



# SOULEYE & DC OF BLVD

Bridging gaps between hip-hop, drum & bass, electronica and funk, Souleye has emerged as one of the most sought-after MCs in the live music and dance club scenes. Souleye has collaborated with such artists as The Glitch Mob, Bassnectar, Michael Franti and Spearhead and his partnership with BLVD is a natural convergence of two unique yet like-minded styles. Fusing live instruments with electronic production techniques, BLVD combines elements of hip-hop, house and breakbeat which naturally blends with MC Souleye's conscious and rhythmic approach to rapping creating a refined and progressive musical experience for its audience, which BLVD themselves describe as "Electro Hip-Hop Dance Party".

Sounds like you guys were busy in 2008 with an album coming out, signing with Victoria Secret and MTV, playing at festivals and shows like Sea of Dreams with Thievery Corporation. Now you're touring Europe and US... What's 2009 looking like for you?

DC: A lot of great things are happening; the band has been writing a lot of new music that's taking us in new directions. Souleye and I have had some good downtime to write tracks ourselves outside of BLVD.

Souleye: Yes, I am excited to be putting the finishing touches on my next release *Balance in Babylon*. This will be my fourth album and has been 2 years in the making. You can expect the positive messages symbolic of Souleye, but this time mixed behind some of my favorite producers as well as good friends. DC has produced 5 of the 14 tracks. I have plans to start work on the next Souleye album in the spring of 2009. Finding the balance between working full time with the band as well as cultivating my solo project has been a very exciting juxtaposition.

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DC: We have been doing a lot of Souleye/DC sets over the last year and playing as many shows as we can when there's downtime with the band. This set is fun for us to do and lets us to step outside the box a bit. I DJ mostly original tracks while Souleye weaves through written songs and freestyle flows creating a new experience each time we perform.

Heard you guys signed on with Jeff Saltzman. What can we expect to come out of it?

Souleye: It is truly an honor to work with some one of Jeff Saltzman's caliber. He is an inspiring, hardworking, talented man. I would expect great things to come.

DC: We're really excited about this next record. We started working with Jeff very recently, he's going to be producing our next album and has a great studio in Berkeley so it's really easy for us to be working there when we're not on the road. He's produced and engineered some amazing music over the years including The Killers huge debut album and Fischerspooner to name a few. We've all spent a lot of time in the studio ourselves and it's great to have somebody so knowledgeable involved in the recording process to learn from and help push us to take the sound to another level.

What is the musical direction you see hip hop taking? Or what is the direction you would like to take it into?

Souleye: I can see hip hop playing a even bigger role in helping heal humanity. Since I started writing lyrics, and as my fan base grew, I realized how big of an effect lyrics can have on others. I have had many experiences where I personally have been transformed by the energy behind the music and the lyrics that linger on in my subconscious.

**\*BIG UP\*** Katya Guseva

Like modern day mantras of change, I always write my lyrics from a unbiased open hearted space. The intention behind each word, for me connects beyond the actual definition of the word. I think of the rhythm behind the reason and the algorithms that our unique voices connect to. I remember talking to a friend many years ago about how each sound reverberates into the cosmos. So in my mind, each word I ever write or record has an everlasting effect on humanity as a whole. I would love to see vocalists stepping in to the role of being absolute conduits and accepting the duty of being inspiring channels. We the people are the revolution and music is a vehicle that allows us to take in the endless array of possibilities.

**"MUSIC HAS BEEN AN ALL INSPIRING TOOL THAT ALLOWS ME TO EXPLORE INNOVATIVE WAYS TO PUSH MYSELF INTO NEW, UNCHARTED REALMS"**

Where do you get the inspiration for your lyrics from ?

Souleye: Inspiration comes to me from so many different avenues. The main one being the spiritual/human experience we all share. I am inspired by the innate love I feel within my soul. The overwhelming love for being alive, the exhilarating thrill of change and the beauty of a new. People inspire me, the scenery, animals, even the weather. When I go for a walk my imagination is constantly sparked, looking all around me and grasping as much of the present moment as I can. I am extremely inspired by the now and by life itself.

If you had to summarize all your lyrics and rhymes, what would be the main message you're trying to put out ?

Souleye: Throughout the past ten years of writing and recording, I have pursued a consistent message of love, acceptance and over all self-less transformation. Music has been an all inspiring tool that allows me to explore innovative ways to push myself into new, uncharted realms. To me there is a universal message in all music. The message of creative release and personal growth, the pursuit of artistic freedom that taps into the collective stream of thought and diving in for a swim.

More about Souleye at [www.SouleyeSounds.com](http://www.SouleyeSounds.com)

More about BLVD at [www.BlvdSource.com](http://www.BlvdSource.com)

**NEVER AGAIN WILL I ...**

DC: ...play Babb fest in Montana, where they only serve Miller High Life out of a giant tub.... Gross.  
Souleye: ...say never again.

**BIG UP TO...**

DC: ...all our family and friends for supporting us nonstop!  
Souleye: ...Big Up Magazine, for spreading the love of music art and culture. Big up to everyone who follows their hearts purest intentions. Big up to BLVD for rocking it so hard. Big up to every one that has helped me along the years and all the incredibly beautiful fans for helping spread the word. Big up to the mysteriously beautiful spirit of the unknown. And big big big up's to You!