



# MTV's Big Black & Bam Bam

by Dustin Alexander

Photographs by Edward Fox Photograph

While sports coverage is what we do best, our spirit of adventure takes us on interesting sidetracks to bring you the lives of Hollywood superstars. MTV's "Big Black" and Bam Bam spent an afternoon sporting their trademark BB/Do Work gear for a candid interview.

Making the most of the opportunities presented to them, Big Black and Bam Bam have used their celebrity gained through reality television and put it to work, where others have simply have enjoyed the ride. With an ever-expanding apparel empire, sponsorships of MMA fighters and a security company that draws from the experience that made them famous, this dynamic duo lives by the motto they sell so well: "Do Work."

## Meet Big Black

Christopher "Big Black" Boykin was born in Wiggins, Mississippi, in January 1972. Big Black is a United States Navy veteran who was honorably discharged after his tour of duty. He's now an entertainer and

musician who is best known for his role on MTV's show, *Rob & Big*, which followed the daily routines of Boykin and professional skateboarder Rob Dyrdek.

Isis Rae Boykin, Big Black's daughter, was born in 2008. Big Black tells us that being a parent means everything to him and all that he does is for his daughter's future.

Big Black is quite the entrepreneur. In 2007, Boykin decided that he didn't want to advertise other clothing lines and footwear. Breaking from tradition of being just a fashion follower, he created BB/Do Work. The line was later relaunched in 2010 with his friend Nilo Jones who worked with Big Black and "Bam Bam" at The Blue Tattoo nightclub from 2001 to 2002.

In 2012, Boykin's brand launched its plus sized apparel named BMN (Big Man Network) and BDP (Big Dime Pieces) in conjunction with Do Work Union (DWU) which caters to sizes from small to extra large.

## Meet Bam Bam

Whenever I hear Bam Bam's nickname, I think of the young cave kid from *The Flintstones*. Rashawn "Bam Bam" Davis was born in Columbus, Ohio in March 1978. Bam Bam went to California State University at Berkley on a full football scholarship, where he played defensive lineman and majored in business management.

Landing a job after college at *The Blue Tattoo Nightclub* in San Diego, California, Bam Bam met Big Black through what he refers to as 'destiny'. Davis came onto the hollywood scene very quickly when he appeared as a security guard in the second installment of "The DC Video."

Bam Bam and Big Black are both members of the self-formed rap group, *The Chunky Boys*. Their album, *Weight Ain't Nothin' But A Number* is rhythmic and fresh, containing completely original lyrics. Bam Bam and Big Black are able to both rap and sing. They also released the mega-hit *Dirty Girl* with R & B legend Bobby Light.

## The Interview

Born and raised in some of the toughest neighborhoods in Chicago, Big Black is thankful to have overcome the challenges of his youth, serving his country in the U.S. Navy and eventually opening his own security and apparel companies.

On a lighter side, Big Black holds the Guinness Book of World Records title for the most bananas eaten in one minute and the most powdered donuts consumed in 60 seconds. Bam Bam attempted to beat that donut record, but fell short of his goal due to the fact his lips kept sticking together.

Their rap group, *The Chunky Boys*, who musically share their life experiences is

soon releasing a new album that is "dedicated to all the chunky men out there," according to Big Black.

"It's an eclectic mix of breast and fries, legs and thighs. We rap about our surroundings," jokes Big Black.

"It's like reality rap. We don't rap about stuff we don't know about. I'm sorry. I didn't grow up on the streets selling drugs and guns. I grew up in buffet lines, hanging out, taking my time," rhymed Bam Bam.

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Big Black told us that he's enjoying being a dad to his daughter, Isis.

Big Black is responsible for picking the theme song for the show *Rob & Big* from *Courship of Eddie's Father*, which played on WGN-TV in Chicago and starred the late Bill Bixby. It was just another testimonial on Big Black's part, basically stating that his roots are from Chicago and he'll always pay homage to that fact.

Bam Bam doesn't just sit on the sidelines when it comes to Big Black's apparel line, which has made millions. Bam Bam serves as the ambassador for BB/Do Work apparel. Big Black has faith that Bam Bam will put his marketing skills to work and be a huge success in the near future.

From Bam Bam parasailing to Big Black rockin' a purple thong or just dancing in the buff, these guys made for entertainment. When asked what's next for the celebrities and entrepreneurs, Big Black responded, "I'm going to do work, live in moderation and be a dad. I'm going to work until I get tired, and when I get tired, I'm gonna shut it down."

Bam Bam and Big Black offered words of inspiration at the conclusion of our interview. "I came through and I made it. You've got to give to get. Life's about choices, changes, chances," said Big Black. "Every change, make the good ones. Every chance, take advantage of it. And every choice make the right ones."

"I want people out there to know it's okay to have a personality. You might have something original about yourself and somebody might try to shoot you down from that. Be you! It's okay to smile. It's okay to laugh. Personality goes a long way and we're proving that," said Bam Bam.

"Loyalty is very important in life. I believe in that 110%. I think with loyalty and a good personality, you'll have a good life." 

