

SIXTH ISSUE | 2022

UNDRGRND

UNDRGRND

LOS ANGELES

RIDE4BLACKK
BOSSMANN
CHOSIN FEW
LOTTO ROCKET
ELIJAH BANX
GRIFF TYLER
MAKA
MISTER



AN INSIDE LOOK AT R BARON & MACKK&CO'S NEWEST RISING TALENT
BACKSTAGE PASS WITH KYLE BANKS & THE "TWOFR TOUR"
TAP IN WITH CYPRESS MORENO, KALI SHASHATI, JAHMED + MORE



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NEON SOUND

MUSIC RECORDING STUDIO

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES
@THENEONSOUNDLA

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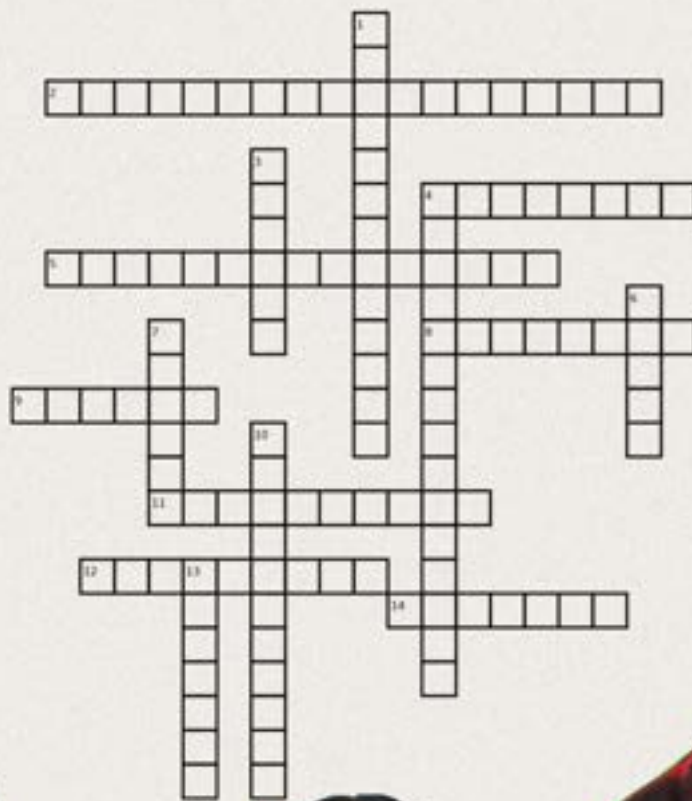


Learn more at undrgrndmag.com





UNDRGRND CROSSWORD



Down:

1. Paso Robles media company founded by AJ Brown
3. Newbury Park's beloved disc jockey
4. venue name of UNDRGRND's first ever release event on January 17th, 2020
6. popular 805 manager and promoter, Obvious
7. title of Pofsky's 2022 single (feat. Maka & Airplane James)
10. football position played by Kado Brown at Georgia Southern University
13. Long Island R&B artist who moved to Las Vegas in 2020

Across:

2. Griff Tyler's 2020 album featuring G Perico, Enimeezy, and Airplane James
4. focus city for UNDRGRND Issue 4
5. region home to BOBBYBEENFRESH, Trey Anthony, FyaMoji and more 805 rappers
8. first name of @Bings.Visuals creator
9. home state of UNDRGRND Issue 6's Lotto Rocket
11. manager of Ventura rapper SuperDuperKyle
12. accessory Luey never leaves home without
14. head engineer at Ventura's Record X Studios

FIELD NOTES

March, 4, 2022

ENTRY 1: Loud Music & Dead Pigs

A Night in the Studio with the Chosin Few by Andrew Mason

"They murder pigs here."

Statue told me we were just down the street from a huge Farmer John slaughterhouse. I was in Vernon, Calif., a city five miles south of Downtown Los Angeles. It's a place with one of the smallest populations in the entire state, with more warehouses, meatpacking plants, and political corruption scandals than actual homes or residents.

I had come to this remote part of Los Angeles to sit in on a studio session with South Central grunge-rap trio the Chosin Few. It was the first weekend of March and I met Mars out in the parking lot.

This was my first time seeing the group's members — Statue, Mars the Martian, and Evxga — since we held our Issue 6 Photoshoot Day back in September of last year. Since, the Chosin Few had gone on tour with Fenix Flexin and dropped a five-song EP *Russian Roulette*.

Mars explains the smell of burnt blood and barbeque from Farmer John isn't that bad tonight. Slicing pigs in half can smell a lot worse, I guess. He takes me into the big concrete warehouse where the studio is. I follow Mars — the oldest member of the group at 30 — up four flights of stairs and down a hallway. There were a lot of rooms in

this building, but it's anyone's guess as to what's exactly behind each door. Mars stops and screeches a metal door open on the left. Music blasted into the hallway.

The studio was one room divided into three sections: a recording setup spot, a lounge zone with a large "L-shaped" couch, and an editing area in the corner with a Mac desktop. It wasn't exactly the glamorous high-end studio you see on the other side of Los Angeles in areas like North Hollywood or Universal City. But the building was safe, secure, and soundproof—the most necessary qualities of a legitimate studio. It was the recording home base for the group for about the past two years.

Tonight happened to be the 24th birthday of one of their homies, a photographer on the team nicknamed "Shutter Therapy." There were six or seven people there — friends who were producers, rappers, and some who were just there to kick it and enjoy the Friday night. Bottles of hard alcohol, bongos, and bags of weed scattered the tables and floor.



photos: @shuttertherapy2.0

Evxga is the youngest of the group. Still, the 24-year-old is the glue that keeps the Chosin Few pushing forward at a successful pace. He mixes all the group's vocals, and said he's typically the one organizing studio time and helping the other two stay focused and efficient with the music making process. Mars and Statue would both admit this to me later as well.

"I give a lot of credit to my brother [Evxga] because I be busy, bro," Mars says. "He's the motivation. He's the one telling me, 'pull up to the studio,' or 'hop on this."

"Aside from keeping the team on track, Evxga is the link that connected the trio together in the first place. Evxga and Mars are half-brothers who share the same mom, and have known each other since birth. As for Statue, the now 26-year-old first met Evxga while the two attended Alliance College-Ready Academy High School #5, a way-too-long named charter school not far from USC's campus. In 2015, the three began working on music together.

Four years down the road, the Chosin Few released a music video for a new track, "FVDXVD," the oldest video uploaded to their current YouTube channel. The visual — which currently sits at about 6k views — caught the attention of TK Kimbro and Picasso of R Baron Group, the Los Angeles-stationed label and management team with Drakeo the Ruler, 03 Greedo, Shoreline Mafia, AzChike, and more west coast hip-hop notables on its resume. R Baron currently manages the Chosin Few.

"We dropped that 'FVDXVD' video, and TK seen that shit," Evxga says. "He just seen something in us, you know? Shoutout R Baron, they've made a lot of shit happen for us."

The three also credit R Baron with introducing them to popular LA producer, DJ, and artist Cypress Moreno. The Chosin Few eventually collabed with Cypress on *Triple Threat*, a five-pack EP released in Oct. 2020. One year after that drop, the trio joined Fenix Flexin, Peysoh, MoneySign \$uede, and Cypress on a 10-show west coast tour with stops in Oregon, Washington, Arizona, and California.

The studio experience as a whole was raw, unfiltered, and exciting. The eeriness of the slaughterhouse and looming image of blood was honestly appropriate for the setting. I'm not saying the Chosin Few worships Satan or kills animals or anything like that. But their music carries a twisted dark energy that people can't help but be attracted to. They're the LA rap world's offering to fans of SoCal's hardcore and punk scenes, a quality that keeps them different and fresh in the current market.



Watch the music video for the Chosin Few's "Virus" by scanning this QR code



LEGAL NAME: Eric Alvarado

STAGE NAME: Evxga

AGE: 24

HOMETOWN: South Central Los Angeles ("we grew up inside the rectangle of Western to Vermont, and Vernon to Slauson")

HIGH SCHOOL: Alliance College-Ready Academy #5

COLLEGE: "I graduated high school and that's all I ever want to do"

MUSIC INFLUENCES: Nirvana, Rage Against The Machine, System of a Down

UNDRGRND'S CHOICE:

"They Bleed Blood"

NOTABLE FEATURES: Foster, Fatz Cypress Moreno

BEST LA FOOD: Phat Daddy's ("the Phat Daddy Burger with bacon and cheese")

PREFERRED WAY TO SMOKE:

Hash Rosin

MANAGEMENT: R Baron Group



WE LIVE IN A DARK ASS WORLD BUT WE SPEAK LIGHT
WE LIVE IN A DARK ASS WORLD BUT WE SPEAK LIGHT
WE LIVE IN A DARK ASS WORLD BUT WE SPEAK LIGHT
WE LIVE IN A DARK ASS WORLD BUT WE SPEAK LIGHT



BEHAVIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL: "People who went to Alliance had parents that wanted their sons to fucking be something — so they would send him to a charter school. Bro, we were the degenerates at that school. The only reason that me and my brother went there is because we were just fucking up."



LEARNING MUSIC IN REHAB: "Phoenix House is a rehabilitation center for minors that do shit like methamphetamines, alcohol, fucking opiates, all that. But kids there want to be a writer, a rapper, guitar guy, whatever. But you have to get your grades up first before you can even go inside the studio. That's how I learned how to mix Logic Pro."

USING DARK THEMES IN MUSIC: "We don't talk about the devil, we don't talk about anything dark like that. We might use dark beats because that's the world that we live in."

SHOUTOUT TO MOM: "My mom has been a big solid foundation to this whole group. She got us our first mic and our first laptop."

WITNESSING THE BIRTH OF SHORELINE MAFIA: "Foster has been my friend since sixth grade. Foster met Rob Vicious. Fenix already had a group with OHGEESY and then OHGEESY met Kato and then they formed a group called Shoreline Mafia. I was in the first "Musty" video ever, I'm in that shit. But Shoreline weren't really like my friends, just people that I've met along this music journey."

FUTURE GOALS: "My dream is for us to be like Goku — master my brothers' style, and for them to master my style. You know, so we can make three different types of music. We're gonna be Super Saiyan gods in the next five years."



STATUE!



LEGAL NAME: Miguel Moran

STAGE NAME: Statue ("cause I'm always fucked-up stoned")

AGE: 26

HOMETOWN: South Central Los Angeles

HIGH SCHOOL: Alliance College-Ready Academy High School #5

MUSIC INFLUENCES: Big L, Nas ("I was born here but I like all the East Coast shit")

UNDERGRAND'S CHOICE: "Luck," "Rocky Road"

NOTABLE FEATURES: Foster, Fatz, Cypress Moreno

FAVORITE LA FOOD: El Ta'Colgando 48th & Normandie ("it's not a taco truck — it's a taco stand")

OTHER HOBBIES: Cutting hair, "getting high, drinking good beer. If it's a good day we'll do a carne asada"

WEED PREFERENCE: "good OG and a Swisher — I smoke at least like seven grams a day"

MANAGEMENT: R Baron Group



FIRST MEETING MARS:

"I heard stories about Mars. He wasn't even existing in my world, but I heard noise from my homie. I heard Mars had socked a dude's lip off his face."

"TRENCH MOB" TO "CHOSIN FEW":

"We were 'Trench Mob' in like 2014, it was a four-man group. It didn't work out and then we ended up switching to the Chosin Few. With an 'i' for sin, because everybody sins. It's hard after building a certain name up and then you kind of just let the name go, we had to rebuild the name. But we did that shit, we did it."

ALMOST ATTENDING ART SCHOOL:

"I was accepted into Otis College of Art & Design, but I couldn't afford the tuition. If I could've, I would have been an animal. I like to think I'm god-gifted with drawing and shit like that — I could draw your face, no cap."



"We had to change, find a new name, and we became
the Chosin Few"



MEMORABLE PERFORMANCE: "Our best show was in San Diego. They showed crazy love. They literally created like three mosh pits — shoutout San Diego. They had that motherfucker like an ocean in the crowd."



MARS



LEGAL NAME:

Marlon Gutierrez

STAGE NAME:

Mars the Martian

AGE: 30

HOMETOWN: born in El Salvador, moved to Los Angeles in 2000

HIGH SCHOOL: Alliance College-Ready Academy #5

MUSIC INFLUENCES: Korn, Lincoln Park

UNDRGRND'S CHOICE: "Virus," "In Too Deep"

NOTABLE FEATURES: Foster, Cypress Moreno, Fatz

BEST LA FOOD: A1 Burger ("it's good and affordable")

MANAGEMENT: R Baron Group



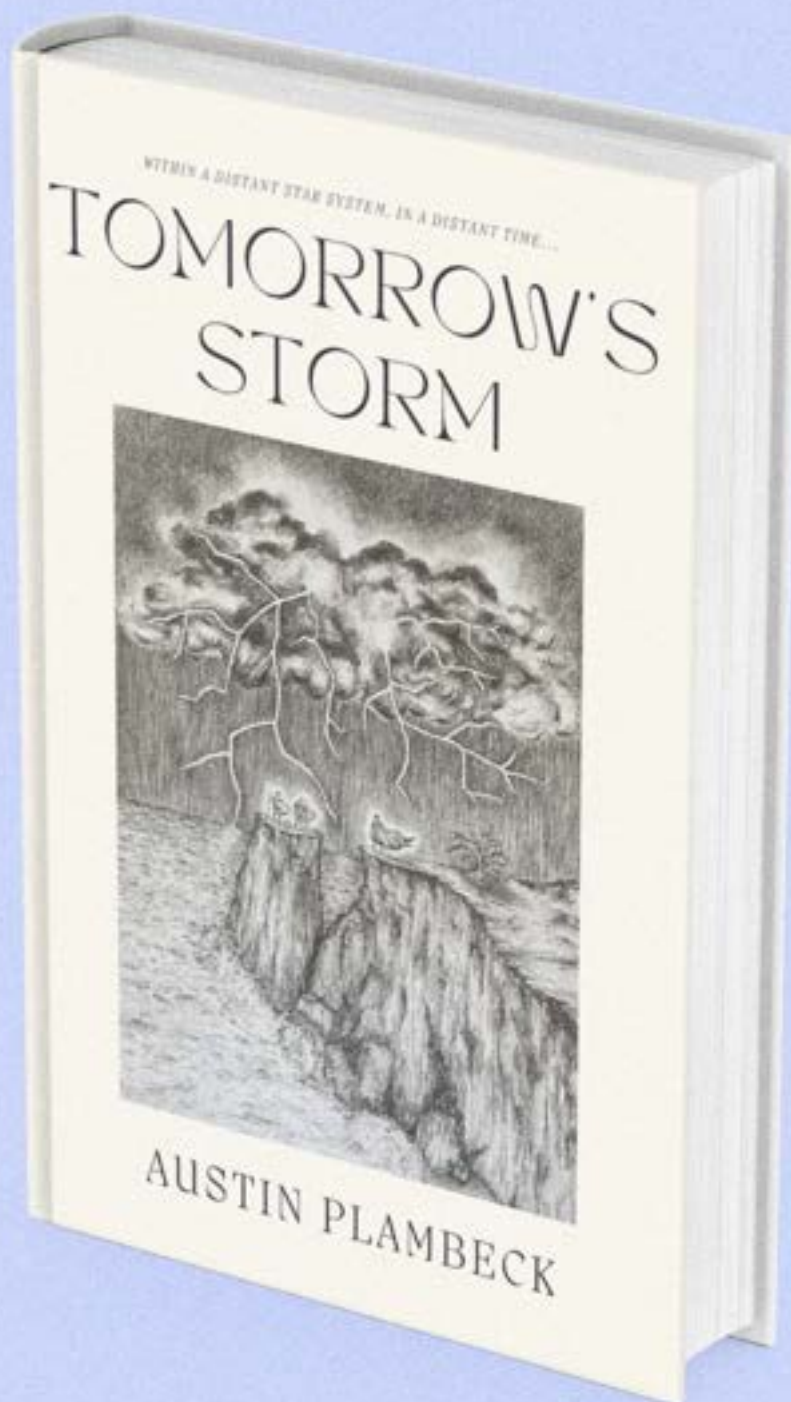
THE MARTIAN



WORKING AS A TRIO: "We all have something to offer. At the end of the day, we all kind of push each other in a sense. Like on a verse or something — say I go first, then Statue's like, 'Okay, I got to make a way to come in here and do my shit on this,' you know? We do it and we make it make sense. Like a beautiful, trippy science."

MUSICAL FAMILY: "I grew up watching the uncles, they had a band. We gravitated to that and ever since then it was like we had an ear for good music. So we vibe with rock, alternative, you feel me?"

"A wonderful debut novel."



OUT NOW



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toscreative.com

DJ Atre

ONLY THE FINEST MUSIC AND PARTY PROMOTIONS



“Stay Tooned is a clothing brand started in 2020 by myself and my high school buddy, Gabriel Banda. He does all the designing and I help market and push the brand. During COVID-19, we were able to come out with two shirt & hat designs, including our most popular item, the “Unyque” hat. New drops soon!”

— DJ Atre

THOUSAND OAKS—It would be tough to remember a weekend night since 2020 where Alexander Trejo — known better as “DJ Atre” — wasn’t working behind the board. Rising in both demand and popularity since the pandemic, the 25-year-old has quickly grown into one of The 805’s premiere local DJ’s.

“When everything was opening back up, I saw there were some good nightlife opportunities around me that I never really paid attention to,” says Atre, a 2015 graduate of Westlake High School. “I told myself I would DJ at as many places as I could.”

Atre was born at UCLA Medical in Los Angeles but moved to Thousand Oaks when he was 10. His parents bought him a controller when he entered high school, and he began officially charging for DJ services within a year.

But the 805’s DJ scene is cutthroat and competitive. We have talents like DJ Honey of Q95.9 FM, DFO The Ratchet God of Smitty Parties, DJ Brotha C of the Connect the Coast team — just a sample of the notable DJs throwing live events and keeping the area’s hip-hop culture active.

Atre’s proven he’s up there with the best in the region. In the last twelve months, he’s secured reoccurring shows and residencies at Ventura Beach Club, Copper Blues, The Alamo Bar & Grill, and other notable 805 bars and clubs.

“I never really had a mentor or anything, or anyone to really teach me, but I did what I could,” Atre says. “But I’ve learned a lot and met so many amazing DJs who showed me how to become better at the craft.”

Fans of *UNDRGRND Magazine* saw Atre run the discs at our first ever event held in January 2020 in Downtown Ventura, and more recently at the release party for *UNDRGRND: The Album* this past March in Oxnard.

Atre’s a consistent DJ with a solid reputation of helping put on local artists like OG David James, Pofsky, Deo Cane, and Luey. But despite his success so far, Atre continues to challenge himself to improve his skill set.

“I’m still learning to this day, and will always be learning until I die.”



Want to book DJ Atre for your next event? DM him on Instagram @theofficialdjatre or email djatre1996@gmail.com today!



photo by Eric Nieto

DON'T HAPPEN O

MIA KENNEDI

Representing hip-hop's West Coast mecca, Compton's Mia Kennedy takes on the expectations of her hometown's rap legacy by letting the music do the talking.

FOREVER THANKFUL FOR THE LESSONS TAUGHT ME WHAT I WAS MISSING. THE GREATEST THINGS

OVERNIGHT, GET IT OVERNIGHT AND YOU WOULDN'T CHERISH IT.



When COVID-19 first hit, Mia Kennedy was nearly 400 miles from home. She had moved north to Cal State East Bay, studying business administration — a major she would switch to psychology if she goes back. With the fallout from the virus, Kennedy thought it was best to take a gap year from school and move back to Compton, California, the city where she was born and raised. "I decided to pursue music because that was always a dream of mine."

Compton's rank in rap history creates an interesting environment for young up-and-coming artists. It's like being the coach's son or daughter on a high school basketball team. You're expected to be good, and you're expected to be successful. All eyes are on you, so you better be ready.

"Being from Compton, I used to feel the pressure of carrying that weight on my shoulders," Kennedy says, "until I realized that I'm on my unique journey."

Since moving back to Los Angeles, Kennedy has found it easy to stand out in her city. In June 2021, she premiered on Season 6 of the Nest Society, a free Compton-based music program designed to give back to local musicians. She's also the host of Soulful Of Noise's "Soulful Sundays" cypher series.

In late 2021, Kennedy linked up with Anthony "tonybe" Oliver through Instagram, a producer from Chicago now living in LA. Oliver is now Kennedy's go-to beat maker, and the duo have collabed on Kennedy's recent singles, "Shallow Sights" (Sept. 2021) and "Come Up" (March 2022), with a bundle of unreleased tracks together.

"Tony dope as hell with so much potential — I'm fortunate to have met him."

Barely two years into dropping music, the 21-year-old is coming into her own as a rapper. She grew up on TLC, Biggie, and Tupac, but says she's taken influence from the RnB and pop spaces as well — her biggest inspiration was Michael Jackson. Her grandfather, Frank Bryant Sr., was even a well-known gospel singer out of Greenwood, Mississippi.

As with any artist representing the CPT, making an impact is mandatory. Kennedy says that she recognizes the importance to not just drop quality music, but to uplift her community at the same time. When financially stable, she plans on creating programs for the younger generations who want to pursue their dreams in any field, even outside of music. Kennedy also hopes to inspire other women to pick up a microphone and realize their potential as respected MCs in Los Angeles.

"There are many moguls who've paved the way in my city," she says. "Compton's had it's issues, but we've made a lot of progress. My response to the pressure is letting my music speak for itself."



FOREVER THANKFUL FOR THE LESSONS TAUGHT ME WHAT I WAS MISSING



おまけの音源
-おまけ-

Rucci's *El Perro 2*
listening party on
May 24th, 2022.
2Eleven, Bossmann
& Lotto Rocket.



Bossmann, RMrLA,
Rucci, Killa Cam &
1takecho.



Wallie the Sensei & Andrew Mason.



LOTTO ROCKET

STAGE NAME: Lotto Rocket a.k.a. "The Hawaiian HotBoy"
BIRTHDAY: March 14th, 1994 (Pisces)
HOMETOWN: Waipahu, Hawaii (Owahu). Moved to Carson, California before kindergarten
NATIONALITY: Hawaiian, Tahitian, French
HEIGHT: 6-0
HIGH SCHOOL: Carson (expelled), North Torrance
COLLEGE: Football scholarship to the

University of Hawaii ("linebacker, corner, receiver. I played everything")
MUSIC INFLUENCES: Lil Wayne, 03 Greedo, Rebel Souljahz
UNDRGRND'S CHOICE: "Call Me Lotto", "Life's A Gamble" (feat. Big Sad 1900)
DREAM LA FEATURE: 03 Greedo or Ab-Soul (a fellow Carson native)
FAVORITE LA VENUE: El Rey
FAVORITE LA PROD: Sheesh Jon
FAVORITE LA ENG: MixedByCrook ("aye Crook why you do 'em like that?")

FAVORITE LA FOOD: Aunty Maile's Hawaiian Restaurant ("the only authentic Hawaiian food on the mainland")
NEXT UP IN LA: Lotto Rocket
BEST HIP-HOP CITY IN THE US RIGHT NOW: "LA for the culture, Atlanta for the consistency"
OTHER HOBBIES: Studying Hawaiian history and language, dancing hula, and other traditional cultural activities with family
MANAGEMENT: Mackk & Company

"PEOPLE GET INTO THEIR CAR AND THEY WANT TO PLAY SOME BANGERS, THEY GONNA PLAY SOME LOTTO"

GETTING INTO TROUBLE AS A KID:

"My first felony I was like 13. I did the Scared Straight program — like *Beyond Scared Straight* [the TV show]. We went to the prison but my group was nothing but little thugs. Nobody was scared. Nobody cried. Nobody flipped. Everyone was like 'This shit regular.'"

LA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT:

"It's like a jungle, bro. Everyday you walk into school and you're risking safety, your life. People bring straps to school. After school it was gang politics, all that. Then I went to a Torrance school and there was none of that, bro. They had Chipotle for lunch, Domino's for lunch. I'm like, 'Damn, I love it here.'"

PLAYING NCAA FOOTBALL IN HAWAII:

"We played Ohio State my first year [2015]. That's back when they had Ezekiel Elliott and shit like that. He scored a good three times on us, but it was a good game."

MOVING BACK TO LA AFTER OVERDOSING:

"I was out in Hawaii and at the beach everyday and partying nonstop. And then I ended up 'ODing' on xans and lean one night. I 'OD'd' in the same hospital I was born in. It was a wake up call, I was in a coma for three days — my heart was failing and shit. I kind of had to self-reflect and then I was like, 'If I'm gonna do something with my life, it's gonna be back in LA.' So I moved back."

WORKING WITH R BARON EARLY ON:

"You have to think about R Baron's roster at the time — they had Shoreline Mafia at their peak, 1takejay and AzChike had just signed to Atlantic and were hitting the ground running. They had 03 Greedo who had the streets on lock while cracking into mainstream music. Then they had me. It was a great opportunity being an R Baron artist before Mackk&Co."

MEETING RUCCI:

"I wasn't really doing music like that yet, but I fucked with Rucci's music heavy. We had met in passing before through MixedByCrook, but our first time really meeting I had this bottle of lean I just scored. I didn't drink lean at the time, so I was like, 'I'm just gonna give it to Rucci.' So I went to the studio and had given him the bottle, and he was like, 'Man, you a real n***a.' Ever since then we locked in."

ROLLING LOUD LA 2021:

"Going back to Rolling Loud with Rucci in 2021 was even more lit because I was an established artist. So being backstage with everyone who was anybody in the trailers next to us, you know, crazy feeling. Then getting onstage and hearing people scream my name and that big crowd that looked like a fucking sea of people, it was fucking surreal, bro."

THE MACKK&CO FAMILY:

"Everywhere we go we're clicked up, we're attached at the hip. We're a family, literally. Like we're at everybody's baby

showers, birthdays, graduations — anything that has to do with any one of us, we're there to support. You take the music away, those are still my brothers... Sean Mackk forever."

MORE MONEY (2022):

"I'm in my bag more than ever with this one. My first project *Hawaiian Hotboy* in 2020, I was still learning how to rap. *777* (2021) I got more comfortable. Now this time around I have finally found my sound. I've identified it and I've taken it to a whole 'nother level. This is literally the Lotto sound that is gonna carry me the rest of the way."



"The level of artist that I want to be, I'mma want a label behind me."



BOSSMANN

STAGE NAME: Bossmann
HOMETOWN: Inglewood, California
HEIGHT: 5-11
HIGH SCHOOL: Morningside
COLLEGE: LA Recording School ("I went for a little, I used to engineer music")
MUSIC INFLUENCES: DJ Quik, Biggie, Nate Dogg, The Relatizez, Suga Free, WC, Mack 10

UNDRGRND'S CHOICE:
"Split Wigs" (feat. Peysoh),
"Undercover" (feat. G Perico),
"On da Flo" (feat. Rucci/prod. Cypress Moreno)
DREAM LA FEATURE:
"I wanna work with Kalan.FrFr and RJMrLA"
FAVORITE LA VENUE:
The Observatory ("I opened up Young Thug there before, but I can't wait 'til it's my own show")

FAVORITE LA PROD: ROMO, Larry Jay, KILLA CAM, JR, 420 Tiesto, Low The Great, Fort Woe, Zay Coronado ("and RIP DJ Official")
FAVORITE LA ENG:
MixedByCrook
FAVORITE LA FOOD: Benihana, LAX Tacos (Inglewood), Wi Jammin (West LA)
NEXT UP IN LA: Kalan.FrFr ("he's the hardest in the city right now")

BEST HIP-HOP CITY IN THE US RIGHT NOW: Atlanta
OTHER HOBBIES: Running his clothing line Triple Platinum
MANAGEMENT:
Mack & Company



THE PHASES OF LA RAP:

"I remember before [the wave] with Rucci, Kalan.FrFr, Shoreline Mafia, 1takejay...everything was quiet but then it started popping. It's the biggest it's ever been now, I'd say. And before that it was The Game and Nip, then YG. Now the latest is RJMrLA — he had one of the coldest waves LA will ever see."

BEING AN INTROVERT:

"My manager be telling me I need to talk more. I'm more reserved, I don't know, I'm just to myself. I'm quiet, really. If I start getting comfortable, maybe I'll say something, but for the most part I just be doing my own thing. I'm always doing something, though. I'm always busy."

MEETING RUCCI:

"Rucci's nickname back then was 'Midget' — he used to play Pop Warner football and my dad coached him. But I knew he rapped. One day we was going to a football game and Rucci let me hear one of his songs, and it was hard. I picked him up I think the next day to go to the studio, and we've been working together everyday since. That's my best friend, he used to have a bed at my house."

GIVING RUCCI OVER TO MACKK&CO:

"I put my rap career on hold to push Rucci. I always thought I was good, but when I heard him and saw his passion, I realized he was the one who was gonna open the door for us. But eventually I figured Tuckk and Holiday could do more with Rucci than I could, and I didn't want to hold him back anymore. So he went with Mackk&Co."

PARTNER DEAL WITH EMPIRE:

"My management has a partner deal with EMPIRE, so all our music is released through them. I just recorded at their studios for the first time in April. It was a cool studio — Jackboy was in there."

ON SIGNING TO A MAJOR:

"I do plan on eventually signing a deal with a big label. The independent thing is cool, it just depends on the artist — some need a major, some don't."

EXPANDING OUTSIDE THE LA SOUND:

"I try new stuff all the time because I really don't like sounding the same on every song. A lot of people don't know but I really can do different things, I just don't wanna get too far away from what the people like. Ease my way into different lanes."

ROOM AT THE TOP:

"I feel like the city's wide open right now, anybody could take over. Blxst is probably at the top right now, and I don't even count Roddy Ricch anymore because he's a megastar now. But when you think of LA, there's no single person running the show."

FUTURE PLANS:

"Stay relevant, stay dropping. I have singles on the way, and I want to start working on my first album soon. Just working towards having some offers [from labels] on the table by the end of this year."



NOT A SPONGE

MAKEUP APPLICATOR

WORKS WITH
all types of
foundations & concealers



Cristina Marie was tired of her makeup sponge ruining her skin, so she decided to make her own. 18 months later, the makeup artist debuted Not a Sponge – the “face friendly” makeup applicator made from revolutionary new materials. Cristina is a Los Angeles native who grew up in “The 805,” and has been doing makeup professionally for eight years. Shop for Not a Sponge and more of her affordable beauty products by scanning the QR code below.



 @NOT.A.SPONGE

not a
sponge!

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 SCAN ME



CONGRATULATIONS

to Alex Martin on a productive & successful 2022

listen now.





About 200 miles north of Los Angeles lies Los Osos, California, an unincorporated town by the ocean in San Luis Obispo County. It's home to about 17,000 residents, and lies in one of the most northern regions of the 805.

Los Osos is a place with not much music history to brag about. The only artists listed on the town's Wikipedia page are from Deeds of Flesh, a "brutal death metal" band started in the early 90s.

But it is also where 33-year-old rapper, Aaron Castorena (a.k.a. "Aaron California"), lives with his wife and infant son, Ezra. He works two jobs: as technical support with an aftermarket automotive air suspension company during the day, and as a liquor store clerk at night.

"With my wife and son at home, I do what I have to in order to keep the roof up," Aaron says.

Located in an environment that sits on almost nobody's mainstream hip-hop map, Aaron is proof you can still pursue music in lesser-known markets. Despite his busy schedule, he shows impressive consistency and discipline when it comes to releasing new songs.

For the past three years, Aaron has stuck to his plan of dropping one new single on the first of every month. He says this strategy helps him stay relevant and trains his work ethic.

"It's easy to get lazy if you don't have a deadline of any kind," Aaron says. "I can spend two weeks posting daily about the song that just came out, then spend the next two weeks posting about the one that's coming soon. Then repeat the process."

Husting your music in Los Osos means you can tap into other nearby areas in the grander Central Coast music community. There are plenty of artists successfully navigating the Central Coast scene right now — the Connect the Coast team, Niko Cochiše, BOBBYBEENFRESH, Longhaul Music Group. There's a large music world between Los Angeles and The Bay Area, and meeting the right people is as important as anywhere.

In June 2022, Aaron collaborated with Morro Bay, California native and *UNDRGRND* Issue 5 cover artist, Endless, for "We Never Stop."

"We linked up at Riff City Records, which is where I record primarily when I don't record myself," Aaron says. "I sent him a beat I made that I thought would be fun for us to lace, and the rest is wax."

Aaron tells *UNDRGRND* that his biggest strength is his relatability.

"I work hard for a living and I still struggle. I'm not waking up saying to myself the words that I hear in songs by Migos or DaBaby. I wake up usually tired, stressed, under-rested, overworked. Anyone who can relate, I'm doing this for you."

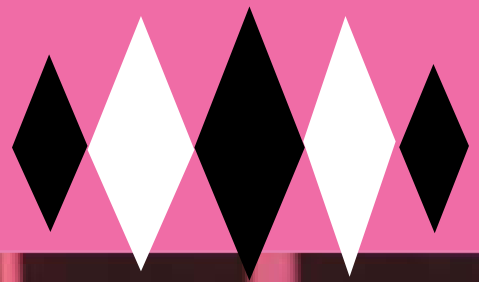
LOS OSOS



AARON CALIFORNIA

702 Spotlight

Amy Jaime



If *UNDRGRND Magazine* learned one thing from creating Issue 4: "Sin City" last summer in Las Vegas, it's that 702 artists have a work ethic that is unmatched. The city's "hustle and grind" nature bleeds heavily into its world of underground music.

Las Vegas native Amy Jaime is no exception.

The 24-year-old singer balances a budding music career with her full-time medical assistant job. Amy also has experience running her own clothing line — Buena Suerte — and begun hosting charity events in the Las Vegas area.

Her first such hosting gig was a 20-vendor car wash fundraiser held earlier this year to raise money for SafeNest, a 702-based nonprofit aimed at ending domestic violence.

"The whole process was amazing and a learning experience for myself," says Amy, who plans to host her own food drive in the near future.

On the music front, Amy has had a productive 2022. One of her most notable releases to date — "1-800 PICKUP CALL" — officially dropped in January. This was followed by two summer singles — "Bad Ideas" and "Secret" — tracks Amy claims are her favorite she has ever written.

The year has also brought Amy features and exposure on the popular music websites BuzzMusic and Ear Milk Publication. In April, she landed a spot singing the national anthem at a Las Vegas Lights vs. LA Galaxy II match at Cashman Field, another unique and strategic way to connect with new fans and grow her audience.

"I'm not where I want to be in my music career yet, but expect my fans to be like Nicki Minaj fans," Amy says. "They would be ride or dies."

Las Vegas is a breeding ground for artists who prove you can successfully juggle a day job while still finding creative ways to find new listeners and progress your music career. Amy's in the medical field. Issue 4 cover artists 1K and Kareema double as a sports book manager and a health care worker, respectively.

The 702 attracts entertainers of all popularity levels who are hungry for opportunities and are willing to work for it. According to Amy, this type of environment suits her well.

"Many think that Vegas is just The Strip and Fremont Street but there's more to it," she says. "The talent out here that Vegas has to offer is incredible."



*Follow Amy Jaime on Instagram
@amyjaimextz, and listen to her music
right now by scanning the QR code on this
page.*



MEET SOCAL'S
WACKIEST RAP DUO

WACK05



I knew about Wack05 for probably about two years before I actually met them. In 2020, *UNDRGRND Magazine* connected with Thousand Oak's artist Frankiii and the 4K crew, and the door was opened to a whole younger clique brewing along the 805's southern edge.

With that wave came my personal discovery of Foxy the Finesser and Cap' — Wack05's two standing members. My first memories seeing their content include flailing baseball bats, ski masks, dope merch, and an abundance of girls and confidence. Chances are this duo has popped up somewhere on your feed.

Foxy (22, born Walter Kay Leon Gause IV) doesn't claim a specific hometown ("I moved around a lot") but went to Thousand Oaks' High School. Cap' (22, born Jake Dillon Sebek) reps Woodland Hills, but also attended TOHS for the school's football program. The two became close sophomore year as teammates on junior varsity.

"I was a lineman," Foxy says. "Left guard was my main position but I played all of them because other linemen would either get hurt or not know the plays."

Fast forward nearly eight years, and Wack05 has opened for the likes of Sada Baby, Smokepurpp, Young M.A, and Robb Bank\$. The two are natural marketers, placing important emphasis on high quality music videos and consistent releases. They've dropped three official music videos so far in 2022, including a Cap' solo video for "Intro Pt. 1" in early July. On August 1st, Wack05 dropped their first official project *Wacky Tapes Vol. 1*.

Earlier in the year, I had finally met up with Foxy and Cap' for the first time. We linked at The Topsy Goat, a small but popular dive bar located right on Thousand Oaks Blvd — as good a place as any. Expecting to meet the boisterous duo I had seen pulling shenanigans on Instagram for the past couple of years, I was somewhat surprised to meet two well-put-together young men.

Foxy and Cap' told me about the early days of their friendship and their efforts to perform on bigger stages and open for well-known artists. Notably, both rappers are juggling their Wack05 careers simultaneously with their final semesters in college. They have a solid management team behind them — GHOST and Big Money Walt — who help Foxy and Cap' book shows and network through the industry.

Wack05 has one of the highest ceilings for a hip-hop duo coming out of SoCal right now. With their debut tape now on all streaming platforms, combined with the fact that the two front runners are soon to graduate college and have more time to lock in on music, Wack05 has set the foundation for success in the rap game.





LOS ANGELES RAP WORD SEARCH

F O N D A T H E A T E R E N O S T A W D A H C
X N U G X E B Z G K F I F J O Q R B A R O N D
E W I D W G N M H A X N K A N N A M S S O B F
R V A Z J A H J R U C C I H C X F Y W I R V A
T Z E K I H C Z A D J P I M C I Q D O T F S E
A J I E Z E E R F K C I N E J Q T W N A T W E
E D Y J E D J L A D Y U O D H R Y E K H N E M
H G L O N E R O M S S E R P Y C J F O S C I I
T M B B L X S T P O T S Y J U J F N D A Y V S
Y W W A Z E X H O H G E E S Y Q C I W H X A T
X J O S H F R O M N O J U M P E R S S S Z N E
O S K N A B E L Y K I U X C P G Y O S I C I R
R T L N Z H T U R F Z I V X Y U V H U L H G P
P M I A K E N N E D I A F R F R O C D A I E K
Q X P S Z S Q D L X S T S O U N D J D K M M G
J R E N O H P E S U O H L I L K J M O V O N S

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘ .

AZCHIKE
AZJAH
BLXST
BOSSMANN
CHADWATSON
CHOSINFEW
CYPRESSMORENO
DJLADY
DOKNOW
FONDATHEATERE
FRFR
GINAVIEWS
JAHMED
JOSHFROMNOJUMPER
KALISHASHATI
KYLEBANKS
LILHOUSEPHONE
LXSTSOUND
MIAKENNEDI
MISTER
NICKFREEZE
NOVO
OHGEESY
RBARON
ROXYTHEATRE
RUCCI

Field Notes

May 2, 2022

ENTRY 2: ROPE GANG, HOUSE PHONE, & SHOEYS

A POV LOOK AT THE FIRST EVER
NO JUMPER LIVE SHOW

By Andrew Mason

5:45pm

I'm in the Miracle Mile area of Los Angeles. It's a nice spot, not too far from The Grove. The No Jumper live podcast starts at 8:00pm inside The El Rey Theatre. I'm a big No Jumper fan, and bought the VIP Meet-N-Greet tickets and everything. I park a few streets over from the venue – if you know me, I'm always trying to park for free.

6:11pm

I walked to El Rey and get in line. I'm super late. The Meet-N-Greet started over half-an-hour ago. I take another L – I realize I still have my backpack. I had brought it to try to show off some *UNDRGRND* magazines, but obviously you can't bring a backpack into a venue like this. F*ck. I run back to my car, drop the backpack, get back in line, and get inside the building.



6:30pm

The Meet-N-Greet is up on the second-floor balcony of El Rey. There are maybe 30 people total left at this point, including No Jumper's Adam22, AD, Gina Views, and more – basically the whole squad. I say what's good to my favorite No Jumper personality, Lil House Phone. We talk for a few minutes, then the Meet-N-Greet ends. For the next hour, general admission ticket holders file in. Some of the No Jumper team hops in the crowd for photos with fans, while drinks and exclusive merch start to sell like crazy.

8:00pm

The live show begins. The crowd is rowdy and really into it, and the No Jumper cast is getting hyped off that energy. T-Rell's going berserk with the dancing, Yuriy does a Shoey, some girl sitting near me tries to fight Aliza? The crew eventually finds its rhythm and takes the 500-person audience through the variety of shows that exist in the No Jumper Universe.



11:00pm

On the hour, the live show finishes. The curtains close and everyone starts funneling back onto Wilshire Blvd. I say hello to friends of the magazine, Kali Shashati and his artist Jakarta \$lim, who we've interviewed before. As I'm leaving, I meet Basa-Nova, a content creator at No Jumper and 4 Family & Friends. I left after that and the night was over. Congratulations to the entire No Jumper team for making history and big moves in the music media landscape!

GOLDENVOICE PRESENTS
NO JUMPER LIVE
MAY 2

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For *UNDRGRND*'s full vlog of the No Jumper Live Show, scan the QR code!



JOIN MILES NEWBY'S MADD WORLD

MUSIC • FASHION • ART

iammilesnewby



FOOD DISPARITIES IN BLACK COMMUNITIES

a message from Los Angeles' Chef Courtney Beavers



I guess you're wondering who I am. My name is Courtney Beavers. I am a chef, teacher, artist, activist, and entrepreneur. Throughout my life and career, I've been saddened and angered by the gap in quality, affordable, and BIPOC-owned produce that is available in less prosperous communities.

I'm a product of the 90s and was born in Lynwood, California. I was raised in post-riot Compton until the age of four, when we moved to a low income apartment in Santa Monica. It's here where I first noticed a great divide in the wealth class between myself and my peers. My mother's job in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District helped keep the lights on. But with four growing kids, things became tough. I remember lots of hotdogs, instant ramen, and canned or frozen vegetables.

During trips to our local *Albertsons*, I would grab beautifully displayed produce, but was told to, "put that down because it's too damn high." When my mom

needed produce, we would drive to Compton to shop at the local *Food 4 Less*. There the produce is stacked in their boxes and piled high. You have to sift to find what's fresh and what's not.

I was recently told at a gig in Malibu that the standard of food we produced had to be higher because of the "affluent" — predominantly white — neighborhood we were in. What makes the communities I know, communities rich in culture and deep in agricultural history, continuously left out of conversations on healthy food? In my business experience I have learned to not let obstacles stop me. So I began to find solutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the general global crisis in 2020 brought a lot of needed and long overdue attention to the plights of the African Diaspora. One issue we all faced early on was a limitation on resources. Being quarantined at home, people became more concerned with their health. Home-cooked meals soon became a norm. Shoppers began to look towards the outer portions of the grocery stores, where things were fresher.

Unfortunately, many communities still came up short. Noticing the trend of people wanting to learn how to cook, I began teaching cooking classes on Zoom to eager individuals and groups. Another impactful emergence has been the boom in urban gardening.

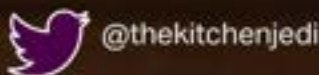
I've relied on my local community garden for many valuable resources. The Compton Community Garden is not just a wonderful resource for fresh produce, but a great educational tool for how to grow different species of plants and learn their different health benefits. These gardens became a great link to other local farmers and growers in Los Angeles and California in general.

Bottom line, enriching produce and meals is something we all deserve.



Courtney's Sweet Chili Pork Loin with Spaghetti Squash & Okinawan Mash

Courtney Beavers is a traveling celebrity chef, teacher and activist. Visit his Patreon at patreon.com/thekitchenjedi. For bookings, inquiries, and to stay up to date, follow his socials at:



ALL EYEZ ON VIC TOR VILLE.

the story
of YG Dreamz
and Playdeville

by
Andrew
Mason



photos courtesy of Playdeville and YG Dreamz



You probably know about Victorville, Calif. from the few minutes you've driven through it on the way to Las Vegas. The city is about an hour and half drive east of Los Angeles, and a fundamental staple of California's High Desert region.

It's here in Victorville where YG Dreamz and Playdeville are fighting to put their hometown on the hip-hop map.

"When I tell people I'm from Victorville, people don't know what I'm talking about," says Playdeville. "It's starting to get recognition, but not as much as I'd like."

YG Dreamz and Playdeville are individual artists, but are close friends and collaborate often — they even share the same manager, Gyrvin Garcia. The rappers first met each other around 2018 under non-music circumstances.

"We both from the same town, and you know, there's politics," Playdeville says. "When we first met we actually exchanged some words [he laughs]. But we met up and talked it out and clicked instantly. Our kids' moms ended up being friends."

Out of the two, Playdeville is the OG when it comes to making music. The 28-year-old has been releasing records since 2012, originally part of a group called "Ski Mask Mafia." For over half a decade he rocked the Ski Mask Mafia brand, learning the ropes of the industry under San Gabriel Valley rap icon, YBE.

In 2018, Playdeville decided to break off and focus on a solo career.

"I was the young one in the background," Playdeville says about his time with Ski Mask Mafia. "I soaked up game as I went along. Once it was time to go my separate way, I had to do my thing."

Around this time Playdeville and YG Dreamz's friendship began to manifest. YG Dreamz, 27, hadn't officially released any songs yet, but had years of experience freestyling over beats with his friends. He credits Playdeville with proving to him that somebody from Victorville could find success through hip-hop.

"When Play started coming out, he was from Victorville, he rapped good, and he had views on his videos," YG Dreamz says. "I was more in the streets — I had that mentality. But he had the music vision in his head and pushed me, and that's why we really met."

The two dropped a collab EP, *Villainz* in April 2021. The music video for the project's first track, "Nothin' Nice," has reached 1.3 million views on YouTube. Playdeville himself sits at an impressive 30k subscribers on the platform.

Both artists actively seek connections in nearby rap communities. The duo have used Hawthorne, Calif.'s Red Room Studios frequently in the past to record new music. More recently, the artists have started driving to Redlands, Calif. to record with Sav Did It, their go-to engineer who played a major role in the creation of *Villainz*.

"Sav mixes and masters a lot of our stuff, and he raps too," YG Dreamz says. "I basically consider his studio to be my home studio now."

They are also relatively tapped into "The 805" rap world. YG Dreamz told *UNDRGRND Magazine* he respects many popular Oxnard, Calif. rappers, including LeooohDaFool and Big E. In 2017, Playdeville linked up with Dstructive Filmz. The Oxnard videographer has directed and edited multiple music videos for Playdeville, including "All Hustle, No Love" (41k views) and "With The Xtras" (10.5k views).

"Dstructive shot two videos for *In 2 Deep*," says Playdeville, referencing his January 2022 album. "He knows what he's doing and he's a beast — quality speaks for itself. When I met him back we just vibed, and we've built a good relationship over time."

Like more up-and-coming rappers than want to admit it, Playdeville and YG Dreamz work day jobs to support their hip-hop hustle. On top of being dads, Playdeville doubles as a truck driver, while YG Dreamz works in a warehouse in Victorville, a nod to their work ethics.

Looking forward, both plan on dropping singles for the rest of the year, and say the early stages for a big Victorville-centric hip-hop show are in talks.

"If we gonna perform in our hometown, we want to make sure we do it big. Invest into it," YG Dreamz says. "I don't want to leak too much, but something's in the works."

Playdeville and YG Dreamz are prime examples that a music career can start in a small market. But more importantly, they also act as symbols of solidarity and peace within their local community.

"There's a lot of hate and beef in our city," YG Dreamz says. "There's not much to do other than to get into trouble and fight each other. One of Play and my goals is to show unity and that we can come together. I'd say we broke the cycle."

Watch the music video for Playdeville & YG Dreamz's "Nothin' Nice" by scanning the QR code on the left page.



AZCHIKE



A DIVE
INTO LA
RAPPER
AZCHIKE'S
ONE OF A
KIND DISCOGRAPHY



SOUTH CENTRAL - LOS ANGELES



Cult UP E.P (2017)
6 tracks
14 min 26 sec



Chike the Great (2017)
5 tracks
11 min 28 sec
ft. AzSwaye, Tswish



My World (2018)
12 tracks
27 min 48 sec
ft. Almighty Suspect

“I like to get fucked up,
I love molly,
I love Adderall.
I love ecstasy,
I love fucking
I love all the
things you’re
not supposed
to do!”





Fuckwaiting (2019)
7 tracks
14 min 42 sec
ft. AzSwaye

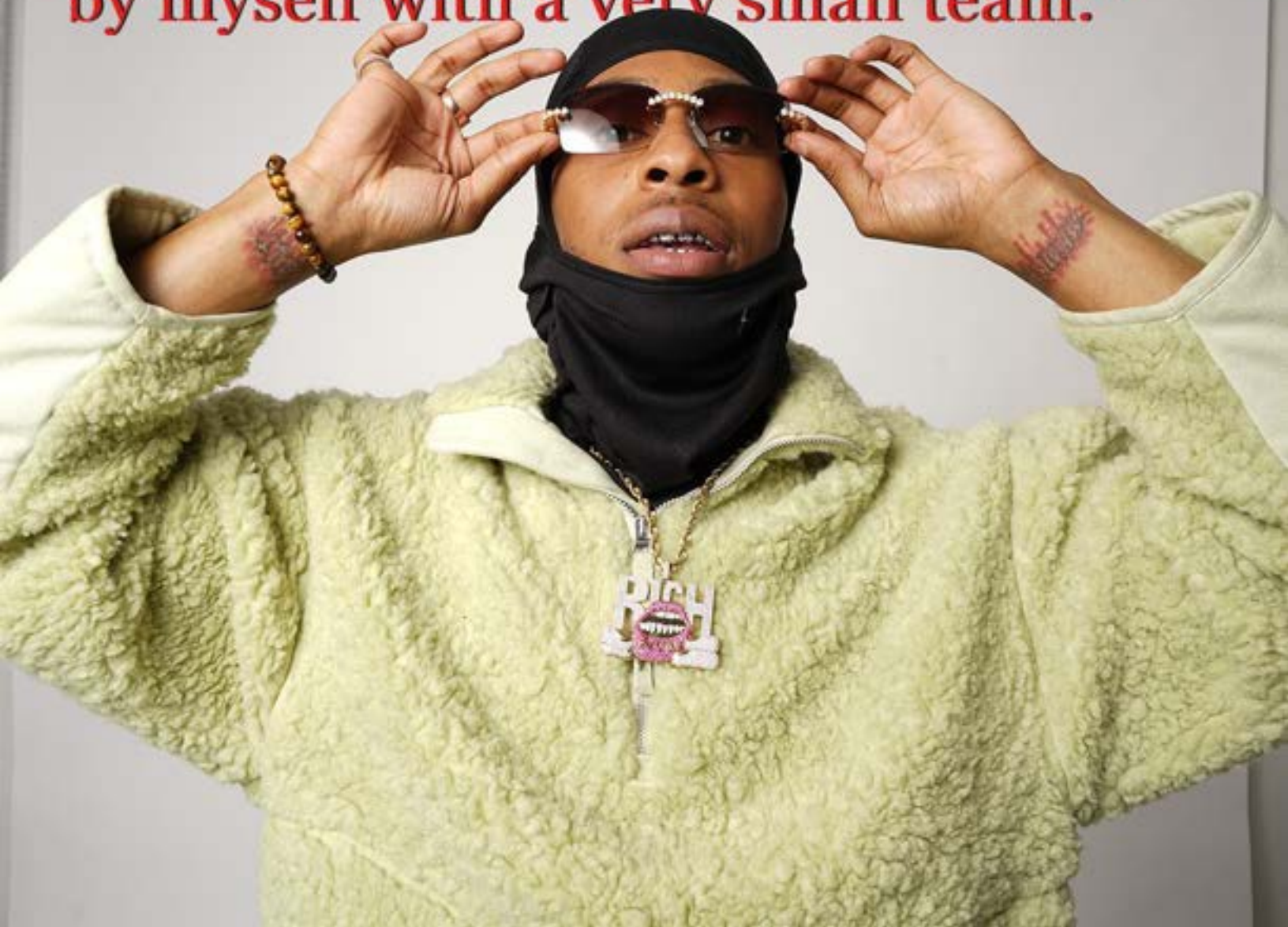


Rich & Ratchet (2019)
14 tracks
36 min 30 sec
ft. Rucci, Blackk,
Rob Vicious, 1takejay,
Lil Deuce, Kalan.FrFr + more



Yors Truly (2020)
5 tracks
10 min 18 sec

**“I’m really hands on. I do everything
by myself with a very small team.”**





GEE OH DEE EP (2020)
5 tracks
9 min, 34 sec
ft. Mike Sherm, Sada Baby,
Rucci, Lil Deuce



Kourtesy Of Us (2021)
21 tracks
49 min, 17 sec
Collab project with Rucci



Chike Different (2022)
20 tracks
38 min, 30 sec
ft. Haiti Babii, Mike Sherm,
Seiji Oda, ppcocaine



“Chike Different had a great reaction from the people. I don’t wanna make it sound like I expected it to do bad, but that project did a lot better than I thought it would.”

CHILL CACTUS

THE CHILLEST PODCAST
IN THE 805



@jeffrey_ricklin
@chill_cactuss



newbury park's finest

LUEV



@LUEV805

PHOTO:
@MOTIONLESS_CREATIONS





UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: JAHMED'S *Armani*

By Zohair Ali

With his 2021 release of *Armani*, JAHMED proves why Pomona, Calif. still needs to be on your Southern California hip-hop radar. The nine-track EP was one of the cleanest projects put out last year, and gives you an intimate look into JAHMED's obstacles as an up-and-coming rapper in the LA scene.

Armani is narrated by Suga Free, a name synonymous with 2000's hip-hop and the city of Pomona. The album also features Grammy nominated artist Freddie Gibbs.

"I'm such a huge believer in manifestation," JAHMED, or "Jah" says. "I wrote his name on my phone like, 'y'all, I need to get Suga Free to feature.' And I put Freddie Gibbs as well. Way before we even had the idea for *Armani*, I had their names down."

LYRIC BREAKDOWN: "Q&A//WOOSAH"

The two-part track showcases relaxed production and impactful verses, and JAHMED shows off his writing ability here. At first, "Q&A//WOOSAH" seems to explore one of the pitfalls of gaining fame in the music world — people hitting you up for financial help.

"I started seeing funding so they put me
on the radar
They want a piece of check so they hunt
me 'til my graveyard
Until I face God, until I, 'til I fade off
You get a hunnid grand can't even split it
with yo day ones
'Cause that man inside yo pocket and he
actin like a day one"

JAHMED says the lyrics are about paying taxes, with Uncle Sam represented by the "man in your pocket". JAHMED describes how he feels "hunted 'til his graveyard," connecting to the sentiment that death and taxes are both inevitable. Songwriting like this can be found throughout *Armani*, and it's not often that a rising artist can incorporate complex themes and metaphors into their music so easily.



Siete7x, Louie Ji the Wizard & Pofsky at Very Special Studios for the “Light It Up” session. Photos by Andrew Mason on December 9th, 2021.



Luizzy G & Kyle Banks.




10 Facts with

EVERYWHERE

—All You Need to Know About Fresno's Hidden Rap Gem

1 I was born & raised in Fresno, California, but moved around Oregon and Iowa for a little bit too. Now I'm back in Fresno fulltime.

2 I've been freestyling and practicing rhymes since elementary school, but I started recording music under the alias "Everywhere" in 2018.

 @ltseverywhere



3 I'm a father of twins who push me to work harder than ever and inspire me as a human. They have brought a lot of love into my life.

4 The Fresno rap scene is developing its own sound and culture! We have our own story that is different from LA or The Bay.

5 Fashawn and Planet Asia are the artists who pushed our city the most and got their feet into the industry. Other local artists who inspire me are MCWicks and 88Drums.

6 My inspirations also come from the internet & mainstream. Some of my favorite artists are Big L, Jadakiss, Lupe Fiasco, Nas, JAY-Z, Tupac, Eminem, and Jay Electronica.

My go-to **7** engineer is AyoPat559, who did my last two projects. He really has helped me craft my sound.

8 I've also been working with producer Ill MelleY on a new tape. He produced my last album, Omnipresent in March 2022.

9 Fresno lacks entries to the mainstream — there aren't really any platforms that can help us get into the industry. Our best tools are social media and word of mouth. Hopefully we can change that.

10 Remember, Fresno is CENTRAL California. Not SoCal, not NorCal. CENTRAL California.



ELIJAH BANX



STAGE NAME: Elijah Banx

AGE: 27

HOMETOWN: Long Beach, California

HEIGHT: 6-4

HIGH SCHOOL: Cabrillo

COLLEGE: Cal State Dominguez Hills ("I went for a year and just did gen-ed")

MUSIC INFLUENCES: Biggie, Drake, Snoop Dogg, Tory Lanez

UNDRGRND'S CHOICE: "Woman Crush Wednesday," "Get High," "One Time" (feat. Kalan. FrFr)

DREAM LA FEATURE: Kendrick Lamar, Jhené Aiko

FAVORITE LA VENUE: The Belasco, Globe Theatre ("I'll be hitting the The Novo & The Observatory with King Lil G in late August")

FAVORITE LA PROD: Larry Jayy, K. Wrigs

FAVORITE LA ENG: TH33ngineer ("he's loyal, talented, patient—that's been my guy for like three years")

FAVORITE LA FOOD: Twitchin Chicken and "anything Korean BBQ"

NEXT UP IN LA: Elijah Banx

BEST HIP-HOP CITY IN THE US RIGHT NOW:

"Atlanta is a good representation for a 'hip-hop headquarters' right now, but it's still West Coast for life though"

OTHER HOBBIES: Bowling

LABEL: Big Boy Music

“When it comes to who’s next up in LA, I’m betting the house on me — everytime.”

FIRST MAKING MUSIC:

“I made my first song during my senior year of high school, but we were just playing around. I got serious about music in 2016 — that’s when I was like, ‘What am I gonna do with this?’ So we got into our whole lil’ ism, found our sound, changed the name. Had to do a whole rebranding but everything feels good now. Life is about timing.”

MR. BANX DEBUT ALBUM (2021):

“Every song [on the project] has a different vibe. “Woman Crush Wednesday” is that pop, Saturday night in the club vibe. “Get High” is that Sunday afternoon, roll you up some and just cruise with your girl. And “Runaway” is about relationships — you gotta test the heart sometimes.”

RELATIONSHIP WITH BIG BOY:

“I first met Big around 2013 or 2014 when he threw a block party. For a while I was more just around, but he saw potential in me and that’s when we started working and building from there. One thing he’s always harped on me is, ‘You have a dope flow, I can help you say what you’re trying to say in a better way.’ Shoutout Big Boy — he even has a Hollywood [Walk of Fame] star.”

JOINING KING LIL G’S “SUMMER TOUR 2022”:

“I’ve had a relationship with King Lil G for the past five years. I met him when Big Boy put us on the DUB Show Tour years ago. He was on the full tour and we were guests on like half the tour, so we kept running into him. We kept in contact and just built the relationship from seeing each other around, having mutual respect for each other’s craft.”

SOPHOMORE PROJECT:

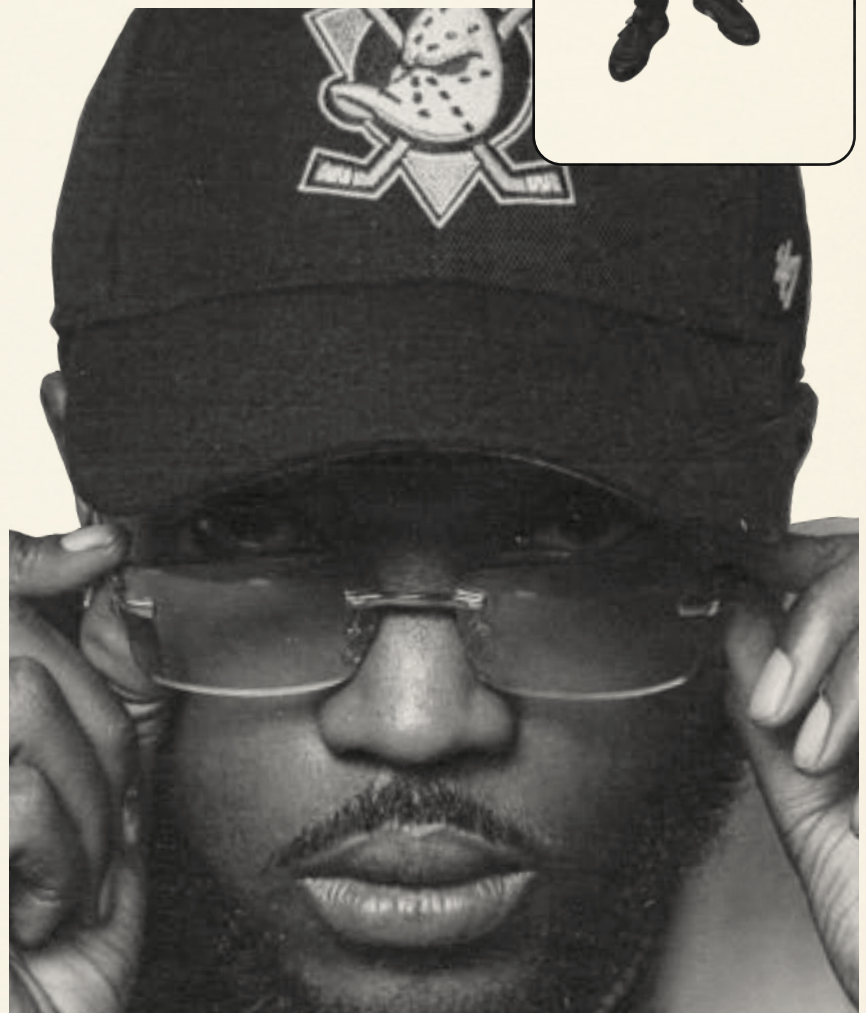
“Y’all are the first people who are getting the official date. Album dropping October 23rd, 2022. I was about to give y’all the title, but I’mma wait until you aren’t writing the magazine no more.”

BIG LONG BEACH FEATURE ON THE WAY:

“We working on a remix for ‘Get High’ right now, bro, with a very very big name. Just think, who likes to smoke weed all the time? I’ll let y’all take your guesses — I’m real close to making that happen.”

“KNOW YOURSELF”:

“Everybody has doubts, but in this game you’ve gotta have some tough skin, keep your blinders on. Don’t worry about nobody else. If you pay attention to people going past you it can mess with your head, which will mess with your craft. Know yourself — that’s the most important part of this journey.”





MAKA T

STAGE NAME: Maka T

AGE: 23

HOMETOWN: San Fernando, California

HEIGHT: 5-10

HIGH SCHOOL: Bishop Alemany

MUSIC INFLUENCES: Kalan.FrFr, Roddy Ricch, Lil Yee

UNDRGRND'S CHOICE: "REDRUM," "OnlyFans" (with Cypress Moreno)

DREAM LA FEATURE: "I wish I could've gotten one in with Drakeo [the Ruler]"

FAVORITE LA VENUE: The Novo

FAVORITE LA PROD: Ron-Ron The Producer

FAVORITE LA ENG: Terrificc ("he's from The Valley—he's a producer too")

FAVORITE LA FOOD: "If you ain't hit a street hot dog spot in LA then you ain't a real LA native"

NEXT UP IN LA: AFN Peso

BEST HIP-HOP CITY IN THE US

RIGHT NOW: "If it ain't LA then it's The Bay"

OTHER HOBBIES: Working out, hitting church every Sunday, hanging with my girlfriend of over 10 years

MANAGEMENT: Very Special and Runtz



“AT THE END OF THE DAY, MUSIC IS A BUSINESS. AS LONG AS YOU STAND ON BUSINESS, YOU’LL BE ABLE TO GET WHATEVER YOU PUT IN.”

EARLY MUSIC TASTE:

“High school came around and that’s when like Young Thug was poppin, everybody like that. That’s when I really got exposed to rap culture and rap music. Before then bro — middle school and all of elementary school — I was only listening to reggae, whatever my dad was listening to. Like UB40, stuff like that.”

RELATIONSHIP TO YUNG LB OF RUNTZ:

“There are three people who cultivated, made, and started up Runtz from the couch, and my cousin — Yung LB — is one of them. My blood cousin. He’s a lot older than me, so obviously he’s been in the music game, he’s been doing this shit. When I dropped my first song that’s when he reached out to me like, ‘Bro, you go crazy, man!’”

VERY SPECIAL:

“The same way I push Runtz, the same way I push Very Special. I am Very Special, and Very Special is even more than just me, though. We got hella artists, hella producers — the whole camp is fire. Jabba’s my big brother, he’s helped me throughout my whole music career.”

FIRST TIME COLLABING WITH KALAN.FRFR:

“Kalan did a show out here in LA and told one of the homies he was going to the studio and to bring me out like, ‘Tell Maka to pull up!’ That was my first time ever really meeting bro and chopping it up with him, and he ended up doing “Player No More” that night. We cooked that record right there at Hustle Man Studios in Downtown LA right next to Staples Center. Kalan’s really one of the most humble people you’ll ever meet.”

SONGWRITING FOR OTHERS:

“Right now I’m working as a writer for a lot of artists, and that’s another bag that I’m trying to get into, you feel me? Writing for artists big and small, even for people who are independent, just starting out. You basically just hand over the rights to the reference tracks that originally have my vocals on them,

and I get bimonthly royalty checks. There are a lot of songs that people know but don’t realize are written by other people.”

SIGNING TO A MAJOR:

“I’m open to everything and anything right now, bro. Anything to help me is a win. Ain’t nothing wrong with signing to a major. I’m working on my catalog so I can present it to all these big labels.”

NO EXPECTATIONS:

“I don’t really have expectations for my songs, and I think that’s one of the coolest things about my music. If a drop doesn’t meet your expectations, you see it as a flop. And expectations also limit your records. If you think this song is the one, and it’s gonna sell a certain amount, you’re already limiting it’s ceiling. What I put out is quality, and that to me is already a win.”

NEXT CAREER MOVES:

“A lot more visuals, putting my face to the music. And shit bro, just putting myself out there more. I’ve been in the scene with a lot of these people, but I was really just getting familiar and locking in my relationships. Now I’m on a different type of time — where can these relationships take me as far as in the studio? I also got a Bino Rideaux feature in the cut dropping in November, video brewing.”



TWice

the computer science major is back
for his second run as an artist

written and photographed by
Austin Plambeck.

It had been over five years since Tushar Radhakrishnan last released music to the public. His first stint both began and ended during his first semester at Moorpark College in 2016. When brought up, Tushar recalls a time of suffering grades and fearing for his financial future.

“I was so young, I didn’t have a schedule,” says Tushar, a Virginia native who moved to Newbury Park, Calif. in high school. “I didn’t have a good grasp on what it was to be an adult.”

So he built his personal life back up again, earning scholarly awards, landing internships, and establishing roots in the tech industry. But that itch for making music never left. Entering summer 2022, Tushar officially returned to the rap game as “TWice” — and he’s made it clear he’s not leaving this time.

“It just feels good for me,” says TWice, 24. “In terms of my music, I left on a high note, and I’m still on that incline. It’s like I never left.”

Kicking off his comeback, TWice dropped two singles, “Base” and “A.I.” in mid-June. Both tracks are loaded with spacey, interstellar vibes inspired by his computer science background. Additionally, the now California State University Channel Islands student prides himself on maintaining a healthy balance between his schoolwork and his revived creative outlet.

TWice has spent nearly this entire summer back home in the DC/Maryland/Virginia area (“the DMV”), where he still has family. There he has been both recording his debut album *Recovery*, and learning Amazon Web Services cloud computing skills.

TWice is happy to be back releasing music again, and says he looks forward to a future where he can showcase his musical versatility and balance his other obligations. By the end of 2022, the sci-fi-themed *Recovery*, and potentially *Wave Culture* — an international, “genre-blending” sophomore project — will be out on SoundCloud.

Watch TWice’s debut music video for “Base” by scanning the QR code on this page.



“It’s
like I
never left.”

THE PULSE



Cypress Moreno is LA's top tastemaker — and it's not changing anytime soon.
by Miss Dixon

Follow Cypress Moreno on Instagram @cypressmoreno. Miss Dixon is a Los Angeles-born hip-hop journalist most recognized for her work with Producers Press Play and Home Grown Radio. Connect with Miss Dixon on Instagram @thecmissdixon.



Every city has a DJ that's on the pulse of the new wave of artists rushing onto the scene. Los Angeles has Cypress Moreno.

Cypress has dedicated over 10 years of his skills and service to LA's hip-hop & rap culture.

From the fruits of his labor have come a plethora of memorable collabs, special events, and all-around dope music.

The half-Salvadorian, half-Guatemalan grew up in the San Gabriel Valley. But he began his DJ career at the University of Arizona, where he quickly became a favorite local talent in the Tucson, Arizona area. After a year at U of A, Cypress dropped out and enrolled at Los Angeles Recording School, learning sound engineering and musical production in an academic environment.

When he returned home to LA, Cypress hit the ground running. He became a force to be reckoned with in LA's club scene, turning tables at the most poppin' packed clubs. Cypress locked in with the city's hottest local acts, including Kalan.FrFr, Rucci, Drakeo the Ruler, 1takejay, AzChike and G Perico.

Cypress gained momentum DJing at these artists' events and parties, keeping their crowds lit and breaking their new music. Pretty soon he became "The DJ" for artists to tap in with. Today, Cypress has tallied up a host of production credits with the likes of Freddie Gibbs, Mozzy, Westside Webb, SOB X RBE, 03 Greedo, and Ty Dolla \$ign.

One of Cypress' most memorable breaks came in 2018 when he DJ'd for Shoreline Mafia's international tour. The tour would not only broaden Cypress' reach, but allowed him the space to break some of the generation's hardest West Coast tracks to hyped crowd after hyped crowd.

In recent years, Cypress has found a niche teaming up with LA rappers to drop new releases. July 2021 brought *Gang Ties* with Big Sad 1900, followed by *Tapped In*, a New Year's Eve project featuring Kee Riche\$, Wallie the Sensei, AD and more.

He started 2022 on a high note, partnering with Casey Veggies, Kalan.FrFr, and Griff Tyler for a three-pack called *Two22* in February. In July 2022, Cypress released the six-track *Doin It*, his newest showcase of up-and-coming talent like LA's MoneySign \$uede, Detroit's Band Gang Lonnie Bands, and Moreno Valley's R3 DA Chilliman.

Playing producer and A&R has proven to pay off well for Cypress. He now owns his own record label, CVTCHXXII ["Catch 22"], where he has begun signing new artists.

A tastemaker, playmaker, vibe setter, and groundbreaker, Cypress has come a long way in LA's rap landscape. From DJing clubs to solidifying himself as one of the most consistent artists in the city, Cypress is just scratching the surface.



VOUCH FOR YOUR CITY!

A smaller market's perspective.

Los Angeles' position as the entertainment capital of the world makes for interesting relationships with other music scenes around the country. LA has the history, the proximity to mainstream action, more potential industry looks and connections, money opportunities – it's not rocket science, LA will always hold some significant status in terms of relevancy in the grand hip-hop landscape. With *UNDRGRND*'s home of Ventura County, LA naturally assumes an "older brother" role, often leaving its "little homie" neglected.

Don't get me wrong – it's not really LA's fault. Remember that LA county is also the most populated county in the entire United States, and a lifetime of networking could never reach all corners of the LA rap community. It's almost inevitable for Angelenos to fall victim to the "LA is such a bubble" concept.

In LA's defense, we still have had some dope "LA-nonLA" song collabs recently: Kalan.FrFr and Chicago's Lil Durk ("I LIKE," 2021) G Perico and Oxnard's Trouble Kidd ("Close To You," 2022), Airplane James and Newbury Park's Pofsky ("Slidin'," 2022).

But even with all this momentum in LA, could it be mutually beneficial if LA rappers, A&R's, labels, and even fans tapped in more heavily with other cities' scenes more often?

I reached out to some friends of the magazine who represent a variety of non-LA music cities. I asked them for their thoughts on the relationship between the music culture in LA and the one in their specific hometown.

What would a label executive in North Hollywood think when they hear the term "Portland, Maine rapper?" Are LA rappers sleeping on potential collabs and cash grabs in markets like Sacramento, Boston, or San Luis Obispo? Does your city even deserve attention from one of the largest music economies in the world?



Papii Red
Artist
Oxnard, California

"Oxnard is hella community-based and realistically there's mad talent everywhere—in all genres. If an LA artist was goin' to Oxnard, they'd see we're serious about our craft. They'd see the competition. I would recommend for an LA rapper to find a group you fuckin' with in Ox to help put you onto the hottest locals in the scene."



Conor Halway
Founder of Golden
Deer Productions
Boston,
Massachusetts

"I started my podcast in 2018 strictly interviewing Boston and Massachusetts artists. Back then, there was very little national attention on our music scene. Cousin Stizz, Moufy, and Michael Christmas were kind of the heavy hitters who had actually broken into the industry. But today, it's a totally different story. It's important we call it the "Massachusetts Music Scene". Van Buren Records has had a great couple of years and they're from Brockton, Mass. Millyz is a marketing master and he's from Cambridge, and Bia is from right outside of Boston. Our area is up next bro, I promise."



Amy Jaime
Artist
Las Vegas, Nevada

"I do feel as if Las Vegas can be overlooked, but it's the artists who needs to put themselves out there more in order to make a name for themselves. The 702 is a huge melting pot for creatives, but we could work a little harder when it comes to getting bigger looks in music. In reality, we need to put stuff out smarter."



Greg Levinsky
Journalist
Portland, Maine

"People from other states probably think Maine is just a bunch of people picking potatoes and setting the latest flannel fashion. But in reality, we have a great hip-hop scene. We fly under radar, which is cool, but there is a lot of talent out here in all genres of music. We don't have any big names like Roddy Ricch or Drake or anyone like that, but the rap fanbase is here. Russ and YG recently performed at The Cross Insurance Center in Downtown Portland."



Basa-Nova
Digital Content
Creator & Producer
at No Jumper and 4
Family & Friends
Sacramento,
California

"Sac is still an emerging market and culture. There really isn't a solid identity for the city yet, which I think is a good thing. I believe the first thing people think of is Mozzy—he's definitely the biggest current artist to come out of Sac and represent the 916 heavy. I don't think any artists get written off [by being from Sac], there's just a lack of coverage. But platforms like Thizzler and EMPIRE have found ways to bridge the gap between LA, Bay Area, and Sac talent. Also, shout-out my boy MikeyRare, who has been a pioneer in directing music videos and films for artists all up and down California."



Luey
Artist
Newbury Park,
California

"I think what AzChike is doing for the 805 is an absolute power move. He's one of the first big artists to fuck with us, and we see somebody like that and immediately have love for them. He's opening the door for artists out here but he's also creating many new opportunities for himself because it's nothing but good energy out here. People are going to start to realize the potential in this area."



Aaron California
Artist
The Central Coast of
California

"I think any rapper from anywhere outside of the Central Coast would probably write most of us off without an honest listen. There is nothing geographically exclusive to musical talent. I dont think anyone could be less capable of creating quality music simply because of where they're from. But then again, I'm just another mic in a sea of artists."

Lil Wayne & Max Hazzard watch Atlanta Hawks stars Trae Young & John Collins in the Drew League. Photos taken by Kate Fultz on July 23rd, 2022 at King Drew Magnet High School in Los Angeles, California.





Morro Bay native & Issue 5 cover artist Endless (@endless805) poses in Downtown San Luis Obispo in September 2021. Photo by @luizy_g.



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Field Notes: Entry 3

November, 21, 2021

by Andrew Mason

The “TwoFr Tour” with Kalan. FrFr, Kyle Banks, and Elevator Problems

Pofsky and I were on the 101 Freeway heading south to the San Diego House of Blues. He's driving, while I'm sitting shotgun, deleting old videos off my camera's memory card to free up space.

Located in the heart of the city's Gaslamp District, the HOB was host to one of the final stops on Kalan.FrFr's Fall 2021 “TwoFr Tour.” The 11-show tour was first announced a couple months after the release of Kalan's “TwoFr 2,” a project that features Lil Durk and has helped the Compton rapper elevate in the mainstream music game.

We met up with Los Angeles producer Louie Ji the Wizard and his artist Kyle Banks, an opener on the tour, outside the HOB later that night. As soon as we all linked, it was time to go inside the artist-only VIP entrance and get up to the stage level.

The elevator up to the stage was packed and hectic. We had about 20 people in our group — mostly the team and entourage associated with Kyle. But with the West LA rapper's set time only minutes away, there was a hold up.

Apparently everybody in the group needed a wristband, including Kyle, Louie Ji, Pofsky, and me. But nobody had one, and the elevator operator was extremely adamant about not letting us up in time, even if it meant Kyle would miss his performance. The tension was high, as we had little to no communication with the showrunners onstage, who were undoubtedly wondering where the hell Kyle was.

After a moment of confusion, Louie Ji sprinted into action like a true pro. He found the pack of wristbands, and with the clock ticking, distributed them out to the frantic group. I was the last one to receive my wristband and quickly snapped it on. Just like that, the operator gave the “okay,” and the doors closed shut as we were sent upwards.

The doors opened to the backstage area, and Stockton, Calif. rapper Haiti Babii was wrapping up his final songs in front of a sold out San Diego crowd of about 1,500 people. We had made it just in time, and Kyle Banks was ready to perform...



Left: Trees (left), Westide \$tew (middle), and Kyle Banks (right) celebrate onstage after the show.





DO NOT
UNPLUG

THE LAKERS

THE LAKERS

UNCOMMON

LAKERS



GRIFF TYLER

LEGAL NAME: Aarin Griffin

STAGE NAME: Griff Tyler

AGE: 28

HOMETOWN: Inglewood, California

HEIGHT: 5-9

HIGH SCHOOL: Verbum Dei

BEST LA FOOD: The Court Cafe (Westchester)

NEXT UP IN LA: Griff Tyler

OTHER HOBBIES: Basketball, bowling

LABEL: Lost Sound

"IT'S ABOUT TRYING TO BE MORE PROACTIVE, KNOWING WHAT WE WANT TO DO FOUR TO SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE – SO WE'RE NOT JUST DOING SHIT ON THE FLY"

MUSIC INFLUENCES: Aaliyah,

Toni Braxton, Drake, Kanye West

("my favorite music is 90s era")

UNDRGRND'S CHOICE: "Cold Piece"

Runnin Game" (feat. Rucci)

NOTABLE FEATURES: G Perico,

Airplane James, Rucci

DREAM LA FEATURE: Snoop Dogg

FAVORITE LA VENUE: "I would love to perform at The Roxy [Theatre]. It's a staple in a lot of artists' careers"

FAVORITE LA PROD & ENG: Enimeezy,

Cypress Moreno





LOST SOUND:

"I'm the co-founder of Lost Sound — it's an independent label, but we're trying to build it so it becomes bigger than that. We want to get into streetwear, talent management, and athlete management."

MEETING DJ & P'JAE OF LKST SOUND:

"I met DJ in high school my senior year in 2011. We went on a college visit to Humboldt State. We became hella cool, and he went to high school with P'Jae. So I met P'Jae through DJ. Then they both just started coming around a lot when I came back from college."

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT (2020):

"That was my fourth project — really fifth, but we took one down. It's the album that made shit make sense. It was just the one that made me realize that I was nice."

MUSIC DROPPING STRATEGY:

"We care, we take our time, we're not gonna drop a song for no reason. We want to have a whole rollout and theme behind a drop. But you hinder yourself by not dropping more consistently, 'cause we got so much good music. So we're currently trying to find a balance between the two."

SWEET LIFE: LA PEPPERMINT CLUB SHOW:

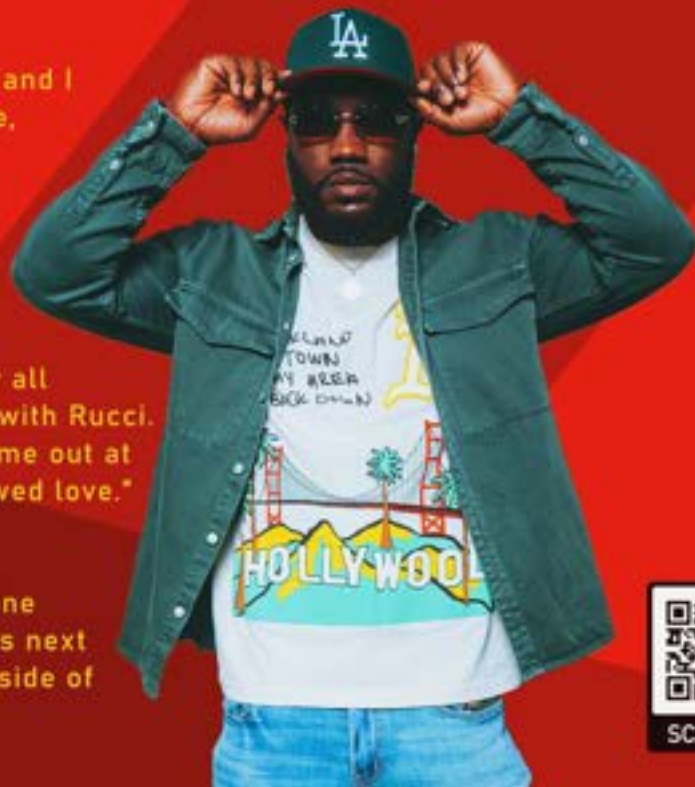
"The Sweet Life: LA cast basically threw a party, and I was just headlining the party. It was packed. Like, line around the corner. This was after all the episodes came out and the show aired. Hopefully we do it again this year."

WORKING WITH RUCCI:

"Marcel [of Lost Sound] is also part of Running Home Film, so he knows everybody because they all come to the office. So Marcel has a relationship with Rucci. First he did the song ["Runnin Game"] then he came out at my Catch One show in December. Rucci just showed love."

PLAYED TO THE LEFT (2022):

"It's a sequel to *Play Your Cards Right*. That first one was about, you know, me being a player. Then this next one is a little bit more moody. A bit more on the side of like, me being the one who got played."



SCAN ME

MISTEPA



“SPORTS AND MUSIC REQUIRE THE SAME KIND OF GRIND”

STAGE NAME: Mister

AGE: 20

HOMETOWN: Watts, California

HEIGHT: 5-10

HIGH SCHOOL: St. Pius X - St. Matthias Academy

MUSIC INFLUENCES: Lil Durk, Rod Wave, Roddy Ricch

UNDRGRND'S CHOICE: “Crazy” (feat. AzChike), “Lost and Jealous,” “Blast Off” (feat. Lil Deuce)

DREAM LA FEATURE: Roddy Ricch

DREAM LA VENUE: The Forum

FAVORITE LA PROD: Mustard

FAVORITE LA ENG: KC

FAVORITE LA FOOD: Hawkins House of Burgers

NEXT UP IN LA: Mister

BEST HIP-HOP CITY IN THE US RIGHT NOW: Los Angeles (“the stuff we rap about, our swag, LA’s just different”)

OTHER HOBBIES: Football

MANAGEMENT: Mackk & Company



FOOTBALL STANDOUT:

“I was playing football in high school, and I was real good, on the news and stuff. I played wide receiver and defensive back. Everybody thought I was gonna go on and play football in college, but it turns out that I didn’t really want that no more. I just realized that rapping was the wave.”

LEARNING DISCIPLINE FROM SPORTS:

“You’ve got to put in hard work for both music and sports, practice daily. With consistency, you’ll see yourself getting better. Once you get better, you see your progress and it all plays out in the end.”

DESCRIBE YOUR SOUND:

“My sound is versatile. It’s that new era style, where I be rapping and singing – I can do both.”

ASTRONAUT KID (2021):

“My mixtape dropped at the end of last summer. We got AzChike and Rucci on the project, and it’s overall a very solid tape. I named the project *Astronaut Kid* because I’m going to the top, you feel me? I feel like I’ve always thought differently from other people.”

RIDE 4 BLACKK



"If one of us doesn't make it, they still gonna be around. If one of us does make it, we're gonna bring each other up with us."



LEGAL NAME: Brandon Gooding

STAGE NAME: Ride4Blackk ("for Sean Mackk")

AGE: 28

HOMETOWN: Inglewood ("The North")

HEIGHT: 5-8

COLLEGE: Cal State Dominguez Hills (graduated in 2016 after studying PR & advertising)

MUSIC INFLUENCES: DJ Quik, Too Short, Tupac Shakur, RBL Posse

NOTABLE RELEASES: "Freak 4 the Weekend," "Mood Swings" (feat. Lotto Rocket & Mister)

DREAM LA FEATURE: YG ("I watched his whole career")

FAVORITE LA VENUE: "I want to have a show at the Santa Ana Observatory"

FAVORITE LA PROD: ROMO, BennyAve, 420tiesto, JR

FAVORITE LA ENG: MixedbyCrook

FAVORITE LA FOOD: Beniha-na ("any day of the week")

NEXT UP OUT OF LA: Airplane James or "anyone from Mackk & Co"

BEST CITY IN THE US RIGHT NOW FOR HIP-HOP: "Other than Atlanta, LA's the roots of all this sound"

OTHER HOBBIES: Roll The Dice Brand, soaking up game on the management end

MANAGEMENT: Formerly with Mackk & Company

NOT GOING TO INGLEWOOD HIGH:

"All of my older brothers went there, but they were getting into trouble. So my mom kind of connected the dots and figured there would be a cycle, so I ended up going to another school. She tried to separate from Inglewood, but I was still around though."

ON SEAN MACKK:

"One thing about Sean was that he was way ahead of his time. Way back in like 2014-15, he made us push marketing campaigns on Twitter, get a truck and wrap our faces on it — we were all the same age but he was already so advanced. So when he was gone, we were at like a standstill for a minute. But in a way, Rucci blossomed from Sean Mackk's passing, because he felt like he had to continue what Sean had started."

ROLL THE DICE APPAREL:

"I started Roll The Dice because I wanted to have an identity outside of music. At first, I just had a couple designs to go with. So I took a picture of a hoodie and posted it — I didn't even say 'coming soon' or anything. And I got like 30 messages back-to-back-to-back saying, 'Aye, what size you got?' and 'How can I get it?'"

Once I seen that I just went straight ahead and got the LLC. I didn't even think about it."

WORKING WITH SHOT BYKEVINN:

"He's like one of the first video guys I'm really working with on my own. I kind of want to find one or two more videographers, but right now I'm rocking with Kevinn. There's people who have more experience, but I like Kevinn because he's trying to get his foot in the door, and I've been there and know how that feels: to not really

know anybody, but you wanna work with everybody. I don't wanna just use people for the sake of just using them — I want people to benefit from being around me."

EARS TO THE STREETS:

"I'm a person who's tapped in with whoever's an artist around the city. I might not be an actual fan, but I'm gonna press play just because I like to see what everybody's doing. I don't like to have my music sounding like what's already out there."



Young Saudi, Pofsky & Nu Legend at the UN-DRGRND: The Album Release Party on Friday, March 25th, 2022. Photo taken by @luizzy_g at Chinaland in Oxnard, Calif.



from left to right: Gabe C, Rosecrans Vic, DoKnow, Kali Shashati



Kali Shashati

Behind The New LA

by Noah Soria

Born in Libya and raised in Downey, Calif., record executive, A&R, talent manager, and producer Kali Shashati has proven to be a valuable player within this current Los Angeles rap wave. Let's dive into some of the hats Kali has worn while putting himself and his team on the map.

Record Executive

Kali is the co-owner of LA-based music label Rosegrown Records. In the last couple of years we've seen Kali come into his own with this position. For Rosegrown, Kali and his business partner, Rosecrans Vic, headed the December 2019 release of *A Ride Down Rosecrans*. This West Coast hip-hop compilation album features a talented lineup of LA superstars like Kalan.FrFr, WS Boogie, Shoreline Mafia, Rucci, AD, and more.

Artist Management and Marketer

With OTR Records, Kali recently signed San Diego phenom, 22gJay, to the label in May of this year. Around the same time, Kali also handled the marketing aspects of Hit-Boy and Pacman da Gunman's popular collab project, *Bulletproof Soul*.

Producer

Kali also produces tracks. Some of his biggest credits include Yhung T.O.'s "Slidin'" (2021) featuring Jakarta Slim and Big Swift; KINGMOSTWANTED's "Still Around It" (2020) with DoKnow and KayDaBandit; and Swifty Blue's "On The Run" (2020). In June of this year, Kali teamed up with Jakarta Slim, ItakeJay, and Bravo the Bagchaser for "Freakman," Kali's most recent production endeavor.

Overall Kali Shashati has built a brand for himself, his clientele, and the music he helps create. Not too many people can say that, even in LA.



Follow Kali Shashati on Instagram @kali_shashati. Noah Soria is a Los Angeles-born hip-hop journalist with credits including No Jumper, and Rosecrans Avenue. Connect with Noah on Instagram @realnoahsoria.



GAVIN BANKSY

Early readers of *UNDRGRND Magazine* will remember an Issue 2 “The 805: Part 2” feature on the September 2021 Compound Sessions. This weekend-long Big Bear, Calif. getaway was attended by a unique mix of rappers, photographers, producers and engineers, and acted as a major networking payoff for the *UNDRGRND* team. It was there where Pofsky, Bings Visuals, and myself first met Gavin Banksy, a videographer from Portland, Ore. who had been turning heads in the Pacific Northwest music video game for the past couple of years.

Banksy pulled up late on the second day of the Compound Sessions, due to the fact that he had moved to Los Angeles the night before.

“I had just unpacked all my stuff in my new apartment,” Banksy says. “It wasn’t even organized — just brought all the boxes up — then drove off to Big Bear.”

Since moving to LA, the now 26-year-old has pursued videography as a full-time gig. He’s shot and dropped about 75 music videos, and had a hand in creating content for Rowdy Rebel, Josh Levi, BlocBoy JB, Bobby Shmurda, Quavo, October, Rimi, and others. His videos have been featured on *Elevator Mag*, *No Jumper*, *WorldStarHipHop*, *RapTV*, and *Kollege Kidd*, and he even landed a photography placement with *Vogue*.

“I was one of the best in my hometown, but it was a small community so there wasn’t much competition,” Banksy says. “Coming to LA was a big growing opportunity because it was a bigger pond.”

Banksy was originally introduced to hip-hop music from his friends and peers growing up. He eventually began dropping music himself, with a sound he categorizes as “Lil Peep vibes.” For his first music video, Banksy directed and edited the film himself, but had hired someone else to actually film it.

“That video showed me the profitability of being on the other side of the camera,” Banksy says. “I love making music and freestyling. But I don’t have the time for music now because I’m so encapsulated by videos.”

Banksy just signed an extension for a third year on his apartment in Downtown LA. As he continues making ground in SoCal, he hopes to extend the content he makes into documentaries, tutorials, and other short films.

“It’s hard to find the balance between your work and life relationships,” Banksy says. “It’s easy to get stuck in just doing videos for money, but passion is the most important part.”



FOLLOW GAVIN ON INSTAGRAM @GAVINBANSKY





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ISSUE 6

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LIVE AT
VENTURA BEACH CLUB
SATURDAY
JULY 3TH

HOSTED BY
DEVIN SMITH
ANDREW MAGON

POFSKY
"Birthday Celebration"

JAMES KAYE



DOORS @ 9PM

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