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Bad Brains Back In Business With Album, Shows



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Greg Prato, N.Y.

On-again/off-again rock act Bad Brains appears to be on once more. After being asked to kick off the final week of shows at CBGB with a trio of sold-out performances, the original Bad Brains line-up of singer H.R., guitarist Dr. Know, bassist Darryl Jenifer and drummer Earl Hudson has been jumpstarted.

"It was tremendous," Dr. Know tells Billboard.com of the performances. "We hadn't played in that place in a long, long time. Did you see the DVD [the recently released 'Live at CBGB's 1982']? That sh*t was like that [laughs]! There was so much friends and family -- it was a bit much, actually. It was really an honor and a privilege to have so many good friends and see them all. We were back together for a week; we hadn't been together for a long time."

Tying in with the recent flurry of activity is a long-in-the-works, as-yet-untitled studio album produced by the Beastie Boys' Adam Yauch. The set should see the light of day next spring. "The lawyers are finishing up the last little tidbits of it," Dr. Know says.

"There's a lot of dubs and there's some old school-meets-new school Brains," he continues. "Not moderate tempo, but fast tempo. Yauch said, 'Man, I want y'all to do some old school-type sh*t,' so we did it like that." Song titles for the rock tracks include "It's All Rock'n'Roll" and "Let There Be Light," while the dub songs include "Article" and "Kingdom Come." The wait for a follow-up shouldn't be long, either. "I want to start working on the next one, because we did that one two years ago already," he says.

Beyond the aforementioned "Live at CBGB" DVD, the group is mulling additional archival releases. Up for consideration next is vintage footage shot by a friend of the band of Bad Brains playing with the Circle Jerks, Living Colour and Leeway.

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Dr. Know also hopes to get a head start on his first solo album soon. "I want to sit down this winter and start hashing her out," he offers. "I've got a few little riffs working, but I want to sit down and perfect them. Put some people together, and record them up. There's going to be total, crazy special guests -- whoever I can get. A lot of people said they would participate -- Flea, Mos [Def], the Living Colour guys, Darryl, Earl and H.R."



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