

The Digital revolution

Rapper RZA returns to his alter ego



By Amber Drea
Special to amNewYork

The legendary madness of rapper/producer/film composer Robert Diggs, aka RZA, cannot be stopped.

Despite his rambling tangents and maniacal giggle, the fallen Wu-Tang leader rises again with a new Bobby Digital album, "Digi Snacks."

From the roots-funk flavor of "You Can't Stop Me Now" to the club-friendly banger "Straight Up the Block," RZA lets loose his schizophrenic tendencies among guests, including George Clinton, El DeBarge and John Frusciante.

This tour is RZA's first with a full backing band, the L.A.-based soul/R&B act Stone Mecca, which played on the record.

How do you like touring with a live band?

For the last seven to eight years, I felt like I wanted to express more, but I couldn't because [at] a lot of hip-hop shows, I jump up and down and go crazy, but [don't] get the whole groove I want.

On tour with Wu-Tang, we got so many songs in our catalog that we may do only the first verse of a song and that's it — one-minute song, one-minute song, one-minute song — and that was fun in the beginning, but after doing



Wu-Tang Clan mainstay RZA, under the name of Bobby Digital, will help you get your groove on. (Getty)

we got called "We Pop," which is basically a West Coast sounding beat and s---, but by the end of the song, I done got percussion squeaking out, trumpet squeaking out, solos and s---. So it's fun, yo.

What was it like working with David Banner on the new album?

David Banner gives me a nice heat rock from the South. What I like about that song is that I let David

I jump up and down and go crazy, but [don't] get the whole groove I want.

—RZA, on why he's going on tour with a full backing band

produce it. I didn't sit there and try to take control of the session. I was there as an MC, and he was there as the producer. The same way I expect my MCs to give me their full attention and their full cooperation, I gave it to him.

You seem to go in and out of the Bobby Digital persona. Why do you take on the character?

On the first two albums, it was more like the characters allow me to [have an] alter ego, but I've grown a lot since then, and the character has grown also. Now, instead of being a part of me, it's more like I have a role to play in a movie and I'm bringing some of myself to the movie, but it's still not me when the movie is over.

ON STAGE

RZA is at Webster Hall on Saturday.

- Time: 6 p.m.
- Tickets: \$25
- 125 E. 11th St, 212-353-1600

it over and over for five tours, it got boring to me.

What can people expect

at a RZA show?

[Last night] I did a Gravediggaz song called "1-800-Suicide," but even though I only did one verse, the music still was [going] on for about three minutes because we just started vibin' out with the music and chanting other words on top of it and saying specific Gravediggaz quotes.

There's [another] song

Thursday

Music Prefuse 73

Hiro Ballroom, 9:30pm, \$8. Under the name Prefuse 73, Guillermo Scott Herren's blend of electronic music, hip-hop beats and avant-garde sounds united backpackers, hipsters and music nerds alike, proclaiming him as one of the most forward-thinking producers in music. They're right. 366 W 17th St at Ninth Ave (A, C, E to 14th St; L to Eighth Ave) 212-727-0212

Talks & Readings Richard Webster

East West Books, 7pm, FREE. Webster discusses "Spirit Guides & Guardian Angels." 78 Fifth Ave at 14th St (1, 2, 3, F, V, L to 14th St-Sixth Ave) 212-243-5995



Friday

Fourth of July The Battle of Chicken and Beer

Brooklyn Lyceum, 8pm-2am, \$20. The concept is deliciously simple: \$20 gets you all the chicken and beer you could want, along with a night of dancing and a breakdancing competition. Which may be difficult and/or entertaining after a night of poultry and lager. 227 Fourth Ave. between President and Union sts (R to Union St) 718-857-4816

Revolutionary Walking Tour

City Hall Park, 1pm, adults \$15, students and seniors \$12. With all the barbecues and fireworks, some might forget that the Fourth of July marked the

start of the Revolutionary War, of which New York played a huge part. So buff up on your history on this walking tour. Intersection of Broadway and Murray Streets, at gated entrance to park (2, 3 to Park Place; 4, 5, 6 to Brooklyn Bridge; R/W to City Hall) 212-439-1090

Great July Fourth Festival

Water Street, 10am-8pm, free. This massive street fair will have 600 international food vendors for you to sample, plus arts and crafts and merchandise exhibitors. Between State and Fulton sts (1 to Fulton St) 212-809-4900

Nathan's Famous July Fourth International Hot Dog Eating Contest

Coney Island and Brighton beaches, 11am, free. An annual event since 1916, the hot dog eating contest is now famous enough to get an ESPN simulcast. Joey Chestnut won last year's contest, beating former champion Takeru Kobayashi and setting a new world record by downing 66 Nathan's Famous hot dogs and buns in 12 minutes. 1208 Surf Ave (N, D, F, Q to Coney Island-Stillwell Ave) 718-946-1350

Shorty's .32 Fourth of July Bluegrass BBQ

Shorty's .32, 2 pm to 8:30 pm. It's an all-day holiday prix-fixe menu for Shorty's .32's Fourth of July fete, loaded with barbecue, burgers and beer by the tub, and with live bluegrass music. Make sure you get there early: They're closing at 8:30 p.m. so everybody will be free to see the fireworks over the river. 199 Prince St between Sullivan and McDougal Sts. (C, E to Spring St.) 212-375-8275

Shorty's .32 Fourth of July Bluegrass BBQ

Shorty's .32, 2 pm to 8:30 pm. It's an all-day holiday prix-fixe menu for Shorty's .32's Fourth of July fete, loaded with barbecue, burgers and beer by the tub, and with live bluegrass music. Make sure you get there early: They're closing at 8:30 p.m. so everybody will be free to see the fireworks over the river. 199 Prince St between Sullivan and McDougal Sts. (C, E to Spring St.) 212-375-8275

Continued on page 20

Looking for a hot date? CALL NOW!

NEW YORK 917-512-9888

LONG ISLAND 516-568-5111 WESTCHESTER 914-380-7877 NEWARK 973-878-0670 BERGEN 201-645-3321

FREE TO TRY

ON THE GO? Call HOME #242525, 700 calls, Sprint. No-fee! Text "CALL" to 2522, 10 calls, for \$5. *Add'l Fees apply. Call now! 917-512-9888

AT HOME? New Call! Call Home! 1-866-687-5282, 25 mins for \$5. *Add'l Fees apply. Call now! 917-512-9888

lavlife

Sponsored by GL - 8XL Watchcellphone

THE \$20 SNEAKER SALE!

Puma, Adidas, Reebok, Steve Madden, Nike & Timberland

RETAIL: \$499 SPECIAL INTRO PRICE: \$299

Available (unlocked) for AT&T and T-Mobile

GL-8XL is the original best made watch cell-phone in the world

- The industry's only 2 year extended warranty
- Touch screen
- Wap 2.0 for internet browsing
- mp3, midi, wav music player
- mp4 movie player
- Blue tooth
- Speaker phone
- Voice recorder
- Sms text

TO PURCHASE CALL: 888-957-5558 • 212-537-5176 www.8xcell.com

INCLUDED WITH PHONE WATCH: CHARGER, BLUETOOTH HEADSET, 2 BATTERIES, BLUETOOTH CABLE, USB CABLE, AND ENGLISH USER MANUAL

Beauty and Youth Spa for men + women

472 6th Ave (11th & 12th) • 212-463-0246 • beautyandyouth.com

new! laser package prices!

Back or chest or buttocks only \$139

Full legs w/bikini line or Brazilian only \$145

Lip, chin, or underarm only \$45

Bikini line only \$99

Full face only \$99

Microdermabrasion only \$45

We beat competitors' laser prices

Permanent results, FDA approved, Guaranteed Results, Certified Technician

Unlimited Laser Hair Removal only \$459 mo.

DAY OF BEAUTY \$109 Reg \$145

Body Scrub • Body Massage Manicure & Pedicure Deep Pore Cleansing Facial

SPECIAL! \$45 per session!

Choose from: Deep pore facial • Body wrap • Body massage (1 hr) • Electrolysis (per hr no limit)

Full body wax \$65	Glycolic peel \$25
Back/chest/butt wax \$15	Ear candling \$20
Full leg \$20	Manicure & pedicure \$22
Brazilian bikini wax \$18	Botox Alternative \$15+up
Back or chest or butt wax \$40 (w/ pain-free wax, no irritation)	

We accept competitors' coupons