



NERDCORE RISING

A Film by Negin Farsad
www.nerdcorerisingthemovie.com

NERDCORE RISING will premiere at the 2008
South by Southwest Film Festival

Total running time: 80 minutes

Format: 24P Digital Video, Aspect Ratio: 16:9 (1.78:1)

Publicity Contact:

Murphy PR

Jessica Edwards

Annie Llewellyn

jedwards@murphypr.com

allewellyn@murphypr.com

212.414.0408

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Nerdcore is the newest, dorkiest wave of hip-hop, born out of the internet and made possible by computer-obsessed geeks. NERDCORE RISING follows MC Frontalot, the godfather of Nerdcore, on his first national tour. Along the way, Frontalot fanatics and music industry notables tell the story of this funny, fascinating, and unapologetically uncool cultural phenomenon.

LONG SYNOPSIS

NERDCORE RISING introduces a new wave of hip-hop to the world called Nerdcore, the newest, dorkiest wave of rap music. The film follows the godfather of the genre, MC Frontalot on his first national tour. Frontalot and band interact with fans across the country: a special breed of loyal and super smart dorks who can't get enough of the Front, making Nerdcore hip hop a fascinating and endearingly comedic sociological phenomenon. Commentary from industry notables like Weird Al Yankovic, Prince Paul, and Jello Biafra pepper the film to examine the legitimacy of Nerdcore as a subgenre of hip hop, the larger rise of geek culture, and the desperation of one MC who's trying to achieve nerd stardom.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

NEGIN FARSAD

Nerdcore was born out of the internet and computer obsessed geeks who used their tech savvy to bust rhymes – rhymes that had been hidden in their nerd brains for decades! It is a sociological movement that tracks the very outburst of technology that has characterized the West's economic shift. The dot com bubble, the rise of Microsoft, the fits and tugs of globalization have all had innumerable consequences and none have been as hilarious, ridiculous, or beat-driven as Nerdcore hip hop.

Admittedly, I'm an academic nerd – with not one but three over-achieving Ivy League degrees – and one of my focuses was on the intersection of race and public policy. The hip-hop-race-nerd intersection was too much for me to pass up! Because, even though Nerdcore is a self-declared subgenre of hip hop a mainstream MC would never say that. While earnestly attempting to make rhymes that resonate with audiences, Nerdcore artists struggle to achieve legitimacy in a genre that values street cred over nerd cred. This duality makes their particular placement in the hip hop realm – dominated as it is by black rappers who steer clear of geek-splicit lyrics – an interesting musical challenge. The chance to investigate the upturned nose or active embrace of “true” hip hop professionals first drew me in.

Then I met MC Frontalot – a web guy who was about to quit his day job. He really thought this Nerdcore thing was his calling – he is, afterall, credited with (or faulted with?) the creation of the genre. MC Frontalot represents Nerdcore's overarching attempts to gain legitimacy and cross over into the mainstream. The discovery of Frontalot – someone willing to bet all of his chips on a start-up genre – gave the documentary a genuine albeit (endearingly) dorky face to the Nerdcore movement. Without Front, the story would have been reduced to nothing more than a news magazine profile. But with Frontalot, there's a real guy, with a real heart, trying his darndest to make it as a Nerdcore artist. Frontalot has grabbed hold of the zeitgeist and recognizes that hip hop and technology aren't going anywhere – that they will emerge and converge in the form of Nerdcore whether we like it or not!

From an aesthetic standpoint, the Nerdcore world is nothing if not cinematic. These geeks embrace the technology age, comic book animation, the fanciful world of the mythological, and the cold hard-drive world of binary code all at once. As subjects they exist on both a narrative plain of self-awareness and a socially awkward state of cartoon-like delusion. And, cinematically, it is the film's mission to capture this duality. Through sound, motion and animation effects, the audiovisual wavers seamlessly between the geek's lived social foibles and the mythological dragons of their minds. The idea of using documentary footage to achieve what you might only see in a sci-fi flick or a particularly whacky television series was another motivation behind the film. Besides, given my comedic background (I've been doing standup by night and footage-cutting by day), I couldn't help but recognize the charming comedy in these fans and the way they operate among us mere civilians.

These aspects of Nerdcore – its sociological place in the digital revolution, its quest for acceptance by the hip hop community, its animated aesthetic, and its fearless leader, Frontalot – provoked the undeniable urge to *make a film.* NERDCORE RISING represents a genuine opportunity to capture this sociological movement as it emerges into our mainstream cultural repertoire.

FILMMAKER BIOS

NEGIN FARSAD (Director/Executive Producer/Producer)

Making her parents' plea for immigration all the easier, Negin was born in the United States (New Haven, Connecticut) and grew up in the desert of Southern California. She first obtained a Bachelors Degree in Theatre Arts and Government from Cornell University. Her dual interest in the arts and politics continued when she moved to New York City – writing and performing comedy by night while studying for a Masters degree in Race Relations at Columbia University by day. She followed that degree with a second Masters from Columbia at the School of International & Public Affairs with a focus on Urban Management. She worked as a senior policy advisor with the City of New York but eventually left for full-time uncertainty in the world of performing and visual arts.

Negin is currently producing/directing (and even performing in) the upcoming Comedy Central TV pilot, *The Watch List* – the first show in the history of television to feature Middle-Eastern-American comics tackling international political issues. She originally earned her film chops as a producer and story editor on the film *A Cricket in the Court of Akbar* which was shot entirely on location in Rajasthan, India. She wrote, directed and appeared in the short film, *Iran-ing on Empty* - not at all shot on location in Iran - which has since been a selection of comedy festivals around the country.

As a standup comedian she has opened for the likes of Al Franken in venues ranging from Laugh Factory in New York, the Comedy Store in Los Angeles, and Town Hall on Broadway. Negin has provided original comedy content for Pacifica and Sirius Radio stations. As an active comedian she has earned a nomination for the Emerging Comics of New York Awards. Her solo show *Bootleg Islam*, which she wrote and performed, has appeared in the DC, Dallas, and Chicago Comedy Festivals among others. Her work has been called “smart, funny, and fascinating” by the *Wall Street Journal*, a Critic's Choice by the *Chicago Tribune*, “a shining exception,” by the *Dallas Morning News*, and *Backstage* cheered that it “doesn't get much funnier than this!” And, to her parents chagrin, her masters degrees now collect dust...

KIMMY GATEWOOD (Producer/Co-Director)

Kimmy Gatewood is an award winning performer, director, writer, and producer in New York City. Originally from Spencerville, MD, Kimmy came to New York via Syracuse University. Kimmy sings funny songs with her guitar in New York City and all over the nation, notably opening up for Sarah Silverman and Wendy Liebman. Some fancy accolades include: ECNY Best Musical Act nominee, finalist Battle of the Funny Bands, Andy Kaufman Semi-Finalist and Best of Musical Act by TIME OUT NEW YORK. As a director, Kimmy has worked with Kirsten Ames (HBO, Aspen Comedy Festival) and has directed many solo shows including Negin Farsad's highly acclaimed Off-Broadway show *Bootleg Islam*. Her television/voice over credits include Mastercard, Stuff It, AT&T, MTV, Showtime, Trojan Condoms, TGI Fridays, Dunkin Donuts, TBS, VH1 and Comedy Central. Kimmy is currently the host of the webshow *Midtown Comics Live!* Writing credits include: Oxygen Network (with Canedy Knowles), IO Media, Idiots Guide to Jokes, *Carrie: The Musical*. Kimmy can currently be seen at the People's Improv Theatre (The PIT), performing every Wednesday with the Faculty, hosting *The Break Up Show*, and teaching her sold out "Characters and Dialects" class.

ANDREW MENDELSON (Editor/Producer)

Andrew has been working in television production in New York City for over eight years. A talented editor and graphic artist, his national broadcast credits include *The Isaac Mizrahi Show* for The Style Network and E! Entertainment Television, *The Nighttime Clap* for Fuse, *Bobby G* for TMC, *Stories of the Innocence Project* for Court TV, and *The Ultimate Hustler* for BET Networks, as well as pilots and demo reels for The Discovery Channel, Lifetime and A&E. His work on *Stories of the Innocence Project: Broken Words* was recently honored with the CINE Golden Eagle Award. Andrew directed the feature documentary film *A Cricket in the Court of Akbar*. He has also edited several series for web broadcast including *The Watch List* for Comedy Central, *Our Bodies, Myself* for Oxygen, *V.I.D.S.* for E! Entertainment, and Vaguely Qualified Productions' hit series *Nerd of the Week*.

MARCELO DUARTE ALFARO (Director of Photography, Tour Unit)

Marcelo was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. After graduating from the prestigious University of Buenos Aires, with a degree in cinematography, he started working in commercials and features in Latin America. He is currently based in New York City, where he works on features, commercials and documentaries.

His commercials have enjoyed national primetime broadcast. These include: Budweiser, Coca Cola, Exxon, Ericsson, Fiat, Ford, Marlboro, Nickelodeon, Shell, Sony, Starbucks, Subway, Telecom, Trio, USA Network, Verizon, and Visa among other Fortune 500 businesses. One of his documentaries, *Trajedya* was an official selection at the Slamdance Film Festival. *Vote For Me* premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, while *Jelly Smoke* took home the prize for best feature at the Los Angeles Film Festival. Another recent project, *One of a Kind* was featured at the preeminent Sundance Film Festival while his TV cinematography credits include a series that airs on the Sundance Channel.

BRENDAN KENNEDY (Director of Photography, Seattle & Los Angeles Unit)

A native Brooklynite, Kennedy, has been shooting for more than five years, working in digital video, television and film. His work has taken him to almost every state, city, and township in the USA, throughout Europe and several small hot and wonderful tropical islands. He has acted as DP on several full length features including, *Kiki and Herb Reloaded* and the forthcoming documentary NERDCORE RISING. As a field producer, he has shot and developed several original short series. He's worked for MTV, MTV2, MTVU, VH1, BET (and just about every Viacom channel), Idiot Box, Art and Industry, Art Organizations, BBC, Style, E!, Entertainment Tonight, Bad Boy Entertainment, Oxygen, Fuse, Phylon, Sony, Nike, U2, and too many independent companies to name.

DAN SHORT (Motion Graphic)

Dan loves textures, layers, colors, true 3D environments, and pixels that take flight. He's worked here, there, and everywhere because he is *the* ultimate motion graphics guy. A graduate of the Art Institute of Philadelphia, Dan has even been called on to instruct the young ones at his alma mater on the uses of After Effects, Shake, Nuke, Fusion, Final Cut and too many others to name here. When he's not molding young minds on how-to-be-awesome-in-motion-graphics, he's putting his own aesthetics to work on commercials, film and television.

CAST BIOS

MC FRONTALOT (AKA DAMIAN HESS)

The original mastermind of Nerdcore Hip-Hop and still its Final Boss, MC Frontalot (née Damian Hess, 34) takes great pleasure in identifying himself as a professional rapper in polite conversation.

Front was born in San Francisco and grew up in Berkeley. He was tall and gangling, scrawny, had trouble breathing, and could not see well. A special teacher was called in to help him attain basic competence on the monkey bars, another to privately administer standardized tests (his were three grade levels advanced from his classmates). Thusly, he was the most popular kid in his elementary school. Just kidding! He got pushed down a lot and called “nerd.” Did he maybe even deserve it? I mean, really – who strikes out at kickball?

He spent the next twenty years or so trying to get over it. And kind of succeeded! Flash forward to 1999: the dotcom bubble is floaty and shiny; nerds everywhere imagine themselves to be popular and/or hip. Damian has recently graduated from Wesleyan and is getting overpaid to code web pages, which leaves him free in the evenings to play with audio software. A longtime idolizer of rappers, he has been committing his own esoteric hip-hop compositions to four-track tape since high school, revealing them to nobody. Suddenly! Multi-track desktop studios, cheap pro-grade recording hardware, skyrocketing bandwidth, semi-anonymous web publishing – these factors converge on Damian’s rap hobby like a flock of winged monkeys. He posts an MC Frontalot web page, dubbing his output “Nerdcore Hip-Hop” since his audience is composed of several Star Wars figurines who live on his desk (and also random internet people who click on his MP3s by mistake).

Now it is 2008. Nerdcore has metastasized into an internet phenomenon and underground touring powerhouse, with dozens of live acts and more than a hundred home-studio rhymer self-identifying within the subgenre. MC Frontalot, called alternately the movement’s godfather or grandfather (thanks, kids), leads the charge, performing for thousands around the country and at prominent geek gatherings such as the Penny Arcade Expo. He has released two studio albums, *Nerdcore Rising* and *Secrets From The Future*, with a third to appear this summer. He’s also commissioned on occasion to write raps for reputable folks at Sesame Street (namely a baddass tune on toilet paper manufacturing for the Elmos Potty Time DVD). He has also appeared on Whatever (Channel 4, UK) and Barrio 19 (MTV Europe), and in the book *Other People’s Property: A Shadow History of Hip-Hop in White America* by Jason Tanz (Bloomsbury Press, Feb 07). The documentary feature, NERDCORE RISING which focuses on Front’s live band and the Nerdcore phenomenon in general, debuts almost immediately.

BL4K LO+US (AKA BRANDON PATTON) BASSIST

When Brandon’s plucking strings for MC Frontalot he’s known as BL4k Lo+us – or for certain horny Nerdcore fans, “the cute one.” Brandon hopes that one day he’ll earn more money playing Nerdcore than what it actually costs to buy the Magic: The Gathering card of his namesake. At the very least, he’d like to beat his all-time high DCI rating of 27,454th worldwide (which is either a very good or horribly bad depending on your Magic worldview). If none of that is possible, then his backup plan is to move back in with his parents and upload designs of unparalleled beauty into Spore.

Besides providing Frontalot his critical tabletop qualifications, Brandon has also managed to release two solo records, one of which was a finalist in the Independent Music Awards "Album of the Year" category in 2004 (not too shabby, right?). In addition to his solo projects, he currently performs in the duo "Jukebox Stories," and recently wrote the music for the punk rock musical *Love Sucks*. A show that did not suck.

GMINOR 7 (AKA GABY ALTER) KEYBOARDIST

Gaby Alter goes by Nerdcore stage name Gminor 7 but of course, certain horny Nerdcore fans refer to him as, "the other cute one." Gaby is collaborator, keyboardist, and a veritable Ed MacMahon to Frontalot's Johnny Carson. But wait! There's more! Besides co-writing Nerdcore tracks, Gaby is a musical theater nerd. His shows include *Young Zombies in Love* (another Frontalot co-creation), *Band Geeks* (yes, it's a high school marching band musical), and "29", a chronicle of life in his twenties. OK, that last one wasn't so nerdy...but it is musical theater, folks! Come on! If that doesn't earn some nerd cred, I don't know what. He has also produced a track for MC Lars' upcoming CD – that's right, more and more Nerdcore rappers are knocking for his mellifluous melodies, but will Gaby answer?

A graduate of the Tisch Graduate School of Musical Theatre Writing, G Minor's songs have been performed at Lincoln Center, on NPR, and on PBS Television's Pre-School Kids' Block, which might suggest that there's something both overeducated and infantile about them. If stage banter with MC Frontalot is any indication, *charmingly* infantile *entertainingly* overeducated sounds about right.

STURGENIUS (AKA STURGIS CUNNINGHAM) DRUMMER

Sturgis, or as he's known in Nerdcore circles, "The Sturgenius," is a professional drummer, born and raised in south western New Hampshire. Sturgis' list of recordings and projects range from singer/songwriter to funk, R&B, soul and hip hop instrumentalist. In fact he just came off from a national headlining tour with legendary Martin Sexton—making festival appearances with him all over the country.

Sturgis might give off the cool guy vibe but don't be fooled! This eclectic beat maven worked in an "adult" shop once upon a time and when he's when he's free, he obsessively learns about new drumming techniques from a little thing called the "internet." If you think we didn't catch him secretly harboring quicktime files of drumming on his laptop, you'd be sorely mistaken because Sturgis is a class A Drum Nerd.

WEIRD AL

Do not make eye contact...repeat; do not make eye contact when the genius king of pop parody humbly mingles with us mere humans. Weird Al is NOT a Nerdcore artist (he has a separate Kingdom of Yankovicite on Planet Tatooine) but is revered by Nerdcorites everywhere. This accordion junkie and satirist prodigy with ringlets 'straight outta Lynwood' is best known for his farcical songs that deconstruct pop culture – often lampooning the too-earnest tracks of his contemporaries.

This caricaturing *National Forensic League* Scholar has sold more than 12 million albums, blasting every other comedy act in history out of orbit! He's recorded more than 150 parody and original songs and has performed more than 1,000 live shows. He has also polka-ed his way to three Grammy Awards and four Gold records. Oh, and he went Platinum, Big Willie style. Six times, b*tches. Eat it, indeed.

Alfred, Yankovic's birth name (which means sage, wise and elvin – yes, elvin, as in elf friend or elf counsel – bow, Lord of the Rings aficionados, bow), has also written and starred in his own film and television show, and directed music videos for other artists and himself. Remember the 80's? Well, the universe desperately NEEDED a fat, white Michael Jackson... Weird Al didn't shy away from the challenge, or the fat suit. In fact, over the decades he's given us the belly laughs we've yearned for. And, sometimes, he's even riding on a Segue while doing it. He'll "ace any trivia quiz you bring on" and is also "fluent in JavaScript as well as Klingon." But he knows in his heart that the world thinks he's "white & nerdy. Really, really...white and nerdy."

PRINCE PAUL

Socrates once said, "When you have worked with so many hip hop artists and have become a producer, DJ and rapper in your own right, you become so cool, you pee ice."* Prince Paul pees ice. This New York-based legend of hip hop, is beloved by Nerdcorites on planets near and far, but let's be honest, he doesn't have a geeky bone in his body. Seriously, when MC Paul Barman flashed Prince Paul the Vulcan hand greeting before a recording session for *It's Very Stimulating*, the Prince said, "That is the dumbest gang sign ever. Now I need to go mix a phat beat and create another revolutionary hip hop movement just to clear this uber-geeky moment out of my system." Totally true. Maybe. Or maybe it was his avatar who said that in Second Life. Unclear.

Giving up a lucrative career as a postman (as in USPS), Paul first materialized on the scene as a member of *Stetsasonic* before producing De La Soul's *3 Feet High and Rising*. Soon after, he produced the monumental hip hop opera *A Prince Among Thieves*, a veritable hip hop summit bigger than Camp David and one of the most acclaimed concept albums of its time...FYI. Oh, and here are a few others cats the Prince has worked with: Big Daddy Kane, Xzibit, Everlast, Queen Latifah, Jay Z, MC Lyte, RZA (of Wu-Tang Clan), Slick Rick, Candyman, George Clinton, Yellowman, Beastie Boys, Sean Lennon and Queen Elizabeth II (the last one is under dispute).

Striking a deal with Tommy Boy, Paul also produced piss-your-pants comedian Chris Rock's three Grammy award-winning albums *Roll with the New*, *Bigger and Blacker*, and *Never Scared*. Besides those gigabyte creds, XM satellite radio currently runs Paul's *The Ill Out Show* on the *The Rhyme 65 channel*. He is, in fact, in the film NERDCORE RISING and no, we're not worthy.

*Please keep in mind throughout your perusal of these press notes that whenever we mention "Socrates" we literally have no idea what we're talking about.

JELLO BIAFRA

A man like Jello (née Eric Reed Boucher) should hardly need an introduction in press notes designed for hardcore music (and computer) enthusiasts. To do so is like explaining the basics of World of Warcraft – ridiculous, right? And yet, here goes...

Most of you may know Jello as lead vocalist and lyricist of one of the greatest hardcore punk bands of all time, The Dead Kennedys. This band is responsible for moody and subtle songs like, "California Über Alles," "Beat the Brat," and "Too Drunk to Fuck" (a go-to wedding song for countless young couples).

These days, when he's not extolling the virtues of net neutrality at hacker conventions, or running for various political offices (including President of the United States), California-native Biafra has channeled his post-Dead Kennedys performing talents in the art of spoken word. Though Jello might share some similarities with his Nerdcore homies (love of H.R. Geiger, intense adoration of unusual vinyl recordings), he nevertheless rocks it on a different wavelength altogether by infusing his words and lyrics with a mix of raw energy, political consciousness, and playful irony. Think Zach De La Rocha with a sense of humor. And when you see NERDCORE RISING you'll find out just how his punk sensibilities form his carefully crafted commentary on Nerdcore, hip hop and all forms of "genre-fication."

BRIAN POSEHN

Yep, he's "that one guy from that one show." This "gigantic, orange and gay" neighbor is a fixture on Comedy Central's Sarah Silverman Show (gay on the show of course...in real life he prefers Princess Leia to Hans Solo). But he's is so much more than that. Posehn is a comedian and actor known for playing every nerdy role in every TV show, in every movie and in every cartoon, ever. Ever. This 6'6" metal freak from California has appeared on Friends, Seinfeld, Just Shoot Me, Bernie Mac and Everybody Loves Raymond just to name a few. Oh, don't feel left out, video game fanatics, because he also voiced Grunts in Halo 2.

And, did we mention that he's a classically trained pianist? Pianos notwithstanding, his metal dork nature took over when he appeared in Rob Zombie's The Devil's Rejects and an Anthrax music video. But Nerdlingers and heavy metal lovers worldwide banded together after Posehn dropped Metal by Numbers on his first album Live In: Nerd Rage, a song mocking bands that term themselves "metal" but are clearly not. In other words, die, Nickelback, die.

When he's not writing comic books about a Santa who delivers presents and kills mutants in a post-apocalyptic world, he dons a diaper and plays an "Ink Fairy" for Staples ads. And seriously, if you're a true fan, do NOT send him skis as a gift. He will most likely break them in half, hunt your snowy ass down and slay you with his Wii Hero Pack Sword. 'Cause "skiing is hard, asshole."

J-LIVE (NÉE JEAN-JACQUES CADET)

Our man J-Live definitely isn't Nerdcore, but no one can deny that he's hardcore...ly cool! As emcee, DJ, producer, and CEO of Triple-Threat Productions, his single-minded mission to keep his music real and true is more fervent and ambitious than the Borg.

Coming straight out of NYC, J-Live has created sick rhymes and sicker beats for over ten years, performing not only all over the U.S., but Canada, Europe, Japan, the Middle East, and Australia. He has thrown down his talents with producers such as DJ Premiere, Pete Rock, DJ Spinna, Prince Paul, DJ Jazzy Jeff, DJ Spooky, Numark, Da Beatminerz, Dan the Automater, and recording artists such as Mos Def, El Da Sensei, Wordsworth, Talib Kweli, and Chali Tuna. That's a résumé that could even make Ad-Rock's eye-wear fog with intimidation.

And as a former English teacher from Brooklyn, he'll shush up any nay-sayers and haters by dropping some deft "A, B, A, B," rhyme schemes. Dangling participles need not apply.

Oh and, look for his new album, *Then What Happened* in spring 2008.

TYCHO & GABE OF PENNY ARCADE

Tycho & Gabe (or as their parents call them Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik) are founders of the uber-popular web comic, Penny Arcade. To say they are the product of "humble beginnings" is cliché but true. They were local rejects – rejects who drew countless comic strips that papers and online zines didn't want. One day, they decided to throw those rejected comic strips onto a website, and thus, in 1998, Penny Arcade was born. At first the website was sustained through donations but eventually large masses of humans from around the world grew to *lurve* Jerry & Mike's two dimensional alter-egos and with a little financial savvy from business manager Robert Khoo, they now make real American dollars.*

The beauty of Tycho & Gabe is that they sit around commenting on video games – that's all they do. The simplicity is the real genius. There is so much worldwide adoration for the web comic that they get roughly 2 million hits a day. They have parlayed this into an annual convention in Seattle that hosts up to 15,000 gaming enthusiasts. And who should play music at such a convention? None other than Penny Arcade's official "Rapper Laureate" MC Frontalot. One would even say that Penny Arcade played a huge cartoon-like hand in Frontalot's emerging Nerdcore success. And we thank them for it.

*Point of accuracy: Originally the characters were not designed to be Holkins' and Krahulik's alter-egos. But, after the series began, they figured, eh why not have them represent us? And, of course, the cartoon Tycho & Gabe look nothing like the real-life Tycho & Gabe. The real-life Tycho & Gabe are cuter.

BADDD SPELLAH

With titillating tracks more infectious than a Sub7 Trojan horse, this most "awesomest beat smith" and avid dictionary/thesaurus user is best known as MC Frontalot's righteous remixer. Hailing from the land of Alexander Graham Bell, Wolverine and Pamela Anderson, this thumping Canadian, with a name actually intended for an unrealized boy band spoof in college, has been dubbed the Timbaland of Nerdcore hip-hop here and in galaxies far, far away.

Creating crisp beats since the mid-90s, a friend booted him up to MC Frontalot's songs around 1999, which uploaded Spellah into overdrive. He sent the 'Godfather of Nerdcore' an email and soon the two were concocting cutting collaborations online. With the blessings of NAFTA, this Canadian/US hip hop team has definitely emerged at the forefront of Nerdcore.

Spellah would call himself a "beat smith" in a Vulcan nerve pinch, but "producer" would come in a close second, especially of late as he has been cultivating recording projects with/for other artists and vocalists. Trekking through new compositions by the glow of his monitor, Spellah has found inspiration from all genres of music, remixing songs to the point where the obvious derivative of his immediate influences wouldn't be apparent. Basically, this guy can get a thumping Nerdcore beat out of Burt Bacharach.

Baddd Spellahh stands at the intersection of Jay-Z and Steve Jobs - an H to the Izzo Super OS hybrid and a true hip hop maestro.

MC CHRIS

Is it any surprise that one of the best artists on the Nerdcore scene regularly works for the Cartoon Network? Nothing like a little Aqua Teen Hunger Force all up in your badass mother

f_ckin' beats.

MC Chris somehow pulls off a mash-up of: 1) hardcore hip-hop image, 2) high-pitched vocals, and 3) geek credentials. Think Nas on helium, with a few extra Boba Fett references. He's prolific too. He's put out four solo albums – *Life's A Bitch* and *I'm Her Pimp*, *Knowing Is Half The Hassle*, *Eating's Not Cheating*, *Dungeon Masters of Ceremonies*. His new album *MC Chris Is Dead* drops later this year. Not one to share his success with major corporations, he recently announced that his albums would now only be available at his concerts and told his fans to "Pirate that shit."

Just like in mainstream rap every artist has a different relationship with their fans – Fifty Cent sleeps with all the female ones, Eminem moons the male ones, Snoop Dogg buys drugs from all of them, etc. In true Nerdcore fashion, MC Chris takes his fans to the movies. Following his shows, Chris has treated his fans to such masterpieces as *Transformers*, *Ghostbusters*, *Indiana Jones*, *TMNT*, and of course, *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*. I would imagine he also buys drugs from a few of them ...seeing as they're already watching *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*.

Oh yeah, MC Chris has also played on the *Warp Tour*, been featured in *Spin Magazine's* Band of The Year Contest, and at various times declared that the Nerdcore scene can suck a fat ____.

MC LARS

If you were to ask MC Lars, he'd tell you that he doesn't make Nerdcore music; he's makes Post-Punk Laptop Rap. You might have to get a screen guard for that – it sounds messy.

MC Lars is prolific and successful. Evidence: He has put out five albums over the past eight years and he has toured with such bands as *The Matches*, *Simple Plan*, *Bolwing for Soup*, *Gym Class Heroes*, *Say Anything*, *Streetlight Manifesto*, *Suburban Legends*, *Patent Pending*, *Fightstar*, *MC Frontalot*, and *Wheatus*. *Limp Bizkit*, however, is still waiting for the phone call.

Lars fills his rhymes with a rich and geektastic blend of references to old-school rappers (think Eazy-E), Nerdcore culture, alternative bands (think Supergrass), and English lit (think Shakespeare). Prime example: "Who's that rappin' at my chamber door? Mr. Raven all up in my grill like nevermore!" That's undoubtedly the best callback to Poe since Juvenile's well known line "I'm rich bitch! And you mo' po' than Edgar Allen Poe!"

Unlike that other famous musical Lars, this one has vehemently avoided the path of the sell-out. He has his own record label (Horris Records) and is not willing to produce "more accessible" crap that might be more likely to get heavy rotation on MTV and the like. Instead, this Lars has decided to hang on to his nerdy soul and drop some great albums to boot.

CREDITS

Director

Negin Farsad

Producers

Negin Farsad
Kimmy Gatewood
Andrew Mendelson

Co-Director

Kimmy Gatewood

Executive Producer

Negin Farsad

Editor

Andrew Mendelson

Motion Graphics/Animation

Daniel Short
Anton Moss
Ryan Leonard
Christopher Soyer

Director of Photography, Tour Unit

Marcelo Duarte Alfaro

Director of Photography, Seattle & Los Angeles Units

Brendan Kennedy

Associate Editors

Adam Barton
Florence Holdeman
Torrey Townsend

Assistant Editor

Robin Nahas

Additional Motion Graphics

Andrew Kolodziej

Online Sound Mix

Wayne Cohen

NEW YORK UNIT

Camera Operators

Chris Coffey
Robin Nahas
Matt Johnson
Brendan Colthurst
Allen Djurkovic
Andrew Mendelson
Torrey Townsend

Production Assistant Head

Robin Nahas

Production Assistants

Allen Djurkovic
Millie Li
Tanya Erazo
Marcus Thomas
Marisa Macner
Andrew Kolodziej

Web Design

Dan Johnston

Graphic Design

Robin Hendrickson

Legal Counsel & Awesome Guidance

Sam Baharvar, Esq.

SEATTLE UNIT

Production Manager

Travis Senger

Production Coordinator

Stephen Unckles

New York-Seattle Liaison

Canedy Knowles

Steadicam Operator

Wing Gee

Camera Operators

Colin McLoughlin

Jennifer Hoover

Production Assistants

Kyle Kraft
Christina Schumacher
Michael Graca

POST PRODUCTION

Associate Editors

Adam Barton
Florence Holdeman
Torrey Townsend

Assistant Editor

Robin Nahas

Post Production Assistants

Rob Morrison
Mike Mosalam

Rotoscoping by

MC Frontalot
Millie Li
Rachel Lindsay

Additional Motion Graphics

Andrew Kolodziej

Online Sound Mix

Wayne Cohen

STARRING

Damian Hess AKA MC Frontalot
Gaby Alter
Brandon Patton
Sturgis Cunningham
Prince Paul
Weird Al Yankovic
Brian Posehn
Jello Biafra
J-Live
Gabe & Tycho of Penny Arcade
MC Chris
MC Lars
Badd Spellah
Monzy

Doc Popular
Beefy
Spamtech
Nursehella
MC Router
Optimus Rhyme
Karl Olsen
Schaffer the Darklord
John Nolt
Rusty Williams
Morgan Romine
David Eckelberry
Robert Khoo
Andrew S. Bub
Tony Moore

PUBLICITY BY

Jessica Edwards, Murphy PR

MUSIC

“Braggadocio” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot	“Special Delivery” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot
“Crime Spree” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot	“I Heart Fags” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot
“Swingin’” Written & Performed by Gaby Alter	“The Cello Loop” Written & Performed by Gaby Alter
“Message No. 419” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot	“Charity Case” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot
“Muzak” Written & Performed by Gaby Alter	“Pron Song” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot
“Goth Girls” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot	“This Old Man” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot
“Yellow Lasers” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot	“Which MC Was That?” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot
“Nerdcore Rising” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot	“Floating Bridge” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot
“Penny Arcade Theme” Written & Performed by MC Frontalot	

<p>"Hassle: The Dorkening" Written & Performed by MC Frontalot</p> <p>"Desert" (Instrumental) Written & Performed by Brandon Patton</p> <p>"Livin' at the Corner of Dude & Catastrophe" Written & Performed by MC Frontalot</p> <p>"Tourist Union" Written & Performed by Chessie</p> <p>"Rockets" (Instrumental) Written & Performed by Brandon Patton</p> <p>"Groupie Music" Written & Performed by Kirk Bailey</p> <p>"Frontin' Blues" Written & Performed by Alec Berlin</p> <p>"Front the Most" Written & Performed by MC Frontalot</p> <p>"Les Mis" Written & Performed by Drown Radio</p> <p>"Clear Block" Written & Performed by Chessie</p> <p>"Ivy City Interlocking" Written & Performed by Chessie</p> <p>"Music Ruined Video Games" Written & Performed by Shael Riley</p> <p>"Green Screen" □ Written & Performed by Drown Radio</p>	<p>"Indier Than Thou" Written & Performed by MC Frontalot</p> <p>"Pron Remix" Written & Performed by Drown Radio</p> <p>"DmZ" Written & Performed by Drown Radio</p> <p>"The Flat Jack Incident" Written & Performed by Drown Radio</p> <p>"WTFS" Written & Performed by Drown Radio</p> <p>"Godzillaur" Written & Performed by Genny Music</p> <p>"Third Trick" Written & Performed by Chessie</p> <p>"All Up In Your Body" Written & Performed by Drown Radio</p> <p>"Show You How Instrumental" Written & Performed by Drown Radio</p> <p>"Breakfast Really Fast" Written & Performed by Genny Music</p> <p>"Front the Most (Ultrastep Mix)" Written & Performed by MC Frontalot Remix by Ultraklystron</p> <p>"Origin of the Species" Written & Performed by MC Frontalot</p> <p>"Lost in Space" Written & Performed by Underscore</p>
--	--

Lighting Equipment provided by Handheld Films & Tamberelli
Taping Stock provided by Tape & Media

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Downtown Community Television for all their support

EXTREMELY SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Reza & Golnaz Farsad without whom there would be no film

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Cheryl Hess
Hossain Sahlolbei
Rishi Nangalia
Bryan Conner
Carole & Michael Mendelson
Michael Patton
Ted & Lauren Lanzi
Danny Thomases
Mike "Gabe" Krahulik
Jerry "Tycho" Holkins
Robert Khoo
Penny Arcade
Jack and Shirley Owens
Diana Gatewood
Anthony Gatewood
Rafael Zayas
Brendan Colthurst

MORE SPECIAL THANKS:

Monica Navas
Marc Baizman
Jessica Edwards
Canedy Knowles
Bernie Kravitz
Alan & Susan Kravitz
Matt Johnson
Mark Brierley
Victor Varnado
Nerdcore Fans across the nation
Ben Cote (from divx)
The People's Improv Theatre
Mark Glick
Stephen Breimer
Carole Ingber and Amy Davidson
David Tochterman
Jessamyn Waldman
Katie Halper
Bryan Billig
Morgan Phillips
Underscore
Genny Music
Ultraklystron
YT Cracker
MC Paul Barman
Gaby Alter
The Electric Sheep Company
Rachael Young
Bryan R Adams
Nichole Waymire
Michelle Rueda

Crystal Choy
Brian Chirls
Arin Crumley
Mike Riley
Georg Bissen
Pundrabeldor McFleandermog

THANKS TO ALL THE LOCATIONS WHERE THE FILM HAPPENED:

The Waffle & Pancake House
Ground Zero
The Village Tavern
Local 506
WXYZ
The Hideaway
The New Brookland
The Drunken Unicorn
The Beta Bar
Spanish Moon
PAX Convention, Bellevue, WA

MANY THANKS TO OUR NERD ARMY:

Alan Meigs	Paul Smeddle
Albert Christy III	Robert Cooper
Andrew Fontana	Robert Kinosian
Andrew Garbade	Ron Bassilian
Anne Carlson	Scott Moore
Benjamin Bernard	Sean Murphy
Brett Green	Sean O'Dell
Brittany Bruno	Shawn Gagne
Chris Higgins	Stephen Heskett
Daniel Dreg	Steven Kohler
Daniel Wheeler	Susan Zekanis
StankDawg	Ted Infinity
David Magallon	Thomas Nessiage
David Smith	Timmy Brady
Desiree Burch	Will Richards
Eileen Kelly	William Arcand
Gene Griffith	www.widescreengamingforum.com
Isaiah Frantz	William and Judity Reinsberg
Jason Pierce	Kimberly McFarland
Jaylyn Coffin	Martin Dinstuhl
Jeremy Deverell	Steve Wohlman
Jocelyn Goldfein	Greg Triggs
John Blackman	Jane Borden
John Cochrane	Chris Noble
John McKeown	Elia Shehady
Christos Dritsas	Jennifer Einstein
Eric Wagoner	Jay Stern
Matt Rowland	Viveca Kinsdvatter
Keith Huang	Jerry Miller
Drue Jones	Farinaz Sahba

Kyle Walker
Justin Fink
Jake Polatty
Melinda Duvall
Michael Williams
Kembrew McLeod
Carrie Donovan
Margaret Mary K Bell
Carol DeVan
Angela Reiner
Sean Kirchhoff
Esteban Rodriguez
Paul Maniaci
Anna & Phil DeBush
Dustin Hovatter
Paul Harbison
Paul Schreivogl
Alexander Ingram
Kristin D. Lindsay
Kristofer Seims
John Osmon
Jonathan Sachsman
Shawn Sancha
Karl Sears
Kurt Von Tiehl
Llywelyn Graeme
Manfred Stienstra
Michael Rolins
Michael Styne
Stefan Schick
The Organization
Nathaniel Engelson
Neil McKeeman

Annette Guarrasi
Matt Balaun
John Nolt
Matthew Morrison
Nick Amento
The AE Hilton Office Building
Steve Cox
Andrew Holt
Dean Obeidallah
JR Havlan
Anne Swan
Snorre Bryne
Melanie Wing
Dmitriy Kumets
Henry Aird
Alex Farlow
Ted Delorme
Edward Morgan
Jason Lawer
Erick Blandin
Eric Gillingham
Chad Smith
Kiran Jain
Jordan P Munday
Maninder Kahlon
Colette Marine
Jack Packard
Paul Simpson
Alex Farlow
Zachary Long
Nicholas Anderson
Phil Wyman
Paul Canniff
Dan Biegner