

**For Immediate Release**

## **Aundra Island: Drumming to a Different Beat**

Aundra Island was born with the gift of musical talent. At ten years old, he was more interested in playing the saxophone, but his father encouraged him to play the drums so he bought Aundra a drum pad and some sticks. He was a natural and picked up the drums fairly quickly.

During high school, Aundra taught music lessons at a music shop in Diamond Bar where he was able to perfect his craft and share his knowledge with younger students. While most people would listen to Jimi Hendrix and be inspired to play guitar, he was drawn to the musical style of Hendrix's drummer, who had a big influence on Aundra's style. After high school, he got accepted to California Institute of the Arts (Cal Arts) where he studied Jazz History. There he learned a lot about music theory that he now applies to his music. He stayed at Cal Arts for only a short time, because he realized his energy would be better used if he focused more on his music and band.

Aundra's first band was a pop-punk style band called Last in Line. He played with this band for a number of years and opened up for many popular Inland Empire bands. Through the years of networking at all the hot clubs, he one day found himself in front of Angelo Moore, front man for the band FishBone and asked if his band could open up for FishBone. When he explained that his style of music was a combination of rap, rock and jazz, Angelo thought this style of music would be a better opening act for his side project, Dr. Mad Vibes, and it was. The crowd loved it and it was a highlight of his career.

What sets Aundra apart is his ability to play the drums and also to be a prolific rapper. Currently, his new band is staying consistent with the hybrid sound of rap, rock and jazz. His sound is original because he mixes 80's influence, Rock N Roll, big sounding drums and free form thinking. The way his band plays is influenced by the mood they are in, and they often improvise during the songs when they play. He is a master at the drums so improvising along with the music comes easy to him.

The future of Aundra Island and his band is their upcoming album called M.E.D.I.A which stands for multi-ethnic-destruction-in-America. This is his first conceptualization album which reflects what is going on in society today. The ten song album will stay with the unique sound of a hybrid mix of rock, rap and jazz, which has become their trademark. The album will be one of his darkest albums and his goal is to get people to open their minds, get involved, hear the message and start thinking about the world that is going on around them.

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