

MUSIC

DJ Premier is ready to battle

BY ROBERT SPUHLER
Special to amNewYork

He can produce. He can make a crowd move. He can collaborate. What can't DJ Premier, one of the world's greatest beat makers, do?

How about battle? Tonight, he'll go one-on-one in a friendly DJ battle with DJ Scratch as a part of the City Parks Foundation's free summer concert festival. But while DJ Premier has been a legendary hip-hop figure and respected producer, he admits that turntable wizardry is not his strength.

"He's got a battle style, and I'm

not a battle DJ," he said. "Even though I'm not nice with the tricks, I'm just going to have fun."

Premier has been having fun in hip-hop since the late 1980s. He provided the beats for Gang Starr, one of hip-hop's most influential groups; produced tracks for Nas, Rakim and KRS-One; and runs his own label, Year Round Records. While many artists who started in the late '80s have hung up their microphones and put away their records, Premier has remained relevant.

"We have more experience and we value the culture in a dif-

ferent way than the newer generation," he said of himself and his contemporaries. "The majority of [newer rappers] could care less about the '80s and '90s. They give the same excuse: 'I wasn't born then.' Well, I wasn't born when Elvis Presley or Billie Holiday was around either, but I like their records. Care about music. You

should know your history."

That care for music comes through in his current-day productions, including most recently the debut album of Blaq Poet. Premier has but one rule for his work.

"It has to be something I can stand by," he said. "I make stuff that I would buy myself."



Billboard's current TOP 4 albums

1.	SUGARLAND LIVE on the Inside	2.	NOW 31 Various Artists
3.	GLORIANA Gloriana	4.	BLACKEYEDED PEAS The E.N.D.

Reviews

Antlers Hospice

★★★★



Originally self-released in March of this year and now receiving a much buzzed-about second wind, "Hospice" successfully retains its handmade feel and panoramic, gut-shuddering sound. By seeding

his complicated, beautiful song cycle with towering cloudbursts of raw emotion and drawing on his intimate knowledge of salvaging a sense of self while caring about someone ravaged by illness, Peter Silberman proves to be as deft an examiner of human failings as any we have heard lately. Recommended.

Swimclub Swimclub

★★★★



The four well-scrubbed gents of Brooklyn's Swimclub have taken great pains to craft a debut worthy of the effervescent, matching-outfits '60's pop they clearly adore, and they largely succeed in crafting a set as pretty as it is perishable. Keeping things tethered to terra firma is a sonorous Stephin Merritt/Jonathan Richman vibe that steepens tracks such as "Souvenir" and "Everything Is Coming Around" in a tenor of toothsome melancholy. (CHARLES DEVLBISS)

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