

The Unpolished Diamonds

21 March 2018

Magazine

Bad Ass

productions

"I just want Artists to
succeed at what they do"



Atomic Tempo

"Dreams are to be made
,not broken"



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Month





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OBLIVION ZERO

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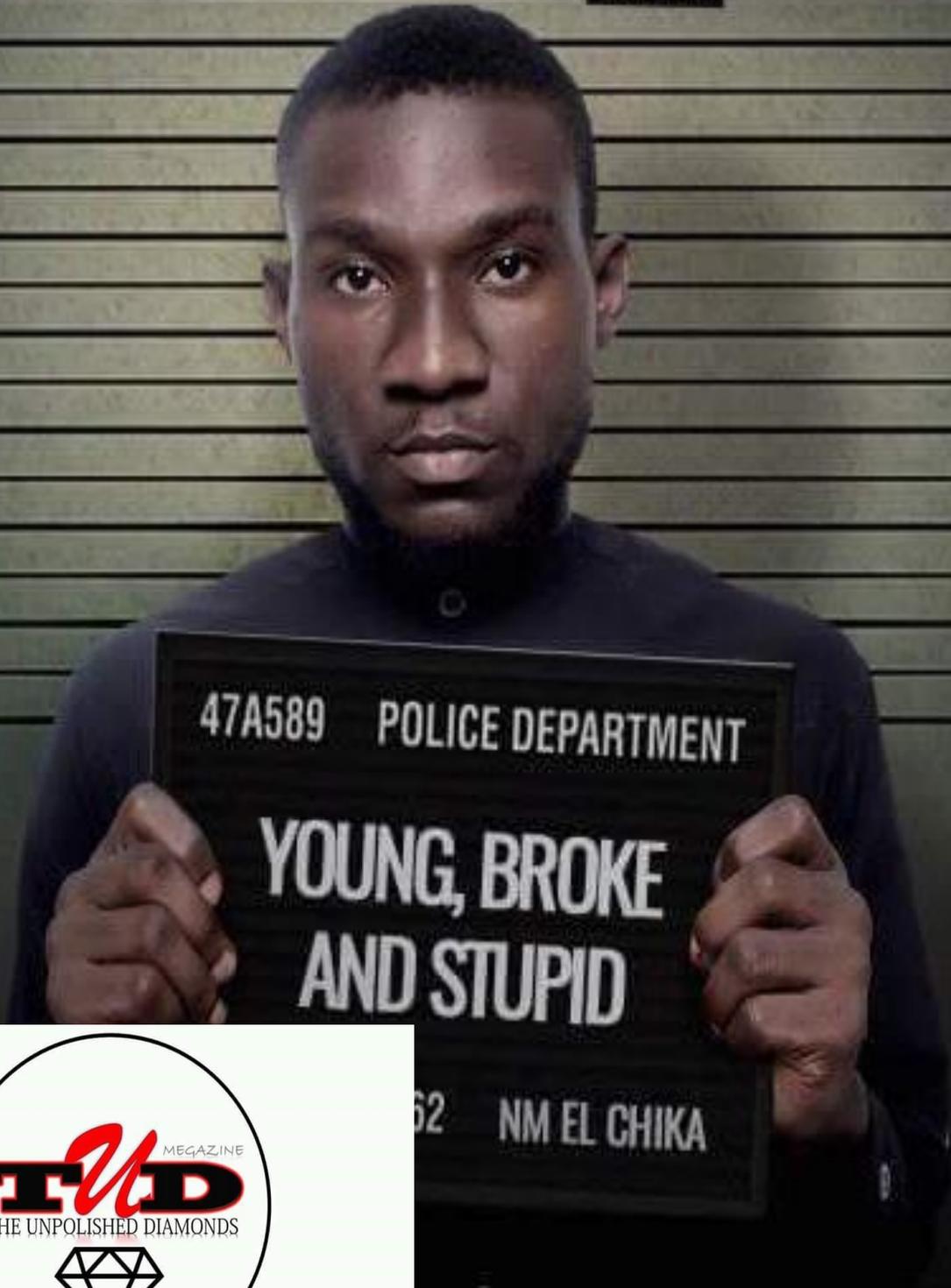


BAD ASS PRODUCTION

" I just want to see artists succeed at what they do"

EL CHIKA

THE EP



@ELL_CHIKA  @EL_CHIKA

SHERIDAN RUPERT

Uncle Blaque : First of all how would you describe yourself?

Sheridan : An artist manager to be precise , even though I do way more than just artist management.

Uncle Blaque : Where does the love of music come from and when did you find interest in artist management?

Sheridan : I started playing Piano at the age of 5 so the musical love had always been around. As for management it started off 3 years back as a way of gaining experience on how to maintain my company “ The Slight Edge Events”

Uncle Blaque : What motivated the name Slight Edge Events?

Sheridan : I got the name from a book I read that I’ve never forgotten. It’s a message any of us don’t get until it’s too late.

Uncle Blaque : What exactly does Slight Edge do?

Sheridan : We manage artists but most of all for my artists, I don’t focus on blowing up. My artists could die tomorrow and without them blowing up and that would mean they were unsuccessful , so I look after artists from my own holistic perspective. If you’ve gone and performed or networked yourself to a bigger platform not thinking about blowing up, that is an awesome achievement because at the end of the day you’re a human being and not a money making machine.

Uncle Blaque : What are the challenges within the management industry?

Sheridan : Same ones as those of an artist, getting people to know you. We get to witness dirt on our shoulders too.

“If you wake up jogging today that would impact day”

Uncle Blaque : What made you hold on through the egg days?

Sheridan : Kumisa Artist Management Programme really helped me rebuild my confidence with all the knowledge they’ve given off during their one year course I have attended.

Uncle Blaque : Cute, are you looking to add more artists to your company?

“my focus has changed to quality over quantity”

Sheridan : Yes, but with caution hence my focus has changed to quality over quantity.

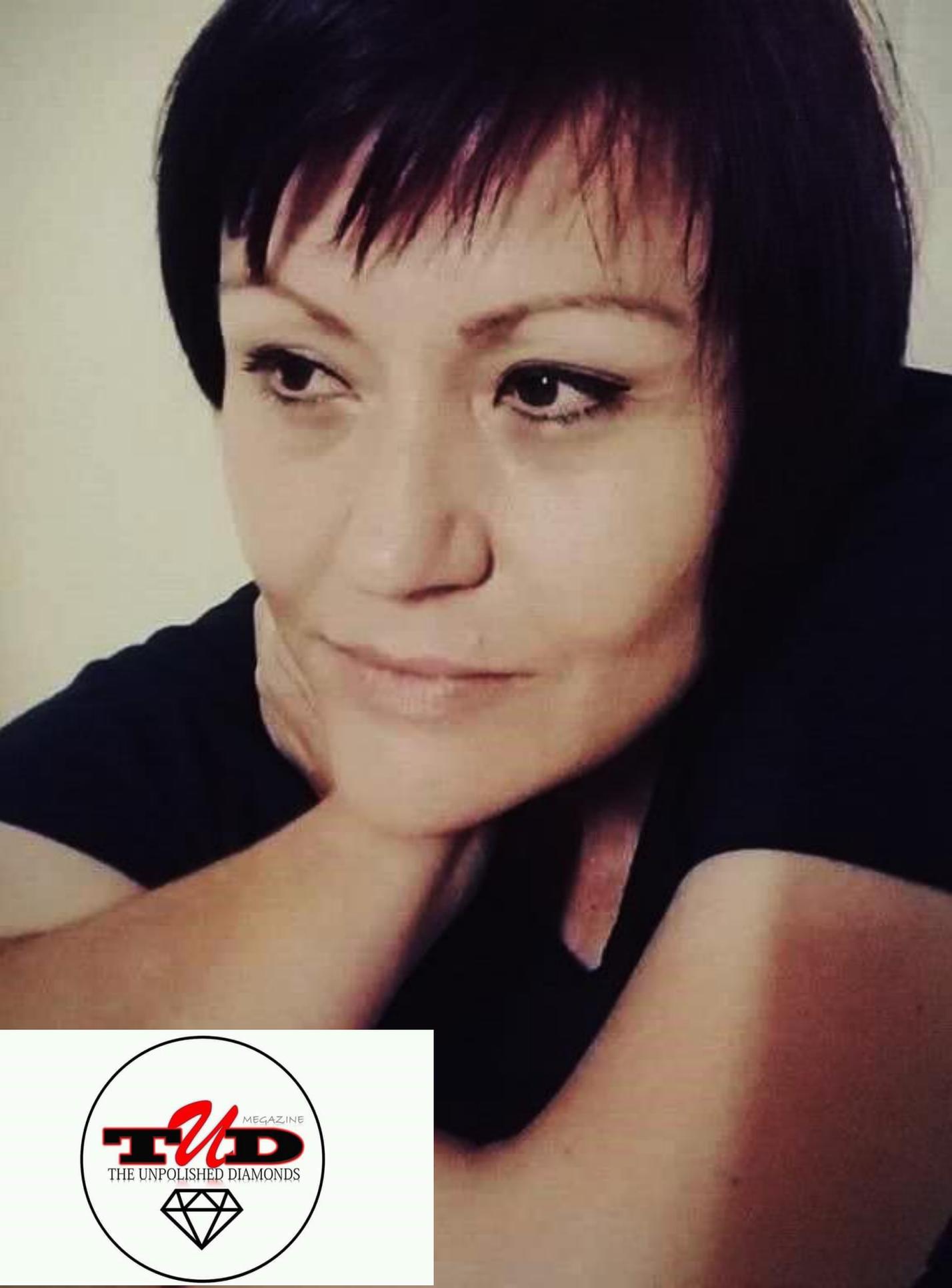
Uncle Blaque : Thanks for your time and sharing of the knowledge, please give an advice to a young one out there falling victim to the trap of the system as he considers giving up.

Sheridan : You eat junk food today and think it won’t make a difference it’s just today, you eat junk food tomorrow thinking it’s just today then after a month you’ve done that 30 times and in 2 months you’ve done that 60 times , next thing you are rolling like a ball.

If you wake up jogging today that would impact day, if you had to stop drinking, stop smoking, be more disciplined with your work. Return the calls, show up on time and all those little successes everyday will head up and in 6 months time you’re a brand new person and the success is starting to show in your life.

Uncle Blaque : Best we believe they’ve heard, thanks for your time.

Sheridan : Thank you.



Gilmat Gospel Singers (Lusaka, Zambia)



“Remember God is watching and he doesn’t sleep nor slumber”

Uncle Blaque : Gilmat Gospel Singers. When and What brought it to existence?

Gilmat Gospel Singers : We started singing a long time ago in church but Gilmat was formed in 2015.

Uncle Blaque : Who’s the founder?

Gilmat Gospel Singers : Let me explain at where we came from. At first we used to be on a group called MSC Brothers and we were 3 then the other one decided to go solo . I and my friend Gilbert to continue as a duo then we named ourselves Gilmat and that’s Gilbert and Mathews, so we’re both founders. Powerful group.

Uncle Blaque : Great. Collaboration is key. How has the journey been so far?

Gilmat Gospel Singers : Wow, we’ve been in so many challenges , temptations, some pulling us down here and there but Jesus Christ is always with us. For us Gilmat to be where we are, it’s just by the grace of God my brother.

The other challenges that we have been facing, you know items of promoting and it has been hard. We sponsor ourselves, pay for radios, TV stations etc,so you find that when you don’t have money things gets stuck.

Uncle Blaque : I guess nothing comes easy. Do you think artists should be paying for airplays?

Gilmat Gospel Singers : Yes and No.Yes because you are using their facilities. No because there are a lot of people who don’t have money so they won’t make it anywhere.

Uncle Blaque : Maybe we just have to forget about these big names and start our own affordable and humane ways of getting exposure, I mean it must be half way impossible to even make it.How do you afford to pay for a beat, recording session, publishing and even airplay?

Gilmat Gospel Singers : We are not supposed to pay on gigs but because we want to be known we have no choice. It’s high time we stop looking up to these so called big artists and lift up each other as up comers, as for us that’s what we do even when it comes to featuring someone on our song, we train our own and let them expose their talent.

Uncle Blaque : Beautiful. We’re proud of you. So the album, what’s the title and when is it being freed?

Gilmat Gospel Singers : Thanks and the title of the album is Ubunte meaning “Testimony” and is freed despite it not being in the market due to not having a manager, we’re trying to push it ourselves.

Uncle Blaque : Where can it be found?

Gilmat Gospel Singers : You can find our album in Lusaka at our studio SSV Studio or you can contact us. Check our social media.

Uncle Blaque : Great, are you shooting videos too?

Gilmat Gospel Singers : Yes we have a number of videos. You can download some on YouTube. Just search Gilmat and you'll find them.

Uncle Blaque : Nice. What are your plans for this year, what can the public expect?

Gilmat Gospel Singers : Our videos are also found on BMARK touch films. Our plans are that after shooting videos we will launch our first ever DVD then start the new project for our second album.

Uncle Blaque : Greatest, is there a deadline for the DVD launch or should we follow your page to be updated?

Gilmat Gospel Singers : Just follow the page.

Uncle Blaque : Before we can close off. We all know someone somewhere is about to give up their dreams due to certain circumstances . What words of advice would you give?

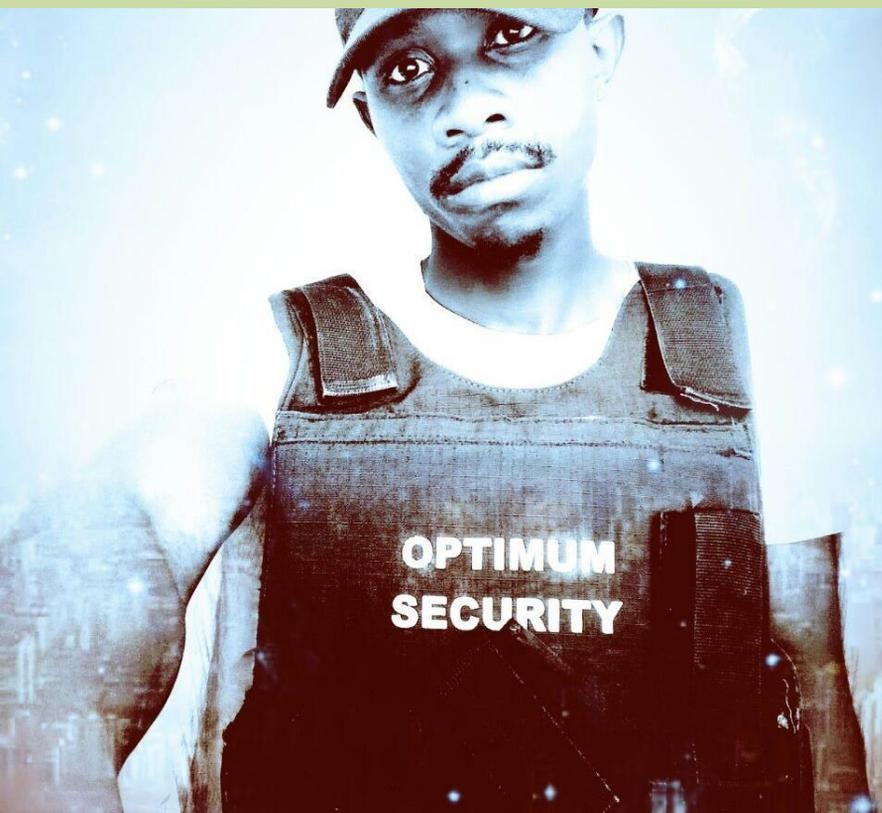
Gilmat Gospel Singers : Never give up, follow your dreams. Remember God is watching and he doesn't sleep nor slumber.

He is faithful. No matter how long it takes, never give up and be prayerful then yours will be answered. People may turn you down, discourage and say you are going nowhere with your dream, don't listen to them, just concentrate on your dream, be determined and confident. You will achieve.

Uncle Blaque : I believe someone will benefit. Each one teach one. Thank you for your time, patience and cooperation.

Gilmat Gospel Singers : Welcome and thank you for hosting us.

Uncle Blaque : Thank you.



Vow takes 'SONG OF THE MONTH'

Uncle Blaque: first things first.Blessed.What's the song all about?

Vow EC : Blessed is about a lady that I'm in a relationship with. We've been together for quite some time and we've been through a lot, like exes and people talking and most of that drama was caused by me.Inspite of that she stood by me all the time and by that I'm blessed.

Uncle Blaque: Nice,"counting your blessings".How did you find out about the #SOTM challenge?

Vow EC : Well I have a nigga IV Seelah who is in Jozi and he's the one who recommended that I try it out since he did enter the competition too and won, so I thought I should give it a go.

Uncle Blaque : oh yea I see. Pass our regards. How do you feel about winning it?

Vow EC : Well good man very good in fact hence because of it I even got people from other places knowing about me and my music since I am in the Eastern Cape Province ,I'm independent and find it very hard to get my music out there, now at least some people out there know me and my art.

Uncle Blaque : Blessed to be helpful. Would you recommend it to someone else?

Vow EC : Yes I would and I have done that.

Uncle Blaque : We're very thankful. Have you received your prize yet?

Vow EC : Yes I have got my prize and I am very content with it.

Uncle Blaque : Your satisfaction makes us proud. Before we close off uhm are you planning on dropping something with the beat or will you lay low a bit?

Vow EC : Imma lay low for a while as I'm working on 2 mixtapes with different hommies so imma just be low-key for a while.

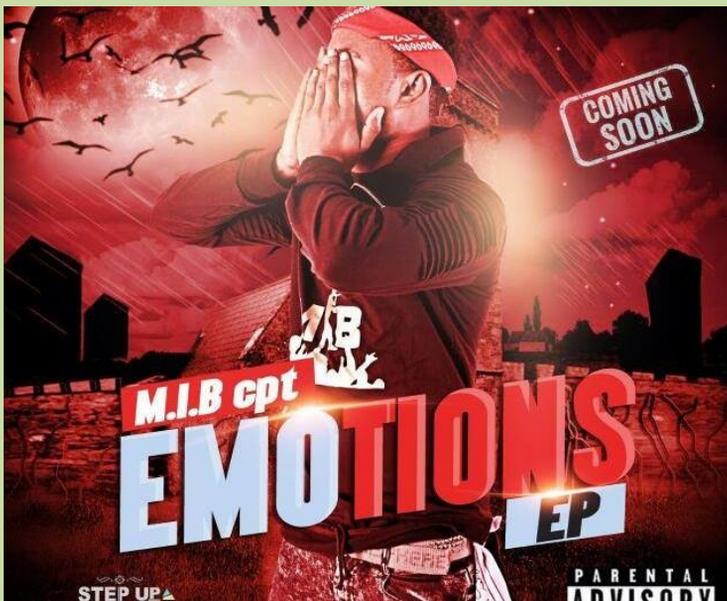
Uncle Blaque : Fair enough. We'd like to wish y'all the best on the projects. Do tag us when dropping so that we can get in touch.

Vow EC: Thank you bud and I will surely tag you.

Uncle Blaque : Greatest.Congratulations,well deserved. Hoping to work with you again soon. Thank you for your time.

Vow EC : Thank you for the opportunity.

Uncle Blaque : Greatest.



“I BELIEVE THAT ANY MESSAGE WE SEND THROUGH MUSIC IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE FEELINGS”

Uncle Blaque : Let’s start firm the beginning, who is M.I.B Cpt?

M.I.B Cpt : M.I.B Cpt is a 21 years old male upcoming rapper from Cape Town, he started his music career since the age of 14 years (2010) even though from that time he couldn’t do more in his music career due to the money issues although he had passion for making music.

In 2013 he started making some moves when some other white guy called Ismail took him and his best friend Chris Siyabonga to a recording studio in Phillippi and they recorded 5 tracks , then afterwards he started performing these tracks to Open-Mic,Talent search and Valentine’s shows in places such as in High Schools and communities around the Western Cape province.

In 2017 he qualified for a bursary to study Electrical engineering at the College of Cape Town and used that money to record his 2 singles Next Level and Statements, after releasing those 2 tracks, people started loving Next Level as the downloads and compliments came through then he decided to shoot a music video for it and it has over a 1 000 views, likes and subscribers on YouTube.

M.I.B Cpt also apologizes to his fans for not releasing too many tracks because of the lack of fund and labels are not signing artists like they used to. He will try his best to make sure he keeps on releasing at least 2 tracks per month. He takes his music as his la career so he will be making music for the rest of his remaining time on earth.

Uncle Blaque : Hopefully something will come up, who produced the video?

M.I.B Cpt : I hope. It's Step Up Prefix

Uncle Blaque : Who have been finding gigs for you and is Ismail your manager?

M.I.B Cpt : I have been doing it all by myself and Ismail was just helping me because of my passion for music.

Uncle Blaque : Power to independence. So the Emotions Uptake us through it like what’s the set up?

M.I.B Cpt : My latest music video shoot was on the 17th of March. I will release the EP after releasing the Music Video first as it's still being edited.

Uncle Blaque : Great, so the merchandise , are you still making them?

M.I.B Cpt : Yes, they are coming soon.

Uncle Blaque : Why did you decide to title the EP 'Emotions'?

M.I.B Cpt : I believe that any message we send through music is supposed to have feelings, for instance if I'm rapping about xenophobia or racism you will hear my voice tone turn aggressive, but if I'm making a love song the tone will once again change. If you're making you should know what type of feelings you should put in so that you can give people an idea of what message are you sending through the music.

That is why I also like to put confidence in my voice when I rap so that people how serious I am with the message I'm telling. First key to know when you are writing a song.

Uncle Blaque : It's great to see a mindful rapper. Keep fighting for the good.

M.I.B Cpt : Thanks a lot bro, I really appreciate that.

Uncle Blaque : We're thankful that you are mindful of your raps. Uhm there's a young dreamer out there about to lose hope as nothing seems to be going right. What words of encouragement would you give?

M.I.B Cpt : I would advice him to work more and avoid negative people, because since nothing seems to be good on his side, negative people might embarrass instead of motivating him and he will end up giving up on what he started.

Uncle Blaque : Greatest, I hope y'all heard. Now before we close off, what does M.I.B stand for?

M.I.B Cpt : Meshac Iyambe Bomanga which is my real name .

Uncle Blaque : Thanks for your patience and cooperation. Much appreciated.

M.I.B Cpt : Thank you

“You only have this one life to live and it can either be cut short or lived long”

Uncle Blaque : 1st things first. Who is Rae.Chil and where is she based?

Rae.Chil : The name comes from my grandmother, Rachel aka ‘Ray’, who I never got to meet but I’ve always been told I look and act like her. She used to love music and singing, so the name seemed fitting. I’m just a small town girl, I was born and raised in Oudtshoorn and moved to Cape Town 5 years ago.

Uncle Blaque : The unpolished diamond had to be dug deep. How did you find love for the music and what made you realize you had an angelic voice?

Rae.Chil : I always had love for singing, as cliché as it sounds. From a young age I used to take my dad’s camera and record myself singing, I took drama as a subject in high school and I enjoyed taking part in our school musicals. I wanted to do into theatre after school but I was told it was not practical enough to support my daughter. I studied architecture for 4 years then I started working.

I became very frustrated because the passion wasn’t there and I felt stuck, I decided to sing a few covers and post them on social media then I got the positive response I wanted.

Uncle Blaque : We hope you get the passion back fully since what you’ve been posting lately is doing crazy. Speaking of latest releases, we’ve seen you give us “Book Of Lies “.What is it portraying and what motivated it?

Rae.Chil : I approached MCK records and said look, I would like to have my own song but I don’t know where to begin. The talented Dalton Del Rio wrote the song and Dylan McKeith produced it, and I fell in love with it instantly. I fell in love with the song because it’s about being betrayed by someone you trust. I have had my fair share of relationships where I was broken down to a point where I didn’t see my worth, most women are stuck in these unhealthy relationships. In Book Of Lies it goes from me being betrayed to me singing “ you know what? I don’t need you, you don’t deserve someone as good as me”.

Uncle Blaque : Fair. Keep fighting for the ladies, most don’t know their worth. We thank you and everyone involved equally so. We hope you again consider doing another project hence “ Book Of Lies” is fireworks. Are you willing to give us another beautiful work of art soon or are you going to be doing covers only?

Rae.Chil : Thanks man. I’m working on 2 more songs which I wrote, the beat is sick and the lyrics are sexy. My one song “ All We Do” is about lovers who are always fighting but when they make love it’s deep and intense, and my other song is about letting these men know that we can play the game too, some of us don’t wanna be in it for a long run so don’t expect commitment from us.

The game is changing. My plan is to have a music video soon, but all in good time you

Uncle Blaque : We wish you the best with your music video shoot. It's kind of hard to wait but yea patience remains virtue. Any release dates for the songs?

Rae.Chil : No there are no release dates yet. Everyone's just going to have to keep an eye on my page.

Uncle Blaque : Fair enough. You're worth the wait. Are you planning on dropping a compiled project?

Rae.Chil : I think for now I just want to release music for the love of it. An album will come in the future, but I first want to grow and once I know I'm ready, that album will come. In the meantime I'm slowly collecting studio equipment, I want to learn how to make my own beats, once I get the hang of mastering my own beats and learning all the fundamentals of producing, way more music will come.

Uncle Blaque : Beautiful, very beautiful. It's the way to go. Power to independence. How do you manage to go to work, get to the studio, raise your exquisite princess and still find time to perform gigs?

Rae.Chil : Don't sleep on yourself, literally. I don't rest and it gets overwhelming at times but I've got a few people who support me and that's all you really need. I'd love to give music more of my attention but I need that day job to pay for the music. We all want our big break but it isn't handed to you. It's a tough industry.

Uncle Blaque : Persistent and focused, not just talented. We wish you all the best in your career and personal life.

Rae.Chil : Thanks I appreciate it. Thanks for creating a platform where you promote young and upcoming artists. We need people like you.

Uncle Blaque : I equally need people like you who are willing to help in any type of way. Thank you, before we close off uhm I always encourage artists to give words of hope to the young ones going through difficult times yet they wanna pursue their dreams. What would you say to such?

Rae.Chil : You only have this one life to live and it can either be cut short or lived long. Ask yourself if you're happy with your life, or just comfortable. If you're comfortable,, make a change.

Uncle Blaque : Hit me too. I hope they hear you. Thanks for your time. We look forward to working with you again soon.

Rae.Chil : Cool thanks.

Tha Calliber

“My best killer move is applying patience”

Uncle Blaque: As they normally say ‘start from scratch’,let’s take it from the itch. Who is Tha Calliber?

Tha Calliber: Well, a simple guy born and bred in the rurals of Kgohloane,growing up being passionate about the arts. Started off drawing, to Hip hop dancing, followed by beat boxing and now music production.

Uncle Blaque: When and how exactly was the love for art found?

Tha Calliber: You know what they say:”life is spontaneous”.As a kid, being curious, everything fascinates you.

You get to encounter things that come, play their part and eventually leave others to stay. I think those are your calling.

I was in grade 3 when I fell in love with drawing. I would mostly prefer drawing things that I see than using my imagination and trust me when I say this: It was like I cut off the pic and pasted it where I wanted to draw. That’s how good my skill was.

As I grew up, i recall loving to watch Hip-Hop shows like Battle Stations and also on the internet, YouTube and the guy called Caesar “Tight EyeZ” Willis truly inspired me. That’s when the love for dancing emerged.

During that time, George Avakian, on Battle Stations, killed me with his beat boxing.(laughs),You now get the idea.



In high school, matric, I liked spending time listening to and watching Koketso "09 SKK" Ledwaba produce music, then I got curious: "this guy's hands are magical, how is he doing that?". I thought to myself, I wanted to produce music so bad, lucky enough I got myself a laptop then Tha Calliber was born.

Like I said "Life is spontaneous" and from my side, I like how its spontaneous-ness went passionate on me.



Uncle Blaque: I guess some things were meant to be. Do you make your own songs too or are you only producing for relative artists?

Tha Calliber: I'm on both sides actually. I believe I'll grow even more because I produce Hip-Hop for my record label, The 1Five Music Group and House for myself. The experience is amazing.

On Hip-Hop side, I made beats for G.O.A.T EP by Ab Rayge and on House I'm about to release my very first EP called Afrotic Spirit.

Uncle Blaque: Great. When are both projects being freed?

Tha Calliber: I'm not sure about the exact date for the release of G.O.A.T EP but it's later this year somewhere around November, so I've heard. As for Afrotic Spirit EP, it's going to be released not so long from now. It's going to be epic.

Uncle Blaque: Great anticipation. Why did you choose to name your EP Afrotic Spirit?

Tha Calliber: It's actually Afro Spirit, though I needed to get a bit creative just to spice up the mood. The term "Afro" takes me back to my where I swim in thoughts of knowing who I truly am and where I'm coming from as an African.

So the EP defines who I truly am as "Ngwana wa thari ye ntsho", that's a black African child.

It consists of Tribal tracks where a lot of percussion is used and people chanting. I'm a fan of that kind of work hence Afrotic Spirit.

Uncle Blaque: Wow great. Keeping it real. So the EP, will there be a lead single or?

Tha Calliber: Yeah, there is. It's called "you're my reasons". The track is filled with lots of emotions. It was inspired by the lady behind the man that I am today, my grandmother. She took full responsibility in my upbringing, while my parents were in Jo'burg, working. She sacrificed a lot for me, taught me everything that contributed in making me who I am hence I took my time making this track just to show how much I love and appreciate her. The track is not enough though. There's a lot that I'm planning to do to show my love and appreciation.

Uncle Blaque: Counting your blessings. We'd like to thank gran for raising us a future leader. How do you manage to attend school, produce your EP, make time for features ,remixes and the Ab Rayge EP like how do you squeeze it all in?

Tha Calliber: My best killer move is applying patience.

I don't wanna lie,FL Studio is very addictive, that's at least from my side, but you have to prioritize, introspect and believe then you won't lose focus.

The thing with us producers is that we have this tendency of wanting to finish a project immediately ,with that mental picture, other things in your life gets to stuck because production demands a lot of time. The best thing is to be patient then I believe everything will automatically work themselves out.

Uncle Blaque: Truest. Patience is virtue, where do you see yourself in the next 8 years?

Tha Calliber: Well I'll be having a profession somewhere in the health sciences, and being the idlest producer/DJ South Africa ever had and of course having a family .Now you see, that shall be achieved.

Uncle Blaque: Well anticipated and yeah God got us. Is there a time where you'll drop a Hip-Hop mix tape or project of your own(Hip-Hop wise)?

Tha Calliber: (laughs) Eish,I have an urge towards that, but I cannot spit rhymes. The thought of scripting eish,that's just another thing that I don't have energy for.

I tried it once and it was straining. I don't seem to have neural pathway for the flow of words.

Uncle Blaque: ha-ha Would you drop instrumentals and invite artists?

Tha Calliber: Oh yes. I'm definitely heading for that one. As soon as my home studio is complete.

Uncle Blaque: So marketing wise, how 's the journey of getting yourself out there?

Tha Calliber: Well, I'm in partnership with my fellow friend who also happens to be a producer/DJ ,he goes by the name Chief Bravo. He'll be the one spreading the Afrotrc Spirited all over the internet, starting off with Fakaza.com.He also released his EP called Matured Music on the 17th of February this year.So in aim for seeking exposure, you can get Chief Bravo's EP via Fakaza.com and I assure you that you won't be disappointed.

Though we're still growing that's at least how we work.

Uncle Blaque: We wish you the best of luck and success in your career.

Tha Calliber: Thank so much for this opportunity of having to be recognised by the great Unpolished Diamonds magazine. It's truly an honour.Thank you.

Uncle Blaque: We thank you. Before we close off, give a word of advice to a young one out there going through some tough time. He might wanna break into the industry or get accepted at an institution but things aren't looking up.

Tha Calliber: There is life, which is a choice. There's your destiny and there's what God has in store for you .It starts off with your mindset ,how you want to see your life turn out through introspection. I chose to blind myself with God and a never-ceasing faith which requires patience. Your very ego forever seeks settlement regardless of what situation it encounters, and trust me when I say this: that can turn out to be your worst enemy. There's nothing else that got me to where I currently am. As low as it may seem, faith in God is what got me here.For things tp happen in the mortal realm it started off in the spirit realm. That's my believe.

But life cannot be formulated, there are many solutions that can be applied to be successful .For me it's complete faith in God, that's it.

Uncle Blaque: God over every thing. i hope one will get saved. Thank you for your time.

Tha Calliber: Thank you for having me.

“we’re just few friends who decided to start making music together one day and kept at it long enough to gain a pretty good following”



Uncle Blaque : First of all What is Oblivion Zero and what is it all about?

Oblivion Zero : At the core, we're just few friends who decided to start making music together one day and kept at it long enough to gain a pretty good following. We try our best to make the highest quality music that we can, and we're pretty proud of everything we have so far. I suppose if we had a category, it would be progressive trash, but we like to wander around in a lot of other styles as well- whatever sounds good to us, we do.

Uncle Blaque : Great. Never limit nor box yourself, when and how did it all start?

Oblivion Zero : The project actually started back in 2009 with our vocalist/rhythm guitarist, Kyle , and our old drummer , Kevin . I (Dan) joined about six months later as lead guitarist. We auditioned bassists for a long time but didn't find a good fit until 2012 when Jeff, our current bassist , joined . After we parted ways with Kevin last year ,we auditioned for drummers for about half a year before hiring our good friend Blake from the band Consume The Divide- friends of ours whom we often play with around the state and surrounding states. I think our line up is as solid as it's ever been right now.

Uncle Blaque : Greatest , what had been the most challenging or career threatening experiences so far and what made you hold on?

Oblivion Zero : As a band, probably last year when we were in between drummers. The entire process of parting with the drummer we had founded the band with and the daunting task of finding a new one who could both play our material and be available for our schedule was a long one. When we first lost Kevin, we sat down as a band and had a discussion as to whether or not we wanted to keep going. It was a short one and we decided pretty quickly that we weren't going to let so many years of work end that easily, but that's the only time we even discussed the possibility of disbanding. We've been really solid together.

“they’ve been very understanding of my plight “

Oblivion Zero : As a side note, personally , I’ve been on a show hiatus for the past year or so due to my mother having been diagnosed with terminal cancer and her gradual decline. I’ve been taking care of her and working full time, so I unfortunately haven’t been able to attend events. I’ve still been writing and working with the other guys, and they’ve been very understanding of my plight – and I will of course return to full time shows when this situation is over.

That’s my personal most challenging experience with the band so far, and not having me 100% for shows is rough on the guys, too.

Uncle Blaque : Sad and heartbreaking. It’s always unsettling to lose a member you started and shared the vision with. We’re glad you’re still around making your ways as a solid crew.

As for your mother being unstable, we’d like to wish her a speedy recovery. We’ll keep her in our prayers. Though we don’t know her, we know her capabilities of raising a leader. That says a lot about her so we pray she gets well soon.

We hope the band keeps cherishing your work and respecting your absence at times. Back to the band, what are you planning to give us this season?

Oblivion Zero : Thank you very much, I appreciate it. We have a few big events coming up this year, but I think the one I can discuss now is Midwest Spring fest 2018 on April 21st – we came in first in a poll to be added to the bill last year and it was our first year playing it- and we were invited by the organization to play there again this year.

So that’ll be a blast .Also, we have several events going on this year that are either sponsored by or associated with The Revival – which is a media group that puts on events year round in support of the metal scene that culminates in a 3 day festival of music, free food, camping and several more activities that takes place in early September. This is their 8th year putting it on, and it’s a blast for everyone involved.

As far as new music, we’re also presently writing our third album which we aspire to have out either later this year or early next year. We have six songs mostly ready to go for it, but we’d like to add a few more to it before we lay down the final versions. All said, 2018 is shaping up to be a promising year.

Uncle Blaque : Too nice, too interesting. Do you have a lead single we can jam to?

Oblivion Zero : Catalyst. That's last single from last year's album titled All That's Left.

Uncle Blaque : catalyst, what's the song all about and what message does it possess?

“believe in yourself and your abilities”

Oblivion Zero : The song was written about self doubt and anger in your mind, unhealthy thoughts. The song takes two perspectives, one from the “dark” side and one from the “good” side and the lyrics are a struggle between the two. The dark side tells you there is nothing good in the world, that you’re not worth anything, that there is no room for compassion and that emotions are a weakness..

The good side refutes that, and encourage you not to “give in to the lie inside” as the lyrics put it, and that there is more to life than that. The song culminates in an explosive battle between the two as the solo begins.

Uncle Blaque : Great piece of art, it’s always a great feeling when I meet someone/group that writes something realistic. This year’s album, do you have a title already?

Oblivion Zero : We have a few working titles, but nothing set in stone yet.

Uncle Blaque : We’ll have to keep following the page. Good luck with your career, we wish you massive success.

Oblivion Zero : Thanks, you too. Have a great day, man.

Uncle Blaque : Before we close off, someone out there is having a difficult time chasing his/her dreams and is thinking about giving up. What would you say ro him?

Oblivion Zero : The only way to make sure you fail is to never try in the first place. If you’re hesitant about trying something new, consider all of the possible outcomes. What’s the worst that could happen if you took that path? What’s the best that could happen? Above all, believe in yourself and your abilities! Great question.

Uncle Blaque : Too realistic, thanks for your time and patience.

Oblivion Zero : Thank you.

OBLIVION ZERO (JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA)



Atomic Tempo (London, UK)

“Dreams are to be made, not broken “

Uncle Blaque : Before we go any further, Who is Atomic Tempo?

Atomic Tempo : I am an MC based in North West London.

Uncle Blaque : Great, where does the love for music come from, what/who made you made you start plotting lyrics?

Atomic Tempo : Boy it all started way back in 1997 when I was a young kid. I used to record garage sets at home..like man Sharky P was on Ice 88.4 fm. His clear lyrics inspired me to start writing.

Uncle Blaque : Beautiful. What were the challenges coming into the music scene, how did you overcome your stumping blocks?

Atomic Tempo : The best way I overcame them, is to pretend they are not there. Obstacles are to be climbed over, not stop you.

Uncle Blaque : Great. So what are your plans for this year, should we expect a compiled project?

Atomic Tempo : As you can see the last 2 years I've done a lot of hip hop , so I would like to carry on this journey and see where it takes me. I have collaborated with artists like Tuggawar and I would like to work with more great artists like that.

Uncle Blaque : Will you drop a mix tape or album?

Atomic Tempo : I am looking to drop a mix tape very soon.

Uncle Blaque : Do you have a title yet?

Atomic Tempo : I do, the title will be Road To Nowhere and my lead single actually dropped on YouTube. It's called Money, produced by Chamelon with vocals from Kayla Sing.

Uncle Blaque : Great, what motivated the title?

Atomic Tempo : Basically the way I look at it, we all have money problems even if we have it. So I just played on that, the ups and downs of money.

Uncle Blaque : Nice. Road To Nowhere, why that title?

Atomic Tempo : Well if you have checked out my profile you would have seen different styles of music from garage to dnb and hip hop etc... I have got far in the music but have not made it yet... so I titled the mix tape Road To Nowhere.

Keeping some humor in it.

Uncle Blaque : Maybe you just gotta wait your turn. Things will fall in place.

Atomic Tempo : Very true, the only blessing is that music has

Uncle Blaque : Too true, have you been getting gigs?

Atomic Tempo : I have done a lot of dnb gigs a while ago, but since pushing hip hop I haven't done as many as I would like to. Fingers crossed though.

Uncle Blaque : Guess you should start approaching event organizers and radio presenters. Do you handle your own production?

Atomic Tempo : Yes from start to finish. Got to thank men like Chamelon for the tracks and mix downs.

Uncle Blaque : Beautiful, before we can close off anything. Some rapper out there thinks about letting his dreams fade because of certain unfortunate circumstances. What words of advice would you give?

Atomic Tempo : Dreams are to be made, not broken. So never give up on your dreams. Everybody has struggles, just learn from them so you don't struggle again. Peace.

Uncle Blaque : Thanks man.

"never give up on your dreams."



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“I need to go international and I’m focused on that”



Uncle Blaque : first things first, who is Longnus The Rap Son ?

Longnus The Rap Son : A young rapper from Africa (Iringa, Tanzania) , who got a lot of dreams in the African Music industry. He’s a humble and talented guy.

Uncle Blaque : Nice. “The Rap Son”, what motivated that title?

Longnus The Rap Son : wow, that name I got after Eminem dropped Rap God and I got motivated. The world knew Eminem as the Rap God so I decided to name myself The Rap Son as I used to admire the song way too much I’d play it daily. It has even become my mix tape title. Rap Son Mixtape.

Uncle Blaque : Vivid enough, so when’s the tape dropping?

Longnus The Rap Son : 25/12/2017. The tape was released by then.

Uncle Blaque : Pity I was unfamiliar with your craft, where can it be found?

Longnus The Rap Son : YouTube (Longnus The Rap Son Rap Son Mixtape).soundcloud.com/longnus ... and hulkshare.com/longnus

Uncle Blaque : Beautiful. So the mission is to push the tape throughout the year right?

Longnus The Rap Son : Yeah, started since day one bro hence this is my first project. A lot of effort in it, and a lot of money outta it but it’s free for my people.

Uncle Blaque : Good luck, how has the people responded to it?

Longnus The Rap Son : Ah. It sounds brilliant and it’s the way up to my hustle. A lot of people calling for collaboration and others asking who’s pushing me, things like that but internationally I don’t believe I’m the one who made it to Rap Son.

Uncle Blaque : meaning you need to go international?

Longnus The Rap Son : Yeah bro I need to go international and I’m focused on that. I think that’s why I wanna push hard materials.

Uncle Blaque : Great mission. Had you been getting gigs and airplays?

Longnus The Rap Son : I'm too busy with school but sometimes I get some short moments and have interviews, but I don't believe in radios, maybe TV shows etc... but soon I'll start a media tour so that I can see what's nice there.

Uncle Blaque : We wish you great, so what do you plan on giving us this year, any project?

Longnus The Rap Son : Yeah, a project is coming this year bro. Collaboration with different guys around the world. I dropped "Tip Toe Rap Version" on the 15th of march this year.

Uncle Blaque : What will the Tip Toe Rap Version be about? Take us through that.

Longnus The Rap Son : Balling, popping bottles and taking girls in the clubs. It's all about banging.

Uncle Blaque : Great we can't wait to be dancing our shoes off. So what's the layout of the mix tape, any release dates?

Longnus The Rap Son : The tape drops 25/12/2018.

Uncle Blaque : Why Christmas day?

Longnus The Rap Son : oh It's my father's birthday so I decided to release it as a gift to my father.

Uncle Blaque : Such love. We wish you the best possible outcome with a mix tape.

Longnus The Rap Son : Thanks a lot brother.

Uncle Blaque : Before we close off. There's a young nigga out there going through some bad time. He's even thinking about suicide, what would you say to such?

Longnus The Rap Son : Ah! Suicide is not an option. In order to survive such things we have to grow and walk through our dreams. If you have a dream it's hard to commit suicide hence you know you have a debt to pay. For those who got dreams they always trust in their process, so suicide has a solution and that is to dream bigger and ask yourself why you're living.

Uncle Blaque : I believe they've heard . Thank you

El Chika (Syracuse, New York)

“it’s been rough and the rough experience is still shaping and helping me perfect my craft”

Uncle Blaque : Let’s take it from the top, who is El Chika?

El Chika : A young struggling to define his path like most young men out there, the difference is that he channels the lessons of those struggles into his passion, which is music

Uncle Blaque : Precise, how did the passion come to existence?

El Chika : The passion is a byproduct of my love for literature, especially poetry, poems and stories. Way back in high school I had a girlfriend I’d always write poems for and she’d reply with her own poetry , I also had friends and we unanimously decided to write diss raps about each other. From then on, the hunger to improve and become better consumed me, coupled with the fact that I felt I could do better than most of the songs I heard on radio. This was how the passion for this music was birthed.

Uncle Blaque : A lot of confidence inside, when did you record your first track and what was it’s name?

El Chika : The first track I ever recorded was in 2012, titled How We Roll but it never got released nor heard because I was no longer in love with it and it was not the type of music I wanted to do.

Uncle Blaque : oh Fair though. How has the journey been, transforming from that style to the current?

El Chika : The journey hasn’t really been easy, it's been rough and the rough experience is still shaping and helping me perfect my craft, and it also helps me make globally relatable songs.

Uncle Blaque : Great view, so are you giving us a project this year?

El Chika : Yes I am. I’m about to drop my Young Broke and Stupid EP this month. It’s a four track EP. I’ve already dropped two tracks off of it, New Daddy and Can We Talk Money.

Uncle Blaque : What does the tracks talk about?

El Chika : New Daddy is a mellow tune about the struggles single parents especially the moms face. They're usually called baby mamas, once the baby pops out then the dad leaves. So in this song, I'm asserting that moms are the new daddies. While Can We Talk Money is an emotional money music, about being broke and wanting to have and remain financially stable. It also talks about keeping your head right and your feet strong.

Uncle Blaque : Great, say what matters. We'll be waiting for the EP. We wish you the best of luck with it.

El Chika : Thank you very much for taking the time to have me, I appreciate it.

Uncle Blaque : Thanks for the opportunity. Before we close off, there's a nigga out there probably failing to get a job yet baby mama keeps on stressing him as she needs food on the table for the little offspring's. What words of advice would you give to the hustling brother?

El Chika : My advice would be for the brother to embrace the family life, I'm not saying he should get married to the lady if he doesn't want to, but he should show support tot the lady. See , most times, baby mamas wild on baby daddies for child support because beside the financial aid the man isn't really involved in raising the baby for a year or two, then you see them coming around. He should support the lady for the sake of the baby not just financially but otherwise. Then, when the lady sees that the man is supportive she will reduce if not stop her wildings.

Uncle Blaque : Amen, I think that's been heard. Thanks for your cooperation

El Chika : You're welcome, Thank you too.

BAD ASS PRODUCTION

“ I just want to see
artists succeed at what
they do”



Uncle Blaque : First of all we'd like to know what Bad Ass Productions is and what it's all about.

Bad Ass Productions : We at the Bad Ass Productions, have noticed one of the fundamental elements missing from the rock, punk and metal scene, is developing talent. In the early days of the Rock scene , companies spent millions of dollars developing talented acts that they had signed. But after investing and watching their investments mature into a success. Record companies are not making enough money and have no interest in investing in raw talent. This is a serious problem for the Rock scene.

We help advance artists careers with the help of Evan J Thomas with more than 20 years of experience. He is a Photographer, writer, interviewer and now a publicist and a talent scout. We also provide a chance for upcoming artists to work with us and related podcasts for those who like to listen to new music and shows.

We developed a TV show called The Underground Sessions where we feature a band playing as well as the interview segments.

Uncle Blaque : When was it found and who is the founder?

Bad Ass Productions : it was found in 2015 by Evan J Thomas. It started off as a booking company but eventually grew into a fully pledged media company . We launched The Bad Ass Art and Music show that has since grown into an event that I put on about 4 times a year.

Uncle Blaque : Do you have artists signed to your production or are you only interested in outdoor activities?

Bad Ass Productions: We currently have no artists signed but we do work with various artists on different levels. We are always interested in working with artists who are willing to further their careers and become the best at what they do.

Uncle Blaque : Your next show coming on the 25th of March, can you take us through it as to what will be happening?

Bad Ass Productions : The next Bad Ass Art and Music Show will be held on Sunday March 25 at QBar in Darien,IL. We have a lot of artists signed up to it. We also have 2 musical performers for the evening with local musician Aaron Michael kicking it off then The Black Sabbath tribute band Lady Evil will bring their incredible stage show. It starts at 2pm until around 8pm. We'll be real close to our fans.

Uncle Blaque : What does it take for artists to be at your events?

Bad Ass Productions : I want artists of all Genres and style. I see a lot of artists who are timid and afraid to take a leap so I am here to help and guide them for their first time. I also have artists who have been featured in shows for years and sell pretty well at their events. I love it hence it's a great atmosphere for the upcoming artists.

Uncle Blaque : Who funds your shows, is it a government recognized agency or are you an NGO?

Bad Ass Productions : I fund the entire show, I do all the work on securing the venue, searching for artists to be featured, finding musical talent, setting up the room on the day of the show and paying the musicians out of my own pocket. We are not a government recognized agency so I guess we are an NGO.

Uncle Blaque : What motivated you into starting Bad Ass Production?

Bad Ass Productions : I saw some shitty events that only rob artists their money so I decided to make something that puts artists first. I even check on artists before they go on stage to see if they are ok. I've had a conversation with Marcus McCallum about this issue and Bad Ass Productions was born.

Uncle Blaque : We have seen a few artists in praise to your help for the sake of the industry, we'd like to thank and urge you to keep going:

“You have to set attainable goals for yourself “

Bad Ass Productions : I really do appreciate any acknowledgement I get. I am humbled to know I've made a difference in people's lives. I just want this to grow so I am able to help people succeed.

Uncle Blaque : There's someone out there with big dreams but lack of resources are bound to make him/her quit . What words of advice would you give?

Bad Ass Productions : You have to set attainable goals for yourself firstly and then once you achieved that, aim higher. You cant sit back and wait for things to happen, you need to make those happen.

Uncle Blaque : Thank you for your time and cooperation, we hope to work with you again soon.

Bad Ass Productions : Thank you for taking the time to find us and giving us the opportunity to tell you who we are.

