



For Immediate Release  
December 21, 2005

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### ALTER EGOS MAKE BLUE NOTE DEBUT

The hip-hop/soul/jazz collective “The Alter Egos” will make its debut at the renowned Blue Note jazz club on Saturday, January 7 at half past midnight. The band is appearing as part of the club’s Late Night Groove Series that features emerging acts expanding the jazz idiom into modern groove-oriented forms. Tickets are available via the Blue Note box office at (212) 475-8592, from their website at [www.bluenote.net](http://www.bluenote.net), and at the door for \$8. The club has a two-drink minimum at tables. For more information on The Alter Egos, please visit [www.checktheegos.com](http://www.checktheegos.com).

The Alter Egos, a New York based group, has recently appeared at The Cutting Room (opening for Ben Taylor), The Manhattan Center, Crash Mansion, and is frequently featured at The Knitting Factory. The group has also performed recently at Abilene’s in Philadelphia.

Band members are: Josh Arenberg, drums; Rashida Bryant (“Shida-B”), vocals; Mike

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Herscher, bass; Tony Melone, keyboards; Chris Parrello, guitar; and Brian Salter (“B-Salt”), vocals.

Five of the six members of The Alter Egos were trained at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where they met. Mike Herscher, a graduate of the New School University jazz program, was brought in when the band formed in 2001.

The concept of the Alter Egos is one of eclecticism, an eclecticism that is reflected in both the music and the lives of the members. From Rashida’s burgeoning opera career to Chris’ doctoral studies in music theory, to Josh’s career in computer engineering, to Mike’s studies in biology at Columbia University, to Tony’s mentoring of young musicians in East Harlem, to Brian’s theatre projects, the Alter Egos believe in bringing varied experience and a wide range of influence into their musical stew. The music itself draws on a deep understanding of the jazz tradition, but pulls just as much from spoken word and hip-hop as well as funk and soul.

The band will be releasing a brand new recording at the show. A mixture of self-produced tracks from their rehearsal home at the Long Island City artist collective, The Space, and tracks recorded and produced by Wyclef Jean’s Platinum Sound Studios, this recording differs from the band’s 2003 release, *Defenders of Live Hip Hop* with the

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addition of Rashida and Chris and a new focus on song writing. The album will be available for purchase at the show and shortly afterwards via the band's website at [www.CheckTheEgos.com](http://www.CheckTheEgos.com)

Featured for this show will be the first-time addition of a horn section for several of the band's signature tunes. Plans include: Ian Young on Sax, Greg Glassman on trumpet, and Jon Arons on trombone. Jon, a longtime associate of the band and a member of the Dave Holland Big Band, has recently gained notoriety from his "Trombone Dancer" appearances on *The Tonight Show*, *The Today Show*, *Big Time With Steve Harvey*, and *Showtime at the Apollo*.

Photos and media samples can be obtained from the band's website at [www.CheckTheEgos.com](http://www.CheckTheEgos.com).

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