

= Skinny Jeanz and a Mic =

Skinny Jeanz and a Mic was the debut studio album by jerkin ' crew and rap duo New Boyz , Legacy and Ben J. It was released on September 15 , 2009 , via Shotty Music , Asylum Records and Warner Bros. Records . The album was heavily influenced by jerkin ' music . It received generally positive reviews , being called the sixth best album of 2009 by The New York Times . The album was released after the duo brought jerkin ' to national attention with their viral hit " You 're a Jerk " , which later became a commercial success and the first single off their album . The second single " Tie Me Down " , featuring Ray J , was released and also was successful . The album debuted at fifty @-@ six on the Billboard 200 , and at number twelve on Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums and eight on Top Rap Albums . The album was produced by New Boyz member , Legacy , and also contributions from producers , Jay @-@ Nari , D & D and DJ Felli Fel .

= = Background = =

The album was originally scheduled for release , August 18 , 2009 , but plans were changed for unknown reasons . Legacy received main production credits on the album . In an interview with Format Magazine he said , " I started making beats because I didn ' t want everybody else ' s sound . We wanted our own sound . So , I had no choice but to make my own beats to get that sound . " In an interview with Ozone Magazine , when asked about their music and the revival of the " newer west " movement , Ben J stated , " Everything is becoming positive out here . People are growing out of that old mentality . Rapping about gangs ain ' t really what it ' s about out here now . Everybody is having fun . " In the same interview , Legacy said , " I think music like ours is coming from people being tired of the same ol ' thing . People thought they had to bang to be the cool kid but now the smart kid is the cool kid . People being creative are the people coming up right now . "

In an interview with HipHopDX , Legacy said the album was , " [It ' s] pretty much like the lifestyle and the culture of the typical California teenager put in [to] music . It ' s going to surprise a lot of people , because a lot of people think we just make the jerk songs [and] dance music . " According to Legacy , only two tracks on the album are jerking songs . He also stated that the album is about a lot of different topics , and was quick to point out that most of them were pre- " Jerk " stating they were fifteen songs in before ' You 're a Jerk ' . Most of the producers on the album were mostly unknown , local producers . Legacy said , " We have no big producers on our album . All of our producers are like kids our age . Everything compliments each other , because the style and the music are so new to the game . "

= = Composition = =

Many critics noted Several songs are built on the same formula of " You 're a Jerk " , with Allmusic noting that , " Dot Com , " " Colors , " " Turnt , " and " So Dope " (which the chorus is a sound bite from the 1992 film Class Act) all have the cheesy drum machines , samples , and off @-@ kilter lyric approach that make " Jerk " so good . The review also said " R & B ballad " Tie Me Down " featuring smooth Auto @-@ tuned vocals from Ray J , the B.A.S.S.-inspired " Bunz " , the slow jam " New Girl , " and the rollicking " Cashmere , " which bumps along like a New Jack rap jam , are nice diversions . " On the album split , The Los Angeles Times said , " The album begins to lose circulation toward its end , when the pair lose their lambent wit in favor of mawkish lover @-@ boy ballads better left to Sean Kingston albums . " Jeff Weiss of the newspaper used " Tie Me Down " as an example , noting that its sounds have " a saccharine sappiness and contrived tone that feels at odds with the otherwise organic @-@ sounding album . "

Some points of the work were inspired by Pharrell Williams , Kanye West , and other " hip @-@ hop style eccentrics " . The songs on the album have heavy lyrical underlies , noted by several critics . The comic @-@ esque " Way 2 Many Chickz " described as talking about " a string of almost @-@ conquests better left unvanquished " : " Chick had a cold sore that looked like John McCain . " On " Cashmere " , Ben J and Legacy " try to outdo each other to win the attention of a young woman , but

, predictably , she spurns them both " . The lyrics also cover their difference in style , as seen in " Cricketz " , as Legacy raps , " Jeans stay skinny like I starve my fabric , Another damn thing / You ? Il never see me care about another man ? s jeans . " Jon Caramanica of The New York Times responded , " Baggy has been de rigueur in hip @-@ hop for so long it ? s easy to forget that 25 years ago , rappers gladly wore tight denim . Now it ? s cause for a fight . " Some of the lyrics use double entendre , with the duo referring to themselves as " rejects " and " jerks " on " Dot Com " , which The Los Angeles Times called " both a double @-@ entendre for the dance moves spurring the craze , and illustrative of their generation ? s reclamation of formerly nerdy archetypes . "

= = Singles = =

" You 're a Jerk " was released as the album 's first single on April 2 , 2009 . The song was a viral success , and later succeeded peaked at number twenty @-@ four on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 , thirteen on Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs and four on Hot Rap Songs .

" Tie Me Down " was released as the album 's second single on August 31 , 2009 , it peaked at number twenty @-@ two on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 , and five on Hot Rap Songs . It reached forty two on Hot R & B / Hip Hop Songs , and fared better on mainstream airplay , the duo 's first entry at pop radio , peaking at twenty @-@ three on the Mainstream Top 40 (Pop Songs) chart .

There are music videos for three of the album 's songs , " Cricketz " featuring Tyga , " So Dope " and " Dot Com " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Commercial response = = =

The album debuted at number fifty @-@ six on the U.S. Billboard 200 , and spent four weeks on the chart . It debuted and peaked at number eight on the Top Rap Albums chart and number twelve on the Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums chart . Before falling off the chart in November 2009 , the album had sold around 35 @,@ 000 copies . The album has sold 133 @,@ 500 copies til ' the beginning of 2011 .

= = = Critical response = = =

Tim Sendra of Allmusic gave the album three out of five stars review , and said the album had the " cheesy drum machines , samples , and off @-@ kilter lyric approach that make " Jerk " so good " , " the duo stick to the template [of " Jerk "] , considering the uniqueness of the sound they 've created and also the fact that it 's a debut record made by teenagers , and an impressive and unfailingly fun debut at that . " The review goes on to point out that " the reliance on the " Jerk " sound can be a little monotonous , there are enough variations along the way to keep things interesting . " He also says " The duo 's flow is not incredible but they spit convincingly . If you were looking for undisputedly pop @-@ rap with a fresh sound and a light lyrical touch , the New Boyz debut is a fine destination . " XXL said that the album delivered " unexpected lyrical talent " but that it lacked " sonic variety " . The review also goes on to say that the album " is no hip @-@ hop classic , but rather the breath of fresh air rap needs . " Jeff Weiss of The Los Angeles Times gave the album three stars , commenting that the album " is a catchy and charismatic debut that should engender pleasant teen nostalgia in anyone old enough to vote and help explain why for the last six months , the kids have been saying out with the old , in with the New Boyz . " . The review also said that the album " successfully strikes a balance between introducing a new sound (the minimalist bass @-@ heavy bounce of jerk music) and style (skinny jeans , Vans and " colors that ain ? t even on the rainbow ") , with traditional teenage themes (girls , the desire for self @-@ expression , adults who don ? t understand , girls) . The result is a West Coast antidote to the South ? s veritable monopoly on homeroom rap ? a relentlessly breezy and fun ride through the lives of a pair of class clowns bent on

enjoying the face cards that fate dealt . " The Selby Times said that the album " is about as happening as it gets for teenage music with an attitude , even if it makes adults ' eyes roll in disgust . " Wendy Roby of BBC said that , " But overall their sheer chutzpah wins you over ? and with its day @-@ glo tongue wedged so very firmly in its cheek , Skinny Jeanz and a Mic is hard to resist . " Jon Caramanica of The New York Times called the album " one of the year ? s most charming rap debuts , and certainly the least expected . " In a separate review , he named the album the sixth best album of the year , commenting , " Emerging from Southern California ? s jerk scene , this teenage duo made an album that ? s appealingly young , simultaneously wide @-@ eyed and knowingly lewd . " DJBooth.net 's Nathan Slavik was less positive , predicting that the album would be " the last time we hear from the New Boyz . "

= = Track listing = =

= = Charts = =