

Turaj

Born in revolution that tore into war... "Can't Stop Now"

Turaj, full name Turaj Zaim, was born in Tehran, Iran during the Iranian Revolution. He escaped during the Iran-Iraq War, leaving his father and sister, and a life of tracer bullets and tanks in the streets. He raised himself and his younger brother virtually alone, in a basement in downtown Chicago.

Descending from a long line of famous Iranian rebels and activists, Turaj is both formally and self-educated in politics. True to his music, he left school early and took his songs across the West, performing regularly at venues such as the Temple Bar Lounge in L.A., and Storyville in San Francisco. Last year he opened the Sundance Film Festival in Park City with a live band. Having built genuine underground and street credibility, he is currently seeking major distribution for his new project, *Can't Stop Now*.

Turaj's hard-edged, riveting raps reveal him as a child of revolution. Raised on Persian and American poetry since early childhood, Turaj has an incredible sense of rhyme and meter. All his songs are from his real life experiences, from war to crime, romance to tragedy, hustling to partying. Turaj's unique perspective is a product of his mixed Iranian and American backgrounds and a lifetime of hot situations on the street.

A performer to the core, Turaj plays to sold-out crowds in California, Utah, and Colorado, and has used everything from bellydancers to live violinists on stage. He has toured California, Oregon, Colorado, Utah, and Hawaii, doing shows with Michael Franti and Spearhead, "Slim Kid" Tre Hardson in L.A., the Quannum Crew in Eugene and Portland, and appearing on numerous television and radio stations.

He also earned critical acclaim for *Bad Dreams*, an album he recorded and self-released with storyteller-rapper, Reaper (see attached press materials).

Though still unsigned, Turaj's tracks have made it onto college radio as well as local stations in three states. He has spent the past year in Denver at Market Street Recording Studios, working on his solo debut album, *Can't Stop Now*.

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Quotes from Turaj's last collaboration album, *Bad Dreams*

"... poet-rapper Turaj spends a few weeks crafting haunting lyrics with local storyteller, Reaper. The Iranian-American rapper tackles topics Chingy wouldn't dream of touching."

Bill Frost, City Weekly

"Turaj's most recent album "Bad Dreams" has sold out in record stores across Colorado, Oregon, and California, and it looks like it's just the beginning. Recently, the unconventional rapper opened with a full live band for conscious hip-hop legend Spearhead at Club Suede for the opening night of the Sundance Film Festival. Rumor has it that at the festival he was specially invited to tour with another conscious hip-hop supergroup, Ozomatli."

Sarah Jackson, Daily Utah Chronicle, Park City Music Page

"Known to enlist everything from violins to African percussion, both live and in the studio, Turaj doesn't let any strict musical style limit his message."

Dan Fletcher, Melting Music Magazine

"Sick of hearing the same ol' contrived 'hood stories from rappers?... Ply [Turaj] and Reaper have two genuinely compelling tales that fuel some of the best hip-hop I've heard. Catch Ply while he's here, because who knows where he's going next."

Randy Harward, City Weekly

"Turaj is a badass, and tells it like it is."

Annie Burbidge, Listen Magazine