



Soul Logistics

by Cesca Janece Waterfield

Soul Logistics is an original hip hop group who put together their own TV show that they tape in Hopewell. It's led by Doug Evans, J.D Haze, Rodney "Soul Singer" Stith, and Fat Thomi, "the Minister of Information." The four men recently opened up for Mos Def.

On the TV show, they provide "inspiration plus information" with a free mix of local artists, conscious hip hop, soul music and informative commentary with a humorous spin. They represent a do-it-yourself attitude that can bring people together.

The same team had an AM radio show on WHAP for a year before deciding to try television. The show premiered in January and is directed, produced, and hosted by Doug Evans. Catch it Thursdays at 7:30 pm on Comcast Channel 3. In their own words, two of the men tell us what's up:

J.D. Haze, Petersburg

"There's a lot of positive energy out there to reach for everyone. So take that energy vibe, apply it to yourself, and let's be the antithesis of hate."

"We started all together. Basically, we're all independent artists. I have a band, Guilotine X. I was into that. Rodney was into R&B, and Doug was doing his thing. We weren't too happy with the radio. So we said, 'Let's put our own program together.' Initially, we were just going to see how it worked out. That just grew into TV."

"I'm the Ambassador of Good Will for Soul Logistics. I do a segment called Rock-Tagon. I feature young artists. It can be rappers, singers, dancers, violinists, DJs, artists, anything. Whatever your talent is, your skill, we showcase that each week."

Doug Evans, Hopewell

"I'm the type of person if I see something, I say, 'I can do that' and I do it. We're trying to bring a balance to music, not just to hip hop, but to music; a balance that's missing altogether, and to bring inspiration plus information. It's conscious hip hop and soul music with a sense of humor."

"All of us had our own groups or were doing our own thing, and I just thought we should get together and do something different. I got tired of hearing the same two songs over and over. It wasn't inspiring anybody. So we got together and just put a mix tape together. We had people say, 'I don't listen to hip hop, but I listen to that CD.'"

"If you come to me with a CD or something that's inspiring and it's not the same old thing, I'll give you a shot. That's what Soul Logistics is about. We're doing our own stuff, and we're supporting independent artists."

www.soullogistics.com