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# THE WIZARDS OF ODD

By Justin Hampton

Photos by Steve Payne



Boo-yeh! Left to right: Left Brain, Domo Genesis, Hodgy Beats.

Transmitting live from the city that has mainlined Radio Disney, Lindsay Lohan and tiger blood into the corroded arteries of middle America for the past decade, the members of the anarcho/hip-hop/skate-kid collective Odd Future Wolf Gang Kill Them All need to break it to you harshly on how they decided to make music, conquer the world, shove it in your face and swaggle it around a little bit.

"We all just came together, like a big-ass bukkake," says Hodgy Beats.

"A big-ass ejaculation," assents Left Brain, the group's second producer and Hodgy's partner in the Odd Future spin-off unit Mel-lowHype. "We all came together."

Domo Genesis, the chill, unmovable presence who serves as the

group's resident stoner persona, cracks up: "Oh, my God, that was so gay!"

Hodgy hits the bong, a two-foot glass piece with "Fucking Awesome" stickers emblazoned on it gifted by a fan. Something hits back in him. "I think I just stabbed my lungs," he tells us. But it's only weakness exiting the body. So, naturally, he hits it again.

About time that hip-hop—hell, pop music in general—hosted a presence like this, right? For, while the rest of us were anesthetized by mainstream hip-hop's champagne kisses and caviar dreams, Odd Future have been planning their insurrection straight outta the Pasadena high-school system with no less than *eleven* albums, all released for free off of their Tumblr page

(<http://oddfuture.tumblr.com/>). Each one is studded with inventive and surreal musical moments, patently offensive gross-out sexual scenarios, and astonishing verse-work that builds on the boldness of late-'90s Eminem.

The albums were buttressed by a series of videos and visuals cementing the Odd Future vision, which channels hipster kitsch through social media, Internet porn and skatepunk injury/gore fetishes. There's the video "EARL" by the group's reigning rap prodigy, Earl Sweatshirt, which features the members of OFWGKTA drinking a vile potion concocted of weed, a 40 and some pills and then dying a gruesome death. There's also "VCR," which features Odd Future leader/producer/MC Tyler the Creator filming himself seducing a

blow-up doll amidst newspaper clippings covered with anarchy symbols and swastikas. Finally, there's the still-unsolved mystery of Earl, who disappeared from public view last year but is evoked constantly by the group in its "Free Earl" tagline, which creates additional intrigue. Thrown all together in a blender, it's enough to make a jaded scenester bleed out of her nipples, carve the group's initials onto her arm and mail a picture of her asshole to Tyler in appreciation. Believe me, it's happened.

Regardless, you gotta make like Obama and understand. The barrage of image memes and YouTube videos—plus that Jimmy Fallon performance wherein Tyler terrorized Felicia Day and head-humped the host—all depict OFWGKTA as a bunch of smartass kids ... and that's there. But this is their life's work,





The rules don't apply: Smoke steals Domo's face.

**"We're all just creative by nature, weed is like gas on the flame, it's like we smoke weed and then it's like, 'Oh, shit, I got a better vision of where I wanna go.'"**

Hodgy Beats gets up close and personal.

"We were secluded from the beginning, so we were never really the kids out being all popular."

For now, this interview allows the original lineup's resident stoners—Hodgy Beats, Left Brain and Domo Genesis—to chill in this mammoth loft space in downtown LA while Tyler the Creator presides from a distance, staying aloof but keeping a watchful eye on the proceedings. "It's my birthday eve! Hightimes shoot in two hours!" Domo tweeted on the day of the shoot. "Boutta be real fucking high. Always wanted to be in this damn magazine."

Not everyone in the group shares the trio's enthusiasm for weed:

Though Tyler is tolerant, he's an asthmatic straight-edger who occasionally chafes at the fumes that trail these guys. "Don't smoke around the nigga before the show!" Hodgy warns. "That nigga start trippin'. We get this room: 'You guys gotta smoke in there!'"

Coming of age in a city that sprouts dispensaries like Barry Bonds has retainers, the trio can recite a litany of strains that rock it tight: Mystery Kush and Lakers' Kush from Cali's Finest for Domo, Granddaddy and Purple strains for Hodgy, and OG for Left Brain—as well as the Blue Dream they're smoking for this piece. There's no question that the high factors into their creative output, whether it's Left Brain's woozy, screw-influenced production style, Hodgy's oddball non-sequiturs, or Domo's trance-like diction. "We're all just creative by nature, [so] weed is like



Left Brain takes one for the team.

want anybody dictating what we say or trying to take our creative control away from us. Like, we have it right now—it's working. There's no reason to change."

So one better recognize that when this group attacks anyone—most notably Steve Harvey, B.o.B. and hip-hop bloggers 2dopeboyz—they mean it, for better or worse. I bring up a female music-industry pal who bristles at the rape references in the group's lyrics, and Hodgy fires back: "That's because she probably had that ass tapped before, that's why. Bitch, fuck her. Nigga, we rap about what we wanna rap about. If she don't like it, fuck her."

It will take some doing to reconcile this attitude with the collective's aspirations for Grammys and VMAs. Now is the moment, though, for them to show and prove—and for young artists, the possibilities are always limitless and unrestrained. They're supposed to be.

Because just you wait for the first Odd Future collective LP, which they'll commence as soon as Earl returns. Forget Wu Tang; these guys are hunting even bigger game. "It's 2011—you gotta forget about Michael Jackson and the fucking Beatles and shit ...." Left Brain says.

"Have your ears ever jizzed before?" Hodgy interjects. "Forget about Michael Jackson—the Odd Future album is gonna be the best album of all time."

"It's about to be 2012. It's Odd Future time right now," Left Brain insists. "The future is now—and it's ours." ✱

and they spend their lives working on it. While Fat Possum gets ready to release a new-and-improved version of the second MellowHype LP, *BlackenedWhite*, the duo have already finished their follow-up, *Numbers*. Meanwhile, Domo has recorded most of the sequel to his debut mixtape, *Rolling Papers* (which touched off some minor discord among hip-hop fans when Wiz Khalifa also used the title for his latest release), and he pledges to expose his newfound audience to facets of his personality beyond the sedate stoner verses he's dropped so far.

OFWGKTA's free time up to this point has been spent creating at a great remove from the cool kids and hipsters who now flock to them. "We don't really hang out with everyone else anyway, so we never had a problem with people [we know] running up to us and stuff," says Hodgy of the group's newfound popularity.