

Pimp Tea Biography

"Finally, An Urbal Remedy for when you be illin': a refreshing cup of the new and improved Pimp Tea, now with fresh (-squeezed) beats, spicy hooks and a whole lot of love." - Thomas Quinlan, Exclaim & Peace Magazines

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At heart, the goal of rap emcee **Pimp Tea** aka Troy Neilson is to have fun, express his inner self and encourage positivity. His musical focus is on pursuing the good-hearted party roots of rap music from the early days of Kool Herc, as displayed on 'Shake Ya Caboose', while also being mindful of the late eighties conscious community-oriented spirit of hip-hop, but with a willingness to contribute to the progression hip-hop requires in order to move forward. After all, "hip-hop used to be about fighting against the status quo, but now it is the status quo" – Buck 65.

At a quick glance, **Pimp Tea** might be viewed as a bling bling show-me-the-money rapper, but fortunately there is much more to be read beneath the cover. Hailing from Fredericton, New Brunswick, this Canadian brings forth a diverse style, but with a distinctive small-town flavour. In fact, it's his love of hip-hop and live energy that puts potency in his act.

Backed by the Pimp Tea acronym of "**Positively Influencing More People To Excel Artistically**," he has worked hard to help unify the local hip-hop community via his bi-weekly Atlantic Canada Hip-Hop Newsletter. In addition, he has reviewed over 300 albums and conducted interviews with the likes of Swollen Members, Rascalz, Buck 65, Choclair, Classified, Skratch Bastid, Mastermind, and Jelleestone, while writing for The Brunswickan, HipHopCanada.com, Soundcheck Magazine and even hiphopdx.com over the past six years.

His work over the past 3 years with Jesse Plunkett & company has also helped build **HipHopCanada.com** into the 2002, 2003 & 2004 **Canadian Urban Music Association (CUMA)** winner for Best Canadian Urban Website. This awareness of existing rap music plays an integral role in the diversity and creativity that shapes his music.

Pimp Tea's love of music can be traced back to his family roots. His late Great Great Uncle **Don Messer** stands as the most famous Canadian fiddler of all time and has even been dubbed "the absolute granddaddy of East Coast Music" by the National Post. His keen interest in writing first blossomed at the age of ten when he won Ganong's "Why I love the Chocolate Mousse" poetry contest, beating out hundreds of other contestants.

By the mid-nineties he had discovered his passion for hip-hop, which first boiled over in 1995 when a high school chemistry project resulted in 'Ice Ice Water'. The following years would see Pimp Tea perform with several local bands prior to going solo in 2000. In the interim, a wacky Halloween costume earned him the nickname PIMP-T.

However, it was his amusing multimedia project for a university course in 2000, which caused the name to stick. The 'PIMP-T Project' yielded a low-quality music video which has gone on to be featured on both **MuchMusic** and **MusiquePlus** and ultimately landed Pimp Tea as a top-five nominee for a **2000 CUMA** award for best Hip-Hop Recording.

Pimp Tea used these accolades as a springboard for the creativity, uniqueness and positivity infused throughout his 2002 debut album, **Power Is Mindful Peace**. The album was nominated for Best Urban Recording at the **2003 East Coast Music Association (ECMA)** awards and has been described as "a considerable achievement" (The Daily Gleaner) and "truly groundbreaking" (ybfree.com).

At the time, Pimp Tea was known under the moniker PIMP-T ("Power Is Mindful Peace" – Troy), but felt a **name change** was in order for his sophomore album due to his growth recording, writing and rapping-wise. "I like diversity, change and growth, especially when it comes to music, so I made the change" says Pimp Tea. "As well, I like how Pimp Tea sort of bridges the gap between the street image – pimp - and the royalty image - sipping tea. I like the new acronym ("Positively Influencing More People To Excel Artistically") more too."

Renowned for his **energetic live show**, Pimp Tea always makes an effort to pull out all the stops – his live performance provides an unparalleled sight that if nothing else, will captivate you. Often clad in vintage retro apparel, he combines adlib freestyle dance moves while dropping verses. His shows are all about having fun.

Pimp Tea's sophomore album, **An Urbal Remedy**, was released on August 17th, 2004, accompanied by a 12" vinyl single featuring 'Shake Ya Caboose' and 'Super Dude (Jorun remix).' The five videos on the enhanced CD portion manage to capture Pimp Tea's energetic live proponent for which he is renown. Sixteen different producers lend a hand in the album's production including **Jorun** (Buck 65, Sixtoo, Universal Soul), **Classified** (Maestro, Infinite, Cella Dwellas), Nevski, J-Bru, and Karl Mohr (Hawksley Workman). The album garnered two 2005 ECMA nominations for Urban Single of the year with 'Shake Ya Caboose' and 'P. Titty,' while Neilson earned a 3rd nomination for Manager of the Year.

The first single ('Shake Ya Caboose') won the **2005 ECMA Award for Urban Single of the Year** and has charted on over **35 stations** in North America, from Miami to San Francisco. It spent three weeks, peaking at #24, on the **Record Breakers** charts, which is compiled by 40+ of the most influential hip-hop DJs in North America. In November 2004, the album peaked at **#7** on the Canadian national **Earshot!** Hip-Hop charts. **An Urbal Remedy** has received provincial features in newspapers in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island; was featured on the national **Canadian University Press** (CUP) Arts Wire; has received glowing reviews in Exclaim, Peace, The Martlet, Aquinian, Brunswickan & more, while gaining comparisons to **De La Soul, Buck 65, Andre 3000 & Organized Rhyme**.

Mixed by Pimp Tea's brother, Colin Neilson (Bob Rock, Our Lady Peace, Billy Talent, Deep Purple, Ryan Malcolm), and mastered by J. Lapointe (Buck 65, Sixtoo, Joel Plaskett), the 19-song album is peppered with positivity, grit and some booty shaking good times. Overall, it provides an enjoyable display of Pimp Tea's diversity, progression and unique sound and has been described as "**strong stuff through and through, and a major improvement on his first effort**" (Bob Mersereau, CBC Arts Reporter).

This 25-year old Masters student in the Computer Science program at the University of New Brunswick, has performed everywhere from **MusiquePlus** (French MuchMusic) in Montréal to the 2003 **Canada Winter Games**. He released independent videos for 'Tha PIMP-T Theme' and 'Petty Crime.' He performed 'Shake Ya Caboose' and 'Super Dude' live on CBC's **ZeD TV**, which was broadcast nationally. He's won an East Coast Music Award and is part of a team that has won three Canadian Urban Music Association awards. It's clear that Pimp Tea is on the rise and eats, sleeps, and breathes hip-hop.

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