



“Bringing hip-hop to the most populous democracy in the world is the1shanti’s destiny, and a most righteous missionary he is.”

-Urb Magazine

Brooklyn Shanti is...

An MC. A Producer. A Composer. A DJ. Much more...

However one chooses to complete the sentence, Brooklyn Shanti (or just Shanti) has spent the past decade displaying his enthusiasm for the art of noise. He has recorded under various names, the most widely recognized being “the1shanti”.

Bengali in origin, decidedly hip-hop in orientation; as an artist, Shanti’s explorations have pushed boundlessly against the boundaries of self-expression. The output created with collaborators in his blast radius echo around the world today, influencing a new generation of artists.

Shanti’s mission has been to introduce hip-hop culture to India. His odyssey also entails the introduction of Bengali culture to a brave new world.

At the age of 12, Shanti began his career supporting hip-hop pioneers such as **Doug E. Fresh** and **Ultramagnetics MCs**. Although his adolescent path included signings to a variety of major and independent label deals, it wasn’t until 2000’s *Blaxploitation* on **Soulspazm Records** (charting **#13** on GAVIN) that he was capable of showcasing this rhyming and production talents on wide release. 2001 saw the release of his *Deadline* EP, which peaked at **#1 on Rap Attack’s Hip Hop charts** and was primarily self-produced. Shortly thereafter, Shanti joined **the Dum Dum Project (DDP)** with whom collaborations with **Asha Puthli** and a supporting cast of Bollywood-based musicians would lead to relocation in London.

Shanti has collaborated with **A. R. Rahman**, **Sonik Gurus**, the **Foreign Beggars**, Italy's **Feel Good Productions**, **ElekTro4**, **Billy Martin (Medeski, Martin and Wood)**, and **Niraj Chag** which has provided an ample opportunity to release a consistent catalog of music to keep him touring non-stop as an artist.

It was during the time that the Dum Dum Project was recording *Spiritual Bling* that Shanti enjoyed a residency as an emcee and DJ at **Swaraj** with DDP and was a frequent guest at **DJ Pathaan's Stoned Asia**. 2003-2006, spent primarily between Mumbai, Bangkok, London, and New York would see DDP raise global awareness for their fusion-based brand of hip-hop.

In 2006, **Afrika Bambaataa**, the godfather of hip-hop culture, aware of Shanti's efforts to spread a positive message through hip-hop in South Asia, dubbed the artist the '**Indian Bambaataa**'.

2006 to the present day have been hyper productive years for Shanti, who upon returning to New York full-time has released two solo records; 2006's *India Bambaataa* (Laskar Music) and 2007's *the1shanti* on the **legendary hip-hop label, Rawkus**. DDP's *Spiritual Bling* (Universal) has become a benchmark in South Asian hip-hop.

Shanti has continued touring, written for and produced numerous projects ranging from soundtracks to advertising; and has mentored new talent for various labels including his own (also entitled Brooklyn Shanti), such as **Func Spec**, **Bonita Applebum** and more.

Shanti is currently in the studio with a wide range of legendary musicians ranging from **Afrika Bambaataa** to **KutMasta Kurt** and **Karsh Kale**, while recording his third studio album from which the first single, *Rani Rani*, has been supported by DJs, media and fans worldwide.

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