

BUSHWICK BILL

Bushwick Bill, recognized for his longtime classic work with the Geto Boys, is now back on the solo tip with *Gutta Mixx*, a skillfully creative work that intersects horror core and reality rap.

Bushwick's many dramas have been both some of the most well-publicized and unusual in hip-hop, and a result, he has a permanent spot on *Vh1's Hip-hop 30* and *Vh1's Most Shocking Moments In Rock*. Accordingly, Bushwick, who was born as Richard Shaw, says *Gutta Mixx* is deeply autobiographical, and updated for the '05, but its most personal track is "Phantom Chuck Opera." During the song he muses, "Maybe I should write a book, I have a lot to tell."

Bushwick is known as one of the masters of horrorcore, as acknowledged by music critics, due to classic tracks like the Geto Boys' "Mind Of A Lunatic" and his solo work that was inspired by *Chucky*. His new album glaringly shows one thing in particular. "It's growth," says Bushwick. "I wanted to re-familiarize people with what I was doing lyrically, and bring it back to them, before someone else tries to do it over. I didn't want it to go to the imitators, as so many other things in hip-hop are these days. I also wanted to take my music in a new direction musically, but where people could still hear my essence, and lyrically, of course, I would still come as hard as I did in the past when I was younger."

Although he lives in Houston, Texas, and prior to that, he lived in Brooklyn, Bushwick has a strong connection with the Bay Area, initially set off by his close relationship with his Rap-A-Lot label mate, the late rapper Seagram, who was shot to death several years ago. Bushwick has shared stages with many artists from the Y, including Digital Underground with Tupac Shakur and Too Short. He points out the "cool Geto Boys interviews" done by Sway and Tech, and Scarface recordings with E-40, Spice one and others from Northern Cali. When Bushwick and his mates in the Geto Boys recorded their now legendary St. Ides commercial, a campaign to ban Bushwick was even started by a right-wing organization from the Bay Area. This is why, he says, "My homies from Berkeley, Gorealaentertainment, were among those who contributed beats to the album."

The song "20 Minutes Or More" has a Latin radio mix. Bushwick explains, "If you look where Jamaica is on a map, you'll see places like Cuba, Santa Domingo and Puerto Rico, and many Jamaicans speak Spanish, because of when Spain invaded some of those islands. So I wanted to do the song with an island feeling of the Caribbean."

"Fahrenheit 911" is my lyrical version of Michael Moore's movie. Bushwick's interest in the Bush administration and war in the Mid East goes way back. On the prescient Geto Boys track, "F*&% A War," on the platinum-selling *We Can't Be Stopped*, Bushwick rapped, "I ain't getting' my leg shot off while Bush old ass on TV, playing golf." In Moore's film, Dubya is seen in the middle of a golf game, during which he gives an impromptu news conference to make the announcement, "We must do all we can to stop these terrorist killers. Now watch this drive," as he then proceeds to step back and hit the golf ball. Bushwick comments, "To see it in a movie, it was *deja vu*. When I rapped it, it was the father, and now it is the son. The apple didn't fall far from the tree, did it?"

Among those who contributed to the album are Quazadelic (Snoop Dogg's "Chuuch" series), DJ Sane 720 PC (The Jay-Z *Red* Album), Thong, and Supa Dave Roen.

Bushwick has had a countless share of controversies, two of which have included a sparring match with Sen. Bob Dole during his candidacy for President, and having the ending his "Ever

So Clear” video banned from MTV, in which he removed his glass eye and dropped it into a glass of Everclear.

When Bushwick first moved to the States, he lived in Brooklyn, then he later settled in Houston. He attended Bible school, but was discovered by DJ extraordinaire Lonnie Mac when he was dancing at Flames. In 1987, he was encouraged by Ready Red, who was signed to Rap-A-Lot, to start rapping. Bill eventually became a member of The Geto Boys, executive produced by James Prince, owner of Rap-A-Lot Records. Although Bill was on the cover of the Geto Boys’ 1986 release, Making Trouble, he didn’t rap on an a Geto Boys record until the 1989 release, Grip It On The Other Level. Their 1990 self-titled release generated massive controversy, with just one of the reasons being that Geffen Records announced that it refused to manufacture or release the album, due to its lyrical content. The lyrics from its track “Mind of A Lunatic” became fodder for anti-free speech activists for years, and Bushwick was attacked by Tipper Gore and right-wing politicians for years to come.

One of Bushwick’s most recognized lyrics is, “This year, Halloween fell on a weekend,” from the hip-hop classic, “Mind Playing Tricks” from the Geto Boys 1991 release, We Can’t Be Stopped. He also appeared on the 1993 Geto Boys album, Till Death Do Us Part, and 1996’s The Resurrection. The hip-hop press wouldn’t let the group die, and fans were still fiending for a reunion of the group’s original members, hence Bushwick’s return.

Bushwick is the only artist to have appeared on Dr. Dre’s quintessential work, The Chronic, who was not on Death Row Records. It was at the urging of his friend, Warren G, that he would contribute to it, and would also appear in the “Dre Day” video.

His solo projects have included Phantom Of The Rapra, Little Big Man, No Surrender, No Retreat, now resulting in the climactic culmination of these releases, Bushwick’s Gutta Mixx.

<http://www.ogofficialbushwickbill.com>