

STANTON WARRIORS

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Dom / Stanton Warriors

Dom B had his teeth whitened to prepare for the 'who ha' that will surround the Stanton Warriors this year. Katie Reddin-Clancy got the first glimpse of the pearly gnashes and the lowdown from Mark Yardley and Dom B for Mofo on their outstanding new album, Stanton Sessions 2.

They had to source and clone the right blood line to breed the extinct line of carrier pigeon that was the Scarlet Pimpernel's favorite, a winner with the ladies and you thought the milk tray guy had it sussed. The Warriors flatly refused to have their tunes delivered any other way and that's the reason why you haven't had an artist album from these kids. Not quite, but an equally random story stopped a Stanton Warrior album looping round your fisher price walkman all those years ago. Crack addicts thought the price of the Warriors set up would fix 'em up nicely init?' But come to think of it how lucky they weren't also music junkies or the hard drive wasn't sold on to a breaks fan as they would have heard a little rattle in their gold pan.

Thankfully 'Lost Files' isn't an anti climax. In fact it's an absolute corker with a real Eastern European flavor of down tempo, Hip Hop, housey vocals, dancehall and of course club annihilators. As an added bonus the 'Stanton Sessions Volume 11' accompanies it to give you our society's need for a buy one get one free fix.

But first, Mofo had to clear one thing up:

Mofo: "What's your favorite reference to THE STANTON WARRIORS? Mixers and Cartridges, the Manhole cover company, a Hockey team in Canada, a Northern bunch of kids or a tribe in history who defended the King?"

(Laughter)

Dom: "A duo of bad boy DJ's."

Ask a silly question get a silly answer.

Mofo: "So why a double whammy with Lost Files and

Stanton Sessions Volume 11?"

Mark: "Basically we had such a backlog of material through our first record deal with 679. We've always been writing, we may not have released anything in the last three years but we've got so much material we want to put out. Also it feeds two audiences, those who want to hear something different from us, artist album wise and our DJ market- the dance floor with the comp."

Mofo: "Do you think fate, cruel as she is, moved the goalposts to challenge you?"

Dom: "No because we could have made six albums by now! Funnily enough not putting music out hasn't dented our DJ gigs and profile. Maybe it's because there's a lot of suspense around the warriors! I think timing is on our side now because Breaks is much bigger nowadays and there's a need for bigger Breaks tunes to crossover and blow up the scene."

Mofo: "On 'Hope Time' you've got the Reverend Jessie Jackson, how was that recorded?"

Mark: "At the anti Iraq war march in Hyde Park."

Mofo: "Was that a spontaneous thing, how did you record it?"

Mark: "It was actually done by a friend of mine Josh, I've no idea why he was recording from the TV but he just gave it me to and said if you haven't heard it, here you go."

Mofo: "Nice Rogue Element remix too."

Dom: "Yeah really compliments the package."

Mofo: "How did you source your vocalists like Rodney P, Sway and



WORDS BY: KATIE REDDIN-CLANCY

Eska, I adore her 'Still Here' tune."

Dom: "The vocalists we liked were from albums like, Nithan Sawney, Groove Armada, Massive Attack, with an earthier, jazzier feel rather than a bling bling kind of singing! We thought the voices of Tina Grace, Jhelisa and Eska were the better way to go."

Mofo: "It has a real middle-eastern feel to it, especially Jhelisa's 'Seeker', you feel as if you're in some bazaar in Turkey."

Dom: "During the last few years there's obviously been a lot of action in middle-eastern world events and we play over there a lot too, Dubai and Israel, so maybe it's subtly got in there somehow!"

Mofo: "There are posters everywhere saying your rapper Sway's new album is the, 'best rap album ever'. How did you find him?"

Dom: "Sway is in our opinion Britain's best hope for Hip Hop. It was very hard to find UK rappers that we wanted to work with. They are either too grimy or too steppy which was not the flavor we were looking for or they were old skool and couldn't rap at that Breakbeat tempo. We tracked Sway down as he sounded like a mix between Ludacrus and Slick Rick but with a totally original UK angle. Since then he's won at the Mobos. But yeah we've got high hopes for Get Em High."

Mofo: "Well the crowd lapped him up at the album launch party at Fabric."

Dom: "Yeah we were interested to see how that went as we tried to do something a bit different to the other breaks nights at Fabric. So we had DJ Craze doing a Miami mash up as well which went down a treat."

Mofo: "The first off the album, 'Pop your Cork' features Twista who's apparently the fastest ever rapper, how do you know, did you time him?"

Dom: "No it's in the Guinness book of records!"

Mark: "So many syllables in a minute or something!"

Mofo: "What genre of music haven't you tackled that you would like to?"

Dom: "The thing about breakbeat is it's an open template. You can chuck anything in there which is why it's the most interesting music to make."

Mark: "Country and Western?"

Dom: "My granddad was a country and western star in

America, yeah a proper cowboy!"

Mark: "So you've got it in you."

Dom: "Yeeeeeeeha!"

Mark: "The man who put c*** in country music."

(Raucous laughter)

Mofo: "He doesn't speak much but when he does it's priceless! Hilarious."

Mofo: "So what's going to happen to all the tunes that didn't make the album?"



Dom: "We'll probably give them away as downloads on the new website www.stantonwarriors.com. We launched the site with a remix of an old track, 'Antidote' and it had 8,000 downloads."

Mark: "The thing is they're not just leftovers they just didn't fit into the concept of the album."

Mofo: "When you were signed to 679 what happened that helped you mould your relationship with V2?"

Dom: "Experience. We've got a deal now where we can put tracks out on our label Punks and if they go over a certain level of sales then V2 takes over. They put our albums out so we've got artistic freedom and the mechanics of a major

which is perfect. We couldn't handle being told what to produce and when to put it out etc."

Mofo: "Live shows have really taken Breaks up a level, what's your plan?"

Dom: "We've got a lot of festivals this summer which we want to take our vocalists too. So it'll be more of a sound system thing to start with as it's a huge jump from DJ to band."

Mofo: "Considering the Breaks scene is limbering up to give traditional bands a run for their money with live shows, plus big albums being nailed, what would be the best thing that could happen next?"

Dom: "Chart success which would blow the whole thing open; video type tunes which would hit the MTV generation. A couple of tracks like that would make the scene bigger, better and give Breaks the credit that is long overdue."

Mofo: "Tell me about your graffiti exhibition with Banksy and She One?"

Dom: "They are grafting up some Stanton Warriors manhole covers as a gimmick for us and you never know what snowballs! We're also getting some Stanton Warriors trainers! It's about what we are into and adds some culture into the mix!"

Mark: "We're going to run competitions from the website for the trainers."

Mofo: "So you've designed them?"

Mofo: "Yes a plain Stan Smith so we're turning them into Stanton Smiths!"

Mofo was curious about the advice the boys have found most valuable for dealing with the music industry:

Dom: "I read a Trevor Jackson article who said 'Anyone can do the music industry. Do it yourself, don't sign to anyone, don't be swayed by anyone just make music you love and give it to people who you think will like it and most importantly be in control of it.' Believe in yourself I guess is the message there."

Mark: "...and don't listen to anyone you can't learn from." Oh er, music, record labels, fashion statements, parties, exhibitions, philosophy AND 'Dear Stanton's' advice....and who said men can't multitask?!? With a second album on the way supplying the perfect stocking filler dilemma, it's certainly the year of the Warrior!