

# Watch: Nikka Costa's Visualizer For Keep It High

Nikka Costa shares the visualizer for her positivity anthem "Keep It High." The second single from her upcoming *Dirty Disco* album goes deeper into her dance world with a funk push from the talkbox. Costa's proper reemergence comes with a group of songs performed by some of the industry's best musicians including the legendary Greg Pillinganes, Brandon Coleman, Justin Stanley, and more. The visualizer has the kind of kaleidoscopic patterns and movements most associated with style from the '70s. The singer explained what "Keep It High" means in a statement.

*" 'Keep It High'...is my personal remedy for the negative energy circling the world right now. It's kind of like my mantra, what I try to remember and live by on a daily basis. Elevating conversation, deepening connection with people and being aware of the energy I walk around with and put into the world. It's about doing what I can to stay positive amongst the chaos & grabbing the light wherever I can, then sending it right back out. "Energy dictates the feeling, what you put out there multiplies."*

*Dirty Disco* will drop on June 7th. Costa will announce live dates supporting her ninth studio album soon.



Credit: Bobbi Rich

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# Bella Brown & The Jealous Lovers Release Debut Album

**BELLA BROWN**  
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**THE JEALOUS LOVERS**



**SOUL CLAP**

**LRK**  
RECORDS

Bella Brown & The Jealous Lovers have emerged with their debut album *Soul Clap*. Singer and actress Carol Hatchett fronts the Los Angeles-based funk and soul band. The group is one of Hatchett's many projects as she was recently heard singing backup on Jon Batiste's Grammy-winning *We Are*. As Bella Brown her artistry is inspired by blaxploitation soundtracks, '60s soul, and classic funk. Producer, bassist, and songwriter Daniel Pearson leads the band through its various groove tributes. The songs are not exceptionally long but sound like jam sessions more than radio-ready singles. "Coming For You" takes its rhythm cues from James Brown and has an organ that would make Booker T. Jones proud. Brown sings with a resolute smoothness that changes into a rap fit for quiet storm R&B.

Her retro swag has the kind of juice Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings brought to their recordings and kinetic live shows. "Soul Clap," the single, reheats Hamilton Bohannon's "Let's Start The Dance" with a renewed party vibe for 2024. Brown's style also comes from the same world as Parlet, the all-woman Parliament-Funkadelic offshoot. The band slows things down for the ballad "There Is Love" and Brown declares the existence of truth and rainbows for all who need to hear it. Their homage to The Stylistics is more than a simple throwback in the presence of Brown's glowing vocals. *Soul Clap* reintroduces pieces of music history in a set of compositions that entertain and also remind you that school is in session.

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## **James Brown Documentary Say It Loud To Screen In February**





*James Brown: Say It Loud* is a new documentary about the late music pioneer directed by Deborah Riley Draper. The two-part documentary will premiere on Monday, February 19th, and Tuesday, February 20th on the A& E network. The documentary looks at Brown's life as a young kid stealing cars and later leaving prison to become a pioneer of soul, funk, and hip-hop. There are never seen before interviews and performances from James Brown and interviews with friends and artists. Bootsy Collins, Mick Jagger, LL Cool J, The Reverend Al Sharpton, Public Enemy frontman Chuck D, Jimmy Jam, Terry Lewis, Dallas Austin, and Brown's children Deanna, Yamma, and Larry Brown, and more speak about Brown's contributions. Mick Jagger, Shawn Gee, Victoria Pearman, Charlie Cohen, Questlove, Black Thought, Bruce Resnikoff, Mari Keiko Gonzalez, David Blackman, Peter Afterman, and Zarah Zohlman are listed as executive producers of the documentary which debuts during Black History Month.

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# Amp Fiddler's Memorial Service



Amp Fiddler's memorial service is scheduled for February 3rd at Fellowship Chapel in Detroit, MI. The family hour is at 10 AM, and the memorial service is at 11 AM. Fiddler, who was a longtime fixture of Detroit and the world's funk scene, died December 18th after succumbing to cancer. His resume included working with Parliament-Funkadelic, Prince, Maxwell, and much more. As a solo artist, he released seven albums independently that were respected for his original flavor and masterful craft. Fiddler's legend is also tied to James "J.Dilla" Yancey, who was a neighborhood kid he mentored and eventually introduced to Q-Tip, which took Dilla's career to the next level. A GoFundMe was created to pay for Fiddler's homegoing service, and so far, it has raised \$23,000 towards the \$35,000

goal. Fiddler's wife, Tombi Stewart, organized the fundraiser, which still accepts donations.