

## ARTrepreneur: Kevin "Kaoz" Moore

Written by Alaina L. Lewis

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Hailing from Cleveland, but far bigger than any zip code, Kevin "Kaoz" Moore is one of few artists out here who embodies the highly effective, yet rarely used term, of "Artrepreneur."

As a musical artist, activist, actor, spoken word aficionado, LGBT crusader, playwright and all around businessman, he marks the crossroads where artistic prowess meets a finely tuned business acumen. Currently, Kaoz is making his media rounds with the release of his current CD "EnterSexTions," a 24-track collection of stories, realities, pains and pleasures.

To say "EnterSexTions" is a racy disk is to call a spade a spade. However, what more can someone expect after merely reading the title; one's eyes can't help but exhale before your ears even get a listen. Well played. However, titles aside and eyes forward to the bigger situation, what should be most admired about "EnterSexTions" is the bravery and risk behind exposing and exploring a theme that a lot of artists, athletes, and Average Joe's fear discussing – homosexuality, especially in the African-American community. But why should being who you are, be such a risk? Welcome to hip-hop.

"One of the biggest challenges for my music is the stigma around homosexuality in the Black community. I don't carry my orientation on my sleeve, but I am a man living my truth. So I won't lie in my rhymes or make up stories about the girls I used to sleep with just to get airplay or approval from hetero, hyper-masculine emcees or consumers. The fact that I am talking about issues, and real situations our community needs to face in itself is a challenge. But I refuse to feed the world more of this misogynistic, gang/drug related garbage that is mainstream music,"

said Kaoz.

The debate on homosexuality and hip-hop is a longstanding battle that always puts forward the theory that LBGT artists should be contained in a box, or that there's no space in hip-hop music for people to be themselves. Activists behind the mic such as Kaoz, have spent years bridging this divide and continue to fight for mic freedom, and universal avenues to be heard.

"I've always been about carving out my own lane. I hope to break away at this plastic ceiling that has been created in the music game that keeps GLBTQ artists behind the scenes as ghostwriters and contradictory executives," said Kaoz. "I want to be able to live off of my art and activism. I'd like to perform and connect with people across the world, in and outside academia, and disprove the myth that we don't exist. I want to show the world that hip-hop is way more than what's popular now and that its essence originally was all-inclusive. I want to show other rappers that the time has come to either step it up or step over. We are not gonna hide as many gay emcees currently are in mainstream hip-hop."

There's no doubt the gap will eventually close, but it's likely that when it does, there will be a whole world of Kaoz at the center of it all.

To hear more from Kaoz Moore or to pick up a copy of "EnterSexTions," visit [www.kaozonline.com](http://www.kaozonline.com)