

BIG PUN aka Big Punisher, aka Christopher Lee Rios was a rapper, producer and songwriter.

He was also referred to as Big Moon Dawg before he was known as Big Punisher (Comic Book Character) and later BIG PUN.

Born and raised in the South Bronx, New York. BIG PUN was one of the prominent Latino rappers of his generation.

He met his future wife (Liza) in Junior High School before attending Stevenson High School in the Bronx.

BIG PUN was a creative genius who brought greatness back to Hip Hop in the Bronx, New York, after a west coast Hiatus.

He was an ICON, a treasure and a Hero to the Latin and Hip Hop Communities.

At times, he would cruise down Fordham road, The Grand Concourse, 125th street in Harlem

and other shopping district's, just to say hello to his friends and fans.

Growing up, BIG PUN played basketball and indulged some of his time in the boxing ring.

He began rapping in the 1980's, while forming the group "Full-a-Clips" with Lyrical Assassin, Joker Jamz and Toom.

BIG PUN was considered the Notorious BIG of the Latin community. (They both share the same first names)

BIG PUN was discovered by Fat Joe and first appeared on Fat Joe's album "Jealous one's Envy".

When BIG PUN met Fat Joe, the two hit it off like fire works. Their chemistry and love for Hip Hop music was impeccable.

They became brothers of the Latino and Hip Hop Community forever and often referred to as twin towers.

Fat Joe appeared in many of BIG PUN's music video's, in particularly "Twinz" in 1998 on the Deep cover remix.

One of BIG PUN's famous lyrics;

"Dead in the Middle of little Italy, little did we know, that we riddled some Middleman who didn't do diddily"

When BIG PUN released 100%, featuring Tony Sunshine, the single hit the Latino community hard and touch the soul of millions of Latin followers.

He was the first rapper to mix latin music and Hip Hop together with some of the dopest lyrics ever.

You can find many rap artist today imitating his style, flow and delivery.

In 1995, BIG PUN began writing songs for his debut album Capitol Punishment and hired Knobody, (an A&R at Loud records)

to remix "I'm not a player". The song featured Joe, re-titled "Still not a player" and the song became BIG PUN's first mainstream hit.

In 1997, he signed with Loud records and released his Grammy nominated debut album "Capitol Punishment".

The record peaked at #5 on the billboard charts and became the first solo Hip Hop record by a Latino artist to go Platinum.

Capitol Punishment was also nominated for the Grammy award for best rap album in 1998.

During this time, he also appeared on the BeatNuts song "Off the Books".

One of BIG PUN's classic verse;

"Yo i'm still not a player but you still a hater, elevator to the top ...hah, see you later, I'm gone"

BIG PUN's second album "Yeeeah Baby", was completed after his passing in April of 2000.

The album peaked at number three on the Billboard charts and earned Gold record status within three months of its release.

A Posthumous compilation album, Endangered Species was released in April 2001. Endangered Species collected some of BIG PUN's greatest Hit's. The song's were some of his previously unreleased material, numerous guest appearances and remix greatest verses. The album also reached number seven on the billboard charts.

He collaborated with Fat Joe on Duets: The Final Chapter, an album of tracks featuring "The Notorious BIG". The Track "Get your grind on" begins with BIG PUN radio interview. In the interview he says "He would perform a duet with Biggie at the gates of heaven".

BIG PUN was also featured on a track from the revived Terror Squad's second album "True Story" on the track "Bring em back" with Big L.

When BIG PUN released "It's so Hard" featuring Donnell Jones, it revealed BIG PUN's versatility and creative genius in the Hip Hop Culture.

BIG PUN verse;

"You can catch me in the Cherry red 150, got the Grizzy locked in the Stizzy, Pop the Clizzy goin 60 down a one Wizzy"

BIG PUN film debut was made in 1999 with the movie "Whiteboyz". He then starred in Moesha on UPN Network as himself and was cast in "Thicker than Water" in 1999 with Fat Joe, Ice Cube, Mack 10 and MC Eiht. In 2000, he starred in "Boricua's Bond" with Tyson, Method Man, Redman and Sticky Fingaz.

He also starred in the black horror movie "Urban Menace" which also featured Fat Joe.

His Documentary "BIG PUN, the Legacy" was released in September 2009 as a tribute to the Latino Hip Hop Artist.

BIG PUN has also been featured in many Hip Hop magazines like The Source, YO, Onyx, Insider, Vibe, XXL and many more....

On March 22, 2021, at the intersection of East Fordham rd. and Grand Concourse Blvd. The street was renamed BIG PUN Plaza in honor of BIG PUN.

HIP HOP Blvd was an intricate part in organizing the ceremony with family, friends and local politicians which preceded the street naming.

Special Thanks to Councilman Fernando Cabrera and Al Pizarro, Russell Cheeks, Oscar Pena, Super O Mgt., BIG PUN's family and Hip Hop Blvd for their support in the re-naming celebration. Many of Hip Hop Royalty was in attendance like Grand Wizard Theodore, GrandMaster Caz, Tito (Fearless Four), Red Alert and more.... Also in attendance was BIG PUN's Sister (Vicky), wife (Liza) and his three children (Star, Vanessa and son Christopher, Jr). Christopher is following in his father's footsteps by becoming a prominent rapper and he is sometimes referred to as Baby Pun. BIG PUN will soon be celebrated and reserved in the HIP HOP Museum.