

STREET PERSON: Rapper Miki Vale

Let's show female emcee [Miki Vale](#) a little love (even if the [San Diego Music Awards](#) nominating board won't. They liked her in 2007-2008, yet overlooked her as a best hip-hop artist contender this year). But what's not to like about Vale's rhymes? They're positive, with only a little bit of braggadocio (she calls herself "the 21st century [Pam Grier](#)"). And she's got this dreamy, fluid, spoken-word type of flow.



Vale's new mixtape ("Rent Party") and her first full-length album ("Love Dope") are dropping on the [Sleeping Giant Music](#) label this fall. Until then, you can clap for her at her monthly DJ night ("Soul Kiss" at [Kadan](#)), or when she femcees at the [Onyx Room](#) on Aug. 6.

Name: Miki Vale

Hood: Golden Hill

Age: Late 20s or so

Pseudonyms you've gone by: Taboo the Sweetest

What's your rap origin story? I started rapping in high school in Oxnard. I was into poetry and my brother was a DJ and I would just rap, mainly with him and close friends. I didn't start recording until I was 18 or 19.

You did your first solo project in 1996 -- five songs on a tape. Why are you just putting together an album now? I've done a lot of projects but ["Love Dope"] is my first full-length album. It's got 15 tracks. I just feel like it's time; I have a lot of music that I just haven't put out.

You were up for an SDMA in hip-hop the past two years. What's your reaction to not being nominated this year? I actually didn't know that. I don't think it's really reflective of the hip-hop scene in San Diego. It's cool to be recognized but it's never meant that much to me.

Who are some local standout hip-hop artists? [Deep Rooted](#), [Bennie Herron](#), [Blame One](#).



Are you content with the number of women in hip-hop? Whoever feels the need to make music should do it, so the number really doesn't matter. But there could be more focus from the media to show there are more women who make hip-hop music.

Do you keep your lyrics PG on purpose?

Kind of. I feel like I have a pretty broad vocabulary, so I don't have to rely on only a few words. And I want something that my nephews [ages 7, 9 and 18] can listen to and not be too offended.

What 10 songs would you put on a mixtape?

"[Floatin](#)" - Stacy Epps
 "Pretty Flowers" - [Georgia Anne Muldrow](#)
 "[Testin Me](#)" - Dudley Perkins
 "Strip Club" - [Strong Arm Steady](#)
 "3 Kings" - Self Scientific Ft. [Kronon](#) And Planet Asia
 "[Definition Of Ill](#)" - Madlib Remix Ft. Planet Asia
 "[The Panties](#)" - Mos Def
 "[Rock With You](#)" - Eric Roberson
 "[Subject](#)" - Dwele
 "[Inside My Love](#)" - Minnie Riperton

Your fave place for lunch in San Diego? [Awash Ethiopian restaurant](#).

What's your perfect idea of a weekend in SD? A perfect weekend in SD is one where I can relax. A rowboat, some music and good company = perfection.

Who are some of your musical influences? Some of my musical influences are Marvin Gaye, Michael Jackson, Prince, [MC Lyte](#), Yo Yo, Public Enemy, Jill Scott, Talib Kweli ... the list goes on and on.

Your civic involvement [[The Upliftment Project](#), which Vale co-founded] around town is notable too. Who inspired you? As far as civic involvement I'm inspired by love. I feel we're all in this together so we should help each other when and however we are able. I have never been sold on the Babylonian mindset of only looking out for self and doing any and everything possible to have more than the next person.

KELI'S PICKS: 'Point Break LIVE!' formula



It blows my mind that someone's trying to corral a bankrobber/big surf/movie thrill ride onto a theater stage -- but here you have it,

"[Point Break: LIVE!](#)" currently beckoning me to LA.

Of course they customized the story and zany stunts to fit the black box. I don't know if [Ronald Reagan throws a live pit bull at Johnny Utah](#) in the play. (I can't imagine a dog getting drop kicked every performance.) But I've read there are TWO car chase scenes in the play. And skydiving! More importantly, a member of the audience is cast as the conflicted cop, Johnny. They read their lines from the script, setting up a night of wooden line delivery, doing justice at least to the Keanu role.

Anyway, making movies into plays is the challenge theater producers have happily taken up, some examples of which are coming to San Diego. See:

1. "[He's going to sing](#)," "[Spamalot](#)" - Sept. 8-13, 2009
2. "[Hakuna matata](#)" is Disney-speak for "Money-making for the rest of Disney's days." "[Disney's The Lion King](#)" Oct. 13-Nov. 8, 2009
3. Classic mise-en-scene. I've got Hitchcock's 1930s version on VHS. "[The 39 Steps](#)" - Aug. 11-Sept. 13, 2009
4. Goldie, Bette and Diane were the first "First." "[The First Wives Club - A New Musical](#)" - July 15-Aug. 16, 2009
5. Winged monkeys, giving children nightmares. "[Wicked: The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz](#)" - July 29-Aug. 30, 2009

Keli liked "[Legally Blonde](#)" better when it was called "[Clueless](#)." A musical version will be here [March 30-April 4, 2010](#). And she realizes some of these works first appeared as books before movies. Some were literary reimaginings. But all first came into Keli's consciousness in movie form. So there.

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Its about time a real MC gets some shine. Miki Vale is the truth.

Posted by: Kyle | [July 30, 2009 09:03 AM](#)

Miki Vale is dope. She is a true emcee.

Posted by: kdot | [July 30, 2009 09:59 AM](#)

The San Diego Music Awards and The Citybeat have no idea about Hip-Hop culture in San Diego. If they held the same vigor as they do for indie rock. This city would be a force to reckon with.

Posted by: no doubt | [July 30, 2009 10:01 AM](#)

damn this girl has a dope flow. sick mixtape too.

Posted by: peter | [July 30, 2009 10:15 AM](#)

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