



tephlon funk!

MINI ART BOOK



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Metayer Ink
06202004

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USE ONLY**

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Illustrated by
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Nicolas Safe

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WHAT'S TEPHLON FUNK?



It's an original comic series created by Stephane Metayer about four individuals from different walks of life that are connected. It's heavily inspired by both Hip-Hop & Anime, the words Tephlon Funk!® means to be strong and stand out. We really wanted to make an ill, authentic and unique story about New York City in the mid '90s. A bunch of fans have always wished to see something like this and we believe that it can one day turn into a franchise. A big love letter to all the 5 Boroughs. The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island. This is more than just a series, it's a cultural movement.

EDITORIAL ACCOLADES



REBECCA SILVERMAN | REVIEWER

Drugs. F-bombs. Street-wise kids, bitter undercover cops. Welcome to the wide world of Tephlon Funk, a collaboration between an American writer/creator and two French illustrators. It's an interesting piece, wearing its influences proudly – there is a real grounding in Cowboy Bebop and Spike Lee films here, that you can pick up on long before the author's afterword mentions them.



RAFAEL RUIZ | HOST

Since the death of her parents, fourteen-year-old Inez Jozlyn can't catch a break. She's determined to make a better life for herself. After a mysterious man helps her out of a tough spot, she finds herself in the middle of a drug conflict. Along with her strange new friend, Inez will work with a young female cop with a strong sense of justice and a sword-wielding bartender to protect the streets of New York from the new drug that's like nothing else on Earth.



TROY JEFFREY-ALLEN | WRITER

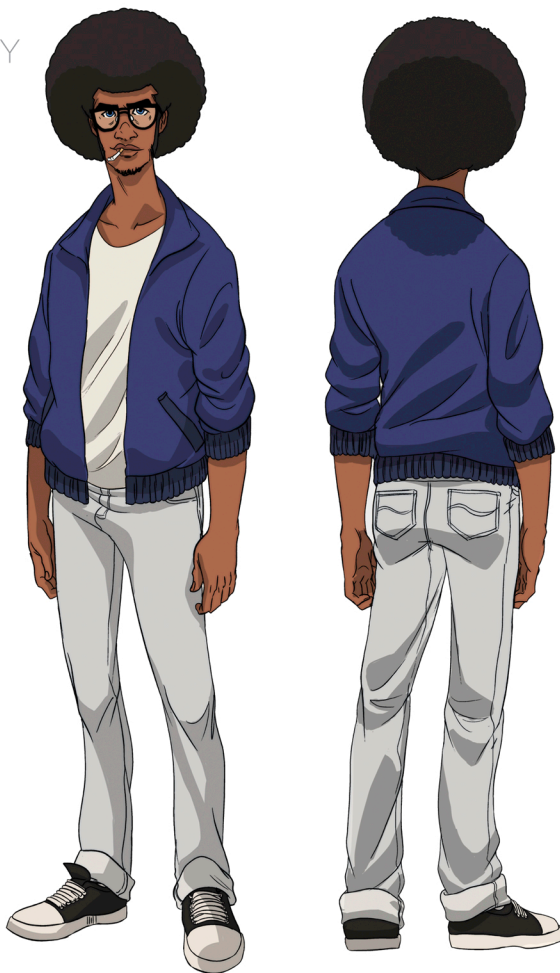
Arriving this November from Dark Horse Comics, Tephlon Funk! (1994) introduces readers to an action-packed thought-provoking narrative amid the beautiful backdrop of New York City in the mid-90s. At the center of this crime-drama are four denizens of the city that never sleeps... and one drug called Tephlon Funk. Hitting comic shops for the first time, this online sensation has already been hailed as the dopest story out there!

INEZ JOZLYN



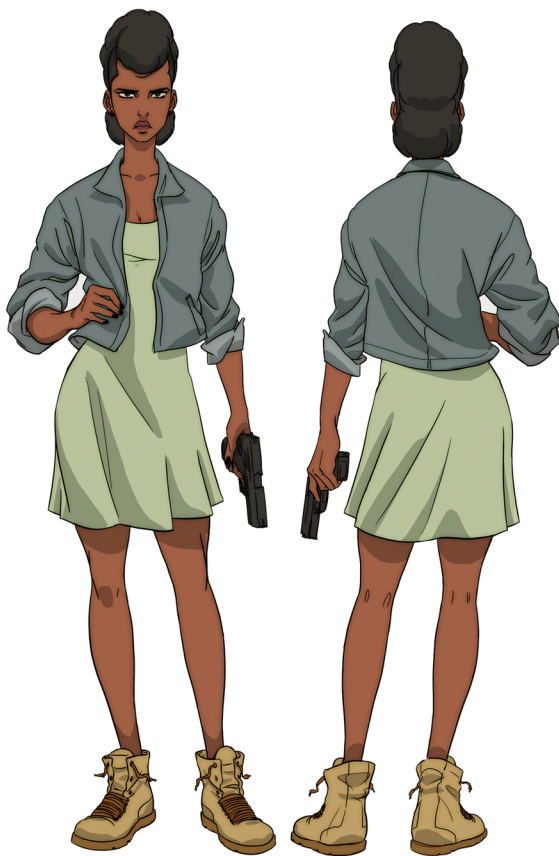
A sensible but troubled 'lil youth who has lost all hope. Inez can never seem to catch a break. Still, with her due diligence, she's determined to change that no matter what the consequences are...

GABRIEL AINSLEY



Very charismatic and fearless, Gabriel is notoriously known for his athletic prowess. However, he's not what others believe him to be. He's searching for something, what exactly is it?

CAMERON PHOENIX

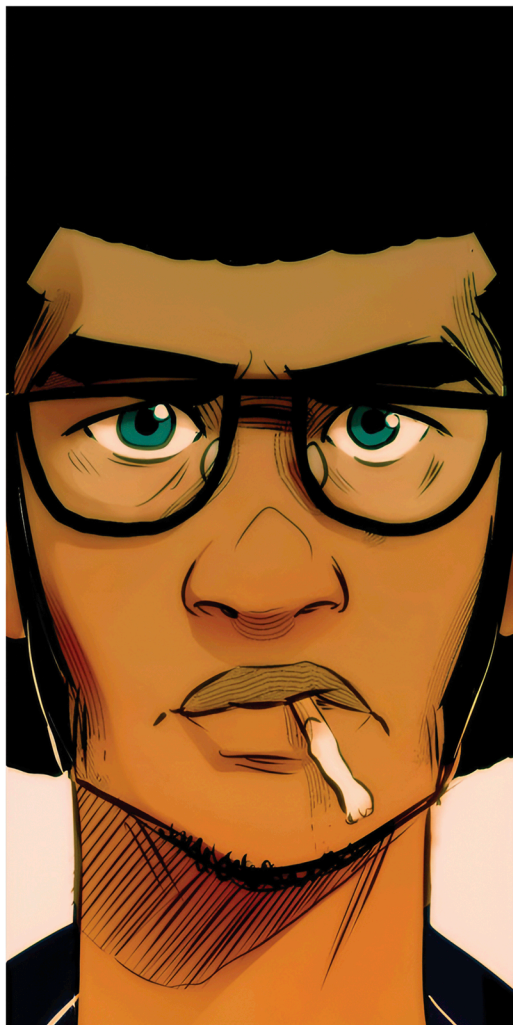
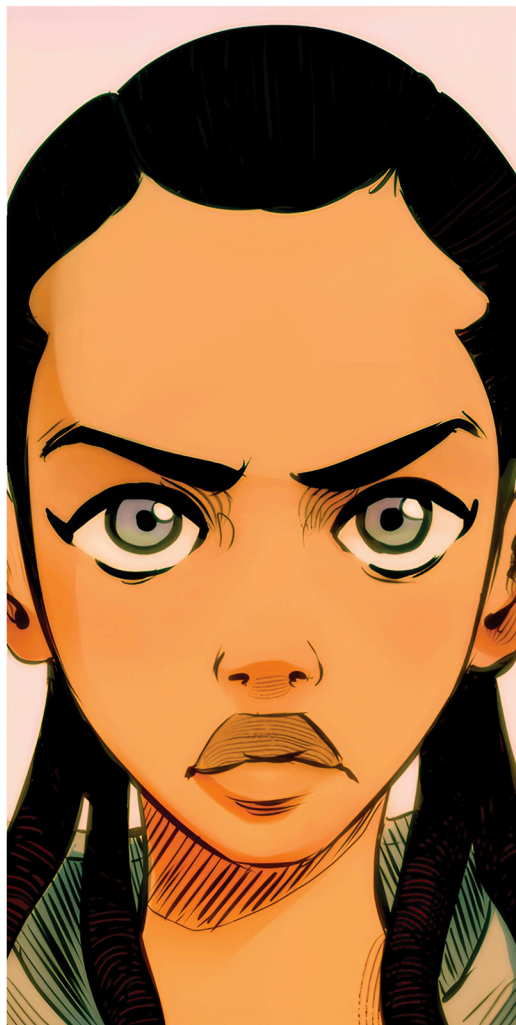


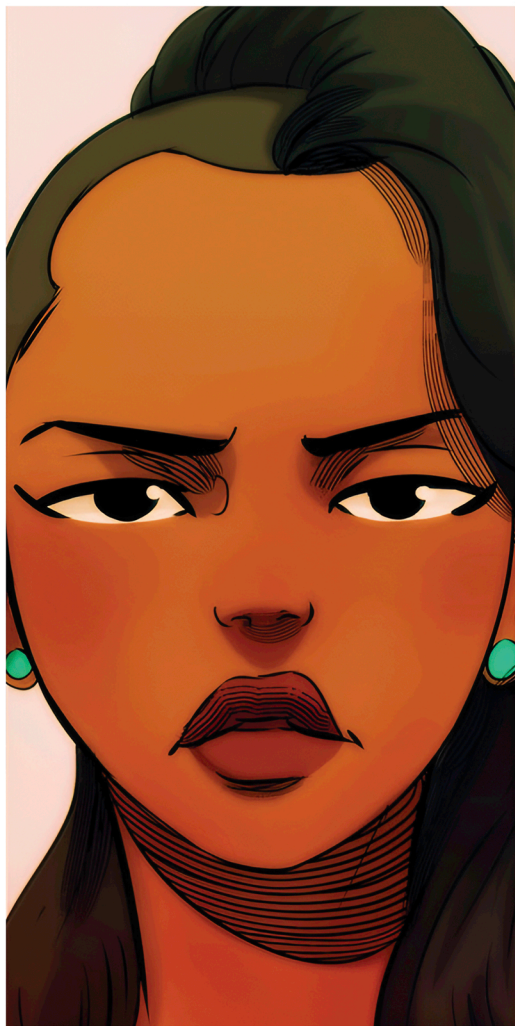
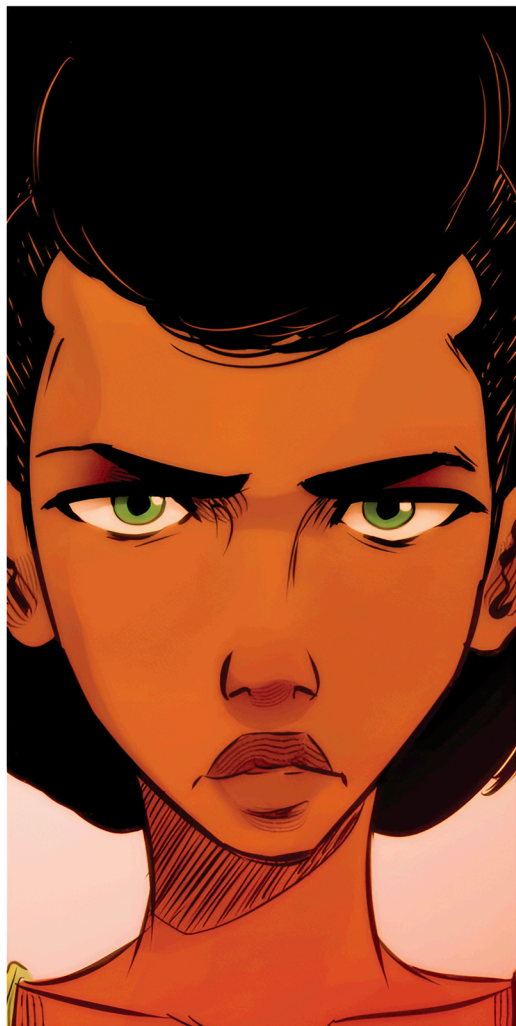
The young and ambitious Cop with a very strong sense of justice, she's as sharp as a razor. Cameron's keen detective skills are unmatched. Anybody who gets in her way better watch out!

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ



Cool, very laid-back. Giselle is constantly pursued by all types of jerks. If only they knew that this Bartender is also a sword wielding Bouncer. With a checkered past that comes back to haunt her.









victoria johnson | journalist jun. 15, 2017

'TEPHLON FUNK' IS THE NAS-INSPIRED COMIC YOU NEED TO READ



HOW DID NAS' ILLMATIC INSPIRE YOU?

Illmatic pushed me over the edge to actually make something. The idea was always there, the yearning for it was always there. The music video that got me the most was "One Love." I liked how he narrated the music video and the way Fab Five Freddy directed it, like everything was word-for-word. Every word that he was spitting, he put on the screen. Everything that he was narrating was being done on screen and that was something that's not really done really often in hip-hop. "The World is Yours," the music video is really good. I really liked it because it was black and white and it showed all the people in New York City, all their faces and stuff. That's what also kind of influenced me to show so many people with so many different backgrounds with so many different experiences. It really hit a tone with me when I saw that video.

WHAT LESSONS DID YOU LEARN FROM ILLMATIC?

Illmatic taught me to appreciate your blessings, make the best of your situation. It's not always good to dwell on the little things and it taught me to humble myself. I used to whine a lot. It got me out of complaining about everything.

HAS NAS EVER SEEN IT?

I've heard he has. I was actually supposed to meet him last summer and I was going to pitch it to him. It was through one of his childhood friends who got ahold of me through Instagram. Every time I was supposed to meet up with him, something happened and I wasn't able to see him.

I did meet Large Professor though. He loved it. I told him if he could hit up Nas, let me know. He was like "I'll try but he's busy" I was like "Okay." That's as far as I know. I don't know if anyone else has told him about it but that's as far as I know. So he probably maybe knows about it.

WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD FROM QUEENSBRIDGE ABOUT IT?

The kids love it. I always put #TephlonFunkIsForChildren. I've been saying that for the longest. I was trying to be funny, you know, like when ODB said "Wu-Tang is for the children." But, it really is true though. That's why I always say that now, Tephlon Funk is for the children. It's a lot of context to it because a lot of kids look up to it.

And now you're working on an animated teaser in hopes of turning it into a series... Yes, it's very short. It's like 30 seconds because I'm putting up my own money. I never imagined it being an anime until I would say about maybe two, three years ago. It's just people kept saying "it could be an anime." We kept getting compared to Samurai Champloo, Cowboy Bebop, Michiko to Hatchin, The Boondocks. We were getting all types of comparisons so I tried to hitting up a lot of studios. It's a lot harder than in the U.S. because I'm a foreigner out here [in Japan]. I'm not a celebrity or anything like that. I'm just a regular guy who's trying to do something kind of big. I spoke to some studios. A lot of them were asking either for too much money, just weren't able to because of their busy schedules or just didn't reply back. It's something that's extensive, it's time consuming and it's not something that can just be done just because someone wants it to be done. It's a long process.

WHY DO YOU THINK THERE ARE RARELY ANY BLACK ANIME CHARACTERS?

Think about it. I know a lot of people are saying, how come they always make anime about Japan, they don't make anime with black people in it and it's like you have to understand, why would they make stories about people they know little to nothing about other than the stuff they see on TV. They'll get backlash for that like "oh you're stereotyping, you're stereotyping," right? It's like okay, so we'll make our own. That's how it should be done. I write about what I know. Tephlon Funk is a reflection is what I know. I tell stories about what I know. This is what I know.

How I ended up with Henry [Thurlow] and Arthell [Isom], it was a happy accident. So, that worked out in our favor. That's why I was like let's stop with the fluff like get this guy involved, get that guy involved. No, get the right people, get it done and everything will fall into place. So instead of going backwards, I go left field.

There seems to be a lot more black creators putting out comics now. A lot of people are calling it a black renaissance. What are your thoughts on that? I would say it's a black art renaissance. I would say it's bigger than the renaissance back in the '40s with Langston Hughes and Ray Charles. It's happening right now and when Black Panther comes out, it's gonna burst. Not in a bad way, but it's bubbling right now. Get Out was a taste already. Even if Black Panther has bad reviews, it's still gonna made a butt load of money just off of the hype alone because it's 90% black actors on it, it's directed by a black man [Ryan Coogler] who directed Creed.

I'm glad that I took my time to make Tephlon. I was trying to rush it but I'm glad that when I did try to rush it, I got held back because I wasn't ready. Everything that's happening right now, I think it was made for this kind of moment. I just find it funny how all the stuff that I wrote back when I was 18, 19, 20-years-old, it's what people are talking about right now. It's pretty serendipitous.



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YOU BACK TO THE 90s.



Stephane Metayer with
David Tako & Nicolas Safe

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