

Brownman &

GRUVASYLUM

hip-hop with jazz ideology

"After 4 years of world tours standing next to hip-hop legend GURU (of Gangstarr fame) his now iconic trumpet player Brownman Ali continues to extend the jazz-hip-hop legacy Guru began" - Boston Phoenix

Jazz & hip-hop have long been cross-pollinated by geniuses from both genres. From the appearance of rappers on the legendary Miles Davis' "DooBop" recording, to jazz superstars like Herbie Hancock and Donald Byrd guesting in hip-hop legend GURU's JAZZMATAZZ. Jazzmatazz is now historically recognized as the 1st successful amalgamation of jazz & hip-hop -- and from 2006 to 2010 Canada's own nationally acclaimed trumpet playing jazz icon BROWNMEN would replace Donald Byrd in Guru's Jazzmatazz, doing 4 world tours, appearing on Jazzmatazz Vol. 4, and catapulting him to international acclaim in the hip-hop community. Guru tragically died in 2010 of cancer, but Brownman continues his legacy in the exploration of jazz-hip-hop in his own group GRUVASYLUM. This all-star quintet, with Guru alumni and multiple National Jazz Award Winner Brownman at the helm, reminds us that the essence of the jazz solo is not so different from the essence of freestyle -- in that improvisation and spontaneous creation is at the heart of both idioms. Gruvasylum is about modern, thoughtful, conscious hip-hop that tells tales of the world we live in - yet rooted in the jazz lineage. It is not what you hear on MTV. No one in Gruvasylum will ever discuss the merits of gunplay, SUVs with spinning rims, or big-booty girls. You will however hear lyrics that emphasize living life with irreverence and taking risks in that living. It is what you hear in every Miles Davis solo... or Guru's lyrics. Brownman & GRUVASYLUM -- hip-hop with a jazz ideology.

"GRUVASYLUM, in it's 5-man configuration, delivers charged performances using a powerful lineup of trumpet, rapper, DJ, drums, and bass, combined with an incessant drive to push the improvisational envelope to new realms. Between these 5 core members, GRUVASYLUM covers a modern jazz landscape largely inspired by Miles Davis plugged-in years, with albums like "Bitches Brew" and "In a Silent Way" becoming the enduring template for experimentation and creativity in jazz fusion. Leading the ensemble is award-winning trumpeter Brownman, who has been heralded as "Canada's preeminent jazz trumpet player" by New York City's Village Voice, in addition to being a fixture in the New York state music community during his numerous stops in the Empire state. As the featured soloist with legendary jazz-hip-hop group Guru's Jazzmatazz (of Gangstarr fame) from 2006 to 2010, Brownman looks to carry the flame of Guru's uniquely ubiquitous jazz-rap blend with his own crew of top-shelf musicians." -- Buffalo News

"Mouths will be agape at what comes out of the mic between these bonafide freestyle masters and Brownman's soaring trumpet. The jazz-hip-hop timeline just earned another notch." -- Artvoice magazine

JAZZ HIP HOP



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BROWNMEN ALI
- 2 National Jazz Awards & 11 nominations
- Montreal Jazz Fest's "Grand Prix Du Jazz Award"
- NOW magazine's "Jazz Musician of the Year"
- CBC Rising Star Award
- Who's Who In Black Canada
- Trinidad Congressional Citation
- Toured with Mos Def, Paul Simon, Jay-Z & recorded w/ Quincy Jones
- Has appeared on just over 300 recordings as a session artist
- CEO of Brownasaurus Records

Improvisation...

Spontaneous creation...

The essence of the jazz solo is not so different from the essence of freestyle.

GRUVASYLUM is hip-hop with a jazz ideology.

Improvised urban grooves, yet rooted in jazz lineage.

Place these tenements in the hands of award-winning musicians and a berserker freestyle rapper...

. . . and watch the walls **burn down** . . .