

DJ FORMAT – VICIOUS BATTLE RAPS

by Ruben Fleischer

The idea for this video is that Abdominal will just be walking through an urban environment, rapping to the camera. For a minute I was thinking that he should be wearing earphones, as if he's just rapping to himself, but it could also work, if he's just rapping to the camera. The camera will be a steadicam, which means that it is really smooth as he is walking and doesn't shake at all. Also, we will be implementing a speed ramping effect that will hopefully look pretty amazing. As he is rapping, we will seamlessly transition from slow motion to normal speed to fast speed, all at once.

I have several ideas for what will happen while he's rapping. One thing I know for sure is that it should be crazy and chaotic. I want to see a lot of people riding their bikes or skating by as much as possible so that we will be able to easily tell the speed effect. One idea I have is that Abdominal is a bit of a pied piper, and as he walks through town, different people start following him, and by the end of the video there is a mob of people that have accumulated behind him. They can be random little school girls, doctors and nurses, crap rappers, and other people mentioned in the song. Or he could just pass people that he refers to, as he refers to them, and they don't follow, they just fade into the background.

Another idea is that he is just walking along and we stage some crazy scenarios to just be happening in the background that have nothing to do with the lyrics. Abdominal could walk by girls jumping rope, a pimp with his hoes, two dudes in a huge fight, a renaissance faire group of people, whatever. Abs just keeps walking along as he encounters all this strangeness and doesn't skip a beat, just keeps his eye on the camera and keeps plodding along.

I want to shoot this video in downtown LA, in a deserted urban section where we can see the city in the background, but the streets are somewhat barren. I also want to be making turns, so he starts out in one direction, turns a corner, crosses a parking lot, crosses the street, moves in a different direction, etc so the background is always changing. And I want to shoot this video at the end of the day, sometime between 4PM and sunset, because I think since we won't have any lights or anything, it will help make everything look its best.

We could shoot this video on the Panasonic miniDV 24p camera, which has a real film look and is very light and easy to shoot long takes with. It is also very easy to do the speed changes while keeping it all digital. However, I am flirting with the idea of shooting on super 16mm if it is not prohibitively expensive. We will see how it all works out. I think that the camcorder might honestly be the best way to go.

I really like the idea of this video featuring some crazy chaotic shit. Below is a list of some of the possible situations we could have taking place:

- a double dutch crew
- a pimp and his hoes
- a full on brawl between a few dudes
- skateboarders
- pole vaulters
- a crew of Irish dudes playing the bagpipes and dressed in kilts
- a guy with bananas in his ears
- a doctor and nurse in full uniform
- an elephant stampedes through
- a couple have full on sex in an alley
- a ballerina does an elaborate routine
- a couple gets married and the bride throws the boquet
- a band of merry makers, blowing fire, dancing all weird hippy style and juggling
- Shriners in go karts with fezzes drive through
- many more crazy things to come