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Interview With Paul Nguyen

Posted by: anh_meo - on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 - 02:17 AM

Interview With **Paul Nguyen** (Director of 'You Got Beef')
January 18th, 2005

[**Kevin**] Can you tell us some basic info about yourself, like name, age, location?

I'm Paul Nguyen, proudly Vietnamese, 24 now, and walk the infamous streets
of Jane and Finch.

[**Kevin**] How long have you been directing?

I made my first home-movie when I was 14 years old. Over the years my hobby
grew, and I eventually studied film theory in post-secondary school. I
probably made over 200 productions, short and long, since I was a kid.

[**Kevin**] What got you into directing?

To be honest, my best friend was bored and he knew that my dad bought a new
video camera. So he suggested that we make a movie for fun. I was hesitant,
since I was kid (14) and I didn't want to break my dad's new camera. But
luckily, my best friend convinced me and the rest is history. Our first
movie together was called "Drug Bust". I was a cop and he was the bad guy,
and we had a big shoot-out using cap guns in my basement!

[**Kevin**] How long does it for you to make a music video, say, "you got beef" from
start to finish?

I wanted to keep this secret for a long time, about our process, but I guess
I'll reveal them now. "You Got Beef" was shot over two days and I finished
editing it on the third day. The fastest we ever pumped out a video was the
first video I did with Chuckie, called "Soldier". I had a school project due
the next day, which was to be the Soldier video. I spent one hour filming it
near my house. But in between takes, I had to rush back to my mom's
workplace to pick her up and drive her home, rushed back to Chuckie's gang
and finished the last walking scenes. I went back home, dumped the 15
minutes of raw footage into my computer and edited it in another hour. So,
in all it took me 2 hours in total to complete that video! In my

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opinion,
the video could have been way better, but it was a good first
try. Because
of the success of "Soldier", me and Chuckie are still working
together
today.

[**Kevin**] I peep Chuckie's video "My Heart", nice job Paul.
Now Chuckie is pretty
popular rapper nowadays thanks to his skills in rapping, but
besides that
also thanks to Paul's video. How did you and Chuckie get
together in the
first place?

Thanks, but you should really thank Chuckie. This time
around, the "My
Heart" video concept was completely developed by Chuckie
himself. Yeah, I
think Chuckie is an awesome rapper. He is a tremendous
talent and has lots
of commercial appeal. I know he will make a big impact in
mainstream rap,
and he will elevate rap entertainment for the Vietnamese and
Asian community
at large. Since it's funny how I met Chuckie, I'll explain the
details. I
was talking to some girl I was trying to mack on AA, we
eventually became
friends. So whenever she was at my house, I'd show her my
little fight
videos, etc. She knew I wanted to learn how to make rap
videos, so she told
me about this Viet rapper from her school, called Chuckie
Akenz. At first, I
was a little bit hesitant, because I'm not into the whole gang
scene, and I
assumed this rapper would be some hardcore thug. But when
I met him, I was
pleasantly surprised to meet a nice young man, who was very
mature and
polite for his age. I immediately respected him and his work,
and I was
eager to work with him. Now, we're good friends today.

[**Kevin**] How was it like working with Chuckie?

Some people have the same assumptions that I did before I
knew Chuckie. But
in actuality, he's a smart businessman. He knows what he
wants and takes
action to get the job done right. He's very aware of his own
persona and the
content he puts out to his fans. Working with Chuckie is not
like working at
all. We all have a lot of fun making these videos for people.
It's gone to
the point where I'm working on a movie with him now.

[**Kevin**] Paul, besides directing music videos, you also do
action stuff right,
like "Birth Control", so any plans for the future like maybe do
movies?

Yeah, I have tons of ideas. But I don't have enough people
helping me. It's
hard when you gotta do everything yourself. In "Birth
Control", I served as
the director, editor, choreographer, sound mixer, and I had a

bit part in
the film. I even made the DVD covers! But I love acting. I would like to see
the Vietnamese community have their own action star. Hong Kong has Jet Li,
Black's have Wesley Snipes and White's have everybody else. My goal is to
make a completely Vietnamese-language action film with good action scenes,
hopefully as good as Jackie Chan's stuff.

[**Kevin**] Paul, any other artists that you're going to work with in the future?

Right now, I'm gonna do a video for a black female artist named Lil Lola,
and I still have ideas for Moulann's next video. But she's really busy, too
busy for me! I also met a wonderful new Vietnamese musician by the name of
Tai Quach, so we're working out his debut video.

[**Kevin**] Say someone love your videos and they want you to direct their video,
what requirements do they need in order to get you to direct for them?

If I like their music and they are dedicated and passionate about their
work, I would be pleased to work with them. If they are hiring me to direct
their video, that's a different story. Usually I scout for up and coming
artists who have lots of potential. I'd like to give them a little bit more
exposure by creating a video for them. Hopefully when they make it big, they
will buy me something in return, like a new car! Just kidding!

[**Kevin**] Most of Paul's videos are available at http://jane-finch.com , now was
jane-finch a website you created?

Yep, I created the Jane-Finch.com website last year in 2004. It's only been
in existence for a short period of time, but it has experienced significant
growth over the months. I am still working hard on expanding the website. We
have a small international audience-base, but I would like to incorporate
more ideas, and hopefully host independent rap videos not only from Jane and
Finch, but from other parts of the world.

[**Kevin**] So besides directing music videos, what are some of your other hobbies?

Girls. It's a well known fact that I was a notorious mack-daddy. Now I'm
older and I've pretty much settled down. But seriously now, my hobbies are
meeting new people and learning about new things all the time. I like
learning and I read a lot. But the biggest thing, of course, is movies. I
have thousands of DVD's and I love re-living the movie experience at home. I
particularly love older films, mostly the epics of 60's, to the

emergence of
independent filmmaking in the 70's. For example, Once Upon a Time in the
West (1969), All The President's Men (1976) and The China Syndrome (1979).

[**Kevin**] Anyways, thank you Paul Nguyen for your interview, and the family of
VietRapper.com wants to comment you on the wonderful job on the directing,
and best wishes to you in your directing future. Any other shoutout or
anything you want to say?

Well, thanks for taking to the time peer into my little life. I would like
to thank all those who supported me and my website. I hope to continue
making fun videos for everyone out there and I hope to be able to advance
Vietnamese culture through entertainment. Thanks, VR!

Some pictures of Paul [1 - 2]

jane-finch.com

Note: *Interviewed By Kevin007*

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