

KING KAPISI BIOGRAPHY [2016]

Samoan artist King Kapisi aka Bill Urale was the first Polynesian hip-hop artist to receive the prestigious **APRA Silver Scroll Award** for Songwriter of the Year for his single **Reverse Resistance** in **1999**.

King Kapisi has released three albums, **Savage Thoughts (2000)** and **2nd Round Testament (2003)** and **Dominant Species (2005)** they were released in Australia with local sales hitting the gold status mark.

The award-winning artist was nominated for **13 awards** at the **2001 New Zealand B.Net Awards** and took home seven of the prizes including *Album of the Year*, *Song of the Year* and *Best Music Video*. His visually striking music videos, some of which have been directed by him, have also won numerous awards including **Flying Fish Music Video Awards**, **Mai Time TVNZ** and **Juice TV**.

King Kapisi has performed alongside **Janet Jackson**, **Moby**, **Black Eyed Peas**, **Beastie Boys**, **Michael Franti & Spearhead** and **Red Hot Chili-Peppers** and many more.

By 2002, Kapisi had performed and gigged at almost every major music festival and event in New Zealand as well as tours to **Australia**, **Japan**, **Fiji**, **Hawai'i**, **Tonga**, **Samoa** and in the previous two years touring extensively in **Canada**, **Germany**, **Ireland**, **England**, **Norway** and the **USA**.

In **2002**, Kapisi started his own clothing label, **Overstayer Clothing**. In 2003 and 2004 he was awarded the **Westfield Style Pasifika Designer Award** giving Overstayer the opportunity to participate in the coveted **2003 L'Oreal** and the **2004 Air New Zealand fashion weeks**. Overstayer Clothing was the first local urban street label to be made available in **Farmers Trading Stores** nationwide.

In **2003**, **TRADENZ** and **NZMIC** invited King Kapisi to represent New Zealand at the **Central Park, NYC** birthday celebrations. Promoters were impressed with his Central Park performance that he was invited to play at the first old school hip-hop reunion in **Crotona Park, South Bronx**. He played alongside legends such as **The Furious Five**, **Cold Crush Brothers**, **Jazzy Jay** and **The Rocksteady Crew**. Kapisi was also given the opportunity to record a track with the legendary **Kay Gee** from the **Cold Crush Brothers**. The **European leg** of his **2003** overseas trip saw him perform a showcase at the international music conference **POPKOMM in Cologne Germany**. He also spent time in **Kaiserslauter, Germany** recording with **Germany based American producer, Smitty K**.

In **2004**, Kapisi was invited by the **German government** as part of its new initiative scheme to promote cultural exchanges between New Zealand and Germany. Having supported German rap star **MC Klueso** in a New Zealand tour, Kapisi headed back to Germany to attend the **POPKOMM** music conference for a second time with **Goethe Institute** playing host. Kapisi had the opportunity to record two tracks with German music producers **Trickski** and **Slope** from the **Sonar Kollektiv** record company. Kapisi also produced tracks for various local hip-hop artists in **Berlin**, **Amsterdam**, **Dublin**, **Toronto** and **Sydney**. In August 2004, **Harbourfront Corporation** in **Toronto, Canada** invited Kapisi to attend its annual indigenous music and arts festival **Planet IndigenUS**. Kapisi produced a track with local indigenous rap artists **Slangblossom**.

A second trip to Europe was made possible in **2005** through a collaboration with legendary kiwi artist/composer **Chris Thompson** (now based in Belgium) where Kapisi wrote three tracks for his 2005 album release, **Discovery**. Chris Thompson's album was released in Europe followed by a performance at the **Bergen Blues Festival in Norway**. Kapisi extended his trip from Bergen to explore markets in **Holland**, **England** and **Ireland**.

Kapisi continued to travel throughout New Zealand and Australia working on various projects with consistent market exploration trips throughout **2006** and **2007** to **Los Angeles**, **New York** and **Jamaica**.

In **2008**, projects were sparked between **Philadelphia based** producer **King Britt** and **UK/Jamaica based** spoken word poet **Yasus Afari**. While on the **Big Day Out Tour in Australia**, he recorded a track called **Stand** with Jamaican artist **Luciano**.

2009 saw Kapisi completing work on a project in collaboration with **Adidas International** and the New Zealand **All Blacks** rugby team, creating music for the **worldwide rugby campaign** and released online. He was also invited to play in **Toronto, Canada** at the fourth **Planet IndigenUS** Festival for the second time. The year also included a **17 date nationwide tour** with gigs in **Los Angeles** and **San Francisco**.

Throughout **2010**, markets were explored in **Australia** with performances at international indigenous festival **The Dreaming**, **Australian World Music Expo** and **Island Vibe Festival**. He also played at the **Honda Festival in Thailand** famous for its 300,000 strong crowd along 1km of beach that can be located from Google Satellite Maps. While in **Bangkok** he also shot two music videos for releases **Superhuman** and **Safari**.

2011 was welcomed via **Rarotonga, Cook Islands** with two music videos shot over the New Year period for singles **Salvation** and **Clap your Hands**. He was also part of the **Hip-Hop Summit Bring Your Game** at **Campbelltown Arts Centre** as part of the **Edge of Elsewhere Project** and the **Sydney Arts Festival** in January. March saw Kapisi play a successful showcase in one of the biggest showcase festivals in the USA, **SXSW**. He also played in the United Kingdom playing at the biggest outdoor festival in Europe, **Glastonbury** with a stop over in Los Angeles, USA as he continues to build his following abroad.

After spending time with family over the Summer 11/12, Kapisi kicked off his international travels in **Rarotonga, Cook Islands** co-presenting TVNZ produced South Pacific focused television programme, **Fresh**. An earlier successful six-piece band show at the Australian World Music Expo in Melbourne Australia in 2010, saw Kapisi invited to play in **Marseille, France** at the **Babel Med World Music Festival** in March 2012. Proceeding his European jaunt of his travels, he was once again invited to play the **World Market Hip Hop Showcase** at **SXSW** in **Austin, Texas**. A feat that rarely sees an artist invited back in consecutive years. Before leaving U.S shores he collaborated with many Los Angeles producers and beat makers, strengthening his ties to local markets in preparation for a 2014-15 tour on American soil. The last leg of the European tour saw Kapisi play London's **Shepherds Bush Walkabout Bar** fundraiser for **Kiwi Paralympic Gold Medallist Nathan Smith**. Then a return to England with his partner in rhyme, Che Fu under the name Hedlok to play at the **Leeds Walkabout Bar**, **Beautiful Days Festival** (Devon) and the UK Hip Hop legends **Take it to the Bridge** Boat Party.

During **2013** Kapisi decided to take a break from international long haul travel to spend time with his family, something he hasn't managed to do much in the past six years due to international commitments. He has been putting in work on his **fourth album** release **Hip Hop Lives Here**, a world-wide collaborative project with studios and artists from **Marseille (FR)**, **Brest (FR)**, **London (UK)**, **Los Angeles (USA)**, **Bay Area (USA)**, **Fiji**, **Samoa** and **New Zealand** as well as setting up his family retail outlet, **The Plantation Store**.