

Tego Calderón - El Que Sabe, Sabe (2015)

Written by bluelover

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01. Chinchorro 02. No More Mr. Nice Guy 03. Mamey 04. Dando Break 05. Al Grano (Album Version) 06. Cancion De Hamaca 07. Estan Fritos (Album Version) 08. El Papa (La Receta De Mazucamba) (Album Version) 09. Pastillita 10. Asf Mismo 11. Supongo 12. Amar Por Amar (Album Version) 13. Por Burro 14. La Media (Album Version) 15. Quisiera Ser Cantante (Album Version) 16. Paz (Interlude) (Album Version) 17. Y Quien Dina (Album Version) 18. El Que Sabe, Sabe

El Que Sabe, Sabe, due in early 2015, is Calderón's first major studio album in eight years. But it's not exactly a comeback, since the toke-voiced barrio poet, who first got people's attention with 2002's *El Abayarde*, has continued to perform and record, as well as appearing in a couple of the *Fast and Furious* movies. He was nominated for a 2012 Latin Grammy for *The Original Gallo Del País*, a "mixtape" released by his own Jiggiri Records. (The marketing plan involved handing copies of the album out at New York's Puerto Rican Day Parade.) He gave a boost to the young reggaetón duo Plan B by appearing on the 2013 song "Zapitito Roto," which made the Billboard Latin charts.

A year after Daddy Yankee started burning up dance floors with the pivotal track "Gasolina," it was Calderón who, in 2005, became the first Puerto Rican reggaetón artist to sign with a major. The Atlantic Records deal yielded the 2006 album, *The Underdog/Subestimado*, a title that rang true when the label's rushed attempt at crossover failed to meet expectations, and the artist went his way.

While Yankee, Don Omar and others went on to global stardom with music that strayed far from the original Puerto Rican reggaetón sound, Calderón has hunkered down on the island. He's become something of an urban legend, posting gritty, locally-produced videos from his studio in Santurce; videos whose authenticity contrasts sharply with the interchangeable yachts, cars and

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ass-centric productions of other Latin urban stars.

El Que Sabe Sabe will be released by Siente Music, a Venevision label distributed by Universal.

“I keep on producing, writing new songs and enjoying the process in addition to be debuting with a new record company,” Calderón said in a press release from the label. “So I’m ready to keep contributing to the development of the genre, with lyrics that in addition to make people dance, have a message they can identify with.” --- Judy Cantor-Navas, billboard.com

It's not like he was really gone for eight years, but while all those singles, guest shots, and Hollywood appearances in a few Fast and Furious films were flying about, reggaeton originator Tego Calderón did forget to drop an album. A suitable mix of gritty and glitzy, his 2015 effort El Que Sabe, Sabe rights that wrong while splitting the difference between the expected excellence (lead single "Dando Break" is everything right about the old-school) and some startling new sounds (check the devastating title cut or Tego's lower and colder vocal delivery throughout). The guest list is kept minimal with Kany García and Don Omar filling it in total, while Wisin & Yandel regular Nesty handles the album's production. ---David Jeffries, Rovi

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