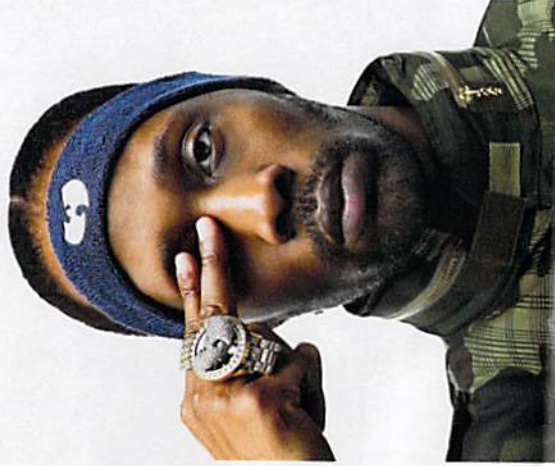




## ... THE RZA, GENERALLY

The *de facto* leader of the Wu-Tang Clan is a little like James Franco or high-fructose corn syrup—everywhere, involved in everything. He raps, produces, scores movies, writes, acts, directs. You could call him a Renaissance man, if only Renaissance men said things like “bong bong.” Some highlights from his many projects:



the best part of *Coffee and Cigarettes*.

**2003-2004:** RZA appears in two sketches on *Chappelle's Show*.

**2005:** RZA cowrites *The Wu-Tang Manual*, the history and philosophy behind the Wu-Tang universe.

**2007:** RZA wins the Hip-Hop Chess Federation award. RZA appears in his best acting role to date, as Moses Jones in *American Gangster*.

**2008:** RZA launches *WuChess.com*, a site for Wu-Tang fans to chat and play chess online.

**2009:** RZA writes *The Tao of Wu*, a *New York Times* best-selling combination of memoir, poems, and general ramblings.

**2010:** Prints of RZA's first artwork, *Victory or Death* (a reimagining of Emanuel Leutze's *George Washington Crossing the Delaware*), go on sale. It features ninja oarsmen, Wu-Tang symbols hidden in the waves, and Ol' Dirty Bastard.

• RZA guest-stars as a wrongly convicted inmate in Jimmy Smits's now-canceled new drama, *Outlaw*.

• RZA appears in Todd Phillips's *Due Date*, alongside Zach Galifianakis and Robert Downey Jr.

• RZA appears in Paul Haggis's *The Next Three Days*, alongside Russell Crowe.

• Russell Crowe is rumored to star in RZA's directorial debut, a kung-fu movie RZA cowrote called *The Man with the Iron Fist*.

**1993:** With RZA as a producer, Wu-Tang Clan releases its first album, *Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)*.

**1999:** Director Jim Jarmusch asks RZA to score his movie *Ghost Dog*.

**2003:** Director Quentin Tarantino hires RZA to score *Kill Bill: Vol. 1*. Tarantino begins mentoring RZA in directing.

• RZA appears alongside GZA and Bill Murray in

◀ epitomizes the burmout. After starring in *Blade* and *I Shot Andy Warhol*, he burned out for reasons that aren't quite clear. He was the next huge star who never was. This movie establishes Dorff as an important actor for the second time in his career. And this time it's likely to stick. With this film, we get to see what Dorff could have been for the last 15 years but wasn't.

### The resolve of Dwayne “the Rock” Johnson

He may never make a good movie, but there's something inspirational in knowing that he'll never stop trying.

### More Barry Pepper

Maybe it's because of his performance as the evangelical marksman in *Saving Private Ryan* who



holes up in a half-destroyed building as he shoots to the death. Maybe it's because he's good-looking despite his resemblance to both Christopher Walken and Dirk Nowitzki. Maybe it's because his name is Barry Pepper. But we don't think he appears in enough films. This month, he's in the

Coen brothers' *True Grit*. His character is, amusingly, Lucky Ned Pepper, the part played by Robert Duvall in the 1969 version of the film. More Pepper.

### The timeless beauty of Maria Bello in *The Company Men*

(out December 10)

The only unbelievable part of her character is that she's having an affair with a guy played by Tommy Lee Jones.

### The reliability of Christina Aguilera, singer

In the otherwise-unremarkable *Burlesque* (out November 24), in which she also acts.

### Black Swan (out December 1)

We've heard Mila Kunis and Natalie Portman are in it.

## ...And the 8 Best Songs You Probably Didn't Hear



**1. “Transmission,” Girl in a Coma** This all-girl trio reconstructs a Joy Division classic. Naked xylophone, finger snaps, echo-drenched girl-group harmonies.

**2. “Working Part Time,” the Henry Clay People** Too many bands sound like the Hold Steady right now, but too few of their songs are as vigorously hedonistic as this one.

**3. “Too Young to Burn,” Sonny & the Sunsets** Acoustic doowop, both gritty and hummable. You'll hope that each listen reveals some deeper meaning. It's in there somewhere.

**4. “Unbroken, Unshaven,” the Budos Band** You could spend hours trying to figure out the pastiche of international influences.

**5. “What Can I Do?” the Black Belles** Discovered, produced, and released by Jack White, this Nashville girl group mines the natural middle ground between the White Stripes and the Dead Weather.

**6. “Telephone,” the Black Angels** The best two-minute song of the year sounds like a hidden gem from an old Ktel collection. Nostalgia this transparent is rarely this fulfilling.

**7. “Here to Fall (De La Soul Remix),” Yo La Tengo** It works so well, you'll wish they'd made a whole record together.

**8. “Sentimental X's,” Broken Social Scene** The latest Broken Social Scene record has 31 musicians contributing to it. But the first time the band's high-profile female members (Emily Haines, Amy Millan, and Feist) appear together on the same track is something special. When smart women offer reasonable relationship advice, we listen carefully. —ANDY LANGER