

## INTERVIEW WITH: POTLUCK

**YOU'VE** released three albums on Lost Coast Productions and now you're gearing up to release your next album, "Straight Outta Humboldt", tentatively due out August 29th on Suburban Noize Records. What brought you to Sub Noize? 1 Ton: We're from Humboldt, so we're doing the straight Humboldt County rapping. Sub Noize being with Kottonmouth Kings, it just feels like a natural fit. It's actually been like two, three years in the making — talking, going back and forth. As far as the record goes, this is our best work yet. UnderRated made the best beats that he's ever really made. We've got more features than we've ever got through doing shows. We've got Tech N9ne on there, we've got Chali 2na from Jurassic 5, we've got a song with the Kottonmouth Kings, we've got the Luniz back together and did a song with the Luniz. It's the best work we've ever done. With the amount of weed songs we made for this record, it was just a perfect fit to go right with Suburban Noize and the Kottonmouth Kings. Suburban Noize Records has been signing a number of acts that have

been on major labels. What do you feel Suburban Noize can do for Potluck? 1 Ton: We've been having different labels over the past three years talking to us and talking about different things. But nothing ever really made sense. We're really about independent and doing what we want to do and putting out the type of music we want to put out without a lot of label control. For three years, we just kept doing our own thing, putting out our own records and staying independent and touring and doing all that. But this was just the right time. Suburban Noize, they really mastered pushing records independently and they've got a really great system and they weren't trying to change anything we do. They actually encouraged all the stuff that we did because it was similar to what they were doing. They made a really good fit as far as the amount of experience they had in the music business and the amount of records they sold. You've toured with Tech N9ne and more recently with Twiztid. The juggalo crowd is a tough one for bands to gain respect from. How do you hold their attention?

UnderRated: The energy on stage that we have is usually a big way that we keep the audience. Doing shows with Tech N9ne and seeing the Juggalo crowd and learning about the different audiences, what I've learned is the people out there are just being themselves, expressing themselves. That's what we try to do with our music. It works out. Everyone's telling us the Juggalo crowd is hard to get and they're not accepting of a lot of bands and stuff, but we went out and had good shows. So we must have done something right. Tell me about "Fire" and "Rock The World", two songs from your new album that you're performing in concert these days.

UnderRated: They've got a lot of energy in them, so they're real good for the show. One of them we rap fast. Doing a lot of shows with Tech N9ne and hearing Twiztid rap, it just would really fit with the audience. There's a lot of energy in that 'Fire' song and it's about weed also, so it fits doing shows with Kottonmouth Kings. That's one of the best songs on our album. And the 'Rock The World' song, basically the beat and the energy behind it, it just says 'show' when we hear the song. So we decided to pick that song. It's about going



POTLUCK PHOTO BY BLACK DOG BONE

on tour and doing shows everywhere and getting fans.

What are your favorite songs to perform from your "Harvest Time" album?

1 Ton: We've got a song "Do It Now" on the "Harvest Time" record and that's what we usually open up our set with. It says a lot about who we are as a group and what we're gonna do. There was a guy who was on tour with us when we were doing shows

with Andre Nikatina who said, "It's like you guys come out there ready for battling. 1 Ton comes out there with a shotgun first and he just starts letting off this slow, shotgun blast. And then UnderRated comes out there with a machine gun at the end and he just starts letting off all those fast rhymes."

To me, that perfectly describes how we start off a show. Just the feeling of that is what I like about performing that.

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INTERVIEW BY DAVID FRIEDMAN



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