

## **Interview with Blackfilm.com and DMX (March 2004)**

***So what are some of the differences between working in the music industry versus working in the film industry?***

DMX: In movies. In music, the highest paid artist gets 18 cents off the dollar and the record company still owns the finished product. It's robbery, straight robbery. They give you nothing, everything is an advance, but they'll offer it to you. "Hey we were looking at the new Range Rover and thought it'd be a great idea if we got it for you." And you're like "great, thank you," And they get it for you and you look on your P & L report (profit and loss report) and you see "Range Rover - \$80,000" and you end up thanking yourself. It's robbery and I can't be a part of it anymore. I feel like I'm being disrespected. You do so much for the record label, you make so much money for them and then, at the end of the day, you're nothing but a number and if you don't cooperate, then they play games and say "well, okay, we'll not promote you as much as we normally have and see what happens then". They want to keep you hungry; keep you wanting that advance.

***So how has this film career affected your relationship with your record label?***

DMX: The first time they heard I was doing a movie, they were upset. They were like "he can't do a movie, he has to go over here and do this!" I was like "What the fuck you mean I can't do a movie? You stick with the music, mind your fucking business, I'm going over here and I'm going to do this movie!"

***Have you ever thought of releasing your own music like over the internet or something?***

DMX: Yes, I've actually started a union to protect the rights of the artists. We have no one to look out for our rights. We have a few in terms of collecting our money, but what about what's right in a contract. A standard contract is for 5-7 years, 5-7 albums. How the fuck do you call me a risk, yet you hold me down for 5-7 years? And the average expectancy of any artist is three years. So you're already holding me for longer than you think I'm gonna last. There is no risk factor. They have a lot of artists out there that are straight garbage and they play them so fucking much that after a while you find yourself singing their shit. They control the market. They got BET and MTV in their back fucking pocket, they do favors for each other. All the radio stations are bought and paid for. It's not even about talent any more, it's about who they like, who's their guy, who's their buddy. And I'm nobody's fucking buddy. Fuck that. I'm not cooperating.

***So your recording career is over?***

DMX: Yes it is.

***You're not gonna record anymore?***

DMX: I refuse to give another dime to that record label, to Def Jam. I gave them their best year. I made 144 million dollars for them in one year and guess how

much they gave me?

***3 million?***

DMX: Nope.

***\$3000?***

DMX: Nope.

***Nothing?***

DMX: There you go! They didn't give me shit! What they did was they loaned me \$3 mil towards my next album. So as soon as they give you that money, you already owe them 2 more albums. They don't give you anything. They advance you, or give you something and have you pay for it later.