

# NYLON

DEC '14 / JAN '15



## wu-tang forever

**talking a *better tomorrow* with rza.**

Out here on the East Coast (or anywhere in the U.S., for that matter) hip-hop heads respect the Wu, and you should, too: Over the last 20 years, what started out as a group of outrageously talented men watching kung fu movies together in the Staten Island projects became a game-changing superpower collective, and remained so even after their unofficial disbandment in 1997. After years of successful solo albums, December's *A Better Tomorrow* brings the whole clan (minus Ol' Dirty Bastard) back together for the first time in almost a decade. The much-awaited album is packed with new Wu anthems that have a soul style, and lyrics with a present-day twist. At the dawn of the release of *A Better Tomorrow*, we caught up with the self-described "abbot" of the clan, RZA. BE

**What was the biggest inspiration for you while working on *A Better Tomorrow*?** For me, the biggest inspiration is within the title itself, the idea that through our music, Wu-Tang could inspire a better tomorrow for the world, at least to our fans. This is more like a campaign than just a record.

**The cover looks like an international metropolis made up of a number of cities from the East and the West.**

I chose many great monuments of the world and put all of that into one great city to represent the idea that if we all respect each other's way of life and try to find the humanity that we have in common, then that makes for a better world—a better city. And there's a way it could happen because we are all on this planet, anyway.

**Over the years, what has become your favorite thing about the Wu-Tang brand?** My favorite thing is what it resonates in those who acquire—what it inspires in them. I'll walk around different places and see a doctor, a police officer, or just a kid in the hood with dreads, and they all get something out of it. In the beginning, Wu-Tang said that the "W" stood for "wisdom." I think the spirit of Wu-Tang existed, and we helped bring it to light in the modern world. And it will live on.