



VAGA-VYBZ: REDEFINING MUSIC WITH A MESSAGE

BY RAS BANAMUNGU

MUSIC CORRESPONDENT

In the ever-evolving world of music, Vaga-Vybz is a name that stands out for its ability to seamlessly blend genres and deliver a powerful message through the art of music. In an exclusive interview, Vaga-Vybz opens up about his latest album, his musical journey, and the influences that have shaped his unique sound.

INSPIRATION BEHIND "REDEFINITION"

Vaga-Vybz's latest album, "Redefinition," is a testament to his keen awareness of the changing world around us. The artist explained that the album draws inspiration from the constantly shifting societal norms and programming. He views it as a musical awakening for the masses, using his music as a platform to address these ever-changing settings.



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MUSICAL EVOLUTION AND INFLUENCES

The artist's musical journey began in 2003, starting with R&B and rap. Over the years, his music transformed as he delved into reggae and dancehall genres. Vaga-Vybz attributes these changes to the message he wants to convey and his affinity for the Rastafari way of life. This evolution showcases his versatility and adaptability as an artist.

THE STORY BEHIND VAGA-VYBZ

Vaga-Vybz isn't just a name; it's a combination of two significant meanings. "Vaga" represents a wanderer, which could be attributed to the constant journey the artist embarks upon. "Vybz" signifies vibes or feelings. However, in certain local tribes, "Vaga" means the source. When combined, "Vaga-Vybz" translates to "Vibes from The Source of Creation," reflecting the profound depth of his music.



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SONGWRITING PROCESS AND DEVELOPMENT

Vaga-Vybz's songwriting process is as diverse as his music. Sometimes, melodies and lyrics come to him simultaneously, other times, his inspiration stems from observing daily societal events, or the instrumental calls for a particular feeling. His creative process is a blend of intuition and conscious observation.

IMPACTFUL ARTISTS AND GENRES

Vaga-Vybz's musical journey has been influenced by a wide range of genres, from country to reggae. Notably, reggae and dancehall have significantly impacted his work, with artists like Bob Marley, Dennis Brown, and Buju Banton leaving a lasting mark on his music.



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MOST NOTABLE MOMENT IN CAREER

The artist holds in high regard the day he initially entered the recording studio to produce his inaugural single in 2003 as the paramount memory in his music career. This event signified the commencement of an enduring musical odyssey. Furthermore, he takes pride in being honoured as the "Recipient of the 2022 Global African Music Awards for African Reggae Artist of the Year."

The artist fondly recalls the day he first stepped into the studio to record his debut single in 2003 as the most memorable experience in his music career. It marked the beginning of a lifelong musical journey. "Recipient of the 2022 Global African Music Awards for African Reggae Artist of the Year."



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APPROACH TO LIVE PERFORMANCES

Vaga-Vybz brings discipline to his live performances, drawing from his background in a brass band and traditional music troupe as a child. Extensive preparation, rehearsals, and practice are essential elements of his approach to delivering memorable live shows.

MESSAGE AND EMOTIONS IN HIS MUSIC

Vaga-Vybz's music revolves around positive themes, including love, unity, harmony, awakening, freedom, peace, and family. His music is a vehicle to convey messages that can impact someone's life and change moods positively.

INFLUENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

His cultural heritage influences his music in various ways, such as incorporating local instruments and traditional attire into his performances, proudly representing his cultural background.



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UPCOMING PROJECTS AND COLLABORATIONS

Vaga-Vybz is excited about an upcoming collaboration titled "Love," produced by Rally Up Music from Jamaica, featuring Owen Irie from Jamaica and Bre from Ethiopia. The song's message revolves around love being the key element to make the world a better place.

CHALLENGES IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

Managing an independent career has been one of the most significant challenges for Vaga-Vybz in the music industry. However, it's also been a source of valuable lessons that have contributed to his growth as an artist.

HIDDEN TALENTS AND HOBBIES

While music is his primary focus, the artist humorously mentions that he could have been a farmer if he weren't a musician. He considers it more a choice than a hidden talent.



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BALANCING PERSONAL LIFE AND MUSIC

For Vaga-Vybz, balancing personal life and music is about recognizing that he is the product. He keeps this perspective in mind when navigating the demands of the music industry.

UNUSUAL FAN ENCOUNTERS

Vaga-Vybz has encountered a wide range of fans, some with unusual and interesting stories. He remains grateful for these experiences and doesn't like to brag about them.

THE STATE AND FUTURE OF THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

The artist comments on the digital nature of the current music industry, which is evolving rapidly. He acknowledges the unpredictability of the future and the necessity for artists to adapt to the changing landscape.



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DEALING WITH WRITER'S BLOCK

Vaga-Vybz views music as a reflection of everyday life, which keeps him inspired. He believes that as long as he lives, he can continue to create music, making writer's block a foreign concept to him.

FAVORITE INSTRUMENT

Despite not being a proficient player, Vaga-Vybz's favorite instrument is the drum. He values its role in traditional culture for bringing rhythm and conveying the direction and mood of a particular music piece.

FUTURE EVOLUTION OF HIS MUSIC

Regarding the future of his music, Vaga-Vybz anticipates that it will continue to evolve in sync with his personal growth and the experiences he encounters throughout life.



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SUPPORTING CHARITABLE CAUSES

The artist actively participates in charitable causes, particularly those focused on helping children. He is associated with charitable foundations in Rwanda and Uganda and leverages his music to contribute to fundraising and charitable events.

ADVICE FOR ASPIRING MUSICIANS

In closing, Vaga-Vybz advises aspiring musicians to focus on self-improvement and daily evaluation. He emphasizes the importance of working with a dedicated team to achieve success in the music industry.

In an ever-changing world, Vaga-Vybz's music stands as a testament to his ability to adapt, evolve, and convey profound messages through his work. As he continues to redefine the boundaries of music, his dedication to positivity and unity remains unwavering