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BIG PUN

by Steve Arias, Portrait By Shaheen A. El

When one thinks of rappers who've changed the face of hip hop few names might come to mind. But among those few, Big Pun is definitely one of them. He was also one of the few latino rappers who have probed the rough terrain that comes with hip hop stardom. Is it because of the way he used to flow, his stylistic barrage of thought inducing wordage? Maybe. But one thing is for sure by the end of his career in rap, Big Pun had established himself as a master lyricist who had ears listening to his rhetoric. A film by Marcos Antonio Miranda attempts to capture, and perhaps explain, the true nature of the rap star and his influence on the game.

In "Big Pun: Still Not a Player," fellow rapper, Nas sorrowfully comments on the fallen rapper's abilities. "He's a legend, no one could ever replace him," says Nas,

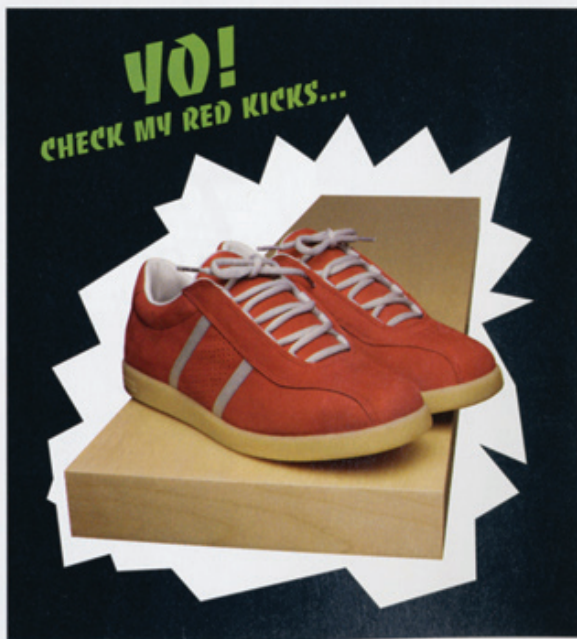
showing his admiration for Pun's work. Fat Joe makes an appearance, as well as Raekwon; and confesses his thoughts on Big Pun's life. "He was the Elvis of the Spanish Harlem movement," he says in regards to Punisher and the Terror Squad. Radio personality and rapper Angie Martinez also discusses the problems that ultimately consumed Big Pun, such as his obesity. "Chris thought that Big Pun had to be

BIG PUN," implying that Big Punisher had attempted to stay true to his infamous moniker by over indulging in all aspects of his lifestyle, including his eating habits. In any case, the documentary of the rap star's life could really provide some insight as to why his life was cut so tragically short, leaving the hip hop world without one of its undisputed heavyweights.



live!

CLAE NATION UPON U.S.!



by Amapola

The man: Sung Choi, former footwear designer for DC Shoes and an influential graphic artist who has worked with such companies as Triple Five Soul, PNB Nation, Supreme, Stussy, and Union.

The skills: In 1997, Sung received a phone call from the owner of DC Shoes regarding a position as footwear designer that was available. Intrigued by Sung's style, the executive flew Sung out to California for an interview and hired him ten minutes after seeing his portfolio. And now, after arguably completing the most innovative designs they have ever released, Sung is spearheading his own line of casual shoes and setting out to redefine the footwear business.

The business: Clae, a new casual footwear line that seeks to combine the comfort level of athletic shoes with the sleek and refined style of upscale casual shoes. The mission: To redefine casual

footwear in a way that integrates the needs of our generation. Says Sung, "When you think about casual footwear, you automatically think about your pop's shoes. You know, leather bottoms, they're really uncomfortable, the shapes aren't right. There's nothing like that in the market for young people to rock. We're just trying to create something new."

The product: Quality men's shoes made of such fine materials as full grain leathers, nubuck, burlap material, and suede. The simple and crisp designs, along with the streamlined and snug shape, make each pair of shoes fashionably noteworthy yet low key enough to match any item in your closet. The Details: Clae shoes range from \$80 to \$120 in price and can be found at such stores as Supreme, American Rag, and Fred Segal. Look for them in July of this year. Until then, check out ClaeFootwear.com for more details.