



Narcy's political funk

What impact did living in the UAE and Canada have on your music?

My parents are Iraqi, I was born in Dubai, moved to Canada when I was seven, then moved to Abu Dhabi when I was 13. Being in an international school, we all learned from each other and I made great friends. I think this experience showed me that music makes borders transparent, especially with hip-hop. It's a culture that is so raw and tells you how it is from the heart.

Are you more influenced by people rather than the location or country?

Yeah, people like Malcolm X affect me more than nationalism. My location has always been in question: is this home? This inspires me to write how I feel, to understand it more myself and maybe shed some light on the current Arab plight.

How important is it that you send your message to Arabs living abroad?

I hope there are people who feel the same way I do because it shows there is need for change. When your identity is in question around the world, you have no choice but to be political. Otherwise you are blind to the reality that we, as Arabs, need to start speaking out against injustices at home and abroad.

How would you describe your music?

Hip-hop, political, satirical, unadulterated Arab funk. I hope it appeals to people of all ages and colours. Insh'allah!

You've been described as Umm Kulthum, Public Enemy and Edward Said stuck in a sound studio.

I think it pretty much sums up the things I mentioned above and pays homage to the people that mentally shaped my musical journey.

What music do you listen to? Are you strictly a hip-hop kinda guy?

Not at all. There is key hip-hop I listen to, but otherwise I listen to the stuff I grew up with – Fairuz, Motown, D'angelo, Soundgarden. I make hip-hop music, but I love all music! I think it's my biggest passion and consider myself more of a fan than an artist.

You're recording right now – any other plans for 2007?

Actually I've boiled it down to a three-part one-CD release called the *Illuminary Project*. I think this album will be more biographical than the last ones but still touch on many of the same issues. It's loosely based on a book by Robert Anton Wilson called *The Illuminatus Trilogy*. So for 2007, I got a couple of shows, hope to release this record, and get a video out... there's lots to come!

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