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Not only are you described as conscious, though, you’re described as Black conscious. So I wanted to know if within the queer hip hop movement there is a substantive discussion about race going on.

I think that that happens just by the fact of who's there and who’s doing it. I think a conversation about this... I mean. It's like when people talk about like, you know, the so called, like race card about like, could be having conversations about that. I mean, it just seemed kind of specious and ridiculous to me in the sense that like white supremacy, is global white supremacy. Race is. That's just a fact of the matter, the fact of where we live, the fact that you know, I'm, you know, I'm a Black person because of the existence of the construction of whiteness. You know, that's just the way that works, is always a conversation whether people are actually verbalizing it, is something they talk about, both by the things they do, by the things they say, in ways that they realize that might not necessarily even be literal, but that are always there and always immediate based upon, you know, race, class, you know, whatever dynamics are sort of crossing each other at the moment. That's always something that's happening.

I'm kind of also asking because I've been reading a lot of interviews with queer hip hop artists, and more than once I've seen white queer hip hop artists talk about it; kind of this just, to me random comparison between their struggle as a queer person, and Black liberation struggles. And from a personal point of view, if I can just say, I believe this is an unwarranted comparison. So, I just wanted to… how do you deal with that because this is, I guess, the scene that you're in.

I don't think that it’s—ultimately, for me--I don't think that it's random at all in the sense that like, if you're talking about liberation struggle of any kind, that the influences that have been created by liberation struggles are lateral; you know, it's like, I'm black and a fag at the same time. I'm never not oppressed as a queer, and not oppressed as a person of color. Or at the same time, it’s like, you can't disconnect queer struggle from women's struggle, from poor people struggle from this… like, it's all the same.

Although they try.

What’s that quote, saying like, that gay rights is now—

Right, Bayard Rustin, you know, this is like before he died, there was an interview that he talked about that. About--this is as a person of color and a long-time advocate--him saying that, like, what he was getting at was the immediacy of the struggle against homophobia in the sense that--

And it parallels to the struggle against Black folks.

You know, or whatever people of color movement in the sense that, you know, homophobia, and this extension, that's hatred of women, and the way it extends in the feminist struggle and misogyny but also that I mean, you know, the way that people of colour, you know, at the same time are oppressed as people of colour; very many of them don't feel a problem being a homophobe. And like, that's something that's completely, you know, okay. Or are doing more, are class discriminatory. So it's complicated and connected in a ways that people want, you know, either not--not necessarily don't want to be honest about, but don't necessarily always have the language to understand the way that they’re interconnected. Right?

Exactly.

And if the Conservative right-wing Americans are trying to galvanize against gay rights, well, then they're going to go to the Black Conservatives, and they're going to try and pull them over and try to redirect all this focus and create a smokescreen. A division.

And they already have. Especially with Christianity, which is--

--on television, they were asking some Black people ‘What do you think about the gay struggle in parallel to the Black struggle, back in the 60s? Is there a comparison; do gay people have it just as hard as Black people did in the 60s?’ People were like, ‘No! No.’

I agree. To a certain extent. It's not the same, but it is the same struggle.

What is it just like talking about gay and black as if they’re diametric because if you're talking about gay people, if you're not talking about non-white people at the same time, I think that's been a part of the issue with mainstream white, middle class gay community; is that whiteness had been something that's been conflated. And gayness have been conscripted by whiteness, especially the kind of way they--

Exactly, to the point where, even the black community--well, I don't know if you say this in English, but denigrate Black people who are queer because then they'll say, ‘Well, you are not Black.’ You’ve somehow relinquished your right to be Black.

How you gonna be rejecting my Black card?

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Hello, you’re back on homo hop here at CKLN that with myself, Mel, and May. So today right now we're interviewing DeadLee. DeadLee, are you on the phone.

I’m right here; what’s up?

I'm gonna kind of quote a little Immortal Technique, and I want to get your opinion on this, because he has been criticized pretty frequently on his homophobia. And when confronted about it, he said something to the effect of, it's interesting to him that the mainstream media, ie Hollywood, doesn't accept Black and Latino masculinity, but will accept a Black and Latino homosexual. And that's on M.I.M, an interview with M.I.M Info, and it's online. So I just wanted to get your reaction because that struck me as something that could be contested by a lot of people.

They don't accept the Black masculinity? Is that what you said?

Yeah, but he's saying that Hollywood is more ready to accept Black and Latino homosexuals.

Obviously, I think when it comes down to it, like, the Latin and Black guys, they’re a threat especially here in America. I mean, just by my look, I get stopped all the time. In my own neighborhood, I'm getting stopped just by my appearance. And if sometimes I'll even throw it back like, I'll tell the cops “I'm a gay rapper.” And I'll use that ‘gay’ just because I think, if I throw that out to them, it just kind of shocks them. They form those opinions on what gay should look like.

Have you ever gotten assaulted you by any like form of authority or anybody for making that statement – ‘I’m a gay rapper’?

I just came back from Minneapolis and I had like 12 LAPD waiting for me at the airport. And this was just based on my look. You know, they asked me why I was traveling around; I said, ‘I’m a gay hip-hopper going to shows’ and… I feel like I’m a target right now.