



THE
IMPOSSEBULLS
RAW
AS F#%\$!!

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Music Starts

WELLS

jump
floor



My Introduction to *The Impossibulls* (and other assorted stories)...

In 2002, I went to hear a lecture by the great Chuck D of Public Enemy fame. PE is one of my favorite bands on the planet and I really wanted to get Chuck's autograph. A few weeks before, I emailed Chuck and asked him to check out my band The Scallions. He went to our website and, to my surprise, he listened to our music and actually liked it! I was floored. I ended up meeting him on the night of the lecture and when he asked whom to make the signature out to I said "Shawn... you actually checked out my band The Scallions a few weeks back". He quickly replied, "Oh, Shawn Franklin". I thought it was amazing that he would remember me.

After a few email exchanges, Chuck asked if we wanted to be on his label, SLAMjamz. At the time, it was only an online situation, but we thought it would get us more exposure. Our previous label folded so we had nothing to lose. It was around this

time that I began making a lot of online friends on Public Enemy's message board: The Enemy Board. I remember complaining to someone that rap was dead and aside from the acts I have followed since the 80's there was nothing new and everyone was horrible. So he suggested I check out The Impossibulls. I thought to myself "eh, they probably are garbage". They were label mates of ours but, since we were new to Slam, I hadn't heard them yet. I was told that Chuck was involved so that sparked my curiosity. I then began to reach out to the leader of the band, David "C-Doc" Snyder. I asked him for some material and he sent me the CD entitled "Impossibulls: Special Edition". I put it in not expecting much but as soon as the first track came on I immediately felt the vibe and was pleasantly shocked. Same for track 2, track 3, etc. I really liked their posse style with many emcees and DJs. I found myself listening to the CD more and more as time went on. This was a group of emcees and DJs that met on the Enemy Board but were spread out in the US. They were later dubbed "The world's first virtual rap squad" because C-Doc would make beats, send them to the guys as mp3 files then the guys would record their verses and send them back to C-Doc.

As 2002 progressed, I began chatting more and more with C-Doc and we became fast friends.

Also at this time, I got an invitation from Chuck to come to Boston for a Public Enemy video shoot. I even had lunch with Flavor Flav! In September of that year, Chuck asked us to play some shows with Public Enemy. My brother and I prepared a single to be sold at the shows. C-Doc did the mastering on it for us. Months after that he asked me to record a solo for The Impossibulls sophomore album, "Slave Education". I was so thrilled because I had never done any session work before. It was a piece called RSVP and my section solo was quite long. It came out great and I was so excited. This was the start of the "favor" system that C-Doc and myself have. I need something mastered... he does it. He needs a guitar part for a song... I record it. We have been working like that till this day. Another cat that I became friends with was Mike "mGee" Gregoire. He was a PE fan that posted on the Enemy Board as well and an extremely talented graphic artist. He was asked to lend his talents on the graphic design end of Public Enemy's "Revolverlution" album. He would go on to be involved in a ton of Scallions' releases as well as the in house graphic designer for SLAMJamz.

He has a really clean style and a real flare for design... more on mGee later on in the story.

In 2003, The Bulls' "Slave Education" was done and C-Doc sent me a copy. I couldn't get that package from the mail opened fast enough. So there it was... a CD-R copy of the new Bulls album and I'm on it! The album kicked me upside the head and it still continues to do so. My immediate reaction was like "Whoa, this is like a Public Enemy Bomb Squad production"! That album is a tour de force. It is an audio listening experience and then some. It's a very political, socially conscious and thought provoking work! By now, my love of these cats was growing by leaps and bounds. I couldn't believe this newer hip hop act could be so dope! Even though they had various emcees on different releases, the core was C-Doc, Marcus J, Pvt. Militant and the one and only Tirade. They also sported two DJs: DJ Def Chad and DJ President Ike. Even though I loved the first album this new one blew it out of the water and out of the universe. No doubt about it!

C-Doc then told me about the possibility of Slam releasing this album and a few other artists to



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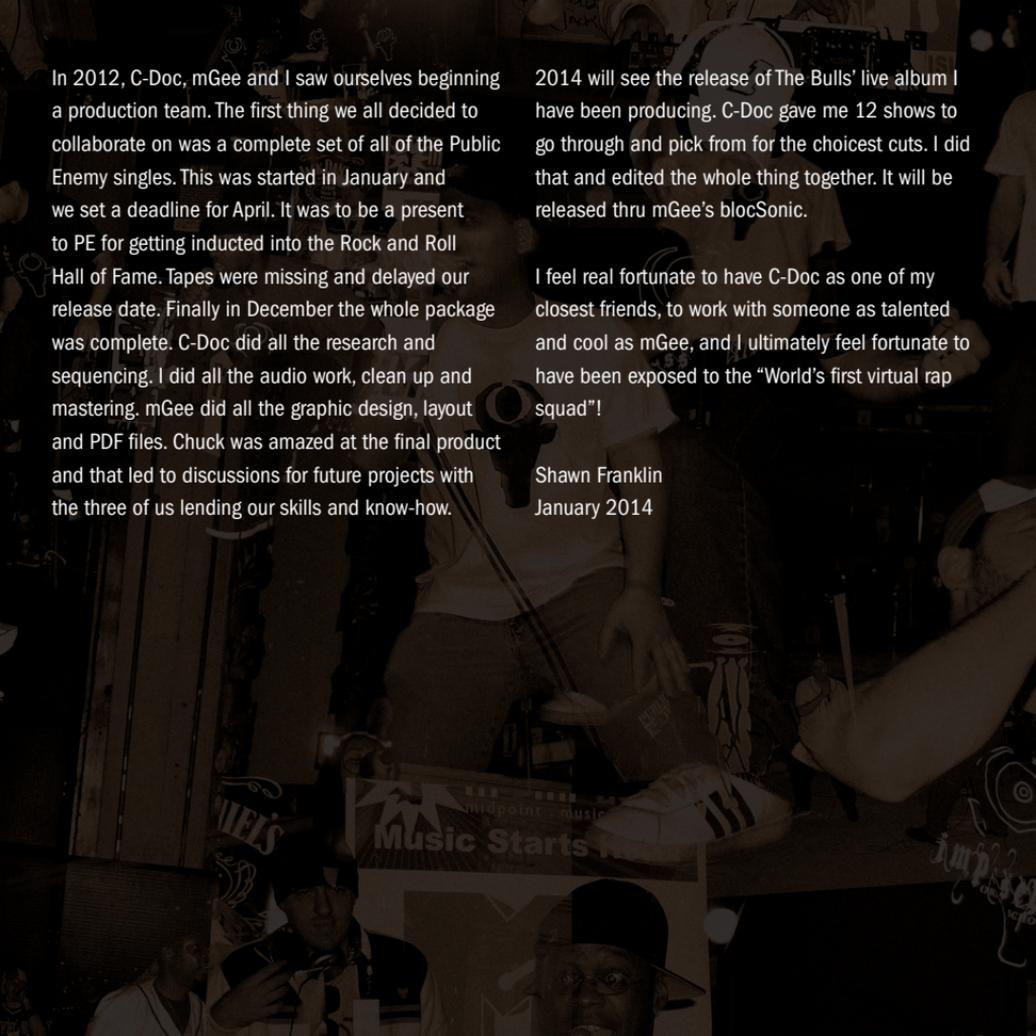
the retail world. This really jolted my excitement. I was happy to see myself on a professional CD/DVD package but it also gave me the hope that The Scallions would see the same treatment. I was invited to Chuck's house in Long Island for a Slam offline meeting. Talk about walking on cloud 9 for a week. Hanging out with one of my heroes, are you kidding?! DJ President Ike, C-Doc and Marcus J would also be there. This was way too cool. As soon as I got the invite, I had an idea we were getting a release as well. I got to Chuck's before everyone and he and I hung out, shooting the breeze. It was quite surreal. Some of the Bulls showed up and it was wild to hang out with them as well. Bomb Squad producer Hank Shockley showed up as well as DJ Johnny Juice. Since it was decided that each CD would come with a DVD, C-Doc would shoot videos for us all. He would go on to do over 100 videos related to PE/Slam.

There was a major fiasco/problem with Slave though. When it was pressed, the plant used the wrong CD master, so the initial copies had the first Bulls album on it and NOT the new album. This was crushing to all involved. The problem was corrected, but so many people who purchased the album were left

with an incorrect album and frustration. The Bulls magnum opus was scarred by yet another example of company incompetence. Still, the group carried on.

In 2004 and 2005, The Bulls played many shows in the PA area. Also another project was bubbling from under the surface. Tirade and C-Doc had a group called LOWdown that started in 1994. Chuck decided to give them a release as well and another spectacular album came out through Slam Jamz, LOWdown's "Ground Zero". Tirade and C-Doc came out to the East Coast to shoot two videos for my band. C-Doc gave me a CD-R copy of "Ground Zero" before it came out. Yet again I was flooded.

Years went on and projects came and went involving The Scallions, The Bulls and mGee. We collaborated on a cover of James Brown's King Heroin for a Slam CD called "Tribb to JB". Both groups released 3.5 floppy disc singles through Rusty Skelding's Gristle Audio label. Both groups have had multiple releases through mGee's amazing online label, blocSonic. The Scallions have donated music for C-Doc's amazing movies. The list goes on.



In 2012, C-Doc, mGee and I saw ourselves beginning a production team. The first thing we all decided to collaborate on was a complete set of all of the Public Enemy singles. This was started in January and we set a deadline for April. It was to be a present to PE for getting inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Tapes were missing and delayed our release date. Finally in December the whole package was complete. C-Doc did all the research and sequencing. I did all the audio work, clean up and mastering. mGee did all the graphic design, layout and PDF files. Chuck was amazed at the final product and that led to discussions for future projects with the three of us lending our skills and know-how.

2014 will see the release of The Bulls' live album I have been producing. C-Doc gave me 12 shows to go through and pick from for the choicest cuts. I did that and edited the whole thing together. It will be released thru mGee's blocSonic.

I feel real fortunate to have C-Doc as one of my closest friends, to work with someone as talented and cool as mGee, and I ultimately feel fortunate to have been exposed to the "World's first virtual rap squad"!

Shawn Franklin
January 2014



Marcus J's RAW Live Performance Memories

- I'm going to try to do this with a bullet point style as not to bore you with rambling pointless stories... which I find myself doing more and more of as I get older.
- Our very first show... Doc's in Ford City PA, I believe... During the performance I step on a power strip and cut power to everything on stage... after that I go into a 10 minute long version of "Xenia Flow" and put the place to sleep.
 - Other random memories from this venue (but not our first show) include... Walking into the bathroom to find 2 guys doing lines of coke off the top of the toilet paper holder. Jeff10 performing in a homemade robot costume, passing out condoms and eventually being involved in a fight that shut the place down.
- Our 4th show was FLUX in Pittsburgh. That was the first show I felt like a "rapper". Everything came off great, no mistakes and the crowd dug us.

First time opening for Public Enemy in Pittsburgh in 2002... we probably weren't ready for that.

- Our third show opening for Public Enemy was very memorable for me. Before the show we are walking around outside the venue, passing out stickers, promoting ourselves etc... so by the time we got back stage to meet before going on we had 30 minutes before we had to go on... or so we thought. The guys going on before us refused to perform so we got their time added to our set. So all of a sudden not only were we going on 15 minutes earlier than we thought we also had another 10 minutes of stage time to fill. C-Doc and Ike worked some magic and figured out what we are going to do. For me personally that meant performing a song I hadn't performed in over a year over an instrumental I had never heard... ever. All of a sudden that's some major pressure I'm feeling... As if opening for PE wasn't enough... this was by far the biggest crowd for us on the tour so far, and we had just introduced ourselves to everyone standing in line. We can't suck now. We go on... I don't remember anything specific about the performance, I just know we killed it. And when we came off stage, there was Chuck sitting at the sound

board, nodding his head approvingly. That is a great feeling.

- I tell this story all the time because it's just so surreal, and it's funny to me at least, because I really feel like I cheated death. We had two shows over a weekend, Friday night in Cleveland and then Saturday night in Pittsburgh. Now in Cleveland we were set to perform at what seemed to be a pretty big show for a promoter named "Deuce Dirty". C-Doc's cousin Dels had set it up for us. We get to the spot pretty early. I think we were supposed to go on at 8 or 9:00PM... pretty early on in the night... and we were one of probably 10 groups scheduled to perform. Our time came and went, and more groups just kept popping up and getting put on before us. Deuce Dirty kept telling Dels that we were up next, but when the time came some other group would get on and we again became next. Anyway, by the time we got on I think it was 1:45am... and the place shut down at 2am. I remember C-Doc being super pissed and we kind of bum rushed the stage... grabbed the mics and just started performing as people were trying to tear down the stage around us. We were just going to power through it and do our 30 minute show no

matter what. Well halfway through our third song they just pulled the plug on our mics to get us off. I just kind of laughed it off because it was just too stupid to be believed. We all had gotten maybe 4 hours sleep the night before, driven to Cleveland and stood around for 6 hours to watch horrible rapper after horrible rapper go on before us... and then we got to do 2 and half songs. This is the glamorous life of a rapper. So it's back to Pittsburgh at 2AM. Now for 90% of all Impossebull shows Tirade was my co-pilot. I wouldn't be surprised if we shared 100,000 miles together. So this trip was no different. We vowed to keep each other awake and hit the road. We were doing great. We get to Pennsylvania as the sun was coming up and we are on the home stretch to C-Doc's house. Literally 10 miles from Doc's I look over and Tirade is asleep. I don't know when that happened, but I thought I'm going to let him sleep... 10 miles? I can do that no problem. I didn't realize how tired I was... because moments later I swear I saw an entire barn "run" across the highway right in front of me. It was simultaneously funny and scary. I didn't know if I was dreaming or if I was already dead from running off the road and hitting a barn. I woke Rade up and told him the story and told him he was

going to have to stay awake with me for these last 5 miles because I honestly had no idea what was going on. As if what just happened wasn't strange enough, I remember thinking how strange it was that Tirade took what I just said like it was somehow normal. I guess I half expected him to slap me in the face, or wake me from my dream or something. He just said, "ok I got you"... and I repeated what I saw like he didn't understand... "Dude... a BARN just ran out in front of my car!" I think I wanted him to explain that to me to fix my broken brain. We made it to Doc's hosue safe and I learned hallucinations are very real.

OK... That was rambling... back to my bullet point plan...

- Slave Education Release Party/Show
 - Super excited for the release of Slave Education
 - Chuck calls and asks why are there only 11 tracks on Slave Education.
 - MVD printed up and shipped out the wrong album.
 - Still put on a good but much less inspired performance for a crowd of nearly no one.

- Mike Meyers was outside our show for some reason. I went outside said hi and invited him to the show. He waved to me, but never showed up to our show.

- Vans Warped Tour and Shadow Lounge Show (Date ???)

- Literally 110 degrees, outside day show, surrounded by asphalt
- Good performance despite heat exhaustion
- After party show at Shadow Lounge
- I fall asleep on couch in back room
- Wake up, down 2 Redbulls, have what I consider our best show ever.

Here is exactly what happened before 50% of our shows:

30 minutes before show... I overhear Tirade talking to C-Doc...

Tirade: "OK... now... just to be clear... after <blank> instead of you doing <blank>... I'm going to do my <blank> verse over the <blank> beat, and then Marcus comes in with <blank>."

C-Doc: "Yea something like that... I'm still putting the show disc together so I'll let you know in a second."

Marcus J: "Wait... what's going on?"

Tirade: "Doc didn't tell you?"

Marcus J: "Tell me what?"

Tirade: "Everything's changed."

Marcus J: "What? Here's the set list I printed out right before I left Xenia!"

Tirade: "Oh fuck that thing... it's all wrong."

Marcus J: "Damn it... so that four hours in the car practicing was a waste of time huh?"

Tirade: "Don't worry, we're good... it's going to be dope. Drink your Redballs... give me a head-butt... it's all good... it's going to be dope... and if it isn't who cares? HAHAHA... OH YEA... HELL YEA SON!!!!"

Marcus J: "Doc... what in the hell are we doing now?"

C-Doc: "Do you remember your <blank> verse?"

Marcus J: "Barely."

C-Doc: "Do you remember that <blank> beat?"

Marcus J: "No."

C-Doc: "It's the B-Side instrumental off the <blank> movie soundtrack, by MC 50 Years Ago."

Marcus J: "???"

C-Doc: "You'll know it when you hear it."

Marcus J: "..."

C-Doc: "You good?"

Marcus J: <long pause> "You're going to have to cue me."

C-Doc: "Alright... let's go!"

Marcus J: "Fuck."

We've had some bad shows... we've had some great shows... and we've had some shows where the audience were no shows... But I swear I can't remember a show that wasn't fun. In between the pre-show butterflies and the post show convincing of ourselves that we didn't suck, while tallying our mistakes... it is always fun. And what more reason do you need to do anything in life? There is an emotional "triple point" I find on stage that I have not found anywhere else in life... the perfect storm of pressure, joy and relief... that's RAW... that's an Impossebulls show.

Peace,

Marcus J

January 24, 2014



A collage of photos from a music event, including a DJ, a crowd, and a poster for 'Music Starts Here'. The background is a dark, textured collage of various images related to music and culture. In the center, a DJ is seen from the chest up, wearing a white t-shirt and a white baseball cap with a logo. To the right, a person is wearing a white t-shirt with a graphic. At the bottom, there's a poster for 'Music Starts Here' featuring a starburst graphic and the text 'Music Starts Here'. Other elements include a person in a white shirt and tie, and a person in a white shirt and black jacket. The overall aesthetic is gritty and urban.

COMPILATION PRODUCED, EDITED & SEQUENCED BY **SHAWN FRANKLIN**
ORIGINAL RECORDINGS PRODUCED BY **MPOR TED FLOWS**
MASTERED BY **STU BEETLE FOR HWIC MUSICWORKS**
PHOTOS BY **MAURA SNYDER & RUSTY SKELDING**
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: **MICHAEL GREGOIRE & THE IMPOSSEBULLS**



1 BRINGIN' PAIN (INTRO)* 1:11

Marcus J: I remember walking out to the stage chain-gang style to this. As good as this album is, I wish it was a DVD, because I think the visual aspect of our shows really set us apart... in a good way.

2 EIGHTY-SIX (MARDI GRAS MIXX)* 1:59

C-Doc: I was always trying to flip some of our songs for our live shows just so that we could have fun with our catalog and give the audience a little something to recognize. We used to play shows to people who didn't know us that well so if you throw on a beat that sounds like Run DMC then it gives them a frame of reference.

3 SUPERHEDDNODDULTRAMACK 6000* 3:43

Marcus J: The bass of this song shut sound systems down at many shows at many different venues.

4 VOLUME** 1:52

5 SHADOW OF THOUGHT** 1:12

Marcus J: I wrote a majority of this song when I was 14 years old... never recorded it until the The Impossibulls were formed. This is a good "connect with the crowd" song for me... which aside from running around acting like a complete idiot, is my favorite aspect of performing live.

6 YES/NO*** 2:19

C-Doc: This started off as a Marcus J track that we never finished. One day I was going thru beats and Tirade heard it. He asked me what it was for. I told him it was a Marcus J solo joint. He told me that it used to be a Marcus J solo song, but it wasn't anymore.

7 WHO WANTS TO ACT LIKE A MILLIONAIRE?*** 1:10

8 RSVP*** :55

9 ONE MAN'S DOPE*** 2:24

C-Doc: This was our first single from our second album and it always played well with the crowds. So it was definitely a staple of our live shows.

10 CIRCLE OF LIES (ESCAPE FROM NY MIXX)+ 3:13

Marcus J: I love performing this version of “Circle of Lies”. First I don’t have a verse on it so it gives me a break... no real responsibility... So I can back the guys up and try to get the crowd involved. It’s one of the few tracks were I can slide into the “hype man” role. I love the “epic” feel of this version. The music announce something important is being said... and it is. I also love the genuine anger Doc and Rade come with. All those things combine for a powerful live track. I also like that I’m not on the version chosen for this album... It’s sound cleaner and tighter.

11 THIS IS A POP SONG*** 3:02

Marcus J: Rade mentions at the beginning of this performance that we “might do a little dance”. Heck yea we do a little dance and always do to this track. It’s a nice little choreographed number... another one you need to see to appreciate fully. It is great in its horribleness... and thus fits the theme of the song perfectly. Lots of fine performing this song as it gives us the space to interact with each other and get goofy. We are pretty darn good at goofy.

12 MUCH MORE STRICTLY HIPHOP* 3:47

Marcus J: Another great alternate beat performance track. The beat fits the song well... the song fits us well... it makes for a solid performance.

13 CUT OUT THE MIDDLEMAN (DISCOFREAK MIXX)* 1:27

14 PLEASE WARHAMMER DON'T HURT 'EM (REMIX)+ 3:35

Marcus J: More getting silly over a dope beat... That should be on a Bulls T-shirt.

C-Doc: By far the dumbest song I've ever written, I think. But it always played well because it was so much fun.

15 JUST FOR THE RECORD+ 2:54

C-Doc: Tirade's theme song of sorts. Just a great record to get the crowd involved.

16 GIVE IT TO THE DJ** 1:40

C-Doc: A song I literally made in 15 minutes. We needed something to start our live sets off where our DJ could show off his shit. So originally it was written for Ike but Chad ended up rocking to it, too.

17 IMPOSSEBULLS ERA** 1:56

Marcus J: Really like the way we divided this verse up between the three of us. It gives it a great old school feel. And if I remember right the first time we did this live it was one of those last minute C-Doc change up things, where we are literally walking on stage going... "I go first then you and then???" No it's me then you then...".

18 LET ME SPELL YOU THIS** 3:16

C-Doc: This joint started off as a quick introduction song for us but, as we did more shows, we ended up putting verses on it. A nice jump off track to amp up the crowd.

19 ENTER THE CREEPUS++ 2:21

Marcus J: Just need to say this song is dope. That is all.

20 TIME IS RUNNING AWAY (DESTROY EVERYTHING)** 2:44

21 WHAT AN EMCEE (SHOULD BE)*** 1:04

Marcus J: Another favorite verse, over a favorite old school beat.

22 BLAQUE GLOVES*** 2:39

Marcus J: One of my favorite, if not the favorite Bulls track of all time... again I get to play hype man for two of my favorite MCs.

23 1NATION (ONE FAM)*** 5:10

Marcus J: Yet another favorite song to perform live. Another really good connect with the crowd verse for me. If we didn't end the show with the complete craziness of LOWdown's "Lyrikil Tranzportashun", or a cover of Public Enemy's "Channel Zero", then we usually ended our set with this. A nice cool down track... a thank you to the crowd... letting them know that we are them and they are us.

RIP: JOHN KELLER (MARCH 26, 1976 - AUGUST 18, 2005)++



*Vocals: Tirade, Marcus J, C-Doc

Recorded Live at The Shadow Lounge, East Liberty, PA

January 29, 2005

** Vocals: Tirade, Marcus J, C-Doc

Cuts: DJ Def Chad

Recorded Live at The Shadow Lounge, East Liberty, PA

October 23, 2004

*** Vocals: Tirade, Marcus J, C-Doc

Recorded Live at The Shadow Lounge, East Liberty, PA

July 17, 2004

+ Vocals: Tirade, C-Doc

Recorded Live at Mr. Roboto Project, Wilkinsburg, PA

March 29, 2005

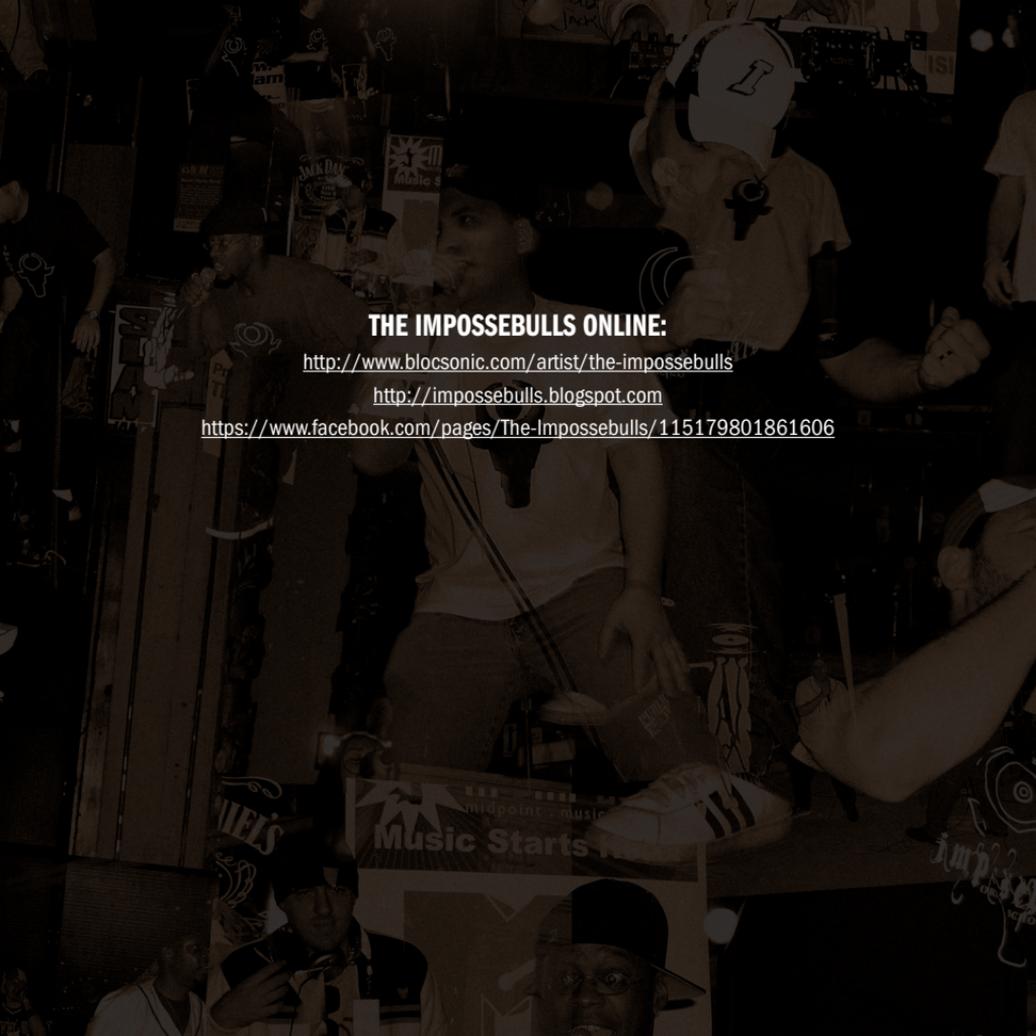
++ Vocals: Tirade

Cuts: DJ Def Chad

Recorded Live at The Rex Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA

August 18, 2005





THE IMPOSSEBULLS ONLINE:

<http://www.blocsonic.com/artist/the-impossebulls>

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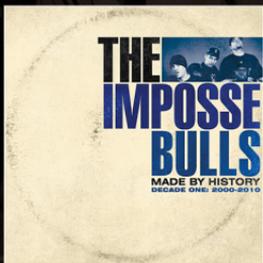
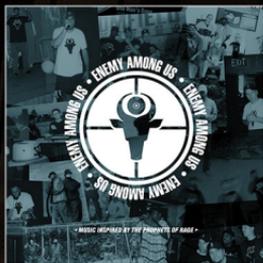
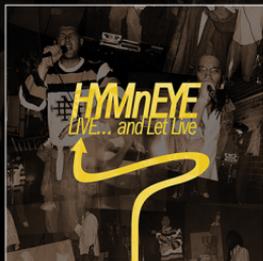


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- Michael Gregoire, blocSonic

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