'I'm about to start shootin',' Tip tells MTV News of his upcoming album.

By Rob Markman

T.I.

Photo:

With the official start of summer only one day away, hip-hop fans in Atlanta kicked off the season just right at Hot 107.9's Birthday Bash concert this past weekend. Hometown hero T.I. closed the show with an hour-long set that included some of his classics, like "24s" and "Rubber Band Man," as well as new cuts from his upcoming LP, *Trouble Man.*

The album isn't due until September 4, but T.I. is ready to start making a push to get his eighth LP ready for release. "You know, I'm really just getting warmed up, man," he told MTV News backstage at ATL's Philips Arena. "I got a lot of ammunition; I'm about to start shootin'. I'm just getting warmed up, just look forward to it."

If his description of *Trouble Man* sounds a little aggressive (especially if you consider his past weapons charges), Tip is making a deliberate return to the brand of music that made him a household rap name. In a January interview with MTV news, the Grand Hustle CEO said the album would contain a good amount of "intellectual

ignorance." When he appeared on "RapFix Live" in May, he said it would be more aggressive than his 2008 LP *Paper Trail,* the album that came out after he caught his weapon charges.

"So the biggest difference in the man that I am today and the man that I was then, I guess musically, it's gonna be more aggressive than *Paper Trail,*" he told host Sway Calloway.

Already, Tip has dropped the rock-tinged "I'm Flexin' " and the Pharrell-assisted "Hear Ye, Hear Ye." Whether those two tracks will make the final cut remains to be seen. As of right now, the more female-friendly "Love This Life" is being touted as *Trouble Man*'s first single, but we're pretty sure fans can expect some pretty gritty material from the King of the South.

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