

Big Daddy Kane

Reigns Supreme

Big Daddy Kane talks Las Supper, the current state of Hip Hop, the fashion game and his upcoming film.

Written by Danielle Richardson
Photography by Carlos Jones
Styling by Troy Clinton



During what Hip Hop heads refer to as "The Golden Era", Brooklyn born and bred emcee, Big Daddy Kane, was among Hip Hop's ruling elite class. With a lyrical prowess of a heavyweight matched with his signature smooth finesse, Big Daddy Kane not only set the standard for true lyricism, but is no doubt an emcee's emcee and a legend in the game.

With a film set to drop in 2015, co-starring alongside Keanu Reeves, making music and traveling with his band Las Supper and continuing to keep fans heads bobbing with his classic Hip Hop tunes, Big Daddy Kane exemplifies longevity in an industry that is fickle to say the least. As a pioneer in the game, Kane has witnessed and experienced the transformation of Hip Hop. Kane shares his view on the current state of Hip Hop: "Hip Hop began as a cultural movement, controlled and dictated by youth in the hood. However, it [Hip Hop] is now controlled by corporate powers." Kane describes the art form as a "corporation": "Hip Hop is in the same situation as any other corporation, quantity takes precedence and quality takes a back seat because of the need to mass produce." "Fans don't get an opportunity to hear the quality music we [my generation] continue to next page >

Big-Daddy-Kane-Interview (1).jpg



continued from previous page >

were accustomed to hearing when we were coming up... but I don't blame the artist, it is how Hip Hop music is focused. Radio and social media continue to focus on the negative and that is what the younger generation will gravitate to." As far as words of wisdom for younger artists in the game: "One of the main things I would say, is what I always say, be true to yourself, give people the real you. Don't just follow a trend, [because] when the trend is gone, you're gone."

As far as how has Kane been able to stay relevant in the game; simply put, he gives audiences and fans what they want - a great performance and authentic Hip Hop. He continues to write and cultivate his craft, staying in tune with what is current. Being an all-around music enthusiast, Kane's music rotation consists of old school soul singers Willie Hutch, Otis Redding and David Ruffins. On the Hip Hop side, Kane is a fan battle rappers "Aye-Verb", "Conceited", "Goodz da Animal", and Joell Ortiz. You can find some Rick Ross in the mix too.

As an artist, Kane's style and sound continues to evolve, with his band Las Supper Kane fuses together 80's R&B soul grooves with 80's style Hip Hop. Their album, "Back to the Future" is available on iTunes and bigdaddykane.com. Kane describes the collaborative movement of Kane and Las Supper as a cohesive element, he continues with: "...we do it in a way that everything meshes, it feels like a unit. It is not just an R&B song, where an emcee does a verse... the track flows with the first section being sung, and the B section is rapped."

Beyond the music game, Kane understands maximizing his brand of cool dapper style and tapping into business ventures that are in align with his brand. In late 2014, Kane dropped the "Big Daddy Kane Limited Edition" shoe line with BWalker of London Shoes. Described as "retro", his shoe line is a throw-back to the era when Hip Hop heads rocked British Walker shoes and understood that these shoes were part of the "look" of Hip Hop. When approached with doing a line, Kane's objective was to design a shoe for mature and young consumers that appreciate a throw-back style. As important as the lyrics, beats and movements that Hip Hop is comprised of, fashion and style

Suit: Peter Millar
Shirt: Ermengoldo Zegna
Tie: Sunford
Shoes: Aldo
Pocket Square: Neiman Marcus
Belt: Salvatore Ferragamo

continue to next page >

Big-Daddy-Kane-Interview (3).jpg

are an integral part of the culture. As the messages in Hip Hop evolved, so did the dress; Kane assesses the difference between fashion in Hip Hop in the early days versus today with this, "Kids in the early days of Hip Hop would imitate the styles of the street players, and add a modern twist, versus this younger generation looks to high end fashion as a trend to follow." In addition to music, Kane has enjoyed a career in film. Starring in the classic film "Posse" and other films, such as "Dead Heist" and "Just Another Day"; fans can look forward to seeing Kane in "Daughter of God", set to drop in 2015 starring Keanu Reeves. Kane portrays a drug dealer at odds with Keanu Reeves character, Reeves is a seeking answers in the death of his ex-partner. While maintaining a busy schedule of tours, shows, filming and travel, Kane makes a point to lead a healthy and fit lifestyle. Good stamina and energy is what fuels his stage presence. His routine is simple, but effective: "I hit the treadmill, do ab exercises and maintain a gluten-free diet and no cheese!" On the heels of a new shoe line, live shows and tours in the works for 2015, a film set to drop this year, new music from his band Las Supper and a new sound, Kane understands and exercises his staying power. Having successfully parlayed into different avenues in the entertainment field, he is indeed a vet in the game and legendary figure in Hip Hop.



Jacket: Spondy
Plaid Shirt: Urban Outfitters
T-shirt: Spondy
White Shirt: Michael Kors
Pants: PFP

Big-Daddy-Kane-Interview (4).jpg