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**STARRING:
TLC, MARVIN GAYE,
R. KELLY,
FAITH & OTHERS**

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weeks straight. That was when Tupac and R. Kelly had hot tracks out.

You've opened for a lot of people like Lil' Kim and LL Cool J. Tell me about your stage show.

LATEEFA: We was on the LL Cool J tour for seven dates in Canada with about 3,000 white people. Man, that was the wildest experience! LL Cool J got a crowd full of women that want to see him come take his shirt off and lick his lips. And we come out here with the hip-hop and everyone's feelin' it: goin' crazy, throwin' their hands

in the air, tryin' to grab us on the stage, the whole nine. We couldn't walk through the crowd. It was wild like that.

What's the dynamic like between you two?

LATEEFA: This girl [Rashawnna] got crazy delivery. You know how Busta make you feel what he's saying 'cause of how he's sayin' it? Her delivery is out of this world, and that's what makes me learn from her. I'm more, "Let me explain to you what makes my apples sweet," so what I might say kinda hits 'em harder. Niggas be like, "Oh that's some deep shit she said right there." But some-

times, it'd be in a situation where the shoe is on the other foot. Even on "Here I Go" [the first single from their debut album], like I'm rappin' regular and she's snipin' it. You can't help but just start jumpin', bouncin' and want to tear something up 'cause of the energy.

So what sets Infamous Syndicate apart from other rap groups?

RAWSHAWNNA: We some hustlas. We sit back and we be peepin' the game. We not out here trying to jump on the first things we see. We been laying back and watchin' for a long time and now we're ready to do our thing. **S**

cerebral knievel

WORDS BY JERRY LAWRENCE BARROW PHOTO BY ANNALISA

EMINEM

Imagine, if you will, a place where *Natural Born Killers* meets *Pee-Wee's Play House* in a demented lyrical orgy. A place where South Park's Cartman teaches at the temple of hip-hop and brings in the severed head of a bitin' MC for show-and-tell; where the only thing held sacred is a bag of shrooms and a microphone. Welcome to the world of Slim Shady. After years of battling on the underground circuit, Detroit native Eminem has turned a disturbing gift for describing the macabre into a record deal with Aftermath Records and their former dead-man-walking CEO, Dr. Dre. Not content to be just another Caucasian sensation, Eminem stabs you in the funny bone with lines like: "My brain's dead weight/ I'm tryin' to get my life straight/ But I can't figure out which Spice Girl I wanna impregnate." Offended? Good. Cuz Eminem wants you to know that he *Still Don't Give A Fuck*.

THE SOURCE: How did you come up with the name Slim Shady?

EMINEM: I was takin' a shit. I swear to God. And the fuckin' name just popped into my head. Then I started thinkin' of twenty million things that rhymed with it. Everybody in my click had an alias. They was like, "You can't just be Eminem. You gotta be Eminem a.k.a. somebody else." Slim Shady is just the evil thoughts that come into my head. Things I shouldn't be thinkin' about. Not to be gimmicky, but people should be able to determine when I'm serious and when I'm fuckin' around. That's why a lot of my songs are funny. I got a warped sense of humor I guess.

You released one album independently, *Infinite*, and the *Slim Shady* EP before finally hooking up with Dr. Dre.

