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Editors Note



On the cover...

Photography, Styling, Art Direction: Obsidian + Blush

Model: Torrie Blake

Hair: Tanya Kinney



Feature:

Artist: DJ Kimblee

Photog & Interview By: Stephanie Tacy

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Feature:

Artist: Rochelle Alvarez

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Featured Artist

ROCHELLE ALVAREZ

@ROCHELLELINTZ



Photography, Styling, Art Direction: Obsidian + Blush

Model: Torrie Blake

Hair: Tanya Kinney





DJ Kimblee

By: Stephanie Tacy

Darek Gomez otherwise known as DJ Kimblee is a tour/concert DJ and member of OG Ron C's Chopstars. Gomez is originally from Abilene, TX but is currently based out of Dallas and Austin.

He has worked alongside Kaash Page, Quin NFN, Splurge, and many more over the years. We sat down to discuss favorite music trends, upcoming projects, and more.

Q: How did you come up with your stage name, DJ Kimblee?

A: "So I really like anime, and one of my favorite series was Fullmetal Alchemist. And there was a character on there named Kimblee. And whenever I started DJing, I was like, "Man, fuck it, I like him, he's a badass in this show, I'm just going to run with it."

Q: What made you want to be a DJ to begin with?

A: "DJ Screw, for sure. Growing up, I was just always big on Hip Hop. I've been a little hip-hop-head since I was like six years old. Just rummaging through my parents' CDs and then when I started listening to chopped and screwed stuff in middle school and early high school, I just took an interest to it, just to the art of it. I didn't start DJing until I graduated high school. That's finally when I was like, "You know what? I want to record some chopped and screwed stuff." I was really bored at a job that I worked and just started playing with it because I had a ridiculous amount of music on my laptop. So I was like, "Might as well use it."

Q: Is there a go-to song that you have to play in every set, or do you just kind of select based on the city you are in?

A: "It really just depends on the crowd. I have a few go-to's. If I'm in a recurring crowd, if I know what they like there or what city I'm in, I know what to play in that city. Best believe I'm gonna drop some Boosie or Webbie no matter where I'm at though."

Q: What's your favorite music trend right now?

A: "As much as I hate to admit it, TikTok really sets a lot of artists off right now. I have fought tooth and nail against TikTok since it was created because I thought it was corny. But really what it was, was watching my homie Sgt J. He made the beat for "Buss It" by Erica Banks. I've DJ'd a lot of college parties in Abilene with this guy, that's how I met him.

Check out more on the next page

Watching that go the way it did on TikTok, a song that has been around for over a year now, made it skyrocket the way that it has, made me realize like, "Okay, I'm going to go ahead and hop on TikTok." And I started posting my own chopped and screwed videos and stuff on there."

Q: Who would your dream artists be to tour with, if you could tour with anybody?

A: "Curren\$y is my favorite rapper of all time. But I know that'll never happen because he only has women as DJs which is hard as fuck, but sucks for me"

Q: What's your favorite city to work in so far?

A: "Atlanta. I love Atlanta so much. The hip hop culture thrives there like no other place in the world that I've DJed and the amount of love and respect I get from there is unmatched."

Q: What's your most memorable experience DJing?

A: "Probably the first time I ever did a show in front of a few thousand people. About a year and a half ago at this venue in Dallas called the Bomb Factory, which was already one of my favorite venues ever to go attend concerts at. I Dj'd a show for Young Thug, Trippie Redd, - it was a stacked ass line up. And I got booked to DJ that shit the day before. Less than 24 hours until soundcheck. I was supposed to be in Odessa, Texas that same day with NLE Choppa and the promoter called me the night before the show and he was like, "Hey, I know I have you booked in Odessa, but come to Dallas instead and DJ this shit." I hopped on it. And it was surreal. There were 6,000 people, sold-out crowd. And just the energy that we had at that show was phenomenal. It was fun. It was life-changing too, at that."

Q: If you could only have three albums left, and that's the only three albums you can listen to for the rest of your life, what two albums would it be?

A: "I would have to go with-- From The Westside With Love II, by Dom Kennedy. That is something I have gone back to for years and years and years and I'm going to go with Sixtape by Blxst and Bino Rideaux, I've caught myself listening to that for a few months straight. Last would be Pilot Talk Trilogy by Curren\$y. Those albums as a whole hold a special place in my heart."

Q: I know you said you get on TikTok and drop some chopped and screwed mixes. Do you ever release any of your own projects, like some former DJs have done?

A: "It's something that I've been working on for a while now. I'm part of the Chopstars with OG Ron C out of Houston. We're the ones that do the official chopped and screwed versions for any artist you can think of, really. a few days ago I just dropped my debit project with my homie Kyle Banks from LA called "Purple Light." I also recently released a concept tape with my homie Rosecrans Vic in LA. It was a compilation of a series I'm starting, "This is Blxst." That's the first artists that I decided to have on it. It's going to be a continuing thing where it's, "This is ____ ." Just find eight or nine songs by one artist and chop them and release them. As far as stuff that I have in the vault that we're about to release, me and Candlestick did the ChopNotSlop for Kaash's album. I'm working on the ChopNotSlop for Deante' Hitchcock's album and I'm also working on the ChopNotSlop for Matt Ox. Amongst a few other people. But those are the only solidified ones."

Q: Who's in your current top five?

A: "Current top five. I'm going to go ahead and stick with rap/R&B to keep it easy. Because I will go on all day about different kinds of music. But my current top five: Pooh Shiesty, Blxst, Kaash [Page] obviously, NBA Youngboy, and Kyle Banks."



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

W/Literally Lit Liv

Although many people like to stick to the classic way of toking, technology helped to launch cannabis consumption far beyond the 21st century. Companies like GPen and PAX Vapor have been reaping the benefits of modern technology by way of atomizer pens and portable dry herb vaporizers, giving modern-day glassblowers a run for their money. Dab rigs are the most popular option when it comes to consuming oil. More often than not a rig is mistaken for a bong, in fact, some people even remove the bowl from bongs and turn them into rigs by adding a nail, and adapter, if needed. It is critical to understand that a rig, unlike a bong, does not have a bowl; instead, it has a nail that is made either out of glass, quartz, titanium, or ceramic. A nectar collector is the pipe of the dabbing world, with a tip usually made of titanium or quartz. A nectar collector can be built to hold water or function strictly as a dry pipe and acts as a great introduction to dabbing for first-time consumers. Taking dabs may be a more recent approach to consuming marijuana, but it has felt the effects of advancements in technology. Brands like Puffco and Dr. Dabber have hit the pinnacle of style and function with their all-in-one dab rigs, allowing for a full dabbing experience without the fuss.

Not every glass piece or function is suitable for every consumer and finding what works best for you can be a process of elimination. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the choices presented when walking into a head shop but rest assured behind those doors lies the perfect method of consumption to fit every tolerance level.

Have you walked into a glass store and been perplexed by the different contraptions available to consume marijuana? Did you walk in expecting the selection to be simple? Perhaps you got stuck looking at the Gandalf-styled sherlock pipes and couldn't focus on anything else. It has happened to the best of us. Water pipes, which include bongs and bubblers, are a popular way to smoke weed. These types of glass come in varying heights and sizes, as well as price ranges. The key difference between the two styles of glass is that a bong has a removable bowl and down stem to control airflow as opposed to the "carb" and fixed stem that bubblers have in which your finger is used to control airflow. People tend to sway towards bongs if they are looking for something easier to clean and with a more intense hit. In general, bubblers are great pieces for first-time stoners or those who prefer fewer accessories to deal with.

Dry pipes are equally as popular for the consumption of flower. These include the forementioned sherlocks, as well as steamrollers, one-hitters, spoon pipes, and chillums. Hand pipes like these provide a classic hit without the need for water diffusion and allow for the ability to taste your favorite strain just a bit better.

Photography: Obsidian + Blush

Model: Torrie Blake

Hair: Tanya Kinney





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