Written by Anthony Frazier Friday, 23 September 2011 00:00



Houston has a plethoria of gifted, exciting, talented and sexy artists emerging from the burgeoning scene that we call the "underground." Rappers, poets, musicians, singers and yes....bands. Kuumba Freeque is one of those aforementioned bands that is slowly putting the underground music scene on lock.

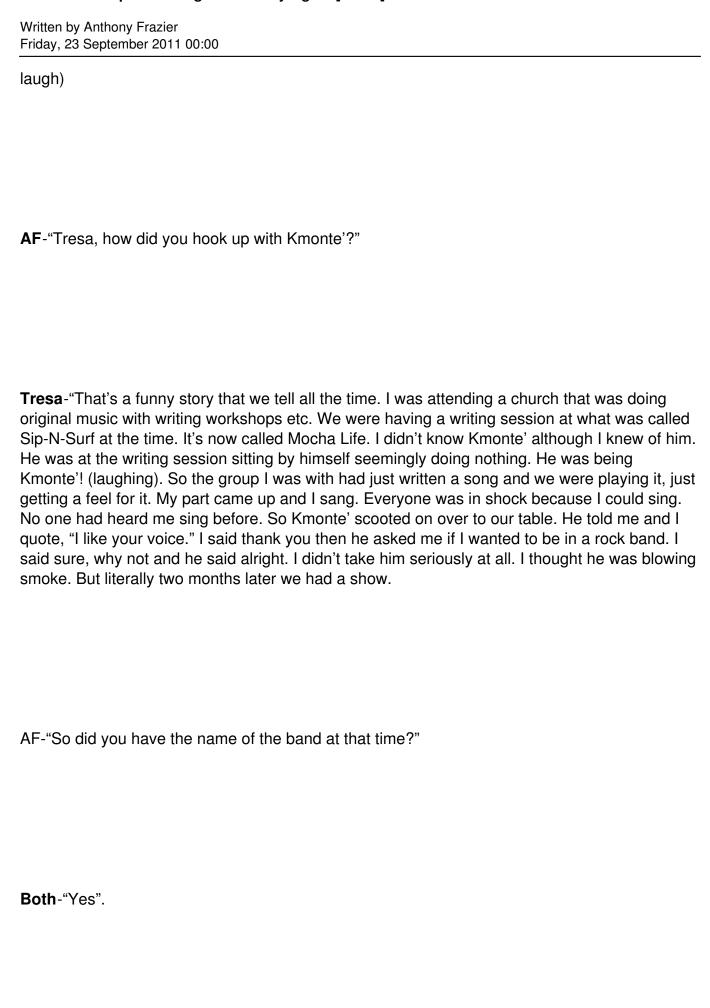
Led by the charismatic and ever-charming Kmonte' (pronounced kuh_montay) and the sexy, beautiful and talented Tresa Jerell, Kuumba Freeque is getting ready to release their debut cd Rezurekshun. I had a chance to sit down with the dynamic duo as they discussed the new music and the meaning of music to them.

AF- "Tell me about Kuumba Freeque. Where did you get the name from and what does it mean?"

Kmonte-"When we first got together in 2005 and decided to do a band together we tossed around name ideas. There were several. Most of them were rejected by Tresa. Some of the ideas we retained and used for other purposes. Prior to us hooking up, I had performed at a number of Kwanzaa celebrations. As many are aware, Kwanzaa has 7 principles. One of them being Kuumba which is Swahili for creativity. The stuff we were

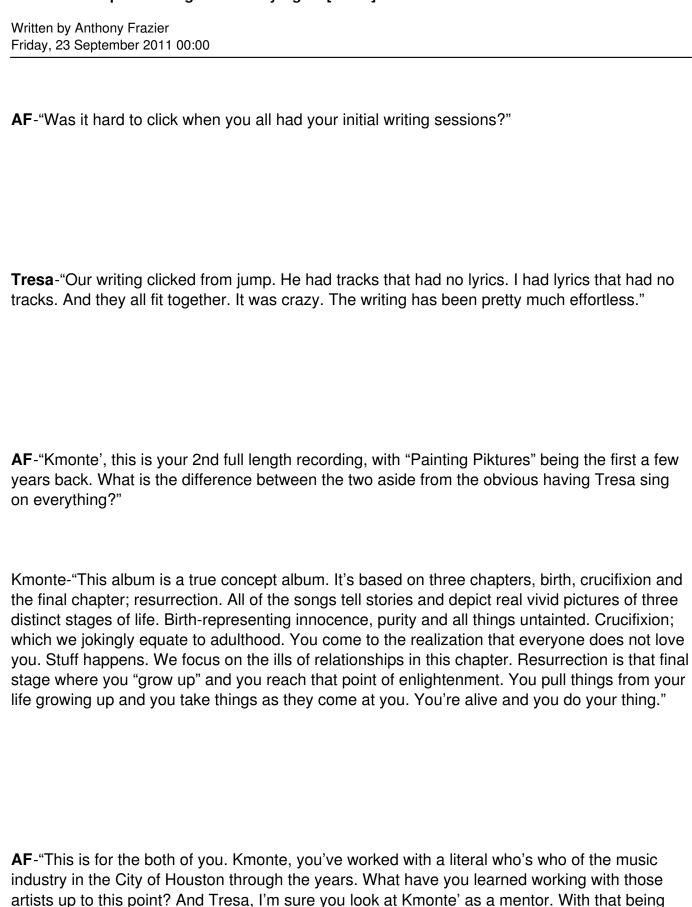
coming up with was fresh and creative. I threw that out there and she was okay with that." (both

Kuumba Freeque – Making Music Sexy Again [Video]



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said what have you learned from him?"



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Tresa-"I've learned a lot about the purity of music and I've learned quite a bit about the industry from Kmonte'. No matter what scale it's on, it has it's history and it plays it's part in the whole scheme of things. He's taught me a lot about marketing and promoting. On the music side he's shown me quite a bit and I'm grateful for it. I've always been a singer. I've realized that everyone doesn't have your best interest at heart. Kmonte' is not one of those "sharks" in the pond kind of guys. Finding people that have your best interest at heart means a lot. Kmonte' gave me an opportunity to be exactly who I am as an artist."

Kmonte'-"The thing I've learned over the years is the value of consistency. It takes a while for anyone to develop what he or she should be consistent in. Once you figure it out as an artist, producer, writer or all around music professional you begin to act like, be like and perform like an artist. Then you learn the consistency in it all. When you start working with other artists coming from underneath you, you can then show that sense of professionalism and they become relaxed. Then you can make things happen because everyone is giving each other his or her best. Now you taught me through the years to be sympathetic and empathetic to an artist situation. When I first got to Houston you showed me that love and you didn't even know me. That's how you build long lasting, loving relationships."

AF-"This is another question for both of you. It's been 6 years since you formed the band and I'm sure it's been a struggle. Was it hard to be loyal to one another on that business/friendship/band level? Were there times when you just figured you didn't want to do this at least with one another?"

Tresa-"It's kind of a yes and no answer. No it wasn't hard to be loyal because when we started in the same way our album tells a story. It started in this birth kind of section. He had to be vulnerable and present his music and I could have easily said no, no way am I going to do this

Kuumba Freeque – Making Music Sexy Again [Video]

Written by Anthony Frazier Friday, 23 September 2011 00:00 with you. He could have done the same when he saw my lyrics. He could have easily rejected my lyrics. So because we were vulnerable with one another on that level our loyalty was built on that initial meeting. That's the no part of the answer. Now the yes part to that question begins with the fact that we had a lot of missed starts, things that didn't work out, time schedules clashed etc. There were times I felt uncertain about a lot of things. Kmonte' kept his cool and he hing d hink

didn't stop. He kept moving along. So when I felt like not doing it I would see him doing his thi and I'd feel a lot better. So I don't see us having any disloyalty to one anoth-er on this. I lived out of state for a year. I was gone for the entire year 2008. We still managed to do shows. I'd come home, rehearse and we'd do a show. I'd hop on the plane and head back out. I don't thi loyalty is a question. We're pretty tight."
Kmonte -"We don't know any other way to be. We've put in a lot of work and we will continue. Our connection is tighter than any connection I've had with any other artist I've worked with."
AF -"You put on an excellent show. What should we expect once the cd drops?"
Kmonte-"Live shows and some funky jams."
Look for the new Kuumba Freeque CD in stores September 20th.{jcomments on}