

MIKE E. CLARK

In very recent years, producer Mike E. Clark has made his return to working with Insane Clown Posse, the Detroit rap duo whose sound he created in the 1990s and continued to mastermind for roughly a decade. Now, with in-house mixtape guru DJ Clay busy working on his proper solo debut album, Clark has stepped up to the plate with "Mike E. Clark's Psychopathic Murder Mix Vol. 1," his first mixtape for the label. Clark, the perhaps unofficial third member of ICP, will be focusing the series – with its first volume coming out June 23 – on remixes and mash-ups of songs spanning Psychopathic Records' extensive catalog. That means that on the first volume alone, fans will hear mash-ups pairing ICP's classic "Dead Body Man" with Twiztid's "Rock The Dead" and another that finds "Southwest Song" blending, so to speak, with "Southwest Voodoo."

"I'm just doing a bunch of crazy shit with all of the tracks that I've got," Clark said in a recent interview. "It's a lot of old-school stuff. It's mostly all ICP stuff. There's some Twiztid obviously. I just did a bunch of cool stuff. I've got all the Psychopathic archives from 'Carnival Of Carnage' all the way up. So Joe (Violent J) and I were talking about it and he was like, 'It would be the shit if you did a mixtape.' I was like, 'Hell, yeah!'

So while they were in L.A. working on the movie ('Big Money Rustlas'), I knocked this out. I actually got Volume 2 halfway done. I shouldn't even talk to you too much about that, but I'm doing some cool shit with 'Wagon Wagon.' It's a great project. I'm gonna try to get two or three of these volumes out a year – maybe even four if I can kick ass."

How does Clark determine which tracks will work well together for the mash-ups? After all, you can't just put any two songs

together and make it work, right?

"Sometimes I'll just be laying in bed half asleep and that's where I came up with 'Rock The Dead' and 'Dead Body Man,'" he said. "I was literally half asleep and it fucking hit me like a ton of bricks. I jumped out of bed, ran down to my studio and just did it to see if it would work – because I couldn't sleep. I needed to know that this was gonna work, you know? I tried to mash them up a bit together and I go, 'Fuck, yeah! It's gonna work great. I had to speed up 'Dead Body Man' and slow down 'Rock The Dead,' but they met in the middle perfectly. It's fucking the shit!"

The end result of that song alone left ICP's Violent J and Shaggy 2 Dope speechless

upon initially hearing it, Clark said.

"This record's straight up for the juggalos, but it's old-school, man," Clark said. "I mean, I went into the old shit. I did a fuckin remix of 'The Loons.' That's old-school ICP shit. So motherfuckers that have been down from day one are gonna trip! I put a whole new track on it and it sounds like real authentic, juggalo, Mike E. Clark shit."

Meanwhile, the album will contain remixes of ICP's "Chicken Huntin'," Shaggy 2 Dope's "Fuck Off," Boondox's "Out Here," Blaze Ya Dead Homie and The R.O.C.'s "Ill Connect" and Twiztid's "Frankenstein."

"I did that for 'The Green Book' a long time ago and it never really saw the light of day," Clark said of the latter. "That was gonna go on 'The

Green Book,' but it never got turned in on time. So I was like, 'Fuck it! It's a remix!'"

The album will also include a few appearances by outside artists, namely Prozak and King Gordy on "The Only Ones" and Esham, who joins Violent J on "Murder You." The song initially appeared on the Gathering version of Violent J's then-unnamed solo album and has since been remixed by Clark. The producer also made what he calls a Triple-X mash-up of three Psychopathic sex songs – "Cotton Candy," "Spin The Bottle"

and "Cherry Pie."

"It's like if you took those three tracks and put them in a fucking ring and had them kick each other's ass," Clark said. "It's crazy."

While we were talking about "Psychopathic Murder Mix Vol. 1," Clark was actually taking a brief break from working on ICP's next full-length album, "Bang! Pow! Boom!" which is due out September 1.

"I think it's the most fucking amazing record," Clark said. "We're done with it. We're just mixing it right now. It's just fucking unbelievable. The way we did this record is the way we did 'Jeckel Brothers' and 'Ringmaster' and 'Riddlebox' and 'Milenko.' So it's really the return of the Dark Carnival. It really sounds like it. People are gonna fucking cry when they hear it. You can hear 'Riddlebox' in this record. You can hear 'Milenko.' You can definitely hear 'Jeckel Brothers' in it. It's really got that sound. We've been working on it for a year and it's taken us a month and a half to mix it. We had 30 songs and we're just picking the best – the cream of the crop. We're already stressed because we have too many songs that are the shit – which is a good problem."

Leftover tracks from the "Bang! Pow! Boom!" sessions will likely find their way onto an EP or subsequent full-length album, said Clark, who plans to DJ between artists' sets on ICP's next full-scale tour.

ANYBODY KILLA

I recently had a chance to check out Psychopathic Records artist Anybody Killa on his In-store After Party Tour when it came to The Loft in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Not only did ABK put on one hell of a set, but he once again proved to be one of the most down to earth and fan-friendly artists in the game today. In the end, it didn't matter that three of the five advertised acts couldn't make it – Axe Murder Boyz and AJAX joined the tour soon after – because ABK's set was just that good. Plus, when the chief Detroit Warrior, Strict 9, couldn't make the tour, two more members of Killa's rap posse stepped in for the entire trek – Mr. Y.U.G. and Ikkurriz. The former is The R.O.C.'s younger brother and he tore Poughkeepsie a new one with a blistering set of tracks from his "Weightin" LP that started with the emcee introducing himself from outside the building before walking up a flight of stairs and taking the stage.

"We're having fun, doing the parties, doing the instores before we all come out and afterward we'll sign for whoever we missed," ABK said. "We're trying to just hang out and do a good



to interact with the fan base. It's like with the instores – I wear my shirt and they sign my shirt, just like they always ask me to sign their stuff. In a way, we're all doing an instore together. But I always get my inspiration from the fans, so what better way to get ready for the next album than to get my stories together the right way? That's being able to kick it with them." Currently, ABK is going through beats from various producers to see what catches his ear for possible inclusion on his next album, "Possessed."

From there, he'll take stories from the road

and incorporate them into his next batch of songs. "Y.U.G. is scared as fuck of bugs and butterflies and roaches," ABK said. "That might work into a song! So who knows? He's possessed with being scared of bugs. Ikkurruz, he turned into John Travolta's brother out here. So there might be a (Vinnie) Barbarino track on there! It's just waiting for an inspiration. Who knows? "Y.U.G. started off as Ragz and he's been doing his thing ever since," ABK said. "He's been rapping since he was in diapers! And Ikkurruz, he started off a drunk, I guess! And now he's out here making John Travolta proud as the wicked Barbarino!"

The next leg of ABK's Instore After Party Tour will be hitting the West Coast, with dates and locations to be announced soon. Axe Murder Boyz are the only support act that's been announced so far. Regardless of who's opening, ABK brings all the performers on stage for his last song of the night.

"That's always been something I like to do – even watching ICP do it when I was younger watching the shows that I went to," ABK said. "It's just showing

thing to put on record, but I'm gonna get it! It's mine, dude!"

In terms of his set's content, ABK performs a number of songs from his latest album, "Mudface" and classics like his earlier single "Hey Y'all" and "Guillotine," which dates back to his Native Funk solo debut. He also picks out a girl from the audience each night, has her come to the front of the stage and sings her "Holiday Hoe."

"It's off of the 'Holiday Jingles' (CD single)," ABK said. "It's about a girl that breaks up with her man right before the holidays. And he buys her all these gifts and this and that. And she just dumps his ass. Now he either wants to cut himself up or kill her because he loves her! He just pretty much wipes her out of his life, so it's up to you to figure out how he does it. He might have listened to his homies and stayed away or he just killed that bitch." At this year's Gathering of the Juggalos, ABK will reunite with Blaze Ya Dead Homie as Drive-By, performing bass-heavy tracks from their recently reissued debut album. Although the pair performed some Drive-By tracks on the "Shock Therapy" tour a while back, the Gathering will mark only the second time that they've ever performed an official, full set as Drive-By.

"It's that old-school, wild bass-type feel, but it's more laid back and slow," ABK said of the music. "It's for the people that got them long-ass Cadillacs but don't like to drive fast. They ride down the block and wave at the people!"

ABK's personal label, Native World Inc., has a number of releases coming soon, including the Detroit Warriors' "Strike 3" mix CD, Ikkurruz's latest album and Strict 9's next album – which should be a full-length this time, according to ABK.

"Yes, it better be!" Killa said. "He better have a full-length album! We're tired of pieces of songs! We want a full album." On top of the Drive-By set, ABK will perform his own solo set at the Gathering. "There might even be like a backwoods surprise-type party that I'm doing, so be on the lookout!" Killa said. "You know, like a little smoke-fest. Who knows? My own type of warrior rave."

BEST OF THE REST

One of the many cool aspects of being a music writer is getting to hear demos, albums and individual songs before they come out for the general public. So when I got Adrian, Michigan, rapper Neato's "Million Dollar Trooper" EP, I played that CD with a quickness. And then I played it again. And again. You get the picture.

"This CD is just a select few songs that I had not released on a project yet," wrote Neato, whose next official release, "American Werewolf In Michigan," is coming out later this year on physical CD, digitally on iTunes and, according to plan, on vinyl, on his own Neadough Music label. I've said it before, but I'll say it again – Neato belongs on a major or at least with a major distributor to bring his amazing mic skills to the masses. I'd put the songs on the demo EP he sent me up against major label releases and, in all honesty, all four tracks – "Talk Money," "Sittin On Jupiter," "Hard Out Here!" and "Jordans On Blast" would win out 9 times out of 10. Check out www.MySpace.com/jayneato for more on Neato. If he doesn't have those songs I mentioned on his playlist, message him and tell him you want to hear them! ... Mann has released his latest solo album on Metro Wealth Records and Long Range Distribution, the "Hated" LP. It features songs with The Game, Trick Trick, Chedda Boy Malik, Big Herk and Mann's own crew, Pathic Boyz (Mann, Truth, Rell and Mr. Lewis). My favorite songs on the CD are "That's Him" and "Who Dat" featuring Rell and Al Nuke, but to be honest, the whole album is packed with banging tracks throughout. The Pathic Boyz will release their "Full Bleed" album and a mix tape hosted by Drunken Master called "Pathology" later this year. For more on Mann, visit www.MySpace.com/MannPathic. ...

A rapper by the name of G.R.E.A.T has released a single called "My Swagger So Right," co-produced by Starrstruck, on Greatstarr Music Group. According to a letter from G.R.E.A.T's label, the single has drawn interest from at least four record labels and has been serviced to DJs throughout the United States and beyond. The song also made the HOT Hitlist on 102.7 FM radio out of Detroit. And why not? The song is extremely catchy and so are some other tracks I've heard from G.R.E.A.T – "Do It Like A Boss," "Too Many Broads" and "Always Hold U Down." ...

Mr. Y.U.G. was dealing with the "fucked up" weather in the South by buying himself a small fan to take along on tour with Anybody Killa. Enjoying life on the road, Y.U.G. has known ABK for roughly 20 years and previously toured with the Hatchet Warrior on the "Frosty the Dopeman Tour." Next up for Y.U.G. will be a double CD release featuring one disc of tracks by Mr. Y.U.G. and another featuring tracks by his alter-ego, Ragz – you know, the guy whose .44 Mag makes his motherfuckin' pants sag.



love. You know, we all put it down on that stage, so we're ending it together on that stage. That's why we all come out there together, more or less."

In addition to striving to put on a great stage show each night, ABK is gunning for a world record, as it turns out. It has to do with the length of his concert set each night.

"It's 40 minutes," he said. "And I want to put a note that I'm trying to find out what the world record is for a solo rap artist with no hypeman, no changes and breaks and all that stuff. Because I'm gonna get it. Helly! It might be a stupid