

Malz: Banking on Rap Music



In the past 5 years, Bermuda has experienced a surge of new hip-hop talent explode onto the scene. It is a known fact that men primarily dominate the rap music industry. However every so often a woman is able to break through the cracks and have her music heard. This woman who goes by the name 'Malz', born Stephenie Blyden, has managed to gain respect on our island and create a buzz.

Malz is a people person who loves to have fun and wants to succeed in heavily male the dominated hip hop industry. Aside from a small number of women who have managed to capture large audiences, the female MC is a largely unheard voice in the music industry. It all began for Malz when she was 7-years-old, writing poems for fun. Now 21, she's writing raps, producing her own music and is one of many proving that Bermuda shorts, pink sand and rum aren't the only things Bermuda has to offer. Like many artists, she draws inspiration from obstacles in her life and the people around her. She may end up going in any direction lyrically because when she hears a hot beat she doesn't have any inhibitions. She writes whatever comes to mind.

Between the ages 15 and 18 Malz lived in Dallas, Texas with her family where she was able to define who she was as a rapper. She describes her style as "down-south" but versatile. After hearing her music I can testify that her style is reminiscent of "dirty south" divas like Trina and Gangsta Boo. The type of music that gets you hyped for the club. Before she was exposed to Southern hip hop, she names artists, Missy Elliot and Eve (back when she was with Ruff Ryderz) as sources of early inspiration. Her talent really shines in songs like, "Walk-in Closets" and "Show Me Sum'n New" featuring past Underground Music Award winner, Force Proph.

Malz is not a "one-trick pony" either. She's also a budding producer. Her ultimate goal would be to have a successful career in music production and have her rapping come in second. Her bass heavy production is also clearly influenced by the time she spent living in Dallas where she enjoyed spending time with the people she met.

Malz's own beats suit her flow perfectly. Like the ladies she cites as influences a lot of her music is upbeat and tailor-made to get the club jumping. Describing herself as the, "Hip Hop Don Diva," confidence is something she's certainly not short of. Fresh off of winning, "Best Female Rap Artist" at the 2010 Underground Music Awards, Malz is making it known that she plans to be around for a long time.

In the meantime, Malz and her manager Trevor Bailey are carving a niche for her in Bermuda's fledgling music industry by booking shows, releasing music and getting on the Underground Radio Show on Power 95.

You can find her first mixtape entitled, "Cash and Class," in various outlets around the island and check her out on her website, www.mzmalz.com. To listen to her music visit www.myspace.com/