Jay

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English

**The East Way**

Dave East, Harlem rapper that rose up from the gutters to become a successful artist signed by Naz himself. The Harlem owned rapper, dynamic and exceptional at story telling in his music. Unafraid to write about his life or drugs, crime even about going to jail at a young age. Though a clear influence of his environment, East is all about the hustle and grind, all being depicted in his music. With songs like “found a way” “I don't understand it” “prosper” and “levelin up” you hear the clear messages that when push comes to shove he will overcome the obstacles and become someone to remember. With lyrics saying “it was so hard to get what I wanted, I found a way” the struggle and relief of making it out can be felt, combined with a solid and medium paced beat and East ability to tell a story brought the entire song together to

create a masterpiece.

Though he may sound like your typical rapper, look like your typical rapper and have a typical rapper name to say Dave East is a typical and average rapper is surely a mistake. An artist of such a caliber is not discovered every day, everything about him is left in the music, with skills on par with those of Naz, Jay Z, Kendrick Lamar, and more it is no wonder Naz wanted to sign him to his label. The metaphors within his music keeps listeners on their toes wondering what else is in his bag of tricks. Though some metaphors are pretty basic it doesn't lessen the impact at all such as when he said “I don't drink soda but I’m so familiar with coke deals” a similar bar used by many rappers yet the delivery and flow bring it out so much not only that but digging deeper East doesn't drink soda in real life making this bar so mind blowing. The story telling genius, with no filter in most of his music able to talk about drugs, sex and even crime, even when he was expelled from college for being in possession of a firearm, and about the time he was robbed after a drunken one-night stand going into fine detail on his song “Keisha” and even more details in the follow up song “Found Keisha”. Constantly working on his flow and delivery East Collab’s with some big names in music such as Fabolous, and Chris brown two of entertainments hard hitters, to be able to have them on a feature says he is really evolving

as a rapper.

From my experiences with his music it's not your typical rap about drugs and violence. Normally when you hear a rap song involving drugs and violence it about having a good time, trying to make one's self numb, while with east he isn't trying to be numb he's trying to escape the world of poverty, He isn't trying to get “lit” he says in his song “Annoying” I don't feel this perc Imma take me another, saying that the ones he took before he doesn't feel it so to keep going he is going to take another. All to keep making moves so he can have a better life for himself and his daughter. Dave East the type of artist that wear his emotions on his sleeve, one of the realest ones out there, coming from a life of drugs and crime to getting expelled from college to rapping says a lot about his life experiences. Though he may one of the best rappers from New York some songs do lack spunk. For example, most of the songs on his albums are not written by him while whenever he freestyles on the radio he always seems to snap. One song in particular that I think did not meet the bar was his song “Found Keisha”. Thought out the song he speaks about violence and not much about Keisha only time he mentions her Is towards the end of the song. Compared to the first he tells the whole story about how he got drunk and fell asleep in the room and how many condoms he used, down to even asking his driver who was asleep in the car if he saw anyone came out. Yes “found Keisha” is a revenge song but listening to it tends to get you lost as in what is going on here only to realize wait he is planning on getting back at Keisha through the use of his cousin.

Not all the songs on his albums are bad, but whenever he writes his own music and put himself into it then it speaks. Of course, not every day is xmas or should I say not every day is a good day so yes not all of the songs are going to be bangers, which is normal, there is not an artist out there that have all bangers. With East music I have a select few As my favorite such as “Russia” “fresh prince of bel air” “found a way” and more. Personally, whenever East makes a remix or as it is known an (East mix) of a popular song, it goes so hard to the point you would think it is better than the original song. For example when she remixed the Weeknd “Party Monster” he went off, also one of my personal favorites of not my overall favorite, reason being that the lyrics are so relatable especially when he said “ I'm private as shit bipolar, won't say hi to a chick” hearing that bar blew minds, as in I am a shy guy I see a girl I like but in a way I'm bipolar I will not say hi to her. The thing about east that is so interesting is his flow. Naturally he has a slow paced and cool vibe, he doesn't rush his raps, not in a hurry to get somewhere, everything is perfectly understandable, the only thing that may not be understandable is the meaning behind a bar because of how slick and smooth he is with his delivery, just makes you want to listen to more, at least that is the effect it had on me. After one song I was hooked. I chose Dave East as an artist because of how real he is not to mention through his magic he conveys his life as a mystery, not knowing what is going to happen next. Another thing is that he is from New York and as a New Yorker you can relate to some of the struggles he talks about. That rough upbringing to make you grind and find a way out because no one wants to live a life of poverty.

Dave East, New York very own. The Storyteller with a flow unlike any other, creative and use of his life experiences as rap material instead of making up fake experiences of things that he has never done. Overall, he is what you want in a rapper, the grungy look, tough guy, nonchalant attitude and most importantly music like some of greats: Wayne, Jay Z, Naz, music that speaks volumes.