

# Andrés Releases Andrés V



Detroit DJ, producer, and musician Andrés has released *Andrés V* on Moodymann's Mahogany Music. The former Slum Village DJ started releasing house music on Kenny Dixon Jr.'s label in the early 2000s. He has kept his hip-hop work mostly under his DJ Dez moniker but *V* blends both aesthetics and more into an irresistible party packet. *V* opens the album with the gospel trance of "Praises" which was released as a single in 2021 and wound up in heavy rotation by people like Louie Vega. "Cybermate" coolly describes a digital lover in a charming mix of ghetto house and New Wave that will force any listener to surrender into a continued head nod. "Listen To The Sound" dresses Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams" in droning bass, faint horns, and speed ideal for driving music and the dancefloor. Dez's time with Dilla shows up in his James Brown sampled "Funky 2Step" which belongs in a modern version of a Soul Train line.

The album ends with the funky cosmic racket of “Jungle Stroll” that punches in with a sample of Roxanne Shante’s “Roxanne’s Revenge.” *Andrés V* reaffirms Detroit’s dance music legacy and Mahogany Music’s current status as the most relevant house label in the city. The only problem? *Andrés V* ends too quickly, leaving the listener thirsty for at least one more song.

[ANDRÉS V by Andrés](#)

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## **DJ Dez & DJ Butter-Special Thanks To The Struggle (Official Video)**

[youtube id="V7er81pYzDU"]

DJ Dez and DJ Butter take turns rapping and reminiscing about the past over a table of photographs in their video for “Special Thanks To The Struggle.” Clips of Eminem, Elzhi and a mural dedicated to MC Breed are a few of the things intertwined into the visual story of their journey creating corporate-free Detroit hip-hop.

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## **DJ Dez & DJ Butter Share A**

# Piece Of The Action (Interview)



DJ Dez and DJ Butter are veterans of Detroit hip-hop having worked with everyone from Proof to Danny Brown. Butter has released over 250 mixtapes and Dez was the DJ for Slum Village. Dez is unique for a hip-hop producer/DJ because he also has a credible background in dance music having released several highly regarded singles for Detroit house legend Moodymann's KDJ label. His discography also includes R&B work with funk/soul/hip-hop generator Amp Fiddler and singer Monica Blaire. Together, Dez and Butter have recently released their 3-years in the making collaboration album, *A Piece Of The Action*. Kurupt, Kool G Rap, Guilty Simpson and Elzhi are a handful of the guests on the 14-song collection. In the following interview they discuss the origins of their current project, Detroit hip-hop and future plans.

*"It's something for the gangstaz and the hip-hoppers all in one"*

**When did you two decide to collaborate for A Piece Of The Action?**

BUTTER: about three and half years ago. We started on the first song with Loe Louis. Loe was apart of a group called Laswunzout. They were one of the first groups out of Detroit to go to Cali to record with Davina. Soul Assassins and was on wax with a deal and all that. Dez and I sat back and tried to get a direction after that. Loe is a pioneer in Detroit, We knocked it out at Geno XO studio off 7 Mile.

**What kinds of ideas did you have about the way you wanted it**

**to sound and who you wanted on it?**

BUTTER: We just wanted it to flow. The album has a few skits, and it's something for the gangstaz and the hip-hoppers all in one. We just wanted some legends from the city on there as well as some of our favorites. People like B0\$\$ should be celebrated. She's one of the first gangsta rap females to go platinum on Def Jam. That shouldn't go unnoticed.

**Dez, you have a background in all kinds of music and your father is a drummer of Latin music. How did you decide on house music and hip-hop as your chosen genres?**

DEZ: I'm a product of hip-hop. When I was introduced to it I was drawn to it. As I progressed through hip-hop I was chilling with MoodyMann and he said "I think you should give dance music a try". I find it to be the same level of creativity. I think I have found my particular sound now, since I stayed with it for this amount of time.

[youtube id="TY-64hjlu74"]

**Butter, how did you become a hip-hop DJ?**

BUTTER: My dad always had a reel-to-reel at home – vinyl, turntables. So when I heard records like "Buffalo Girls" or Seeing Jam Master Jay on the "Rock Box" video blew my mind. Way stronger than *Superfly* or *Scarface*. When I met my homie Illy-Ill around 11 or 12 years old, he said I could be in his rap group C.O.P. (Congregation Of Poets). He asked if I had records and I said "Yeah". That's how we started, with me claiming my dad's albums.

**"I'd Rather Be Judged" talks about a lack of unity among Detroit hip-hop artists. Why do you think that is?**

BUTTER: The radio stations don't really support the artists properly. In some way I think that keeps us in a bubble, so it builds up frustration with each other. How can we create

moguls in the city like Puffy and Master P without that support? It's crazy, man. So we tend to beef without each other because of being underappreciated. I produced that record at my man KonPhlict of Tha Almighty Dreadnaughtz's crib.

**What do you remember most about Dilla or learning from him?**

DEZ: I learned from Dilla to care about what you present to the people. Dilla always stayed fresh when he was in public. Dude was a thinker and a mastermind. For him to have all the sodas in his refrigerator looking the same, placed in order, says a lot about a person. Dilla was a fan of Dilla. That's what I learned.

**Do you feel like the success of Danny Brown and Dej Loaf has given Detroit hip-hop more of a national identity?**

BUTTER: Props to Danny Brown. We've done stuff with him. I'm inspired by his growth. Dej Loaf is doing her thing indeed. 2014 was a great year for Detroit, even with Royce and Primo.

**It looks like you had fun filming the video for "Heavy Hittaz". Are there more coming?**

BUTTER: It was a big day for Detroit. Even a wedding party crashed our video to take pictures with Kurupt.

DEZ: Riding the wave of *A Piece Of The Action*. I Got Andres #4 coming out on Mahogani Music/KDJ/La Vida. Be on the lookout for D.F.D. (Drummer From Detroit) which is an alias of mine, and some more dance music. KonPhlict of Tha Almighty Dreadnaughtz and I also have a project on the way.

BUTTER: I'm learning how to do films and documentaries now. I'm working on a few projects now, also got some stuff with Dilla's mom under my sleeve. Can't forget about the Boldy James project – the cover art pays homage to Proof, J Dilla, Blade Icewood and Mc Breed. Stay Tuned!

Follow DJ Dez [@DJDEZANDRES](#) Follow DJ Butter [@iamdjbutter](#)

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# **Boldy James & Kurupt-Heavy Hittaz Produced By DJ Butter (Official Video)**

[youtube id="7nRyEmW2i1w"]

“Heavy Hittaz” is the latest single from the DJ Dez and DJ Butter album, [A Piece Of The Action](#).