



Photo by Que Duong

West Coast crooner TQ has a new single produced by Mannie Fresh, featuring Mystikal.

"Bye Bye Baby" and "Westside" were two of the songs that made R&B singer TQ a successful solo artist after leaving the '90s group Coming of Age.

In 2002, the Compton native signed to Cash Money Records, where he learned the business side of being an independent artist. When his contract with Cash Money ended without an album release, TQ felt it was time to take his talent in a different direction with his own label, Kado Records.

"(Cash Money co-CEO) Baby had really taught me a lot about how to sell records independently. I also have a very strong fan base. They get a little impatient waiting for an album to be released, so I dropped it myself," TQ said.

His new album, *Legendary*, features a few of the artists he worked with at Cash Money, including Mannie Fresh and Mystikal, who are on the album's first single, "Bad Man." TQ said he hopes to take R&B back to the days where a remix was a whole new song, giving the audience "two for one." He also hopes that it can help listeners transition back to old R&B.

Outside of his traditional R&B sound, TQ also features his band on a few of the tracks to expose his fans to what he has in store for the future. "I think this new album shows a lot of maturity in my song writing and production. My fans aren't really about the fairy tales. And I think, with this, I definitely delivered to them what it is they like the most."

—Erin Smith