

High Power 213 SOLDIERS MR CRIMINAL

BY KID KARACHI

Behind every strong army there exists a presence of fierce soldiers. Not only is Mr Criminal one of the undergrounds most crowd pleasing Hype men to MrCapone-e providing audiences all over the US the same stage chemistry as what Sen Dog gives B Real, this 22 year old Chicano from Silver Lake is also making his own waves in the rap World.

With a series of highly successful albums under his belt and featuring in numerous rap-u-mentries, countless requests to feature with some of today's most successful and talented rap artists Mr Criminal is fast becoming one of the most sort after rappers in the industry.

THE LYRICAL ASSASIN, WHY DO THEY CALL YOU THAT NAME?

When I started spittin I was known for murdering the mic. I paid alot of attention to my rhyming skills cuz I wanted to be hard hittin with my lyrical content and deliver my rap in a lyrical twist.

TELL US ABOUT THE CD'S YOU'VE RELEASED?

Well im almost done working on my 4th CD. Criminal Mentality was my first then came Organized Crime, What The Streets Made Me and now im about done with my most recent release is 213 Soldiers. Looking back at my work I feel I have progressed well as my fan base has became bigger. I'm getting more and more aggressive in my rap, talking about what's real and the life that I live. I guess alot of people feel me and they wanna listen to what I got to say by buying my CD.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM YOUR FORTHCOMING RELEASE?

I'm buzzin just thinking about it. The new release was put together at the crime lab. That's my studio the crime lab. I'm producing alot of material nowadays. I do all my production there. Alotta time and money has gone into the lab. Some real good material is being made, even as we speak something's cookin in the crime lab!

HOW AND WHEN DID YOU BECOME A HI POWER SOLDIER

My homeboy Shy Boy knew Capone-e and it was through him I got introduced to Hi Power Entertainment and Mr Capone-e. One time when we were growing up, I got busted for Capone-e. I knew I was real and I came correct. I was invited to the studio and I've been crackin buster free since.

HOWS THE SUPPORT BEEN FROM RAZA ?

Man Raza has been good to us, they come to our concerts and show us love wherever we go. To me that's

the highlight of touring seeing from city to city raza coming out to see us. We browns are the majority in the Westcoast.

AS A GANGSTER RAPPER IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY YOU MUST FACE ALOT OF PROBLEMS?

Gangster rap has been around for years. It's a way of life and the life we live. It's not a fad. Look how long its been going, the success of the industry has been proven. And like our artform we ain't going nowhere. Gangsters for life.

YOU WERE TOURING WITH HI POWER RECORDS IN JAPAN, HOW WAS THE EXPERIENCE?

Its crazy down there man. Those kats love our music. They are influenced by raza style and way of life. They wish they were in our shoes. It was a real trip seeing that. Big love to Japan.

GROWING UP, WHICH RAPPERS WERE THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOU?

I was and I still am influenced by Westcoast rap. Back in the days when I started seeing Chicanos coming up in the rap game not only could I relate to peeps like Proper Dos, Kid Frost, Lighter Shade of Brown I was also influenced by their sound. I was inspired by my brown peers and I knew then that with some practise I too could do something and offer something with my skills and one day maybe influence a whole new generation of Chicanos.

OKAY SO WHOS CD YOU GOT PUMPING THROUGH YOUR STEREO?

I listen to alotta artists on the realist label on the streets, High Power Records. I gotta admit I am also listening to my forthcoming CD alot making sure satisfaction is guaranteed to all my listeners.

WERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS TIME

Where I know im going to be, at the top.

THE YEAR HAS JUST BEGUN WHAT PLANS HAVE YOU GOT FOR THE REST OF 2005?

I got a compilation coming out. Mr Criminal Presents Stories From The Crime Lab with alot of features and What The Streets Created Part 2 will be out later in the year.

ANY COMMENTS, SHOUT OUTS?

Love 2 my baby. my son Robert, Fabian & Bolina, my lady, all my homies in Silver Lake, my familia, all the support from fans keeping raza alive. Magazines like DownLow for putting us out there showing what we are doing.