

THIRD ISSUE | 2021

UNDRGRND

STARRING:

TREY ANTHONY
ROGER WAYNE
KNOTTI
LilRiA
RIMI

VANESSA LYNNAE
CHARQOAL
FYAMOJI
BIG DUB
LVEY



SCENES COLLIDE

CENTRAL COAST X VENTURA COUNTY X THE VALLEY X LOS ANGELES

+ EXCLUSIVES FROM



NOLAN SMITH



CHRIS O'BANNON



GRIFF TYLER

ARE TYPE BEATS THE MOVE?

FREE GAME WITH BOBBYBEENFRESH

SHOP G-SKY

ISSUE 2 ARTIST CHECK-IN



CRACKED™

Your brain power dictates
your entire future



So why aren't you
fueling it?

CRACKEDSUPPLEMENTS.COM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

6 LUEY
 8 KNOTTI
 11 . FREEGAME W BOBBYBEENFRESH
 12 FYAMOJI
 14 BIG DUB
 18 . . ARE TYPE BEATS THE MOVE?
 20 TREY ANTHONY
 22 ROGER WAYNE
 24 STYLE ICONS
 27 ACCELERATED RADIO



30 LA'S NEXT STARS
 36 VANESSA LYNNAE
 38 RIMI
 40 L.I.R.A.
 42 CHARQOAL
 46 ISSUE 2 CHECK IN

C R E D I T S

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF	ANDREW MASON
UNDRGRND CO-OWNER	MICHAEL POFSKY
GRAPHIC DESIGNER	LIZ BRADFORD
CONTRIBUTING JOURNALISTS	ALEENA ALI
	ZOHAIR ALI
	COOPER CLARK
	ROBERT MARTINEZ
	CHRIS STANTON
	FRANCISCO MOLINA
ILLUSTRATORS	MAX KOLOMATSKY
	DAMIEN BRUZ
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR	LAUREN MASON
PHOTOGRAPHERS	LUIZZY G
	JOSH SEIDEN
	CHANDLER MARTINEAU

THE ENTIRE CONTENTS OF UNDRGRND MAGAZINE ARE COPYRIGHT © 2021 BY UNDRGRND PARTNERSHIP, AND MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN ANY MANNER, EITHER IN PART OR IN WHOLE, WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED.

P.O. BOX 587 N. VENTU PARK RD. STE. E543
 NEWBURY PARK, CA 91320



Photos: Josh Seiden



REPPING NEWBURY PARK: "Being the only person [on Issue 3] from Newbury, it's an honor. It's a great city to rep. [People think] Newbury Park's kind of part of Thousand Oaks — it's like, nah bro, we're Newbury Park. Gotta put this on the map, gotta do this for the whole team."

WINNING DEO CANE'S "TALK YO SHIT" CHALLENGE: "I saw Deo's post about it, and I heard the song. I went on SoundCloud, wrote my verse, rewrote it, and then I sent that in. One day I saw I won on his [Instagram] story...Deo snapped."

PERFORMING FOR A CROWD: "Not to be cliché but I was born to be in front of an audience. I've always felt that since I was like four years old. I love the attention. I'm pretty introverted, but once I get on that stage and have a mic in my hand, I'm a whole different person. It's weird."

WORKING WITH MOTIONLESS CREATIONS: "[Jovanni's] done all my music videos. Back in middle school, I would do Minecraft YouTube...kids would make fun of me and all that shit. But he was literally the only person who was like, 'that's so dope, keep doing it.' That's my dog, it's just such a good bond that we have."

2020 IT'LL GET BETTER ALBUM: "The whole point of the album was to help people. I've been in a bad place for a very long time. Shit has happened where I feel very alone and not wanted, and kind of worthless at times, and feel like I don't have anything to give to this world. I don't want anyone to ever feel like that. *It'll Get Better*, it's a little nice message."

DESCRIBE YOUR SOUND: "I got a deep voice, I'm very soulful. It's just me, it's what I've sounded like my whole life. I'm a one-of-a-kind person, nobody has this voice."

LEAVING THE RAP GROUP "13106": "No hate, nothing. I have so much love for those guys. If you're doing your craft, if you're making music, I'm gonna believe in you, push you, support you. But I just felt like my potential was getting squashed there. I was left with no one, really, so music is my outlet."

HAVING CONFIDENCE: "If you're making music, I feel like it's a necessity to think you're the best. I think I'm the best at what I do. I'm not saying I'm the best lyricist, I'm not saying I'm the best rapper, but for what I want to do, I think I'm the best. And what I want to do is help people out and I think I have the best voice for that."

RECORDING WITH KID CHXP: "It was in Los Angeles, and I hate driving — it gives me a lot of anxiety, a lot of stress, and I hadn't been to LA in probably like a year and a half. But I was like, fuck it dude. I want to do this. We were just vibing off each other, it was dope. Much needed to be with someone who has that vision and just talk to him...this guy fucking knows what he's doing."

ON CRITICISM: "You need criticism. I have one homie who I'll send every song to. He'll tell me, 'that ain't it, Luey.' It's good to have somebody that's gonna tell you it's trash. I need that. You need hate, as much as you need love."

CAREER GOALS: "My main goal is to just help heal people. I want to be a voice. And music is just the way that I'm gonna become a voice, and then I'm going to branch out and do other things...I want to make TV shows, I want to do movies, I wanna do a whole bunch of shit. This is just the beginning."

BEING IN UNDRGRND: "When [Andrew] hit me up, that's what I needed. I needed some type of hope, like a good sign in life. Something that told me to keep doing this, keep pushing, don't give up. I appreciate this whole UNDRGRND project. I think it's great what you got here and I'm very glad to be a part of it."



SCAN ME!





"I love the attention. I'm pretty introverted, but once I get on that stage and have a mic in my hand, I'm a whole different person. It's weird."

GOV'T NAME: Lucas Nelsen
STAGE NAME: Luey
BORN: Burbank, Calif.
RAISED: Newbury Park, Calif.
BIRTHDAY: July 21, 1999 (Cancer)
HEIGHT: 6-foot-3-inches
MAKING MUSIC: 4 years
OTHER OCCUPATION: The Topsy Goat
HIGH SCHOOL: Newbury Park
COLLEGE: "School is not for me, dude"
MUSIC INFLUENCES: Pofsky, Deo Cane, Kid Chxp, Caspa G, Bryce Ayers ("I'm gonna be inspired by people who grew up the same way I grew up")
NOTABLE MUSIC MOMENT: Making and dropping music in high school, doing a sold out show with former group "13106"
DREAM FEATURE: Mac Miller
DREAM 805 FEATURE: Pofsky ("I've known who he was since I was in like 8th grade")
NEXT UP OUT "THE 805": Luey ("I believe in myself")
HOBBIES: Poker ("it's good for your brain, you're always thinking ahead,"), Texas Holdem, Chess
FAVORITE MOVIE: Ocean's Eleven
FAVORITE TV SHOW: Avatar: The Last Airbender
FAVORITE 805 PRODUCER: Unknown (Bryce Ayers)
FAVORITE 805 ENGINEER: Kid Chxp (Steven Callan)
FAVORITE 805 STUDIO: My house
FAVORITE 805 RESTAURANT: Mandarin Bistro (Newbury Park), 3 Amigos (Newbury Park)
FAVORITE RECENT 805 PROJECT: *ILY* by Deo Cane
INTROVERT OR EXTROVERT: Introvert

Knotti

GOV'T NAME: Marvin Cook
STAGE NAME: Knotti
BIRTHDAY: July 2, 1993 (Cancer)
BORN & RAISED: Atlanta, Ga. (moved to Ventura during high school)
HEIGHT: 6-foot
MAKING MUSIC: 4 years
OTHER OCCUPATION: Entrepreneur
HIGH SCHOOL: Ventura
COLLEGE: Ventura College
MAJOR: Psychology
MUSIC INFLUENCES: KollegeKado, Swisha T (Trevor Love)
NOTABLE MUSIC MOMENT: Halloween party performance in 2020
GENRE: Soul, RnB, Hip-Hop
DREAM FEATURE: Queen Naija
DREAM 805 FEATURE: Riiicobandz
FAVORITE 805 PERFORMANCE VENUE: Lion City Studios
FAVORITE 805 PRODUCER: Swisha T
FAVORITE 805 ENGINEER: Swisha T, Mind Off (Alec Bertrand)
FAVORITE 805 STUDIO: INDB Studios, Record X Studios
FAVORITE 805 RESTAURANT: Carl's Jr.
FAVORITE RECENT 805 SONG: "4U" by Riiicobandz
NEXT UP OUT "THE 805": UNDRGRND Trampoline Park
WORST JOB I EVER HAD: Sky Zone
HOBBIES: "I like trying all new things, just experiencing life."
FAVORITE MOVIE: The Wood
FAVORITE TV SHOW: One Piece
INTROVERT OR EXTROVERT: "It depends on the day"





ATLANTA MUSIC SCENE:

"I've been tryna get out here since I was like 19 years old, when I got out of military school. I just knew California was the place to be. You know, being in Georgia, violence, gangs, you know. I just knew that wasn't my environment, especially for my music. I'm emotional, I'm sensitive, so nobody's gonna really listen to my music who's hearing trap music all day. Now with Rod Wave, [NBA] YoungBoy, Lil Durk... with those types of people, it's okay now to express your feelings. But at that time, that wasn't the place to be [with my music]."

BEING CALLED "KNOTTI":

"My grandma gave me 'Knotti'. I got nappy hair and it used to ball up in a lil' knot. I'm a grandmama boy. Honestly, without her, I probably wouldn't be the person I am today. I'd probably be doing something else. That was the only part of my family that openly had my back, you know? So that was just close, that was my mama, you feel me? You don't get that a lot these days."

DOING MORE MUSIC VIDEOS:

"I wanna start doing more music videos 'cause it's just to start showing me. I always hated who I really am. So I just feel like as I got out of this toxic relationship for the last three years, I just felt like it's okay to really be me, you know? I've found myself, so I can be better for other people. I can show and tell people the stuff I went through and hopefully it helps somebody whenever, wherever. I'm not a victim, I'm a survivor."

HAVING A FRESH STYLE:

"I used to be tacky all the time, growing up — I never had the fresh outfits. I'm grown now. People used to make fun of me like, 'oh yeah, he broke. His mama ain't got no money,' and stuff like that. So I used to tell them, 'oh yeah, I'm color blind and my mama don't pick my clothes out.' So I used to get away like that."

LINKING WITH KOLLEGEKADO:

"We just went to school together. You know, Ventura, not too many black people, we just automatically cliqued up. But yeah, that's my dog though, man. When I came out here, we was at this party one night and we was just freestylin' and then he hooked me up with my boy, Trevor Love, from INDB studios. The rest is history."

CURRENTLY WORKING ON:

"I'm starting to do more features now — I never did features with people. I wanna do a lot of music with people from the previous [UNDRGRND] covers. I did a song with Pofsky, hoping for a visual there. You know, he's 'Big Dog'... I just wanna work with a lot more people in UNDRGRND, just in 'The 805'. I just be so on my own lil' world half the time."

LONG TERM MUSIC GOALS:

"Whether I 'make it' or not, I just wanna make music just for me, just to help me. I just do it just to do it. I feel like everybody gets their hopes up, you know? Everybody tries to put their eggs in one basket. It's about having your eggs in all places. I'm not telling nobody to say they're not gonna make it, 'cause it's always a chance, you feel me? Everybody has a chance, but it's just if you tryna do it just to make the money, it's just not it. You can't put a price on your emotions or your creativity."

WHAT MAKES A GREAT SONG?:

"You need to have emotion, whether that's good or bad emotion. It will sound good 'cause you made love to that song. It's coming from love, whether it's hurt, pain, anger — it's all love."

YOUR ROLE IN 'THE 805' MUSIC SCENE:

"Just a different sound. Just to show you it's okay to get out your comfort zone. I just feel like the Chicago rap, the Chicago wave, it's boom-in. It's tough, I wanna do something with some of those artists. But that's what I'm saying, it would take me coming out of my comfort zone. You gotta be comfortable being uncomfortable, I feel like that's the thing I can show artists out here."

MESSAGE TO YOUR LISTENERS:

"Depression, you know, is real. Mental health issues are really real. There was times I done caught myself just sitting and drinking wine in the room by myself, in the house. People coming over, not really saying nothing, or even noticing. I just wanna let people know that I'm a survivor too, and I still deal with it daily, day to day. And it's okay, it's going to be okay. There's always tomorrow, so I just wanna let people know that. That's it. There are people out here for you."

VIBES FOR YOUR 2021 MUSIC:

"Some happy shit."

"I've found myself, so I can be better for other people. I can show and tell people the stuff I went through and hopefully it helps somebody whenever, wherever. I'm not a victim, I'm a survivor."

2021Q1
COLLECTION



STREETWEAR WITH A PURPOSE

EVERY PURCHASE DONATES TO
A CHARITABLE CAUSE

REDEFINING
THE CONSUMPTION
MINDSET

ALL WHILE
LOOKING SICK
AF!



GENUUM
GENERATION UMBRELLA

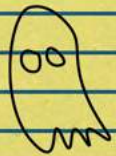
FREE GAME WITH BOBBYBEENFRESH

ADVICE FOR ARTISTS ON THE COME-UP

WHAT'S GOOD FAMILY! I'M BOBBYBEENFRESH, A RAPPER FROM GROVER BEACH, CALIF., A SMALL CITY LOCATED IN THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE CENTRAL COAST REGION. I'VE BEEN CREATING MUSIC SINCE 2013 AND HAVE DROPPED AN ALBUM EVERY YEAR SINCE THEN. I'VE GONE THROUGH MANY UPS AND DOWNS DURING MY MUSIC JOURNEY, AND LEARNED SOME VALUABLE LESSONS ALONG THE WAY. I HOPE THIS ADVICE CAN HELP YOU PROGRESS IN BOTH MUSIC AND IN LIFE. TAKE NOTES

1. BUILD GENUINE RELATIONSHIPS.

NETWORK WITH OTHER ARTISTS, VENUES, AND YOUR SUPPORTERS. PEOPLE ARE MORE WILLING TO HELP YOU IF THEY KNOW YOU AND LIKE WHAT YOU STAND FOR. SHOW THEM.



3. DON'T LISTEN TO NEGATIVITY & HATE.

IT'S A FACT THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO APPEAL TO EVERYONE'S MUSIC TASTE. FOCUS ON WHO IS LISTENING AND SUPPORTING YOU.

2. BE YOURSELF, UNAPOLOGETICALLY.

IT DOES NO GOOD TO SOUND LIKE ANYONE ELSE - ONLY YOU CAN SOUND LIKE YOU! FIND YOUR SOUND AND STAND OUT.

4. SAVE YOUR MONEY & INVEST IN YOURSELF.

PUT ANY EXTRA INCOME TOWARDS YOUR ART. HIGHER QUALITY SONGS AND VIDEOS WILL HELP GRAB PEOPLE'S ATTENTION QUICKER. !!!



6. SHOW LOVE. ❤️

GIVE THE SAME LOVE AND SUPPORT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET BACK. SIMPLE AS THAT.



5. TUNNEL VISION: FOCUS ON YOUR GOALS.

IT CAN BE EASY TO GET DISCOURAGED IF YOU'RE PAYING ATTENTION TO OTHER ARTISTS' MOVES OR LISTENING TO ANYONE WHO DOUBTS YOU. STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR PLANS. YOUR TIME IS COMING!

7. FIND THE REASON WHY YOU DO THIS AND DON'T EVER FORGET IT!!

IF THIS IS YOUR PASSION, PURSUE IT FOREVER AND NEVER GIVE UP. WHENEVER YOU FEEL LOW OR DISCOURAGED, REMEMBER THE REASON WHY YOU STARTED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

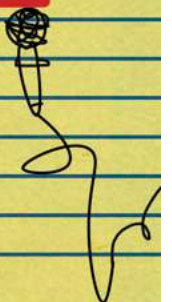
8. FIND YOUR AUDIENCE & COMMUNITY.

PITCH YOUR MUSIC TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ACTUALLY INTERESTED IN THE STYLE OF MUSIC YOU MAKE.

9. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, WHY SHOULD ANYONE ELSE? HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR TALENT AND WORK HARD.

10. HAVE FUN: DON'T FORGET TO ENJOY THE JOURNEY!



GOV'T NAME:
Sean David Rebaldo

STAGE NAME:
FyaMojj

BIRTHDAY:
July 6, 1997 (Cancer)

BORN & RAISED:
Santa Maria, Calif.

HEIGHT:
5-foot-7-inches

MAKING MUSIC:
3 years

OTHER OCCUPATION:
"A slave to the corporate structure"

HIGH SCHOOL:
Righetti

COLLEGE:
Allan Hancock College

MAJOR: Music

MUSIC INFLUENCES:
Lil Uzi Vert, Katy Perry, 100 Geos

NOTABLE MUSIC MOMENT:
Opening for Bhad Bhabie in Santa Barbara in 2018

GENRE:
Hyper Pop, Space Trap

DREAM FEATURE:
Lil Uzi Vert

DREAM 805 FEATURE:
Katy Perry

FAVORITE 805 PERFORMANCE VENUE:
The Majestic Ventura Theatre

FAVORITE 805 PRODUCER:
FyaMojj

FAVORITE 805 ENGINEER:
Lil Bonez

FAVORITE 805 RESTAURANT:
Hoagies (Pismo)

FAVORITE RECENT 805 PROJECT:
Unrequited Fiction by Floyd Wave

NEXT UP OUT "THE 805":
Connect the Coast

WORST JOB I EVER HAD:
Dishwasher at The Natural Cafe ("I quit that shit during my third shift")

HOBBIES:
Magic: The Gathering, video games, fashion

FAVORITE MOVIE:
The Fifth Element

FAVORITE TV SHOW:
Avatar: The Last Airbender

INTROVERT OR EXTROVERT:
"Extroverted introvert"



IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC:

"I feel like music gives me a chance to express myself in other ways and for people to view me in a certain way. 'Cause I was always forgotten growing up. Forgotten, nerdy, the only black kid in my school. Skinny, no one liked me, no girls liked me. But since I started doing music, people pay attention to me now, and they see me differently."

DESCRIBE YOUR SOUND:

"The music I make is what I needed growing up and I just didn't see that representation. My type of music I make 'cause that's who I am. I'm not trying to fake anything or like be exaggerated, that's just who I am as a person. I like all these hyper aggressive synths and hyper aggressive drums, high-pitched vocals and all this, you know, really melodic sequences and stuff like that."

ON VISUAL CONTENT:

"In 2021, visual content is more important than audio content. I feel like visuals in this day and age mean more in art, and looks mean more than art. Being seen as the creator means more than creating the art itself. Like, knowing who made it, why they made it, what it means, and what it stands for means more than the art itself."

GOALS FOR 2021:

"Right now, I'm just playing the game of how much shock value can I bring to people - how much shock and awe. What's gonna make people think, 'wow, this guy is different,' or, 'wow, this guy has crazy shit going on in his life all the time.' My social media has to go crazy, my look has to go crazy, and my videos have to go crazy."



ONCE I HAVE EVERYONES ATTENTION THAT'S WHEN THE

MUSIC AS A STEPPING STONE:
"For me, music isn't my stopping point. It's the first thing I have to do to go on to do better things. So it's get big in music, then go into politics or like have this fanbase and try and change the world somehow. Spread love, spread good energy, tell people about other dimensions and like aliens and shit, and just have us bust out of this bullshit-ass existence that we live in right now with money and government and fucking clout and materialistic shit. Once I have everyone's attention, that's when the real shit starts."

WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU WANT TO PUSH?:

"We are all human beings. We are more than Black, or white, or Asian, or Latino or anything like that. We are all humans of this Earth, and we should all love and see each other that way. I just live for life and existence itself. I just want to make people realize that what we experience with our human minds is a fraction of what's actually real 'cause we can't perceive things in the fourth and fifth and sixth dimensions. There's more to life than McDonald's and work and alcohol and having a good time. There's more to life than that, and I want people to realize that and evolve and grow – just transcend. That's the end goal."

YOUR UNDRGRND EXPERIENCE:
"I've never done anything like this before. I've never been a part of a big publication or anything. When I saw BOBBYBEENFRESH at the Grover Beach meet-up he had, I met Andrew and Pofsky, and they talked to me about what UNDRGRND does and what they do for people. I was like, 'I feel like I could be a part of that. I feel like I have good music, I have a good image, I can help them, they can help me.' I'm a part of the Central Coast music scene too and it's a good thing to link up with."

BUILDING A SUPPORTIVE 805 COMMUNITY:

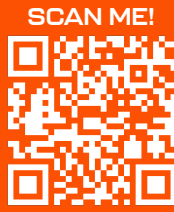
"I love myself and I love everyone else doing their own music and I love how everyone else is doing their own media coverage 'cause it all contributes. It all contributes to the culture, and we need a culture out here that's more than just people shitting on each other and having weird beef for no reason. Like, I wanna cut that shit off now. That's why no one pops off out here, really – it's just the weird drama bullshit."

2021 FHLOSTON PARADISE ALBUM:

"The day of the photoshoot I dropped *Fhloston Paradise*. It was an album that I made with Connect the Coast – shoutout Lorde Sanctus. It was a six-track EP. I produced three of the tracks myself, three of tracks he brought to my attention. I feel like the sound I have right now hasn't been explored on the coast yet and there's just a fat-ass lane to just take control of and just own for yourself because literally no one on the coast makes that type of music."


INITIAL INTEREST IN MAKING MUSIC:

"I started making music with my neighbor, Zeke Biggs. He lived down the street from me. He knew I liked music and he came over to my house and I didn't know engineering, production, nothing. I just like, had a computer, had a Snowball mic that I bought from Best Buy for like forty bucks and I was like, 'okay man, we're rockstars now, we can totally do this.' So we started making music, and it was really trashy at the beginning."



REAL SHIT
STARTS





"I'll just go on YouTube, click the beats tab and scroll through whatever. If in the first 10 seconds it catches me, I'll stick to that, open up my documents, and boom – there we go, the writing happens."

GOV'T NAME: Dustin Strickland
STAGE NAME: Big Dub
BIRTHDAY: Sept. 16, 1996 (Virgo)
BORN & RAISED: Ventura, Calif.
HEIGHT: 5-foot-8-inches
MAKING MUSIC: 5 years
OTHER OCCUPATION: Shipment Lead at Shine Supply
HIGH SCHOOL: Buena
COLLEGE: Southern Maine Community College
MAJOR: Cyber Security
MUSIC INFLUENCES: Lil Wayne, Big L, Andre Nickatina
NOTABLE MUSIC MOMENT: Releasing debut project *The Life of Big Dub*
GENRE: Rap
DREAM FEATURE: Lil Wayne
FAVORITE 805 PERFORMANCE VENUE: The Ventura Majestic Theatre
FAVORITE 805 ENGINEER: Mind Off
FAVORITE 805 STUDIO: Record X Studios
FAVORITE RECENT UNDRGRND SONG: "Rounds" by Rimi (feat. Drayon)
NEXT UP OUT "THE 805": "Me, of course"
WORST JOB I EVER HAD: Texas Roadhouse in Maine
HOBBIES: Barbecuing, playing video games
FAVORITE MOVIE: The Lord of the Rings
FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Family Guy or South Park"



INITIAL INTEREST IN RAP:

"The first rapper I actually listened to was Eminem and ever since then I've branched off to Big L, Lil Wayne, Andre Nikatina, and a whole bunch of old school rappers and artists. I had a choice to decide if I was gonna like the new age stuff better or am I gonna like the stuff that's been out. As I was listening to it, I was like, 'this is a huge comparison, you can't really compare the two. They're completely different.' But I ended up liking the old school style better, like A Tribe Called Quest, Wu-Tang Clan, stuff like that."

MUSIC CREATION PROCESS:

"Just sit in my room, smoke a bowl or whatever, and I'll sit on my phone, go on YouTube, pull up the documents from my phone, do the switch screen mode and I'll just vibe out. Just write some rhymes and change some things up. I'll just do little melodies and write the lyrics to that and if the lyrics don't sound good I'll change it. I find the beat first, then I find the melody, and the lyrics come after."

LIVING IN MAINE:

"Born and raised here in Ventura. I went to Maine when I was 21, maybe 22. I went out there for school for two years and I survived two winters, so that's pretty good. I'm happy about that. I worked at UPS at the time and I had to be up at 4 a.m. every day, get there at 4:45 a.m., so I didn't really have time to go out much, especially on the weekends 'cause I was tired and you gotta prepare for Monday. It was a busy time. I did a little sightseeing. What I did see was beautiful, especially in the fall when everything is flourished with leaves and all the different colors."

MAKING MUSIC IN MAINE:

"I went to the studio a couple of times. Nothing I really put on Spotify or YouTube or anything like that, it was more personal. Mainly 'cause I didn't really connect with the producer so much, I guess it didn't work out. Not a lot of hip-hop or as many rappers out there. The music scene is still pretty big — there's a lot of indie groups and small bands and stuff like that."

COLLABORATING WITH VENTURA'S MIND OFF:

"He did the guitar playing in the song 'What a Man Do' - he did the chorus for that. We're also working on another song: I went into the studio, I had a beat, and it didn't really fit with the lyrics so well, so me and Mind Off made our own beat. We found the right instruments and the right tools and it worked out, so that'll be coming here pretty soon, hopefully."

GETTING INVOLVED WITH UNDRGRND:

"I got in contact with Andrew, and the second magazine wasn't released yet so I was getting the first one — I got a couple of those — couldn't wait to see the second one. Then I said, 'okay, what does it take to be in it?' Andrew said, 'I love your style, let me talk to Pofsky.' I met with Pofsky, and ever since then it's been great vibes. I love it."

TAKING MUSIC MORE SERIOUSLY:

"The first EP *The Life of Big Dub* was more fun, more creative, but now it feels like I'm more pressured to release more music at a certain time. You know, people are waiting on content. I feel more rushed to get it out, which kinda sucks. With work and now feeling pressured to release it at a certain date, it's definitely not as fun as it was before, but I'm working around it. I didn't think *The Life of Big Dub* got as many views as I wanted, so I feel that's why it's pushing me more for the next album. I'm gonna promote it more, more social media content before it comes out, and just stuff like that that I never really thought about with the first one."

INSTRUMENTALS AND TYPE BEATS:

"It takes me forever to find a good instrumental, and I'll only listen to the first 10 seconds of it. It's gotta stand out right away. Most of the time [I work with] type beats. I don't really search for a type beat, I'll just go on YouTube, click the beats tab and scroll through whatever. If in the first ten seconds it catches me, I'll stick to that, open up my documents, and boom — there we go, the writing happens."

WHAT'S NEXT?:

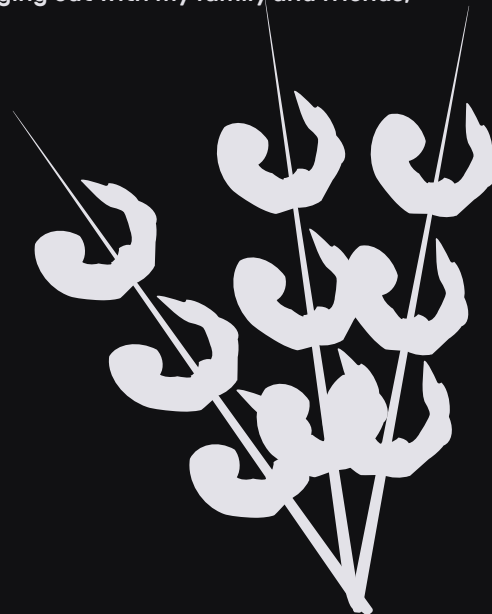
"It's hard to say. I was planning on doing an album, but it turns out that with some of the songs I had almost finished, the beats kinda fell off of YouTube and somebody already exclusively bought it or something along those lines. I have like ten songs that are in that little situation or are unfinished. I might do a couple singles with some music videos, or I might do another EP."

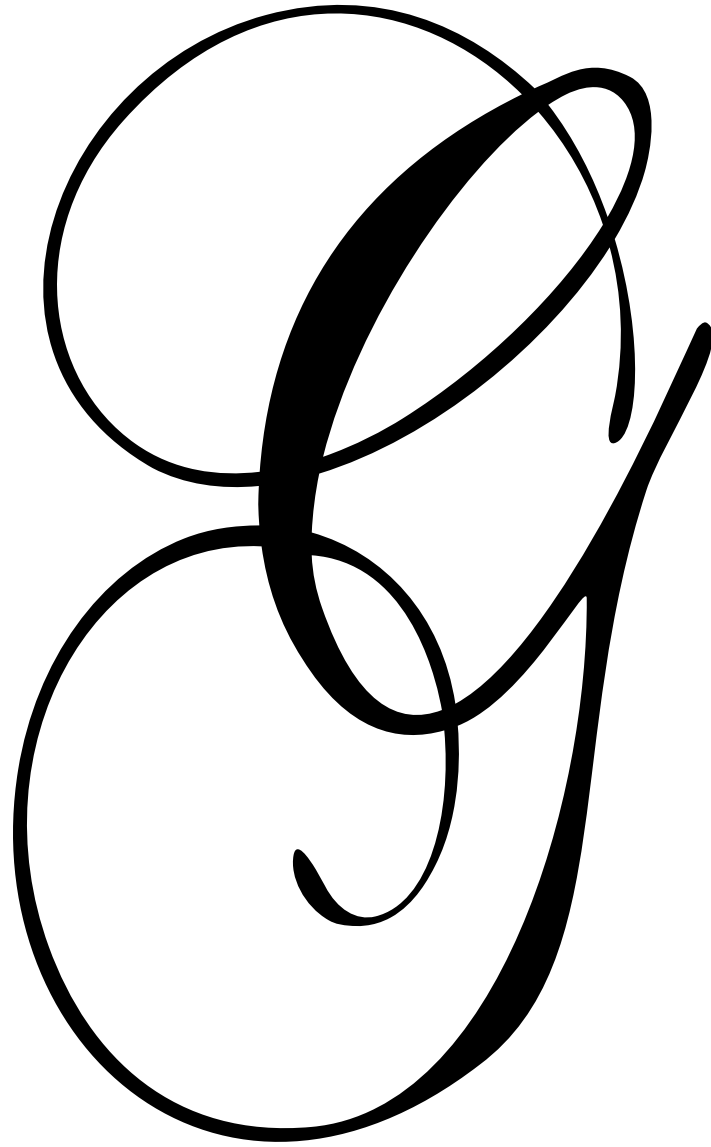
OUTSIDE OF MUSIC:

"I play video games here and there. I love cooking, barbecuing. My buddies come over, we love making shrimp kabobs, we've been doing that pretty recently — it's a lot of prepping but it's worth it. And you know, playing some pool, just hanging out. Hanging out with my family and friends, and that's about it."



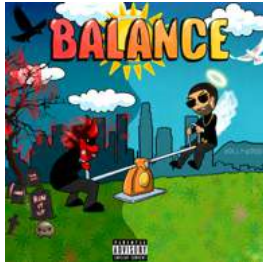
SCAN ME!





SHOP G-SKY

BUY-SELL-CONSIGN
www.shopgsky.com
@shopgsky



Meet Our Co-Founder

POFSKY

Michael Pofsky (“Pofsky”) is a 23-year-old rapper and songwriter from Newbury Park and co-owner of UNDRGRND Magazine. With experience as an independent artist from Ventura County, Pofsky’s decade-plus career aids as the perfect “rapper lens” for UNDRGRND to navigate the SoCal music scene. He hasn’t just observed – but fucking lived – the dramatic ups and downs that make the character of the underground hip-hop artist one we just can’t live without.

Alongside heading the record-making branch of our company, UNDRGRND Records, Pofsky specializes in event coordination, artist scouting, and other roles. During the final months of magazine production for “Scenes Collide,” Pofsky was busy scavenging the depths of Las Vegas, Nevada, and ultimately gathered the talent who will appear in our next issue: “UNDRGRND: Sin City.”

Meanwhile, he continues to release music at a consistent rate, including recent ‘RnB-influenced’ singles “Roll Up,” “Momentum,” and “Piece of Me” (feat. Chris O’Bannon). Pofsky maintains his place as an important musical figure of “The 805,” bringing value to the rap scene with quality music video content, collaborations with other artists, and an uncanny desire to bring himself – and his team – to the top.

– Andrew Mason

**GO STREAM POFSKY ON ALL PLATFORMS,
AND FOLLOW @TRAPPOFSKY ON INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER**



ARE TYPE BEATS BY ZOHAIr ALI THE MOVE?

The underground rap scene is flooded with artists who rent or buy YouTube “type beats” to record their rhymes on. The question is, should you?



Local producer Cabber Beats makes a beat in his home studio.
Photo: Chandler Martineau

The “type beat” pandemic — as I like to call it — has blossomed aboard one of the internet’s biggest platforms: YouTube. More and more underground producers across the world are uploading their own original type beats that reference mainstream sounds.

Say, you might not click on a beat video if it’s from a producer you’ve never heard of. But you might be more inclined to give it a listen if you see it’s a “Drake Type Beat.” You’ve heard Drake before, you regularly enjoy his music, and if you’re an up and coming artist yourself, you might want to make music just like him. A quick glance at the description and you’ll find a purchase link. You see that this producer is constantly making beats like this with a sound that you like, and you might even subscribe to their channel.

Talented producers have found a way to build huge communities on YouTube through type beats, with some making lucrative careers out of it — think Cxdy, the multi-platinum producer from Internet Money.

But despite type beat’s rise in relevancy, there remains a negative connotation in many rap circles when it comes to getting instrumentals off of YouTube. The major argument from critics comes from the idea that purchasing YouTube type beats is a lazy way to make music and leaves you inevitably sounding like someone who already made it in the industry. Not very original.

“IT’S IGNORANT TO ASSUME THAT TYPE BEATS ARE SIMPLY RIPOFFS”

Cabber Beats, a local producer who has been releasing beats on YouTube since 2017 to over one thousand subscribers, hopes to fight the backlash on type beats.

“The main reason it’s looked at in such a negative light is because people think it’s just like producers copying other people’s sounds,” says the 21-year-old who recently moved to The Valley from Newbury Park. “I have lots of friends who do type beats on YouTube and they have their own sound. They’ve made their own fan base because people just like their sound.”

This sentiment is echoed by Stoic Beats, a 23-year-old LA based producer with a YouTube channel of 50k subscribers.

“It’s ignorant to assume that type beats are simply ripoffs,” says Stoic, originally from New York, “because all original music must stem from some earlier sound.” Because of the flourishing type beat pandemic, Stoic Beats is able to pursue music as his full-time career. “Without [Youtube], I wouldn’t be able to make music like I do.”

Type beats make it not only easier for producers to pursue their passion, but increases accessibility to underground rappers finding the sounds that suit them. In recent years, there have been countless numbers of non-mainstream acts who made charting songs using YouTube beats to help launch their success. Now RIAA Certified 2x Platinum, Kodak Black’s “No Flockin” was produced by VinnyxProd, a self-identified “bedroom producer.”

Add “Rubbin off the Paint” by YBN Nahmir (produced by Izak), “Shotta Flow” by NLE Choppa (produced by Midas800), and more recently, “Whoopy” by CJ (produced by Pxcoyo), as instances where an artist and a type beat collab reached mainstream ears.

On the production side, with more type beat producers heading to YouTube to upload beats — often at a daily or weekly pace — getting your beat heard by the right hungry artist who wants to work can be difficult. According to Scorpio, a 22-year-old producer from West Africa, this oversaturation has forced beatmakers to learn how to successfully navigate YouTube and other social media sites.

“With the YouTube algorithm, some talented producers can’t have their beats seen by a lot of people,” says Scorpio, who recently hit 50k subscribers. “That’s why you have to target all platforms, not just YouTube.”

Whether you love them or hate them, type beats serve as an important and necessary tool in the belt of an underground rapper. It’s entirely possible that the next big hit could be waiting for vocals on YouTube right now. And making type beats serves as a great way for up and coming producers to practice their skills, get their art heard by more people, and make some money while doing so.

“It’s really dope seeing some up-and-coming producers who started uploading beats on YouTube now having major placements,” Scorpio says. “It gives the others motivation.”



SCAN ME!



COLLEGE:
Allan Hancock
College

MAJOR:
Automotive &
Musical Arts (double
major)

MUSIC INFLUENCES: Tech
N9ne, Mac Dre, Rittz, Slug from
Atmosphere

NOTABLE MUSIC MOMENT:
Buying my own studio setup ("that's
what started it all")

GENRE: Hip-Hop, RnB, Rap, Rock

DREAM FEATURE: Tech N9ne, Jessie Reyez

DREAM 805 FEATURE: \$horty DuWop

FAVORITE 805 PERFORMANCE VENUE: Rancho
Nipomo ("small and intimate")

FAVORITE 805 STUDIO: Home studio

FAVORITE 805 RESTAURANT: Big T's Kitchen
(Santa Maria) ("they got the birria tacos"), Mariscos
Ensenada (Santa Maria)

FAVORITE RECENT 805 PROJECT: *Fresh 'Til Death*
by BOBBYBEENFRESH

NEXT UP OUT "THE 805": The Kid Knight

WORST JOB I EVER HAD: Dish washer at the
Holiday Inn ("I made beats in the fucking kitchen")

HOBBIES: Skating, drawing, drinking beer and
liquor, spending time with my daughters

FAVORITE MOVIE: Dead Presidents

FAVORITE TV SHOW: Sons of Anarchy

INTROVERT OR EXTROVERT: Introvert

**GOV'T
NAME:**

Antonio
Contreras

STAGE NAME:
Trey Anthony

BIRTHDAY: March
27, 1995 (Aries)

BORN: Celinas, Calif.

RAISED: Santa Maria, Calif.

HEIGHT: 5-foot-8-inches

MAKING MUSIC: 6 years

OTHER OCCUPATION: Operations
Lead at dental implant company, full-
time dad to twin girls

HIGH SCHOOL: Pioneer Valley



"PUTTING THE COAST ON THE MAP, THAT'S THE ULTIMATE GOAL. JUST BRIDGING THE GAPS."

COUSIN'S INFLUENCE ON MAKING BEATS:

"In the 3rd grade, one of my cousins who's from Fresno, he moved down to Santa Maria and he needed a spot to stay, so my mom kind of took him in. He had this program that he would use and it was FL Studio but it was like version three. So he had this big-ass block computer, and he would show me the step sequencer where you would click the little boxes and it would loop your pattern."

RAPPING ON YOUR OWN BEATS:

"I didn't rap or anything — I would just make beats all day. I'd show people and they'd freestyle to my stuff which was cool. I started selling like \$20 beats, but I didn't really like how people rapped on my songs. And I think just being musically inclined, I had an idea of what I wanted the person to sound like on my own beats. So I started just writing my own shit, and it turned out I was pretty fucking decent at it."

MEETING BOBBYBEENFRESH AT SCHOOL:

"It was the first day of class [at Allan Hancock]. Everybody stands up, and just says like how long they've been making music, what type of music they're into, why are they here, what do they expect to learn from the class. BOBBY is one of the last ones, and I looked back like, 'I'mma talk to him after.' Before I got a chance to even talk to him, he walks up to me like, 'what's up, I fuck with you. Let's do something, let's work!' This is back when BOBBY was going by 'Big B' and I was going by 'Ant.' We've been working together ever since."

"TREY ANTHONY" AS STAGE NAME:

"I used to skate, so everybody used to know me as 'Tre Flip Anthony' — I used to tre flip everything. That's really the only nickname I ever had. So I was like, 'Trey Anthony looks cool!' I just took that and rolled with it...I used to skate like crazy. I can still get down right now but I'm a little old and rusty. As long as I can still tre flip call me Trey Anthony."

MAKING MUSIC WITH 2-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTERS AROUND:

"I can't sit there with them and make a beat in front of them because they just want to climb on my lap and slam my keyboard. But they know I make music. They actually like the whole beat stuff. I can tell because they dance, they kind of like bounce and they listen to all the beats I make. I used to always rap and stuff in front of them, so they

know I make music. They just can't talk yet to say, 'shut up.'"

2021 MUSIC GOALS:

"My EP will be dropping in May around the same time the magazine will be released. I just got some merch, so with the magazine I'm going to get some merch out the door. And I'm also cooking up an EP with The Kid Knight and BOBBYBEENFRESH. I'm just gonna be dropping this year."

BUILDING A FOLLOWING:

"To be honest bro, I can't really put my finger on who my audience is. I feel like I make music that's so different from everyone around me, where sometimes I feel like they fuck with me, and sometimes I feel like they don't fuck with me. I don't get enough feedback — I feel like I'm in a state of limbo right now. Maybe people don't know about me."

THE IDEAL TREY ANTHONY FAN:

"Someone who likes energetic shit. I don't really make slow music. Every verse I write, I really sit down and craft everything. I'm more of a technical fast rapper. Someone who likes more upbeat shit. I try to switch it up all the time — I make a variety of beats. It might not all be for you but you're gonna like one song from me. That's usually how I try to put my albums together: I'll have some boom bap tracks, some trap beats, then just some vibey, cool shit. My albums are for everybody."

"BRIDGING THE GAP" OF "THE 805'S" COASTAL RAP SCENES:

"Putting the coast on the map, that's the ultimate goal. Just bridging the gaps. We just got overlooked. Like, no one knows who we are. But we have something to say and we want the world to hear that message. We want to get to a point where we are our own entity. Where it's not like just LA or the Bay. The Central Coast is its own body."

THE "RIGHT HERE (NOWHERE)" VIDEO:

"I did my first music video with Chandler [@Bings.Visuals] — he got down real quick. We just had some extra time during the UNDRGRND photoshoot, so I was like, 'fuck it, you want to do a video?' In 20-30 minutes we just did these couple takes and he fucking worked his magic like a beast."



ROGER WAYNE

WHO'S ON YOUR PLAYLIST RIGHT NOW?:

“SOME DAYS THE BEACH BOYS, SOME DAYS SISTERS WITH VOICES (SWV). SOME DAYS SOME COUNTRY, SOME DAYS I NEED SOME LIKE VAN HALEN AND SOME DAYS I NEED SOME REGGAETON. LIKE SOME J BALVIN, YOU KNOW, JUST WHATEVER I'M FEELING I JUST NEED THAT. I JUST FEEL LIKE LISTENING TO THESE DIFFERENT GENRES ARE A REFRESHER TO JUST GET ME BACK INTO THE VIBE.”

HOUSE MUSIC LIVE:

“I WENT TO COACHELLA WITH MY HOMIE. AS SOON AS I SAW DISCLOSURE, THAT LITERALLY JUST CHANGED MY LIFE. SO I WOULD SAY DISCLOSURE [IS MY TOP INFLUENCE IN THE GENRE], AND THEN AFTER THAT COMES LIKE SOLARDO — I'VE SEEN HIM THREE TIMES IN ONE WEEK.”

WHAT MAKES A BAD EDM SONG?:

“I FEEL LIKE THE BAD TRACKS THAT I HEAR, ALL THE BEATS, ESPECIALLY THE BASS LINES, ARE ALL KINDA THE SAME — VERY MINIMAL — OR GOING INTO LIKE, HOUSE, WHICH IS COOL TOO. BUT I FEEL LIKE IT ALL SOUNDS THE SAME. THE WEIRD SOUNDS ARE COOL TOO, BUT I WOULD SAY SOME OF THE WEIRD SOUNDS ARE TOO WEIRD FOR ME, THAT'S WHERE I WOULD SAY IT'S KINDA WACK.”

REMIXING “OLDIES”:

“I JUST WANT TO BRING BACK THOSE OLDIES VOCALS, THE SOUL, AND PUT IT INTO MY OG HOUSE SOUNDS. I'M JUST PUTTING THAT INTO MY GENRE. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.”

CAN YOU MAKE STREAMING MONEY OFF REMIXES?:

“NOT ON SPOTIFY, OR APPLE MUSIC — I WOULD GET SUED. BUT I'M LOOKING TO GET POPPIN' AND MAYBE MEET SOMEBODY THAT CAN MAKE VOCALS I WANT TO USE, LEGAL TO USE. OR IF I COULD SIGN A CONTRACT AND JUST MAKE MY USAGE LEGAL I WOULD WANT TO DO THAT — IF THEY TAKE MONEY FROM ME OR THEY TAKE ALL THE MONEY, I DON'T REALLY CARE.”

MAKING ORIGINAL SONGS WITH VOCALISTS:

“I NEED TO MEET SINGERS, I NEED TO MAKE TRACKS... I WOULD LOVE TO [MEET NEW ARTISTS IN THE AREA] BUT IT'S TOUGH RIGHT NOW WITH THE CORONAVIRUS.”

“It was so hard leaving baseball, but going into this music thing literally saved me.”

YOUR DOG, “BUCKET”:

“I LOVE MY DOG. HE’S A HALF-LAB, HALF-SHEPHERD NAMED ‘BUCKET.’ I CALL HIM ‘BUCK’ OR ‘BUCKY.’ HE’S ONE YEAR OLD STILL A PUPPY, HE’S CUTE. HE’S ALSO NAUGHTY AS HELL TOO. WHEN I’M COOKIN’ UP MUSIC HE’S JUST ALWAYS TRYNA LICK ME AND ALWAYS WANTING TO HELP ME TIE MY SHOES, EVERYTHING. HE’S ALWAYS RIGHT NEXT TO ME.”

ISSUE 3 PHOTOSHOOT:

“IT WAS KINDA NERVE-RACKING BUT IT WAS STILL COOL. LIKE, I DIDN’T KNOW WHAT POSES TO DO AND STUFF. EXTROVERTED PEOPLE ARE GOOD AT THAT.”

CURRENTLY WORKING ON:

“I GOT LIKE THREE DIFFERENT THINGS. I GOT A SWV REMIX, A POFSKY REMIX, AND A JANET JACKSON REMIX. AND I’VE GOT A LO-FI REMIX OF SOUL II SOUL’S ‘BACK TO LIFE’ [COMING SOON].”

PLAYING BASEBALL:

“I PLAYED BASEBALL MY ENTIRE LIFE. I STARTED PLAYING WHEN I WAS TWO IN MY BACKYARD, PLAYING WITH ROCKS AND STICKS WITH MY DAD. I JUST ALWAYS LOVED BASEBALL. I ALWAYS PLAYED UP — WHEN I WAS LIKE FOUR THEY HAD ME PLAY UP WITH THE FIVE AND SIX YEAR OLDS. IT WAS KINDA ALWAYS IN ME TO EAT, SLEEP, DRINK BASEBALL. TO BREATHE IT. I’M NOT TRYNA BRAG, I JUST LOVE BASEBALL.”

STEPPING AWAY FROM BASEBALL & DISCOVERING MUSIC:

“MY BODY IS STARTING TO BREAK DOWN AND DETERIORATE. I HAD A L5S1 BACK SURGERY. MY DISC SLIPPED AND THE JELLY THAT’S IN THE DISC IS LIKE, LEAKED. IT WAS SO HARD LEAVING BASEBALL, BUT GOING INTO THIS MUSIC THING LITERALLY SAVED ME. AND THEN I JUST GOT THE COACHING JOB. ONE OF MY GOOD OLD COACHES, WALLY BARNETT, GAVE ME THE JOB AT WESTLAKE, JUST TO KEEP MY FEET IN THERE, YA KNOW. I’M STILL PUTTING ON THE UNIFORM AND THE CLEATS, I’M JUST COACHIN’.”

AN AVERAGE DAY FOR ROGER WAYNE:

“THE AVERAGE DAY, UHH...WAKE UP, FEED MY DOG, GET SOMETHING TO EAT, TAKE MY DOG ON A WALK. THEN COME BACK, SMOKE A LIL’ BIT, GET A LITTLE CREATIVE, GET READY FOR PRACTICE. THEN COME BACK, SEE IF THE BOYS WANNA COME OVER AND GET CREATIVE. JUST CHILL WITH MY DOG, SMOKE, MAKE SURE WE’RE FEELING GOOD AT HOME.”



GOV’T NAME: MATTHEW WAYNE

STAGE NAME: ROGER WAYNE

BIRTHDAY: NOV. 13, 1996 (SCORPIO)

BORN: VENTURA, CALIF.

RAISED: OXNARD, CALIF.

HEIGHT: 6- FOOT

MAKING MUSIC: 3 YEARS

OTHER OCCUPATION: ENTREPRENEUR, JV BASEBALL COACH

HIGH SCHOOL: ADOLFO CAMARILLO

COLLEGE: UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, OXNARD & MOORPARK COLLEGES

MAJOR: BUSINESS

MUSIC INFLUENCES: DISCLOSURE, MICHAEL JACKSON, SELENA

NOTABLE MUSIC MOMENT: CONNECTING WITH UNDRGRND

GENRE: DANCE, HOUSE

DREAM FEATURE: COMPUTER DATA

DREAM 805 FEATURE: POFSKY

FAVORITE 805 PERFORMANCE VENUE: “I’D LIKE TO PERFORM ON TOP OF THE MORGAN STANLEY BUILDING”

FAVORITE 805 STUDIO: “MY CRIB”

FAVORITE 805 RESTAURANT: TOPPERS PIZZA (“EITHER THE ONE OFF GONZALEZ OR THE ONE IN CHANNEL ISLANDS”)

FAVORITE RECENT 805 SONG: “TOMB” BY FYAMOJI

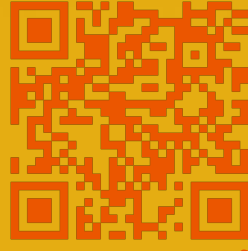
NEXT UP OUT “THE 805”: “HOPEFULLY ME”

WORST JOB I EVER HAD: ADIDAS

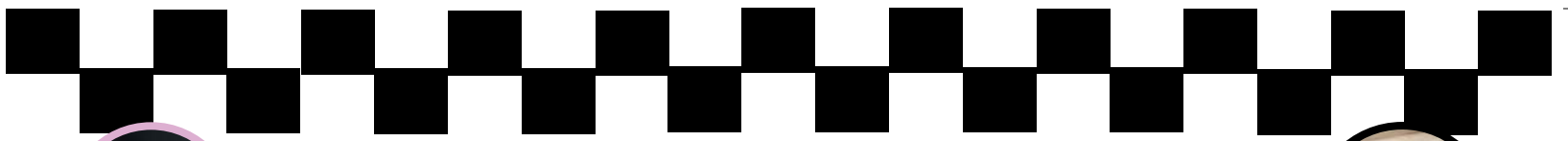
FAVORITE MOVIE: THE SANDLOT

FAVORITE TV SHOW: “ANYTHING ON MLB NETWORK”

INTROVERT OR EXTROVERT: INTROVERT



SCAN ME!



STYLE ICONS

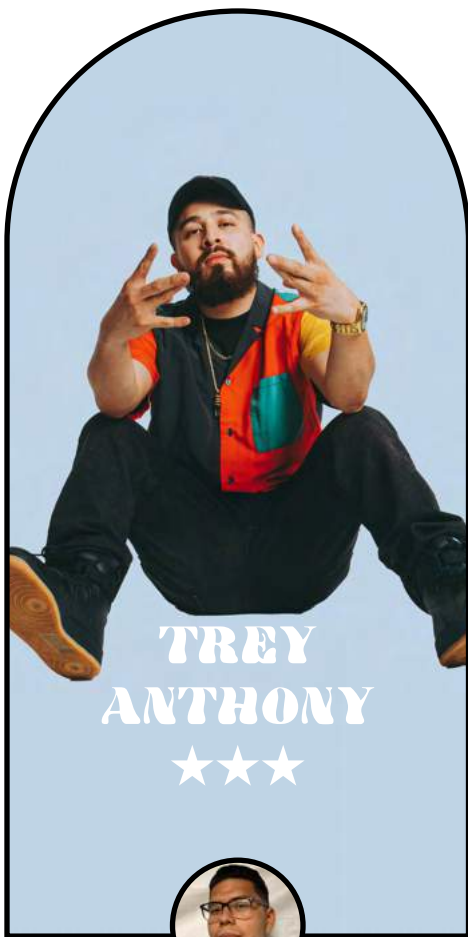


with Chris The Thr!!lest

and Francisco Molina

Hip-hop and fashion have gone hand in hand since the dawn of rap. Whether it be 2Pac’s iconic bandana or Lil Nas X’s cowboy hat, Gucci Mane’s elegant robes or Mac Miller’s suburban white boy outfits, accessories and overall style brings out artists’ personalities as much as the bars they write. The same goes in the UNDRGRND world, where up-and-coming rappers have become aware of the impact that visuals and image play in growing their name in the music industry.

To help break down some of Issue 3’s most notable fits, we hit up two of our most trustworthy style correspondents: Issue 2’s Carpinteria-based rapper Chris The Thr!!lest, and Newbury Park journalist and former Champs Sports manager Francisco Molina. Here is what they thought of the heat the Issue 3 cast brought to photoshoot day.



TREY ANTHONY

★★★★



“Trey Anthony has the summer fit down. Coming in with the colorful loud button up, Anthony definitely is making a statement. Accompanied with a pair of crisp, black jeans and a fresh pair of all-black gum-bottom Air Force 1’s, Anthony is ready for a night out with the homies.”

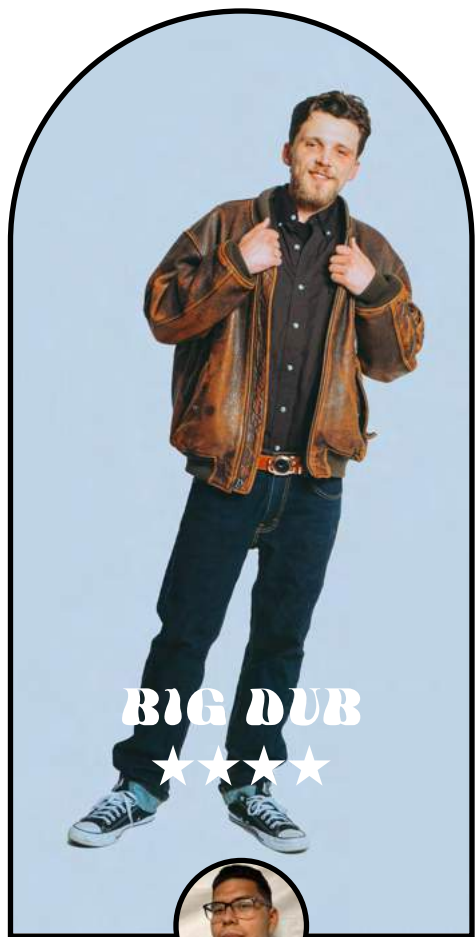


CHANDLER

★★★★★



“Simply put, you can never go wrong in all black. I dare say it’s the perfect fit for the behind the lens creator to not draw attention away from the on-screen artists. Subtly aesthetic.”



BIG DUB

★★★★★



“Big Dub is that one dude from high school who could wear whatever fit he wanted and still rock it. With a vintage leather jacket – given to him by his grandfather – and the crisp pair of Levi’s and clean All Star’s, Big Dub manages a way to just pull it all together. Add that perfectly matching belt and his fit is timeless.”



"Bro came draped in designer from head — the white bucket hat — to toe — the designer red slippers. CharQoal also has an unique arrangement of jewelry which is always cool. The fit definitely screams, 'I'm a rapper.' My personal taste is in the subtle unique, but I can see he came fully dressed for the role, and that's what it's all about."



"Knotti got So Cal written all over his fit. With the popular black and white "Doyers" dad hat to the comfortable yet fresh black and white hoodie paying homage to the late Pop Smoke. Putting it all together with a pair of torn-up jeans and fresh all-white Air Force 1's, Knotti got the fit can all respect."



"Rimi rockin' it like all OG East Coast legends. This whole fit goes hard, from the oversized tan jacket to the fresh Timbs on his feet. Topping it all off with a little bit of his own flavor with the fresh black tee and matching logo drip. Rimi is showing off the confidence he has not only for himself, but his brand, Resonated Records."



"FyaMoji came with a casual Steeze — not too flashy but heavily fashionable. The predominant yellow hoodie with white skulls down the sleeve perfectly complement the white Vans with the yellow and orange flames on them. Plus, the metal charms necklace and choker for the true rockstar vibe."





Photos: Josh Seiden



UNDRGRND TAKES OVER ACCELERATED RADIO INGLEWOOD

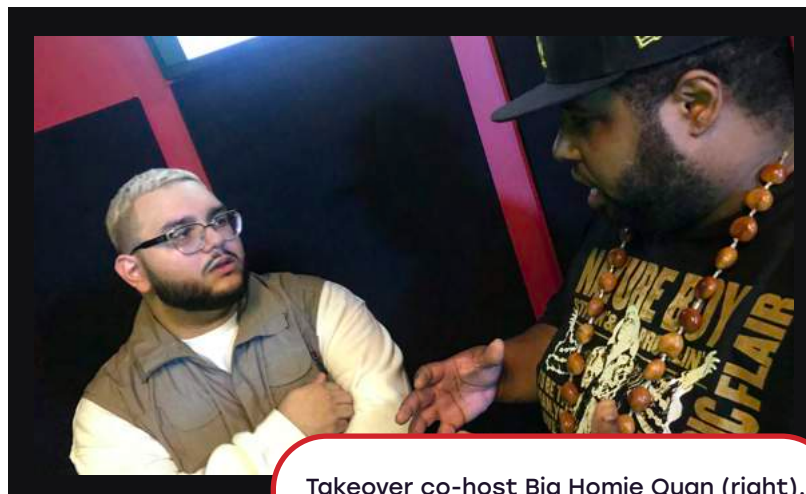
The UNDRGRND “Scenes Collide” family was invited in March to join “The TakeOver,” a hip-hop radio show airing on Inglewood, Calif.’s Accelerated Radio Network.

Each artist in attendance had the opportunity to share their stories with listeners of the black-owned online station, and to network with co-hosts “A-Plus,” “Big Homie Quan,” and Angelo Valentin.

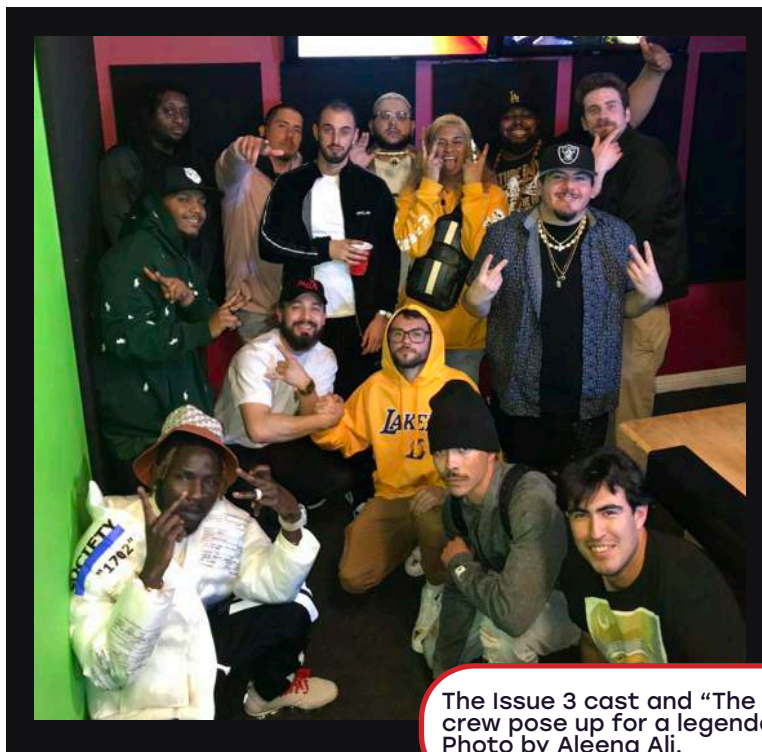
“I like the multi-talentedness of each individual,” says A-Plus (Andy Nsiele), a 36-year-old Los Angeles native who first got involved with the station after meeting founder Kevin Nash in 2013. “You have individuals who aren’t just rappers or singers – they produce, songwrite. I was actually quite amazed to be honest with you.”

After the one-hour St. Patrick’s Day episode, the UNDRGRND team stuck around to celebrate and take photos in front of the famous Accelerated Radio studio backdrop. The artists also got the chance to play some of their own music.

Co-host Angelo Valentin was particularly impressed by the music of UNDRGRND’s Trey Anthony, who played his track “HBU” on the station’s professional speaker setup.



Takeover co-host Big Homie Quan (right), talks with Rimi (left) post show.



The Issue 3 cast and “The Takeover” crew pose up for a legendary group shot. Photo by Aleena Ali.

“He not only is an artist, but he’s an engineer. He made his own beat, he mastered it, and it sounds good as hell,” says Valentin, 40. “I’m excited to try to get each artist back here so we can explore everyone individually. We’ve got to have you guys come back.”

According to A-Plus, “The TakeOver” aims to be a platform that gives back to the community by helping underground artists promote themselves at no cost.

“As long as you got a movement going on, come through,” A-Plus says. “There’s a lot of stuff going on locally that people still don’t know about.”

“The Takeover” airs every Wednesday night at 10 p.m. on acceleratedradio.net. Listen to the full episode featuring UNDRGRND by scanning the QR code below.



THE SYNDICATE

WWW.SOCALTHESYNDICATE.COM | @THESYNDICATE.OFFICIAL



TARZANA

18448 Oxnard St.
Tarzana, CA 91356



WOODLAND
HILLS

6322 Fallbrook Ave.,
Woodland Hills, CA 91367



LAKE
ELSINORE

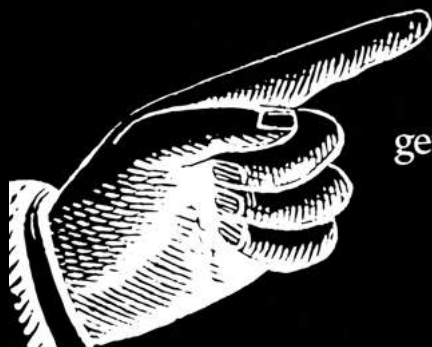
504 Central Ave.,
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

Now offering next day delivery!



Place your order by 12:00pm and
get it delivered the next day at your preferred time!

CALL (818) 757-0434





The Ventura recording studio is quickly becoming a staple of "The 805" underground music scene.

Record X Studios

Sitting in the heart of Ventura County, Record X Studios has become somewhat of a right of passage for members of the hip-hop culture. The Universe, J.ME, Chris The Thr!lest, as well as "Scenes Collide" artists L.I.R.A., Knotti, and Big Dub all regularly lay down vocals in the charming one-studio building.

Nowadays, a session is typically manned by Ventura-based producer, engineer, and vocalist, Mind Off, who started working at Record X around the start of the pandemic. The UNDRGRND Issue 2 artist's focused energy and professional sound mixes well with the relaxed decor and overall "home studio" comfort the place provides.

The studio was created and still owned by business partners and longtime friends Shehbaz "Pyro" Siddiqi and Solomon "Sol" Sanchez, both 24-year-old Ventura locals. After opening — and closing — three previous studios in two years, the duo unlocked the doors to the current Ventura location in June 2019. Being one of the only local professional studios to remain open throughout 2020, the impressive roster of Ventura County artists who now frequent Record X hints that Pyro and Sol may have just nailed the bullsseye.

UNDRGRND caught up with both owners to meet the men behind one of the fastest developing hotspots in "The 805" hip-hop culture.

Photos: Chandler Martineau



UNDRGRND: How'd you first tap in with the local music community?

PYRO: As [Sol and I] were growing older, I got really involved in music and I loved the whole hip-hop scene that was happening in Ventura back in like 2010. I started DJing and stuff, and I started getting connections with different artists.

UNDRGRND: How'd you guys end up opening an actual studio together?

PYRO: I was recording out of my bedroom and my parents were like, 'what the hell is going on? Turn it down.' It came to a point where I was talking to Sol and we had some business ideas and we always wanted to do something. Why don't we actually serve the community? Let's turn this into an actual thing.

SOL: Pyro was doing music on his own, but we were good friends and always talking back and forth, just bouncing ideas off each other. He was like, 'dude, I need a space to work,' because of his parents and stuff [Laughs]. That's when we started going out to LA and thinking, 'what can we do to get this going?'

UNDRGRND: What was the first stab at owning a recording studio?

SOL: The first official studio we opened was out in Hollywood [in 2017], like a two-minute walk from Sunset Blvd. We had the spot and we thought we

were going places, but honestly LA is a rough place. It's that hustle and grind mentality and that's what we were going for going out to LA.

UNDRGRND: It seems Record X has found a home in Ventura. Why should 805 artists book a session here?

PYRO: Our personal focus has always been local, being connected with people, being community-based. A lot of people recorded their very first song or even even touched a microphone at Record X. Our goal is to stay their studio.



Record X Studios is located at 2745 Sherwin Ave. Suite 2 in Ventura. Direct message @recordxstudios on Instagram or call (805) 225-3304 to book a session right now.



Nothing says “Scenes Collide” like connecting with the dopest up-and-comers from the entertainment capital of the world: Los Angeles. It’s the city that birthed rap staples like Dr. Dre, Kendrick Lamar, and 2Pac, and more recently teases the superstar potential of names like Kalan.FrFr, Blxst, DrakeoTheRuler, and many more. It’s the neighboring county to “The 805’s” southernmost tip, Ventura County, and it wouldn’t be right to ignore the City of Angels anymore.

UNDRGRND had the pleasure of chopping it up with Inglewood’s Griff Tyler and Compton’s Chris O’Bannon, two young Angelenos caught in the midst of dropping their most impactful projects to date. And while they may not be on the world’s radar quite yet, both Tyler and O’Bannon are quickly developing the sounds — and followings — that are bound to break them into the mainstream at any moment.

LA’s Next Stars

CHRIS O'BANNON

It's A Sick World (2021)

The 26-year-old released his eight-track album, *It's a Sick World*, on Feb. 5, 2021. Compton-raised, O'Bannon has spent considerable time in the Bay Area, his self-coined "spiritual home," and also the place he recorded every track for the feature-less project back in May 2020. He held a significant role in producing, mixing, and mastering the entire project, a skill he fine-tuned while studying Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts at San Francisco State University.

O'Bannon landed on the overall theme of dystopia for *It's A Sick World* while observing the negative impacts both COVID-19 and police brutality were having on the environment around him.

"I went to the Bay just to go, and then quarantine hit [and] all the police brutality and shit started kicking up," O'Bannon says. "It's a sick ass world. That was the concept I was overwhelmed by."

The independent artist released a music video to the album's first track, "Sick World," an impressive piece flooded with scenes of killer cops, the memory of the late Kobe Bryant, and the chaos of the pandemic. O'Bannon says it is a specific point of focus for him to create memorable visuals that help build a narrative.

"You've got to have a story, that's what artists don't get," O'Bannon says, who currently stays in Long Beach, Calif. "No one gives a fuck how good your music is. If you don't have a story, you won't last."

O'Bannon has undoubtedly made an impact on both the Los Angeles and Bay Area's music scenes. He is best known for featuring on 03 Greedo and Nef the Pharaoh's "Choosy" (2018), and Kalan.FrFr's "Right Wit It" (2019). His own track, "No Flex Remix" (2018), featuring \$tupid Young and G Perico has racked in over half a million views on YouTube.

As teenagers, O'Bannon was making music with friends Kalan.FrFr and Blxst. He was particularly valued in their underground scene not only for his rapping and singing abilities, but for his engineering talents as well.

"I mixed one of Blxst's first songs, 'Claaap,'" says O'Bannon, who also mixed Kalan.FrFr's first ever auto-tuned track. "We were like 15, 16 years old...we were all working in the same garage."

With a catalog very few in Los Angeles can match, and with the zero-skips *It's A Sick World* out now, O'Bannon has set himself up to be the next to pop from Southern California. Despite his position, he continues to recognize the necessity of remaining humble and putting in the work to grow.

Multiple times throughout our interview, O'Bannon reiterated that many up-and-coming artists would kill to have his platform, including his younger self.

"Don't be so ego-driven in this ego industry," he says. "Music is so much bigger than us."



Follow Chris O'Bannon at @1chrisobannon on Instagram and Twitter and watch the "Sick World" music video by scanning the QR Code

GRIF TYLER

Play Your Cards Right (2020)



@iamgriff Tyler

Another fire artist reppin' Los Angeles comes by way of Inglewood-raised Griff Tyler. Tyler balances the line between hip-hop and RnB, with popular tracks "Guarded" (feat. Airplane James), "Cold Piece," and "Wassup" (feat. G Perico).

In November 2020, Tyler dropped his most recent project, the nine-track *Play Your Cards Right*, which also has two impressive music videos to go with it.

When observing underground rap in LA, Tyler's sound points out two key characteristics of the scene. One, he aids in the claim that the new generation of LA rappers are favoring softer vibes — while moving away from 20th century West Coast rap at a rapid pace.

"As far as beat selection, it's very West Coast," Tyler, 27, says. "I got the melodic flow from the Drakes and the Kanye Wests of the world, who defy the laws of genres."

And two, there is immense value placed on working with the right engineer. As an artist, challenging yourself to "sing more," can be difficult. Finding the right audio engineer who can master your vocals is vital in making your music sound its best. Tyler uses LA native Enimeezy to mix and master his songs.

"I've been rocking with him for years," Tyler says. "I trust his ear. Whatever I do, he's gonna put his finger on it."

As for Tyler, he's certainly playing his cards right. He sits in a good position among the next wave of California talent. With regular media appearances, online articles, and a co-sign from No Jumper's Rosecrans Vic, Tyler clearly understands the marketing mindset every musician needs.

"Just creating replay value — that's my goal," says Tyler, who told UNDRGRND he has plans for music with Xian Bell, 1takeocho, Kenai, and a joint project with Airplane James coming up.

"You're gonna hear me a lot in 2021."



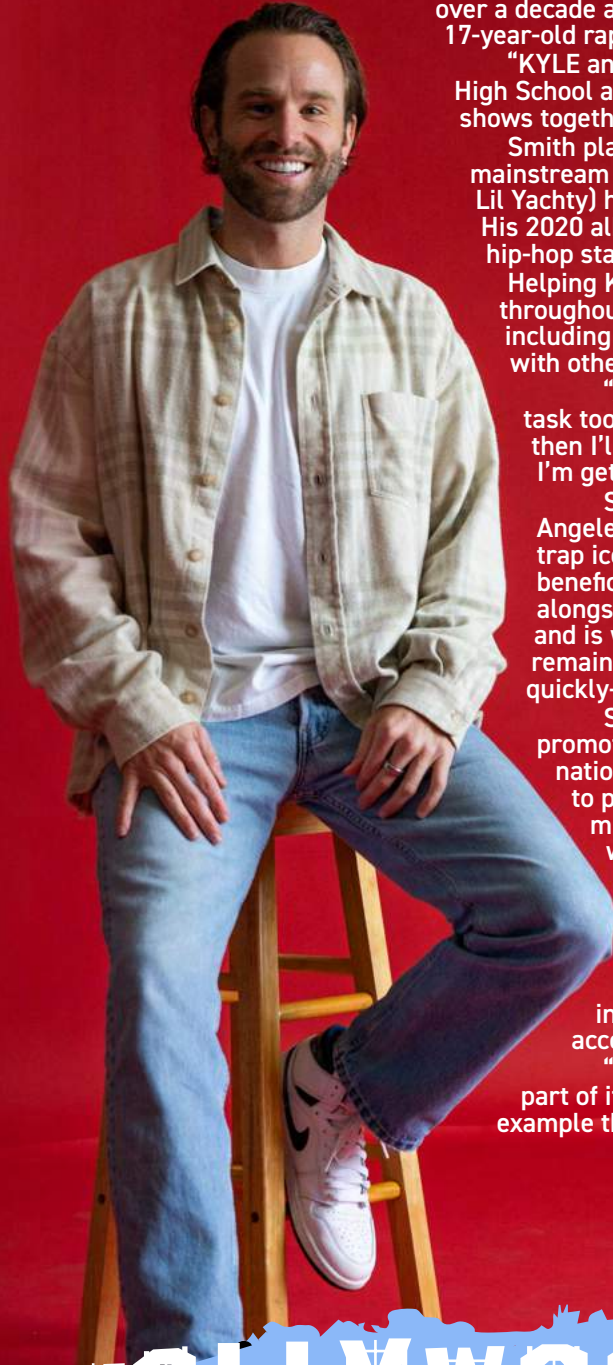
FORUM CLUB

NOLAN SMITH

Manager of SuperDuperKyle



@nolan_smith



As manager of perhaps the most popular artist to come out of “The 805” in recent years, Nolan Smith’s come-up is one the Ventura County rap scene should study closely. The 32-year-old Ventura native began working with “SuperDuperKyle” (or “KYLE”) over a decade ago, with Smith booking local shows for the then 17-year-old rapper of the name “Kidd Kash.”

“KYLE and I had this great synergy,” says Smith, a Buena High School alumnus. “I think that once we started throwing shows together and putting in work together, we just clicked up.”

Smith played a major role in what eventually unfolded into a mainstream career for KYLE. His 2016 breakout hit “iSpy” (feat. Lil Yachty) has racked up over 740 million streams on Spotify. His 2020 album *See You When I am Famous!!!!!!!!!!!!!!* features hip-hop stars Too \$hort, Trippie Redd, Rico Nasty, and more. Helping KYLE navigate the music game consistently throughout his career, Smith developed his many skill sets, including organizing tours, launching merch, and networking with other artists and labels.

“As a manager, it’s always, ‘no task too small, no task too large,’ he says. “If I need to style the photoshoot, then I’ll style the photoshoot. If I need to frickin’ get water, I’m getting water.”

Smith and KYLE both eventually relocated to Los Angeles, at one point living under the same roof as EDM/trap icon DJ Carnage. Moving to the city has proved itself beneficial — and lucrative — for the duo. KYLE starred alongside Tom Holland in the February 2021 film “Cherry,” and is working on another full-length project. Smith remains KYLE’s manager and has also taken on another quickly-rising client, the Seattle-born artist, Isaacjaczuzi.

Smith has successfully made the transition from promoting a local rapper from “The Five” to building a nationally-recognized artist. Still, he and KYLE continue to play an impactful role in the underground Ventura music scene. In February 2021, KYLE teamed up with up-and-coming Ventura rapper and producer, whitexchocolate, recording a verse and filming a music video for the track “Check It Out,” which recently surpassed 130k views on YouTube.

While Smith admits the two certainly have more ceilings to reach in the entertainment industry, he recognizes the value of what they have accomplished thus far.

“I think our story is really really unique, and being a part of it has been kind of a fairytale,” Smith says. “We’re an example that you can do it.”

HOLLYWOOD



Photos: Josh Seiden



99 High Tide

BE YOUR HIGHER SELF

By Cooper Clark



UNDRGRND: How did you two first meet?

SAM: I was doing video production working with a 3D video company in 1999, and we were doing some production. Yvonne came along and helped us out. That led into more writing and video production, directing and screenwriting, and doing all of that kind of stuff together.

UNDRGRND: Is this your first venture into the weed business as a couple?

YVONNE: No. We actually opened up on Abbot Kinney Boulevard with the 99 High Art Collective, which is the first visionary art gallery, dispensary, and lounge in the world as far as we know. It was really the first upscale dispensary. It was awesome, it was available and open to anybody and everybody. People came and did lectures, we did high yoga, and we had films on ayahuasca, DMT, psilocybin, and LSD. That's our claim to fame.

UNDRGRND: Why design such a relaxing ambience for 99 High Tide?

YVONNE: We are people who also enjoy and consume cannabis. We wanted to create a place that you could even take your mom to. A dispensary where you're not being judged or there's bars on the walls like you're doing something wrong. We wanted to demystify that [stereotype of dispensaries] completely.

UNDRGRND: What vibe do you want to bring to "The 805?"

SAM: We are starting a new place in Oxnard called High Tide: "La Sirena." And we are taking that ocean theme that we have here and combining that with the local Oxnard culture. We are really excited about that."



Make sure to keep an eye out for the High Tide: "La Sirena" dispensary coming this October, and check out 99 High Tide at:

<https://malibu99hightide.com>
@99hightide
22775 CA-1, Malibu, CA
(310) 456-9930

99 High Tide is a beachy safe-haven for all things weed located on the beautiful Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, California. The dispensary is run by business duo Sam Boyer and Yvonne DeLaRosa Green, who have together created a welcoming, judgement-free weed shop that boasts 100 percent eco-friendly products. With the marijuana market growing rapidly, the 99 High Tide owners — who tied the knot in 2000 at Burning Man — have announced plans to open a new location in Ventura County.



Photos: Chandler Martineau

"Mermaids are the healers of the sea and the guardians of the ocean. We're all into making sure that the oceans are protected and we are always drawing attention to the fact that this industry should be about giving back to the community and the Earth, to righting wrongs, to helping the environment, to giving opportunities to women and people of color."

- Yvonne DeLaRosa Green

VANNESA LYNNAE





“As an artist, you are an entrepreneur. This is one of those things that I think a lot of artists don’t understand: the business side of it.”

GOV'T NAME: Vanessa Lynnae Lopez

STAGE NAME: Vanessa Lynnae

BIRTHDAY: Oct. 7 (Libra)

BORN: Woodland Hills, Calif.

RAISED: Camarillo, Calif.

HEIGHT: 5-foot-4-inches

MAKING MUSIC: “I started making music seriously three years ago, but I’ve been rapping for about 10”

OTHER OCCUPATION: Sales Manager at Steve Thomas BMW

HIGH SCHOOL: Adolfo Camarillo

COLLEGE: CSU Monterey Bay

MAJOR: Double Major in Business Marketing & Entrepreneurship

MUSIC INFLUENCES: EMINEM, Drake, Salt-N-Pepa

NOTABLE MUSIC MOMENT: Meeting Jhené Aiko

GENRE: “Not necessarily hip hop or rap...I just try to make music that makes me feel good.”

DREAM FEATURE: “old Eminem”

DREAM 805 FEATURE: Anderson .Paak

FAVORITE 805 PERFORMANCE VENUE: The Tavern (Ventura)

FAVORITE 805 PRODUCER/ENGINEER: Galactic Boogey

FAVORITE 805 STUDIO: Galactic Boogey’s studio or Kontra and Jess’ “The Lab”

FAVORITE 805 RESTAURANT: In-N-Out Burger, Toppers Pizza

NEXT UP OUT “THE 805”: Vanessa Lynnae

HOBBIES: Going to the beach, wakeboarding

FAVORITE MOVIE: Forgetting Sarah Marshall, The Dark Knight, 300

FAVORITE TV SHOW: Schitt’s Creek, The Challenge



SCAN ME

AN IDEAL VANESSA LYNNAE FAN: “People who probably had some tough times in childhood and teenage years, but are very ambitious and very determined to have a better life. People who have gone through some things that weren’t their fault, and they’re trying to learn how to heal.”

MOTIVE TO START RAPPING: “When I was 15 I got super into Eminem because I was really angry at that stage in my life. I related to him and he actually got me out of that. That’s why I’m a rapper today. As an artist, you kind of have a responsibility to do that for other people.”

HANDLING THE PANDEMIC: “I’ve probably done more in this time than I have done in the past few years. Nothing is promised, and I just got to go for it. Finances and everything are so unpredictable, so why not make money streaming, doing what I love?”

THE DANCE-HEAVY “GET IT” MUSIC VIDEO: “Everybody who watched the video loved the dancing vibes. We had some rehearsals, maybe five or six. Everyone involved is now 100% on board, supportive of my dream. I got way more out of the video than I was expecting.”

EVOLVING YOUR SOUND: “It’s weird to watch and hear myself on old stuff, because not only have I grown a lot as an artist, but definitely as a person. The things that I rap about are very different now. You watch yourself transition, and I’m definitely in the place that I want to be now.”

HAVING A SUPPORTIVE MINDSET: “There are so many artists who I have no idea who they are, and they have no idea who I am. And there are some really good people out here who are very talented. Everyone’s kind of realizing the more we help each other, the farther we go.”

OUTSIDE OF MUSIC: “I’m very quiet, I’m very to myself. I’m very goal-driven in whatever I’m doing. People will say I’m shy – I’m not

shy, I’m just very reserved with my energy and who I give it to. It might come off as stand-offish but I’m really just observing.”

RECORDING AT “THE LAB”: “I’ve been there once, and I loved it. Just the vibe, Kontra and Jess, it’s a good time. It feels safe, like I can just go in there and do my thing. They’ll tell me straight up, ‘let’s do that again’, and I love that. I love when someone isn’t just a yes man.”

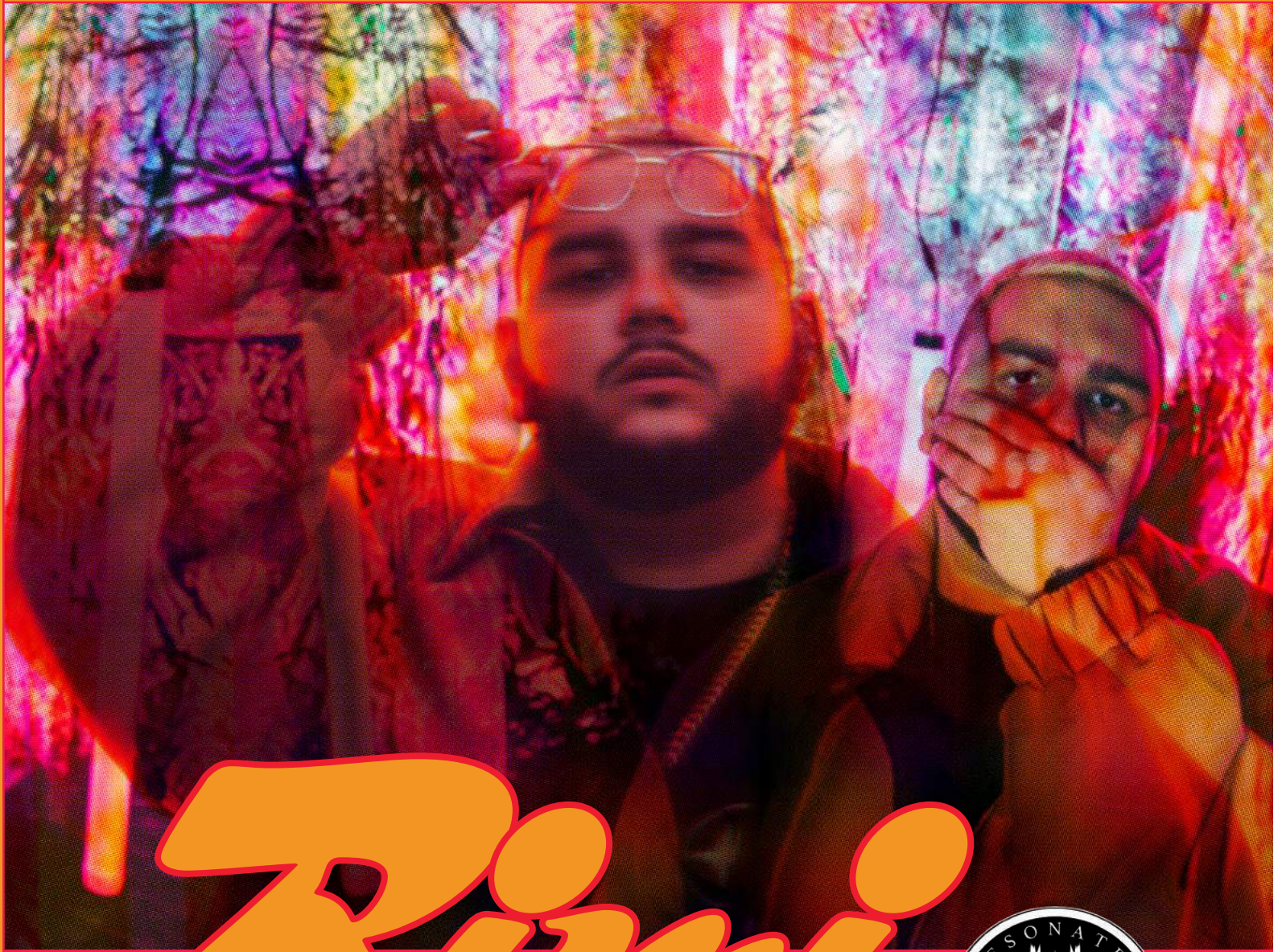
CREATING LOCHNESS ENTERTAINMENT RECORD LABEL: “When I’m on the mic, on stage, in the booth, people don’t expect me to be a monster, sometimes. So I’m really pushing the brand Lochness, with the motto “LET THE MONSTER OUT,” I want all my fans to be little monsters.”

2021 MUSIC GOALS: “By this time next year I want to solely just be working on music, morning ‘til night. I would like to have at least eight more videos, for [my albums] Rocky Mesa III and Rocky Mesa IV.”

APPLYING COLLEGE DEGREES TO MUSIC WORLD: “As an artist, you are an entrepreneur. This is one of those things that I think a lot of artists don’t understand: the business side of it. I think you have to be stronger in the business side of it than you need to be as the artist, especially if you’re doing it on your own.”

ISSUE 3 PHOTOSHOOT: “Everyone was really cool there, everyone was nice. It’s not the scene that I’ve been used to. I’ve been in this game for a little bit, and not everyone’s always the nicest, so it was really refreshing to go into a group of people who were just excited to be there and to meet new people.”

HOW TO GROW A FANBASE: “It’s all about being present. The social media world is insane. And honestly, I think it’s a little bit of luck – if you post that right video at the right time...maybe it’s who you know? I don’t know, still working on it, man.”



Rimi



GOV'T NAME: Sam Jorimi
STAGE NAME: Rimi
BIRTHDAY: Jan. 27, 1993 (Capricorn)
BORN: Los Angeles
RAISED: Woodland Hills, Calif.
HEIGHT: 5-foot-8-inches
MAKING MUSIC: 10 years
OTHER OCCUPATION: Apple store
HIGH SCHOOL: Chaminade College Preparatory
COLLEGE: Santa Monica City College & CSU Northridge
MAJOR: Political Science
MUSIC INFLUENCES: Biggie Smalls, Jay-Z, Drake, J. Cole
NOTABLE MUSIC MOMENT: "Boomin'" hitting 30k streams on Spotify, "my first official music video"
GENRE: Rap


DREAM FEATURE: Jay-Z
DREAM 805 FEATURE: Pofsky
FAVORITE 818 producer: Franderson Cooper, Devin O'Bannon, "and myself because I've been getting into production"
FAVORITE 818 ENGINEER: Hefe.Mixed.it
FAVORITE 818 STUDIO: Black Irish Entertainment LLC Studios
FAVORITE 818 RESTAURANT: JOEY (Woodland Hills)
FAVORITE RECENT 805 SONG: "Need Space" by UNDRGRND (feat. Mikey G & Pofsky)
NEXT UP OUT "THE 805": Pofsky ("it's a testament to his work ethic"), BOBBYBEENFRESH
WORST JOB I EVER HAD: Adidas ("pulling shoeboxes ain't for me")



SCAN ME!

HOBBIES: Watching movies, quality friend time, photography
FAVORITE MOVIE: Uncut Gems
FAVORITE TV SHOW: The Office
INTROVERT OR EXTROVERT: "A very good amount of my life I was an introvert and through music I became extroverted"





INTEREST IN RAP: “Anyone that’s super ignorant will be like, ‘oh yeah, rap is just people talking over a beat’, and it’s like, no it’s not. It’s really poetic and it’s really challenging in how you put words together whether it’s literal or metaphorical. It’s the lyrics, it’s the storytelling, it’s how you navigate and make a song the way [Biggie and Jay-Z] did. I think that’s also what got me into music.”

MUSIC CREATION PROCESS: “Once I have the beat in my hand, the thing I tell myself is, ‘what am I trying to achieve out of this song? What is the song about?’ I feel like I always start with the hook. Once I figure out the hook, I know what verses are gonna fit, how many verses I need, the energy, the tone, if someone else is needed on the song as a feature.”

RESONATED RECORDS: “It’s like a lil’ brain child. I’ve seen artists, like Jay-Z, who when they come up you would hear certain words going with them in the industry. Drake, same thing – ‘OVO Records’ and J. Cole has ‘Dreamville.’ It’s like they’re building a brand with their own brand, they’re not just trying to be this one solo person, but they’re trying to build a brand on top of it. Resonated Records was born from that idea. I want to make music that – pun intended – resonates with people.”

MAKING MUSIC A PRIORITY: “I was finishing up high school and a part of me was thinking, ‘why am I going to college? I know I want to do music’...I made sure my parents knew that My mom and I talk a lot and she was like, ‘you know what, just get your degree, it’s a fallback, have it. You’ll regret it later if you don’t have it. And then figure out what you want to do after that.’ That’s really where it started. But had I not gone to college I wouldn’t have met Rodney.”

RODNEY: “We ended up in the same class and literally after day one we just started hanging out, chilled from there. Everything music and business wise, we’re always talking about while also being good-ass friends, like brothers. My man, the myth, the legend – that is the boss, that is the co-CEO of Resonated Records. He’s seen me since I first started rapping with a faux-hawk. He’s seen it all...people like Rodney are the people that keep me humble, keep me on my toes, and keep me pushing.”

BEING YOUR OWN BIGGEST FAN: “That kind of energy doesn’t just sit with music, it can sit with anything. Who’s gonna look out for you more than yourself? No one. There might be people who will tell you that, but at the end they might have their own personal agenda, or life happens and they may have to shift focuses. With music, no one else is going to go out of their way and be like, ‘I wanna help you with your career.’ You gotta give them a reason, right?”


MEETING UNDRGRND AT THE 2020 COMPOUND SESSIONS: “Both Pofsky and I discussed after [the Compound Sessions] that we didn’t make a bunch of songs there. We were really there for the ambiance, the feel. We didn’t really focus on making song after song at that trip, it was really the ambiance. I think just from there we built the strength of getting to know each other.”

ISSUE 3 PHOTOSHOOT: “We’re 10 people who don’t know who each other are. When we all sat down for the cover I was like, ‘wait, is this the 10 people?’ And then everyone was like, ‘oh shit! Yeah! Oh my god!’...I feel like those are the moments we need to create with the group.”

805 AND 818 MUSIC SIMILARITIES: “The one similarity is the ambition, the hunger that we’re all tryna accomplish doing what we love, which is music. Of course there’s gonna be differences: our experiences, what we grew up with, what we knew, what our influences are from music. My influences on how I got to music is different from the other twenty-something people that have been on these covers, but at the end we have the same ambition, hunger, and strive for what we’re tryna achieve. And the one thing that we can do for each other is just boost each other up. That’s it, that’s all that it should be about.”

“ROUNDS” (FEAT. DRAYON): “It’s one of the songs that’s gotten a lot of responses from a lot of different people. People I haven’t spoken to in a long time telling me, ‘this is your best song yet,’ I take pride in that because I went into a space I don’t usually go with music. I’m always trying to prove to everyone I can rap, but I was like, ‘we need to stop that – I know I can rap.’ Let’s go into, ‘okay, can I make a hit?’”

2021 MUSIC GOALS: “More songs. My goal is to have an album out by August, and a video [for each song on the album], so it’s also like a visual experience.”



“With music, no one else is going to go out of their way and be like, ‘I wanna help you with your career.’ You gotta give them a reason, right?”



GOVT NAME: Victor Lira
STAGE NAME: L.I.R.A. ("Lyrically Infinite Relevant Art")
BIRTHDAY: August 24, 1991 (Virgo)
BORN: Ventura, Calif.
RAISED: Lancaster, Calif. / Oxnard, Calif.
HEIGHT: 5-foot-8-inches
MAKING MUSIC: 10 years
OTHER OCCUPATION: Retail manager
HIGH SCHOOL: Pacifica
COLLEGE: Ventura College
MAJOR: Marketing & Business
MUSIC INFLUENCES: 2Pac, J. Cole, Slick Rick
NOTABLE MUSIC MOMENT: "My first performance and definitely UNDRGRND"
GENRE: Rap
DREAM FEATURE: Jay Electronica

DREAM 805 FEATURE: Anderson .Paak
FAVORITE 805 PRODUCER: Madlib
FAVORITE 805 ENGINEER: Mind Off
FAVORITE 805 STUDIO: Record X Studios
FAVORITE 805 RESTAURANT: "I'm a sucker for Wood Ranch. I just love their garlic bread"
FAVORITE RECENT 805 PROJECTS: Fresh 'Til Death by BOBBYBEENFRESH, Alone by Mind Off

NEXT UP OUT 'THE 805': L.I.R.A.
WORST JOB I EVER HAD: "I've had two bad jobs: Party City during Halloween, and my first job ever which was selling newspapers for the Ventura County Star"
HOBBIES: Reading and meditating ("I'm super spiritual, so that's a big part of my life")
FAVORITE MOVIE: The Matrix, Four Brothers
FAVORITE TV SHOW: Friends





UPCOMING DEBUT PROJECT:

“It’s something I’ve been working on since I was 19, basically. Even just on a subconscious level, I’ve been preparing for this. I want to be known for storytelling. The “lyricalness” of music is something that is very important to me. I want to be able to make people feel. That’s such an underrated thing. We don’t get a lot of storytellers like how Pac was, where even through a simplistic form of writing he was able to impact so many people for the better. I want to treat each project as one big painting or story.”

DOES EVERYBODY HAVE A STORY WORTH TELLING?:

“Heck yeah. Everybody has a super interesting story, and it’s a story that everybody can relate to, in some form or another. That’s the beauty about meeting new people. Everybody’s fascinating: how they got to this point, who they are as a person and why they’re like that. I think it’s very beautiful.”

INITIAL INTEREST IN MAKING MUSIC:

“I started writing when I was 19 years old with my friends. We kind of got into it as a little competition thing. Like, ‘let’s see who makes the best stuff.’ There was one time when one of our friends was showing us what he just wrote, and we thought it was one of the most incredible things we’ve ever heard. It kind of lit the fire within me, like ‘I gotta be better than him.’ I started getting really into it, and then I fell in love with it.”

COMPETITIVE SIDE OF HIP-HOP:

“I don’t take things to heart, in that type of competitive way — I’m a good sport. I definitely feel like there is a competitive nature to hip-hop. You kind of need that, when you get into [the rap game]. You’ve gotta have some sort of ego and put your flag on the ground, so to speak.”

PERFORMING LIVE:

“My first performance was at this book store at the Oaks Mall. It was an open mic thing. I invited a bunch of people — nobody came [Laughs]. My mom and sister and girlfriend were there, so that was cool. The three most important women in my life came through, so I appreciate that. It was such a chill event. I also performed at Ventura College, [and] that was the last time I performed. I miss it — it was such a high for me.”

I want to be known for storytelling. The “lyricalness” of music is something that is very important to me. I want to be able to make people feel.

LINKING UP WITH MIND OFF:

“A couple years back I had invested in a mic and a laptop, so I was recording my music at home, but I had no engineer. I tried doing it myself and I failed miserably. There weren’t a lot of studios open because the pandemic was still fresh. Record X was the only one that called me back. I made an appointment with Mind Off, and that was when I saw an UNDRGRND Magazine and met him for the first time — really great dude.”

WHAT’S ON THE PLAYLIST RIGHT NOW?:

“I listen to different genres: sometimes I’ll be in the mood for reggae, sometimes classic rock or punk rock. Sometimes I’ll be bumping some Bach or Beethoven — that’s like once in a blue moon but I get in those moods, man. I grew up with everything. My dad, he played everything. Super loud, Saturday mornings, I would just hear him play anything, from mariachi music to Queen. Or AC/DC to Diddy or Biggie.”

ISSUE 3 PHOTOSHOOT:

“The whole vibe was so dope. I was so freaking nervous, for two things. One, because it was my first photoshoot. Two, because I had this assumption that during photoshoots the photographer would guide you through everything. It was nothing like that at all — they literally throw you in the pool, and you gotta just hope for the best, basically.”

SOULJA BOY PERFORMING AT PACIFICA (2007):

“Q104.7 did a contest. Basically, it was all the high schools in that area. If you text this number, [the school with the] most texts will get a chance to have a concert at high school. And we won, thanks to me. I must have sent like a hundred texts or something — my parents probably got like a crappy bill. He performed one and a half songs. The high school went bananas, it felt like the Beatles were there. It’s not a highlight of my life [but] he’s a pioneer, man.”

CHARQO



GOV'T NAME: Seth Galadima
STAGE NAME: CharQoal
BIRTHDAY: June 3rd, 1989
[Gemini]
BORN & RAISED: Jos,
Plateau, Nigeria
HEIGHT: 5-foot-9-inches
MAKING MUSIC: 5 years
OTHER OCCUPATION: Food
Delivery
HIGH SCHOOL: St. John's
College, Jos

COLLEGE: Los Angeles City
College
MAJOR: Film & Television
Production
MUSIC INFLUENCES: The
Script, Lauryn Hill, Killarmy
NOTABLE MUSIC MOMENT:
Reaction to dropping "Fire in
My Soul" ["it was one of the
songs that made me realize
people are listening to me"]
GENRE: Pop, Club
DREAM FEATURE:
XXXTentation

**DREAM PERFORMANCE
VENUE:** The Forum
FAVORITE 213 producer:
KaiuJ017, Petrofsky,
ThirtyThirty
FAVORITE 213 ENGINEER:
Big Rula
FAVORITE 213 RESTAURANT:
Cha Cha Chicken (Santa
Monica)
**FAVORITE RECENT 805
MUSIC:** "Ty Fighter's stuff"
NEXT UP OUT "THE 805":
Pofsky

WORST JOB I EVER HAD: "I
enjoy doing everything I do"
HOBBIES: Fútbol, Surf, Skate
FAVORITE MOVIE:
Goodfellas, Bad Boys
FAVORITE TV SHOW: That
'70s Show, Moesha
INTROVERT OR EXTROVERT:
Extrovert

A

L

SCAN ME!



"I WANT TO GO PERFORM
WHERE PEOPLE
APPRECIATE WHAT I'M
DOING, BECAUSE I KNOW I
PUT MY HEART AND MY
ENERGY INTO WHAT I DO"



LEAVING NIGERIA FOR SWITZERLAND:

"I was in Nigeria till I was about 18, 'til I was able to process all my paperwork by myself. I was doing everything by myself, just trying to figure it out. I just had something on my mind, 'go out there — I don't know where — but go out there somewhere. There's something out there for you, go find it.' Also, my father passed when I was 17 or 18, and I'm the oldest son. So I knew I had to go somewhere that would make a path for me to make income that would support my whole family."

LISTENING TO AMERICAN MUSIC IN '90s NIGERIA:

"We listened to music however we could, man. Sisqo, Jennifer Lopez, Outkast, Puff Daddy, Busta Rhymes. We had cassette tapes that would record the radio live. This is how we used to get music back then — we'd put on the radio, and you have your hand on "record," just waiting. Once the song comes on that you like, you'd click "record." You try to not get the commercial, but you always get the commercial at the end. [We] were copying the song off the radio [Laughs]."

WAS BEING A MUSICIAN A COMMON DREAM IN JOS?:

"It wasn't common because people thought they could not achieve it. People who wanted to make music lived down south in Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt. There's a group called P-Square — Peter and Paul, they're twins — and they were popular back home. But for them to escalate to another level, they had to go down south. They started from where we grew up in Jos, but then they went down south to Lagos, and that was when they took off."

MOVING TO CALIFORNIA IN 2012:

"I came out here with two suitcases, and nowhere to stay. I had no idea who was who — I had nothing. I came out here with only \$1,200, and I already got accepted into Los Angeles City College. [I was put in touch with a guy from Koreatown], and he gave me a spot to stay at. But his spot was covered with fungus and stuff — the apartment was horrible. He would lock me there at night when I'd come back from school, and then in the morning he would come back and open it around 8 a.m., and I would go out and go to school. [I couldn't leave otherwise] because they couldn't have people knowing somebody was in there because [the property] was in a court case."

INITIALLY MAKING MUSIC IN 2016:

"I needed to be comfortable. I knew what I wanted to do, but I was not comfortable yet. So mentally, I wasn't where I wanted to make music. For me, I needed to be in a space where, 'alright, now I have what I need — the mic, the system, the computer, everything. So when I start making it, I don't stop. When I have my shit ready and situated, then I'mma do this and just keep going, nonstop.' And I finally found a rhythm in 2016."

GOING FROM "DEJAVU" TO "CHARQOAL":

"DejaVu didn't sound natural. I needed something that connected me to who I was. At the time I was just struggling trying to come up with different ideas for songs — I was just making shitty songs, and it was getting me so angry. I was like, 'I need to make something that will give me a different energy.' And this song just came to my head, "Narcos." [It goes,] 'This ain't no narcos/I'm a black n***a call me a charcoal.' CharQoal came from that lyric. I'm black, like charcoal."

2021 MUSIC STRATEGY:

"I'm not gonna release a project until everybody knows me. If people don't know me I have no reason to drop a project. I have to keep dropping hot, good singles, until people hear me, keep promoting myself. What I do is drop "single-doubles," and I ain't never seen people do that. Like, I drop two songs at the same time. I have like eight songs, but I'm not dropping them as a project, I'm dropping them as single-doubles, and I'm gonna shoot videos to all of them. I just need to get my money right."

THE INFAMOUS FIRE GUITAR:

"I made that guitar in December [2020] after I made the song 'Fire in My Soul.' After I made that song, I was like, 'I need something with fire that I could use for the video.' I started thinking about what could shoot out flames — I started researching. Then I was like, 'I need a guitar with fire on it,' so I just figured it out and I built the guitar."

RETURNING TO PERFORMANCES:

"I love to perform. I told Tee Grizzley when I met him, 'all I need is for someone to put me on a stage. That's all I need, let people see what I can do.' Until then, we're just gonna keep waiting and keep promoting music online. I'm just tryna have fun and promote my music, but I need to get on a stage, because that's what's gonna separate me from other artists. I want to go perform where people appreciate what I'm doing, because I know I put my heart and my energy into what I do."





Illustration by Damien Bruz

INTO THE UNDRGRND



A fully functioning tattoo & piercing shop, Kustom Kulture had to be transformed into a concert venue overnight. The wooden stage was built around 5 a.m. on the morning of the show by store owner Ozzy Lima and team member Arvin Sehati.



Issue 2 “The 805: Part 2” was officially released on Jan. 17, 2021, the one-year anniversary of our debut magazine. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the release party was held at an unconventional location: Kustom Kulture Tattoo shop in Reseda, Calif. Even with the smaller crowd, the six Issue 2 artists on the lineup put on a true warehouse-type underground rap show in the middle of a pandemic, providing the perfect launch to our sophomore issue.

In the last five months, none of these six artists have slowed down. Each have continued to add their DNA to “The 805” music scene, releasing impressive songs and collaborations and taking their brands to new heights, all the while making UNDRGRND proud to have had them in our pages. Enjoy a look at what moves the Issue 2 family made in 2021 so far.



“This approach was true to where I was finding myself,” says Chris The Thrillest, who dropped his album *Fan Of A Phantom* in February. “Every song is based off of an experience that I had gone through in a different time of my life, so I let the album form itself.”

The 7-track project, which features OG David James and Kalahari, is the first of three tapes promised by Chris in 2021.



Frankiii is engineering and producing a debut tape from 805 collective, 4K, expected “by the end of the year.” He regularly sees clients at his home studio and continues to study audio engineering at Los Angeles Recording School.

"I met [Issue 3's] Roger Wayne and Luey in the studio," says B-Work, who moved back to Fort Myers, Flo. in late April. "First thing I said to them was, 'Welcome to the UNDRGRND family!'"

B-Work continues to pursue music in Florida, and plans to drop a project, *Pacific Gems*, dedicated to "The 805."



BOBBYBEENFRESH released three singles in March, including "Not For Nothing" (feat. [fellow Issue 2's] Chris The Thrillest), and "Upset!" with UNDRGRND Records. He says we can expect his next album, *From The Grove To The Globe*, and a new line of merch this summer, and hints at dropping his book soon.

"I've been branching out into other fields trying to show people that I'm more than just a rapper," he says. "I'm just being myself and showing my qualities more."



"My first project taught me a lot of things" says **Mind Off**, who released the 3-song EP *Alone* in January, "but most importantly that I can be an artist in my own right."

Mind Off still works at and is an integral part of Record X Studios in Ventura. He plans for an EDM-heavy EP this summer, as well as other collaborations with local artists L.I.R.A., Trouble Kidd, Krypt, Gedy, and HH Slim.

Ty Fighter has started running engineering sessions of his own, officially opening his Top Flyte Studios for business in January. "At first, I overworked myself by scheduling 4-5 sessions a week, but I've found 1-2 is better," says Ty Fighter, who continues to balance music with a full-time hospital job and a wife & daughter. "It helps pay for the studio, and I get to meet dope artists like Heck Adaptive."

Ty also played a major role in the April compilation album by Oxnard's Stu Crew, featuring Bluebebleu, Papii Red, Dricks, and more local rappers.



CP | BRANDING SOLUTIONS

creative concepts • swag • apparel • corporate branding

We Make it Happen!

“Merchandise is the #1 way to get you and your name out there. This is your brand identity. The first impression you make on a potential client or partner. Think outside the box. Once you have your products, what you do with them is the most important part of your marketing strategy. Is it promotional? Is it for profit? Have a clear vision and execute it correctly.”

— Pofsky for CP Branding Solutions

cpofsky@mac.com | @trappofsky

