



*Patently  
Waiting*

**AMON**  
HAYWARD, CA

**S**ince Hayward, California emcee Amon says that his main influences are Scarface and N.W.A, you'd probably expect for him to have raps full of angst. But he insists that while the struggle is there, he has a lot more to offer.

"They can expect realness," says Amon about his debut album *Iller* that's currently circulating in the streets. "I think for a long time rap has been saturated with material things and I wanted to talk about what's real. You've got people who work 9 - 5's in the hood. I put myself in the position of a cat on the corner doing what he has to do or the guy who gets up and goes to work everyday but still finds himself in the struggle."

Struggle is something Amon got acquainted with early in life. The youngest of 13 children, Amon has never known what it's like not have to compete to get what's his. Coming from Hayward, he knew that the rap game's focus was on Oakland and the rest of the Bay Area. This was nothing but yet another small obstacle he had to hurdle by making sure his material could stand alongside other artists from the Bay Area.

"When I write a song, the main focus is the lyrics," he says. "I like melodic beats, but a real emcee is always gonna strive to say something on a track. I don't wanna be someone that's just screaming a bunch of rhymes that are leading people nowhere."

His career started when he joined the group Prime Suspect. The buzz they generated led to them signing with indie label Young Gotti Records. The label's roster included Sean T and Scoot Dogg of Dem Hoodstarz. But the label opted to not to treat Prime Suspect as a priority and folded after releasing Sean T's album. Amon left the group soon after.

"It was a little discouraging being in a situation like that," admits Amon. "But I always felt passionate about my music. Whether I sell one or one million records, I just want to be able to go to the studio and make music."

Right now, Amon is getting to do exactly what he wants as his *Iller* album features Bay Area vets like Too \$hort and San Quinn. Backed by a diverse array of sounds and production, Amon is poised to become known as one of the more universal artists in the game.

"My album may have some violent material, but it's nothing [unrealistic]," he says. "I wanted to stray away from that and present real situations in the music. To me, that's what Hip Hop is all about - making your listeners feel like they can relate to what you're talking about."

*Words by Maurice G. Garland*