

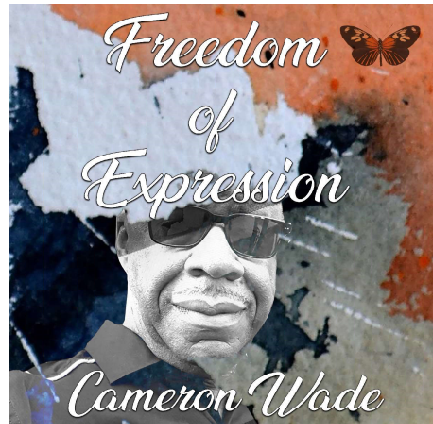
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CAMOLOGY

The
Message
Within
The Music

From: cameronwade.com



The Coronavirus is the biggest story of our lifetime. The day that I was watching TV and saw an announcement which in part said: "The NBA has suspended the 2020 basketball season," I knew things had gotten real!

As the days passed, I began to realize that there was a possibility that people I know and love, including myself, might not be here by summer's end -- the timeframe I had originally earmarked for releasing my album, "Freedom of Expression."

I called my collaborator, Rick Hodge, and told him I needed the album to be finalized and sent to me asap. That was around the middle of March. The album was released April 1st! We know about the devastation this virus has caused but I believe it has also helped us to appreciate life more than ever before.

The concept behind "Freedom of Expression" came from a pet peeve that I've carried around ever since I started writing original songs at the age of 15. People would always tell me that I need to pick one genre and stick to it, whether it be r&b, funk, rock, gospel or whatever. What they and the music industry hierarchy meant was that in order to be properly categorized, you had to identify your sound so they could fit you in their corresponding box.

I'm not knocking the folks who follow that rule but if I hear music, I just love writing lyrics to it -- no matter what style. On this album, I'm not caring about breaking anybody's rules. I'm just enjoying the opportunity to make any kind of music I want and my co-writer fits that concept because every track Rick sends me has been a slightly different genre -- so welcome to "Freedom of Expression!"

Another concept I'd like to introduce you to is the concept of "Camology." Camology takes the idea of mixed genres a little deeper. In every song, I try to send a lyrical message. Sometimes I get accused of trying to go too deep, but if I can't give the listener something to think about, I feel like I'm wasting my time and yours.

If all this sounds like I like to use music to challenge myself, you're right! -- As a matter of fact, I wouldn't be much of an artist if I didn't challenge you as well.

More than anything, I'd like people to tell me that the concepts of "Freedom of Expression" and "Camology" inspired them to change their own lives. Maybe you'll commit to work on a hidden talent and help it blossom. Go ahead and challenge yourself!



ARTIST PROFILE: "UNK" ANGELO

Longtime friend "Unk" Angelo just happened leave his home in Richmond, Virginia for a visit to Atlanta as I was putting finishing touches on songs at both Rick Hodge and my brother Gary Wade's home studios. That's like having Michael Jordan as a childhood friend and he happens to pay you a visit on the day you're having a 3 on 3 pick-up basketball game at the local YMCA!

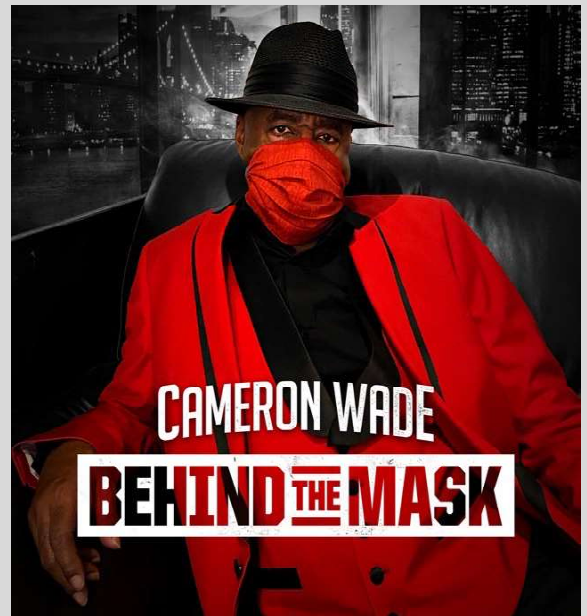
The song, "No Regrets," which starts off with acapella harmony, was the perfect song for Angelo to lay his velvety smooth voice over two tracks on the recording. Angelo said he was a happy camper on his way back home, after having participated in two recording sessions during his short visit. However, he added that he'd like to do more work on the other song entitled "Feeling You," which he hopes will be his new single.

SONG SPOTLIGHT: "BEHIND THE MASK"

Camology Quotient: 85%

Rick Hodge sent me the music to "Behind The Mask" over a year ago. I related to the music so well that I immediately started writing lyrics that sounded autobiographical: "Like a caterpillar, I keep asking why, it takes so long to be a butterfly." and "I live to find more ways to express myself, have my say, instead of living behind the mask."

Obviously I had been feeling like I couldn't be myself. However, who knew that more than a year later we'd all be wearing masks in order to protect ourselves from Covid 19? In the song, I'm protecting myself from myself until "I finally see how to shed my skin and figure out how to be free -- and break those chains." In the song, I'm referring to a mental threat while Covid 19 is a physical threat, but both situations require masks for survival. How ironic, although the even bigger irony is that Covid 19 inspired me to release the music earlier than planned, thereby setting both myself and the music free. Well, at least in my mind anyway...



QUARANTINE SURVIVAL KIT

As we try to make it through the biggest global event of our lifetime, we know by now that social distancing, strategically wearing masks and washing hands frequently are some of the things we need to do for our physical survival. However, our mental survival is another issue. In my household there are some items that are essential for keeping us from climbing the proverbial walls. Perhaps you'll agree, disagree or say "What the hell, it couldn't hurt!" -- and add them to your own list.

1. Netflix account -- Music documentaries like Miles Davis and Nina Simone calm the "Covid 19 Blues."
2. Popcorn leads the pack of tv snacks. Also rans include chips, cookies, multigrain crackers and fruit.
3. Alcohol, used responsibly -- however, binge watching "Bluebloods" will make you crave red wine at dinnertime.
4. Cellphones -- Because they have become our means of communication, information, gossip and more.
5. Music account -- Remember that Ike & Tina song from 1971? Apple can get it for you -- now!
6. Zoom -- The new way to attend church, family gatherings, virtual exercise classes and concerts -- though we're still working the kinks out.