



Player Watch 2004: All Aboard! Chuck Wilson Takes Off w/"Soul Plane"

The Wire / Daily Hip-Hop News
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Wednesday - Jun. 30, 2004

PLAYER WATCH 2004

After releasing several successful projects on his Babygrande imprint and writing *Soul Plane*, **Chuck Wilson** is rising in both the music and film industries -- making him a player to watch in 2004.

Though Wilson first ventured into music, he always intended to make a mark in movies as well. After 5 years of grinding, Wilson sold his first script to Danny Devito's Jersey Films. Now, with "*Soul Plane's*" modest success in theaters, he has recently inked a deal with Madonna's Maverick Films to write and direct the tentatively titled "Meet The Mo-f#@sers."

"I started out just writing on my own. I guess I got my first break working for Spike Lee on the film 'Crooklyn,' which was a great experience," Wilson told SOHH.com from his Babygrande office. "I got to sit through rehearsals with the talent and then work on set around the camera for a whole summer in Brooklyn and I just started writing feature length scripts. And after a lot of rejection, they started to catch and sell."

Though some critics, including Spike Lee, have knocked *Soul Plane* as simple buffoonery, Wilson respectfully disagrees with his former mentor.

"Spike has actually been in the press kind of criticizing *Soul Plane*," remarks Wilson. "I think that generation just has a problem with Black comedy, the raw black comedy. They come from an era where sh!t wasn't funny. For us, I think we've evolved to a point where a movie doesn't define us. Nothing in '*Soul Plane*' in my opinion did exploit black people. That's not what's up."

And the University of Virginia graduate has plans to go way beyond black comedy. He also released an independent, straight to DVD flick entitled

Breakfast At Ben's in 2000 and plans to expand further on the big screen.

"It's just really been about constant building. 'Soul Plane' is just one chamber for me. I'd like to do some stuff in science fiction, just regular every day stories, straight dramas," said Wilson.

While things are taking off in Hollywood, Wilson's label is also making moves. Babygrande Records, which is distributed by Koch, is home to acts like **Brand Nubian**, **Jean Grae**, **Jedi Mind Tricks** and other underground staples.

"It's growing at a rapid rate. I just think the whole indie thing is coming alive. It just opens up opportunities for different types of Hip-Hop, different types of music in general to get out there. I really want to make this indie the top indie or at least one of the best indies so that the highest caliber of artists consider us as a place to work," Wilson revealed. "I'm trying to take the opportunities that are there for me in Hollywood and help build this independent music thing. I feel like I'm in a unique position to be able to eventually start providing some of these artists opportunities whether it's on soundtracks or maybe even acting."

Chuck Wilson's Play-O-Graphy

Projects for 2004

- Meet The Mo- f#@sers
- Babygrande DVD Films
- Jean Grae Album
- Brand Nubian's Album
- Jedi Mind Tricks Album
- 7L & Esoteric Album
- Outerspace Album

Revenues for 2004

- \$3 to \$4 million dollars in gross revenue

Chuck Wilson's Players to Watch

- **Saigon**. I think he has a very big buzz. I always love it when an artist comes from the pure underground and evolves into something much bigger.
- **Beauty Shop**. I think it's going to do well.

- **RZA.** He's doing his thing with the scoring.

Quote of the Year

- "It is what it is."

Originally published at SOHH.com [<http://www.sohh.com>]
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