



DARK CITY BENEATH THE BEAT

The Untold Story of Baltimore Club Music

SYNOPSIS

Dark City Beneath the Beat is a musical, documentary reimagining the narrative of Baltimore, a city rising above social and economic turmoil to develop a vibrant and close knit community for the arts through it's homegrown sound Baltimore club music.

Dark City Beneath The Beat defines the soundscape of Baltimore through personal narratives of the city's local club artists, djs, dancers producers and creative community as they are realizing their life dreams. Rhythmic and raw, these stories are intercut with musical sequences that illustrate the unique characteristics of the "Charm City's" landscape.

Inspired by an all original Baltimore club music soundtrack, the film showcases the club music genre as a positive subculture in a city overshadowed by trauma, drugs and violence. From the political and social climate to the creative lgbtq community, the audio visual piece opens a window connecting the world to Baltimore.

"Dark City is an experience and a love letter to Baltimore, music, Blackness, gender, and sexuality."

-Amber J. Phillips, Culture Genuis/ Black Joy Mixtape podcast host



KEY CAST



UNEK

Creator of Bmore Than Dance, a local Baltimore club dance organization, struggles with finding spaces for his annual Baltimore club dance competition, due to the inaccessibility of buildings available to the community of majority black male inner city teens he mentors. Uneek seeks better ways to fund his ideas with dreams of expanding his brand nationally and globally by hosting his 8th annual King of Baltimore dance competition.



TT THE ARTIST

Baltimore, club music rapper, sets out to start her own digital record label *Club Queen Records*, a platform that focuses on exclusive music releases by women and a premiere outlet for women of color in hip hop and dance genres. As an indie artist and a woman of color living in a small city like Baltimore, TT is met with challenges of breaking through the mainstream music industry. She decides that in order to expand her brand and her sound she must relocate to Los Angeles where more resources are within arms reach. She envisions becoming a connector between the mainstream music industry and the local Baltimore creative scene.





TERRY

Terry, founder of TSU Dance Crew seeks to create his own dance movement. He spends his weekends teaching Baltimore club dance workshops to inner city youth. Terry has become a local sensation as well as traveling act with a vision to put Baltimore club dance culture on the map. As a single father, Terry hopes to provide a better life for his son through dance. Terry and TSU Dance Crew embody Baltimore club music and showcase the genres signature dance moves.



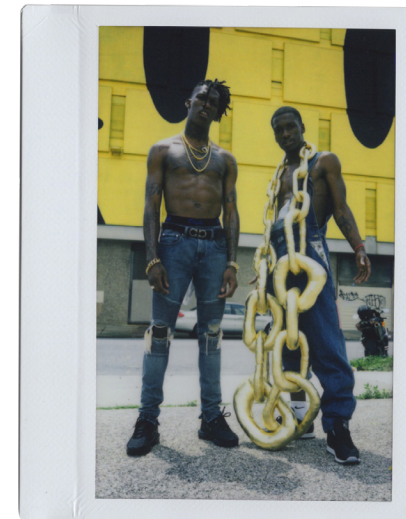
MIGHTY MARK

Mighty Mark is a new school club producer interested in pushing the Baltimore club sound from the southside of Baltimore to the billboard charts, solidifying the genre's place on the worldwide music stage. Due to the need for a professional space to house his productions, Mark partners up with Cutty his barber and they set out to open their own full service recording studio The Gold Room. Mark plans for the Gold Room to become a musical hub and creative outlet for local artists. Through his musical productions he breaks down the anatomy of Baltimore club music sounds.



MOOD BOARD

Polaroids by Rose Diferdinando



Dark City Beneath The Beat, aesthetically blends poetic, experimental storytelling and cinema verite documentary styles. The film merges real life stories juxtaposed with artistic, poetic, musical sequences that further narrate the story.

PHOTOS BY KIRBY GRIFFIN

