

UNDERGROUND PRODUCTIONS 12 [1998]









Underground Productions Issue 12 Stockholm, September 1998

Welcome to another issue of Underground Productions. An issue that looks totally different than the earlier ones, we do hope it suits your taste. It's time for a change, both in contents and forms. The aerosol magazine world has changed. We believe that the best in UP are the articles. Therefore some might think it's strange to publish an issue with nearly no articles in it. We have focused on the pictures and tried to show both the styles and the environment and in that way recreate some of the feeling the writer might have. The source of inspiration are Martha Cooper's pictures in Subway Art.

Images that speak. Some new articles are going to be put up on our webpage instead of being printed in the magazine. Another reason is that no one has got the time neither to write articles nor to do 300 hrs of lay-out work in 4 weeks. To put out a magazine and keep it going takes more time than anybody can imagine. Despite to what a police officer said news recently, that those involved in the graffiti business, who sell sketch-books, videos, magazines and cans are making big profits, we still never ever made a cent from this. And with time we have all gotten older and have to work to pay our rents.

Since the last issue some things seem to have gone in the right direction. The big newspapers in Sweden wrote about the assaults by the transit security guards in the Stockholm subway. Hopefully those who are guilty will be sentenced. Last but not least, Stockholm has now gotten it's own anti graffiti-force, and they're sure know how to handle »Degenerated Art» (see UP 11, p. 35). One of the owners of the gallery »Lava» in Stockholm got his house raided in the beginning of April this year. The sole purpose was the graffiti - related exhibition »1097» that took place in May 1997. The guy himself has nothing to do with graffiti. But anyway, the new issue is out, we're proud and happy to be able to give pleasure to the world with it. And to remind everybody that money can't buy love!

Peace, love and- Underground Productions

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BIG JUSS - COMPANY FLOW

»You gotta hit the streets!»

My connection to writing? Basically I started writing like 6th grade going in the 7th grade and I'm 29, so that was in September of 1979. From that point until I got sent off to military school in 1984 I did nothing but cut school and basically sleep on the trains and bomb! There were so many writers in New York at that point of time that it took three years for me writing every single day to get to the point where people knew »Lune». Thats the only name really I had except for... One night I staved up for like 24 hours, just putting all types of letters together and I came up with »Duro» ha, ha, ha, (laughs unrestrained) and I hit the street the next day writing my fresh new tag and this other writer named »Sono A.C.C.» stopped me and he was like »you can not write Duro! There is already a Duro» and I wrote my tag just like him. And the guy looked at me like I was crazy but I didnt know.

From where comes Your musical influences, and what is the Hip-Hop scene about in New York?

The first thing that stuck to me was probably Jackson Five, after that it was Parliament, Funkadelic, and I was like wow, Funkadelic is ill. And after Funkadelic came Hip-Hop and then, you know, it's been Hip-Hop ever since. And I'm also a huge, huge Prince fan. So these are my favorite artists all together. And as far the scene is concerned, the scene is cool now man. It's because of, groups like Juggaknots, Arsonists, Scienz of Life... There are enough groups to keep a perpetual amount of shows going. It's a good scene going on right now. I'm really proud of it.

What do You think about the independent scene, its becoming like a fashion. What is the next step, when everybody's independent?

Well, I think a lot of people is using the independent shit as a password, and not too

many people are really knowing what they're doing. That's why we are one of the few groups that you really see 'cause the rest of 'em, you know, they put their money together and put their one single out and then never bother to reinvest. You got to put a certain amount of money aside to put out the next joint. And what the whole goal is: ownership of your masters, 'cause you're not stuck to the label. You don't get signed, You let them license your work. Only the artist and the record label. During that time they can release your shit as pretty much as they want and make the money back on it. But you got to own your masters and you're got to step to a record label and license! If everybody started doing that the record labels got to change.

How do You define an independent label?

An independent label to me is: if you're putting out the record the label should just be you. You spend the money, you press

the shit up, now its up to you, it's not hard, its just kind of cool. You know, call the distributors, seeing how your shit is going. You have to really be in control of your own destiny, thats to me what an independent label is.

I know writers in Stockholm that have been bombing for ten or fifteen years, without thinking about getting paid. Why is that so rare in the rap business?

That's how I am, you know, I'm underground, I really don't ever wanna grow up. It's hard as fuck in NY. Like in Jersey where I'm at, if you get caught writing and I live way out Jersey, like an hour away from the city, they'll take your drivers license away for a year and thats how I get back and forth to the city. I really can't afford that but I still get busy, I'm trying to do my thing. You just got to be real careful about it. Graffiti is like hieroglyphics! When shit here blows up, and they dig it back out, they gonna look at our artwork, and they will go wow! this was an advanced culture. They'll analyse it but it's our shit they gonna look at. So, you gotta hit the streets.

What about Style Wars, You were down those days...



I was young when Style Wars came out, so Style Wars was like Star Wars to me...

EL P: Yo, yo, yo, fuckin Cap was iller than Darth Vader, ha, ha, ha.

...I cut school, and there was a whole bunch of other graffiti artists that cut school. It was like a movie for us, so you know it was cool. I got two copies of it. I still watch it, its good! There's not too much documentation of the early scene you know, and I really, really like Phase 2's book (R) evolution of

the Underground. I like it a lot, cause, he has photos of the early shit you know. I look at that shit every day. It's next to the toilet.

The interview was done at the Nefertiti Jazz Club in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Magnus Bergkvist Tobias Barenthin Lindblad

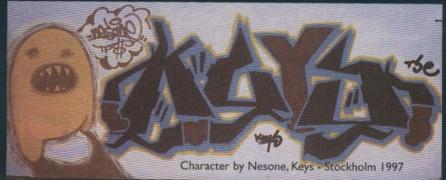








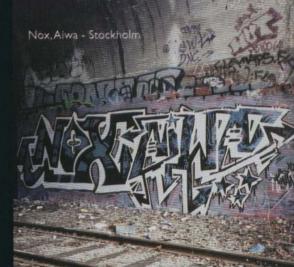






















The Untouchable Graffiti Gods - Södertälje 1997



Pke, Akay - Stockholm 1997























Irie, Him - Stockholm

















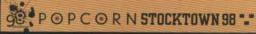






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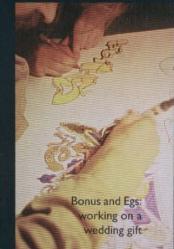
...character by Core at The Arrow exhibition in Stockholm, August 1998





















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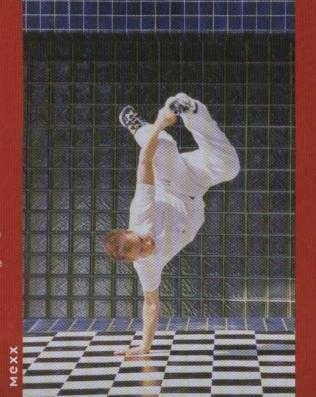
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...Nesm, Serge, West, Wane, parts of a big mural in New York, Halloween 1997. Photo by Doug Biggert.



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