

## Laskar Music

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### **Contact**

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### **the1shanti Artist Biography**

Freestyling by the age of eight and on tour by the age of 12, Bengali-American rapper/producer, the1shanti, released his first 12" record, **Blaxploitation**, in 2000 on Soulspazm Records. The single featured L Fudge, R-Son, louis logic, and Kimani Rogers of the Masterminds and peaked at #13 on Gavin's hip-hop charts.

Shortly thereafter in 2001, an e.p. entitled **Deadline** featuring El Fudge, R-Son, louis logic, J-Zone, and Willus Drummond was released on Downs Elementary Records. The e.p.'s self-titled single, **Deadline**, ascended to the #1 independent rap record position in HITS and was the most added single the week of its release.

Recruited as front-man for Sean "DJ Cavo" Dinsmore's outfit, the Dum Dum Project (DDP), the1shanti relocated to London in summer 2001 to work on the group's release, **Export Quaity** and was featured next to Asha Puthli on the single *Jaani Jaan* (meaning of my heart, of my soul). A success in the UK, the group travelled to Bollywood to film the video and established itself as the first New York hip-hop crew to bring its style of true school rap music as a fusion offering to India.

Returning to London as residents of the hugely successful Swaraj club night, DDP enjoyed continued success on the BBC and helped initiate the evolution of the UK's Asian hip-hop scene by continuing with a string of landmark releases including the hit, **Punjabi Five-0**.

In addition, the1shanti was selected to remix and feature on A.R. Rahman's **Shakalaka Baby** for **Bombay Dreams**. Simultaneously, Billy Martin (Medeski, Martin + Wood) featured on and released **ElekTro4 for President** in the States, a collaboration with Bully/Ninjatune producer ElekTro4 and the1shanti.

In 2003 and 2006, DDP signed with Sony Music (Bec Tero) and HOM (Universal) respectively for their release, **Spiritual Bling**. the1shanti toured worldwide with DDP between 2002 and 2005 to promote the record.

In early 2006, upon returning to New York, the1shanti founded Flatbush Junction Recordings and released a solo e.p. entitled **All I Need**.

During spring 2006 hip-hop godfather, Afrika Bambaataa, bestowed upon the1shanti the honorary title of "India Bambaataa". In November of that year, the1shanti released his debut solo full length which carried the title.

In the spring of 2007, Rawkus Records selected the1shanti as a member of the "Rawkus 50" (the 50 most influential next-generation hip-hop artists). the1shanti's self-titled sophomore album is currently available via 5G/Flatbush Junction/Rawkus 50.

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### **the1shanti - Artist Personal Statement**

I write music and produce other artists for the most part. I'm not much of a front man, but I live to perform. Growing up, I was reluctant to trade in my vinyl for spinners and ice grills.

I've got the honor of being able to say that I helped start Soulspazm in Jim Drew's apartment with a record called "Blaxploitation" which featured my friends L Fudge, R-Son, Louis Logic, and the Masterminds. I was just a kid and it was nothing but fun.

Since then, I've moved around the world quite a bit with a production group I fronted called DDP, putting out an album on Sony and one on Universal before moving home and starting my own label (Flatbush Junction).

For this album, I worked with 5G Productions and longtime friends J.J. Brown and Dan D for almost half of the cuts. My good friends Nawfcyde and Resk 1 did the rest. Last year, Afrika Bambaataa dubbed me India Bambaataa for being the first New York-based emcee to break hip hop commercially in India. It was hard work, but someone had to do it.

I really believe that good music can overpower huge budgets, and luckily, millions of kids around the world have supported that notion for me.

I've got the honor of being one of the Rawkus 50.

I hope you enjoy the new album. It's self titled because I think it's the closest thing to who I am as an artist that I've done so far.

Thanks for letting me entertain you.

- the1shanti