

PWA PISHAS

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ISSUE ONE



BROTHERHOOD
TWO-TWO
KIIBA
TOURNAMENT

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LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON



Photography and Design by Denzel Fleming
Pictured: Kiiba and Hausson Byrd
"I love it when you call me Big Poppa."
June 2020.
Elsewhere, Greensboro, North Carolina.
Black Elm Street Mural Project
The Artist Bloc (TAB) Team

INTROSPECTION

Inner thoughts of Denzel "nonotwashington" Fleming pertaining to Kiiba and all works considered.



What I love most about Kiiba is his stage presence.

I've seen Kiiba perform in a host of venues, those traditional and non-traditional and he delivers every time.

It was when Kiiba performed at The Bloc Awards, an awards show for artists in the creative community produced by The Artist Bloc, LLC, when I said to myself

"Man, he has what [Ms. Darlene] would call STAR POWER."

Kiiba was on stage with a live band performing with all of his potential.

He called out into crowd followed by the response of a mixed audience of entrepreneurs, business executives, city officials and community sounding like they were orchestrated by Beethoven himself.

As I watched, glued to my seat in adoration, I knew a star was born.

I'm excited to share this artist with you all.

This architect of sound-- minister of a new rhythm-- Kiiba.

Wild and unpredictable.

To understand this meaning is to understand Kiiba, mixing introspection and conscious street tales with hard-hitting metaphors and vivid imagery, tying in an evolving production palette to fit his sound, whether it's gritty lo-fi, 90's boom-bap inspired, soulful yet reflective, or modern, high-energy trap-influenced soundscapes.

A High Point, North Carolina native born of Jamaican descent by way of his mother, music has been an influence on Kiiba's life forever, as he took influences from a range of various artists such as the late Tupac Shakur and XXXTentacion, Buju Banton, Busta Rhymes, DMX, Joey Bada\$\$, Kendrick Lamar, and Damian Marley among others.

He would develop a love for poetry and battle rap growing up, battling other rappers in middle and high school, and with each battle sharpening his craft and earning respect from his peers. So much that he would be recruited to be a member of the hip-hop collective Dreamers Slept On, or DSO for short, a collective filled with diverse and eclectic styles from the chameleon-esque appeal of JayyDaPlugg, the atmospheric soul of Sinimatics, and the high-octane, yet vibrant energy of Lil Kawaii.

Kiiba's raw emotional energy and knack for lyricism would be showcased in his debut mixtape, MaVERiCKNigHtZ, released on Halloween of 2018, on SoundCloud and Audiomack.

Released to moderate acclaim, the seven-song offering is a raw, unfiltered showing of Kiiba's mind around that time of release, as he details stories of paranoia (gotHaM), teenage rebellion (y2K), aspirations to be successful (BooMiN'), and youth being stolen (NigHtZ). BooMiN' would serve as a hometown sleeper hit, as he began to build a respected name in not only Greensboro and High Point, but in the state of North Carolina itself.

Based off the strength of the single, and placing time and effort into his craft, he was able to partner with K97.5 radio host Mir.I.Am and Carolina Waves to plan the Enigma Tour, spanning 4 days throughout North Carolina, hitting Wilmington, Charlotte, Chapel Hill and coming back home to Greensboro in the summer of 2019, with supporting acts Lef? and Jaxs. He would later go on that same year to receive a nomination for "Best New Artist" at the Bloc Awards.

DSO member JayyDaPlugg handles production and CreateROwn's 2FLY KNG is responsible for being the mixing and mastering engineer. The other is vaguely coded "#FPP," a project subdued in dark, yet high-energy substance, with production handled by childhood friends Raxks (who produced half of MaVERiCKNigHtZ) and StudaBeats, with the first single from that project, OUTLAW, dropping on the 26th. A rare talent, and force to be reckoned with, Kiiba has belief that a lot in his arsenal that will make a shift, not only in his state, but for the world as well, and we're all here for how he grows in the future.

We had a conversation with Kiiba at the Black Elm Street event that hosted on June 21 by the Haus of Lacks and we asked for his experience with it:

“The Black Elm Street event is an event that was needed in our community and I'm grateful for it in every way. It's truly a renaissance and a celebration of the arts in Greensboro and I'm glad I was able to be a part of it and I'm grateful for every person that was involved whether they were performers, organizers, etc. I love every minute of it! I got to free-style and perform with my father too on Father's Day so that was a bonus and one of the greatest feelings you can have. People got to see two generations of the same caliber kill everything once they were on stage..”

Recently, Kiiba has been taken time to perfect his craft for his next projects at hand; one being an EP entitled "blackout.," a project which would take a look into one's mental health as they would fall into a downward spiral.

For this project, he recruited close friend and renowned spoken-word poet, Hausson Byrd, to be the narrator of the project, while multi-instrumentalist Deviant Sounds and fellow DSO member JayyDaPlugg handles production and CreateROwn's 2FLY KNG is responsible for being the mixing and mastering engineer.

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Contributor, [Kiiba](#)

Photographed by Denzel Fleming.
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Kiiba

