

GOTHAM

LATE FALL 2016

SCENE

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT...



Forces of nature: "It's like a tree," says RZA (right) of Banks & Steelz, his new group with Interpol frontman Paul Banks. "The branches all fall apart, but the root is the same. I think New York has been our root, creatively."

SOUNDS OF THE CITY

INTERPOL'S PAUL BANKS AND WU-TANG CLAN'S RZA JOIN FORCES TO GIVE NEW YORK THE SUPER-GROUP ALBUM IT DESERVES.

BY TIM LATTERNER

How did you find the sound for your new group, Banks & Steelz, and new album, *Anything But Words*?

RZA: When you're going through this album [Warner Bros. Records], you'll hear elements from multiple genres, and you'll realize our album is genre-bending. That's part of our energy, I think. It's like a unique sandwich. You always put meat and

cheese on a sandwich, right? But if you add sauerkraut, then it [becomes] a Reuben, you know what I mean?

What story are you looking to tell with these tracks?

Paul Banks: We did something anthemic that could be interpreted as patriotic, that could energize the game. It could be the anthem of the underdog—for one person up against a

much larger entity.

RZA: Each song has its own individual energy. Coming from the same source, you'll hear the synergy.

You're both from New York—what do you love about it?

RZA: You were an Interpol fan and maybe you have a Wu Tang T-shirt under your button-down—that's New York. I think the energy that brought him and me together was this city.

Final question: Where do you go for last stop late-night food?

Banks: There's a Joe's Pizza, you know the one on 14th and Third? You can go at 3 AM and there's a line all the way to the street—it's that good.

RZA: My last crazy night in New York—Paul might have been with me—we ate Mamoun's Falafel. The one on MacDougal. That's the stuff. ■