

## DREI FRAGEN AN

# GNARLS BARKLEY

EGAL, WIE DIE REDAKTION IHR DA DRAUSSEN ÜBER DIESEN TYPEN DENKT, BRIAN JOSEPH BURTON VON GNARLS BARKLEY BEHAUPTET EINER VON DEN GUTEN ZU SEIN. TEXT: ANGIEBLACK, FOTO: WARNER MUSIC

### EINS Mr. Burton, why do you call yourself Danger Mouse?

DM: It was just a name that I used back in college doing little hip-hop stuff, just a kind of silly alias that I didn't think would last very long, but it did. It's taken from a British cartoon series shown on British TV between 1981 and 1992. The cartoon character was a mouse who was a secret agent. It made fun of James Bond and Danger Man.

### ZWEI You wanted to become a cartoonist yourself. Is that why Gnarls Barkley look like cartoon characters on stage?

DM: The visual element has always been important to Cee-Lo and me. Both of us were graphic artists before we got into music. The main reason we're dressed up? We don't want anybody, especially journalists, to look at us and think that they know what kind of music we listen to, or what kind of people we hang out with, or who we are.

### DREI You've also produced music for people like Bright Eyes and Beck, whose music is described as independent or alternative music. Why is Gnarls Barkley more of a pop thing – because that's easier to make money with?

DM: Historically, the Gnarls Barkley record was started back in 2003, before I did "the grey album" with The Beatles remixes or anything else. The first thing I did that was actually lucrative was the Gorillaz album, which was before the Gnarls Barkley record. If you listen to the music that I've done in the past, most of it is pretty melodious and melancholy. I love catchy melodies. But I try to be adventurous with music and not do what everybody else is necessarily doing. You never know what is going to sell; you just make music. My other projects seem indie because none of them is on a major label and there hasn't been a hit. With Gnarls Barkley we have all of that!

