

KRIS FUNN



BALTIMORE

Greatest City in America

KRIS FUNN

cornerstone

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1. Welcome

On the corner of bebop and hiphop, hard rock and hard knocks...

Where the blues is the **visceral** response to everything
and a **boombox** is the soundtrack for a city block.

Where the story of love and hate is disguised behind the eyes of a **semini**.

Here in West Baltimore. This ain't just a store.

It's a metaphor for our lives.

They give us just enough to get by. **control** our **minds** with false narratives
while the lullabye of the **ghetto bird** plays in the sky.

But there is always hope in a system that's broke.

a **church** around the corner...

or when the **love** of your life... becomes your **wife**...

Or when the craft your father taught you before you could speak...

keeps you from being out on the street...

You see it always adds up in the end. That's the mathematics of life...

or should I say the **arithmetics** of it all.

So take a look around.

We ain't got what you need, but I know we got what you want.

Maybe you will find what you are looking for.

Maybe you already have it and forgot you did.

That memory...That **Wish**... That thing...

That represents much of who you are... Never forget it...

It's not what you do today but what you do **the day after**...

Thank You For Shopping With Us...

Welcome to the

cornerstore

2. Visceral

The first thing my Dad ever taught me on the bass was the blues. The blues is the medicine for all which ails and the solution to all of my problems, especially the musical ones.

"Jazz speaks for life. The Blues tell the story of life's difficulties, and if you think for a moment, you will realize that they take the hardest realities of life and put them into music, only to come out with some new hope or sense of triumph. This is triumphant music." - MLK

3. Gemini

Sibling rivalry. Atari Games. The 80's. The story of love and hate.

I never put faith in the zodiac but I do believe there must be some truth to a Gemini having two sides. My brother, Kyle, is a Gemini and he's the only person in my life who I have loved and hated the most. Through it all, I'm grateful to have had him as an older version of myself where I can learn from his successes and failures. It's hard to put into words...so I put it in the music.

4. Boombox

The year is 1986. Five houses up the street from me lived Jimmy.

Jimmy was a 300lb DJ who possessed the biggest radio I had ever seen.

But the sound...the boom bap that his radio emitted...hypnotized me.

Confusion ensued as I ran back and forth trying to figure out why the radio in our house didn't play the same music as Jimmy's boombox. I discovered hip hop. R.I.P. Phife.

5. Ghetto Bird

Kids sleep to lullabies. But all lullabies are not the same. Some lullabies are about birds.

Some birds have feathers. Some have propellers. When you grow up in the inner city during

Reagan's war on drugs, you would be amazed at the things you learn to fall asleep to.

6. Thursday Night Prayer Meeting

Many musicians get their first musical experience from the church.

I grew up in the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in West Baltimore.

It was a lovely church with one or two musicians but...no drums.

My full black church music experience occurred much later in life at CAFE NEMA on historic U. Street in DC.

Every Thursday night I got to go to church, musically, with two of my closest devout musician friends.

7. Wish

I used to wish I didn't live where I grew up. Now I am grateful that I did. I wish I could go back. I wish I knew then what I know now. I wish my Mom was still here. I wish pain never existed. I wish I never hurt anyone. I wish I was a better man. There is still time....For all of us...

8. PIF

The love of my life grew up less than a mile from me. We didn't end up meeting until recess on a schoolyard playground across town. She is my inspiration. The B-girl personified. This ballad attempts to paint her portrait as it loops unevenly like a hip hop sample... then becomes one. PAIGE IN FULL.

9. Arithmetricks

I studied every discipline of mathematics while earning my computer science degree. Many say there is a connection between jazz and math. Maybe. Maybe not. But in my life, there is a much stronger connection between jazz and hip hop. Coltrane inspires what I play as much as Mos Def.

10. Mind Control

Repeating the same thing over and over again doesn't make that thing true, but it could make it more believable. Despite what the media tells you, we are all the same. We all want the same things no matter where we are from or what we look like. Beware of the false narratives that attempt to divide us.

11. The Day After

On April 12, 2015 Freddie Gray's life was taken in Baltimore. My old neighborhood was broadcast on TV across the globe as riots culminated with the burning of the PENN-NORTH intersection. "A Riot is the language of the unheard" -MLK
But real change only comes The Day After...

Dedicated to the strongest woman that ever lived
MARJEAN KAE FUNN

cornerstore

RECORDED AT BLUE HOUSE PRODUCTIONS
ENGINEERED, MIXED AND MASTERED BY
JEFF GRUBER

PHOTOS BY SAM PRATHER

ALL SONGS COMPOSED BY KRIS FUNN
EXCEPT "WISH" CO-WRITTEN BY LAWRENCE FIELDS

THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING WITH US!

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gemini
boombox
ghettobird
thursday night prayer meeting
wish
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the day after

JOHN LEE - GUITAR
TIM GREEN - SAXOPHONE
JOHN LAMKIN - DRUMS(1, 3, 4, 8, 11)
QUINCY PHILLIPS - DRUMS(2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10)
ALLYN JOHNSON - PIANO(6)
JANELLE GILL - PIANO(7, 9)
PAIGE HERNANDEZ - VOICE
KRIS FUNN - BASS

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