

# Buck<sup>65</sup>

On hip-hop, centaurs, and the truth about Len

By Ryan O'Connor  
A & E EDITOR

It's a breath of fresh air to meet an artist that places musical integrity above financial gain. Halifax hip hop legend Buck 65 is one such artist. Despite a constant pull to relocate to a city with a larger market for his unique style, Halifax remains Buck's headquarters.

Perhaps the most compelling attempt to get him out of his home province occurred just over a year ago when Marc Costanzo, Len's Burger Pimp, gave Buck a phone call. After helping the group record their breakthrough album, "You Can't Stop The Bum Rush," Costanzo was hoping that his friend would join the group. Despite the opportunity to make a pile of cash, Buck wasn't up for it. "Len's image is all about having fun. I don't like to

have fun," he said.

Before Buck had the opportunity to reject the offer to join the group, the album's cover art had been printed. As a result, Buck can be seen on it, between Costanzo and his sister Sharon.



Buck grew up in Mt. Uniacke, a small town outside of Halifax. He began his involvement in hip hop as a b-boy in 1982, and used to participate in b-boy battles at the local roller-skating rink. In grade seven he began writing rap lyrics to impress girls. Now an internationally recognized DJ and rapper, and having toured with the Beastie Boys, he draws his musical inspiration from ordinary things, such as dreams and everyday occurrences.

"If you live in Halifax, for Christ's sakes, it's not like some hardcore, urban experience here. It's pretty ridiculous to me if someone's living here and making music that's supposed to sound like music from New York or Los Angeles. Even that stuff is mostly fantasy, but I mean here it's something that goes beyond that into the realm of ridiculousness. All I've ever really been able to do is just be myself. It seems like an obvious thing, but not a lot of people really are themselves. Even if you are a thug or something, and you've killed people and beat someone up everyday, there still has to be things in your life like what you do Sunday morning, or Christmas. There's got to be other stuff to talk about."

Noticeably absent from Buck's music are your stereotypical gangsta rhymes and misogynist references. "I've

never really liked that music at all. To me it [listening to hardcore hip hop] is just as weird as if you make it. It's perverted almost because you want to get some cheap thrill from listening to some guy talk about killing people. That's

really bizarre to me. I just rhyme about baseball and riding my bike."

Not all of his songs are based in reality. Perhaps the prize possession of his active imagination is the Centaur, a song about a half man, half horse living in North

America today. After the idea initially popped into his head, he began to think about how living with a centaur's body would affect his life. "I'm smart, good looking, and well

**Buck 65**  
next page

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