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FABOLOUS

What's Next for the Brooklyn Artist?

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Over somber keys by producer AraabMuzik, Fabolous opens *Summertime Shootout 3: Coldest Summer Ever* with an intro about going through hard times this past summer. At the end of the song, he says, “I just feel like life is hot and cold, ups and downs, back and forth. Wins and losses.”

“It’s going to be some sunshine; it’s going to be some rain,” he continues. “When it rains, it pours. But ask yourself: Can you weather the storm until the sun shines again?”

Fabolous Lands Seventh Top 10 Album on Billboard 200 Chart With 'Summertime Shootout 3'

ARTIST MENTIONED

Fabolous

Fabolous has stated publicly that the domestic dispute involving his longtime girlfriend and mother of his two children, Emily Bustamante – for which the rapper was arrested and indicted in 2018 – is behind them. After working through their issues privately, he says he's trying to become a better person, a better father, and a better partner, focusing on putting

his family’s needs first. On November 18, Fab celebrated his 42nd birthday, keeping the celebration intimate with his loved ones that included Chicago rapper G Herbo, who is dating Taina Williams, Emily’s daughter, who she and Fab are co-parenting.

“It was a test of things I was saying that I wanted to do and things that I was working towards,” Fab tells *Billboard*. “It wasn’t like, ‘Alright, here’s your birthday. How do you want to do this? How do you want to celebrate this? How do you want it to be remembered?’ I was able to find time and balance.”

Through his times of self-realization, Fab’s music

career didn’t falter. He remains one of the most consistent rappers from Brooklyn and a legend in his own right, staying hot with verses on Meek Mill’s “Uptown Vibes,” Tory Lanez’ “If You Gotta...,” and Casanova’s “So Brooklyn,” which helped kick off the entire #SoBrooklynChallenge. On his own singles, he’s built excitement behind the *Summertime Shootout* campaign with “Choosy” featuring Jeremih and Davido and its

#ChoosyChallenge, as well as “B.O.M.B.S” that finds him getting back in his lyrical bag.

So *Summertime Shootout 3* comes at an opportune time for Fab, where he’s in the process of rebuilding himself in a good light. The third installment came on Black Friday this year, following his tradition of releasing new music around a holiday. It’s stacked with features – Meek Mill, Lil Durk, A Boogie Wit da Hoodie, Jacques, Roddy Ricch, Chris



Brown, and Teyana Taylor are just some of the marquee names who contributed to the project. Fab described this as a playlist, encouraging his fans to play it all the way through and add their favorites to their own personalized playlists as they wish.

Over the phone on December 4 – better known in the hip-hop world as Jay-Z’s birthday – Fab spoke to *Billboard* about his Thanksgiving, working with Casanova and

Now he is doing things outside of the music game that are huge as well.

Let's get into the release of the album, *Summertime Shootout 3*. You dropped it around Thanksgiving – how was your Thanksgiving?

It was good. I spent it with family. We ate kind of late, so that was a change. That was a new vibe, not eating as early as we have planned. Sometimes doing something different, it sparks a new energy. We ate late so everybody was definitely hungry. [Laughs.]

It was a good time, overall. Great spending time with the family. My album dropped at midnight. We all got to take part and engage in that. In between helping and preparing everything and getting myself ready, you know, approving things for the project, signing the vinyl covers and different things like that. It was an interesting Thanksgiving.

It's almost become a ritual. If people want a break from their families, they can listen to new Fab.

Yeah, that definitely was one of the ideas. The holiday time is where people slow down a little bit more. You get a chance to really take in an album. Especially in our

times today where everybody is so caught up. There is so much going on. Social media is flying 100 miles an hour. You got your own life. You got personal things that you gotta do. You got so much going on that sometimes music gets pushed to the back, because things are [higher] priority than that.

One of our ideas going in from a long time ago – because I've been dropping projects during the holidays, Thanksgiving, Christmastime for a while – was catching people while they're dormant, while they got a chance to kick their feet up, and they don't have work the next day, and they don't have to do as much. I think one of the only disadvantages is that things shut down a little bit towards the holidays. Other than that, the connection to the listener, I think that's worth it.

We are just more tuned in. You had a few projects that dropped during the holidays.

One of the S.O.U.L. Tapes on Christmas. One of the S.O.U.L. Tapes dropped around Thanksgiving. I just caught wind of it a little while ago. I remember back in the days in the late '90s, November-December, mostly December was a big time to drop records. I think all the big dogs: Jay-Zs, the DMXs.

They would all drop records in December or early to late December. And we would get big turnouts.

I do remember there was kind of a "black" time right after that. January was usually the "black out," like a dead space because I guess after Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, people are pretty



tapped out. You're not going to get big sales after that. But the big sales usually came in December and they would shoot back up once late January, late February [comes around].

After you dropped a project, you did a fan concert called *The Black Friday Pull Up* in Brooklyn. How was the experience?

It was fun. It was really an appreciation thing, pulling up and performing. Between me and Def Jam, we got a venue out in Brooklyn and people just pulled up. I didn't have a setlist. We just really pulled