

Rules serve no purpose in Projexx's world—they'll all be broken eventually. The 24-year-old singjay and producer's enthralling dancehall fusion style, which pulls from Afrobeats, reggae, R&B, and hip-hop, has cemented his reputation as one of the genre's most gifted experimentalists. With years of growth as a songwriter and person separating him from his previous releases, Projexx returns with a new seven-track project, *GRIM Mixtape Vol. 2*, a breezy collection of vivid, true-to-life stories about women, hustling, street life and everyday violence in Jamaica.

"It's been a while since I dropped anything. I've been working on perfecting my craft and connecting with other artists internationally," Projexx says. "This tape is really for home. It's going to go elsewhere too, but I did it for home."

Projexx describes *GRIM Mixtape Vol. 2* as a playground for new sounds and versatility, furthering his experiments with Afrobeats, R&B, and drill while leaving room for traditional dancehall. Assists from London rapper Giggs and fast-rising DJ Marksman make nimble lead single "Top Speed" a slick continent-bridging collaboration that nods to dancehall's next generation. ("I always tell people, if I'm not an artist I could be an A&R," Projexx jokes.) On the tough-talking "Siren," he employs a slithery flow to fire off warning shots at his enemies, while the amorous "Jiggle" is tailor-made for sweaty dance parties.

While recording *GRIM Mixtape Vol. 2*, Projexx says he sought to create an all-new sound spanning eras and genres, which you may hear specks of upon close listen. But he promises its full reveal to come "right after the tape," teasing more music and live shows this year.

The young Projexx always knew a musical career was his destiny. As the son of producer Lloyd "John John" James and the grandson of legendary dub producer Lloyd "King Jammy" James, he grew up between Canada and Jamaica, where he witnessed the likes of Bounty Killa, Elephant Man, and Vybz Kartel recording in the family studio. Those early memories sparked a fiery passion: At age 15, he started teaching himself how to produce, and at 17, he created his first song using beats produced in Logic Pro and poems he'd written. Shortly after, Projexx decamped to Jamaica using money he earned at a landscaping job to fund his own recordings and promotion, knowing that adding to his family's storied musical legacy would require ambition and assertiveness.

Since emerging in the late 2010s, Projexx has pushed against dancehall's boundaries, imbuing the genre with a worldly perspective. With fans around the globe and an ever-growing list of collaborators from a swath of scenes and styles, Projexx is proof of dancehall's enduring allure. "True Love," a magnetic cut from Nigerian star Wizkid's 2020 album *Made in Lagos*, is a transatlantic linkup bridging dancehall and Afrobeats. Projexx's sensual work with British-Ghanaian producer Juls taps into a similar feeling of diasporic unity. These collaborations played up his pop sensibilities and helped establish his presence in the global pop sphere. And *Queen Hill*, Projexx's debut EP from 2021, was a sonic celebration of the Caribbean that stayed true to his roots while exploring dancehall and Afrobeats' blossoming relationship.

From the very start of his career, Projexx has dreamed of making timeless music capable of carrying the sound of his country far beyond its borders. A hometown nickname of “Grammy Kid” will certainly boost any artist’s ego, but he is quick to point out that nothing is promised, explaining that hard work and commitment are the only ways to sustain success.

“Once upon a time, I was in the studio and very indecisive about how I wanted stuff to sound. I have a better understanding of music now,” he says. “You are only going to get good results by going to the gym every day, working muscle until it grows.”