**BIO**

When we all look back on the history of New York Drill someday, the style’s origins will point directly to 22Gz. The moment those menacing beats first rattled the city happened when the RIAA certified rapper burst onto the scene in 2016. Flanked by industrialized bass and beat-craft, he charged forward with deft and dynamic wordplay, spinning together street stories so real you could practically see them unfold in front of you. After racking up hundreds of millions of views and streams and inciting applause from *Vulture*, *Pitchfork*, *Noisey*, *The Source*, and more, he continues to bulldoze a path of his own on *The Blixky Tape 2 (Deluxe)* [Atlantic Records] and more to come in 2022.

Growing up in Brooklyn, he endured hardships that would make most of us give up—from his father’s murder and being raised by his older sisters to brush ups with the law. At the same time, he attended a gifted program at Philippa Schuyler in Brooklyn where he developed his verbal acuity. *“I wasn’t really too good in terms of behavior, but I got a lot of my vocabulary from school*,*”* he notes. He soon began to realize the value his words would have. Energizing a new wave, his 2017 single “Suburban” would be hailed as “*the first Brooklyn Drill song worth a damn”* by *Pitchfork*. Meanwhile, the sequel “Suburban Pt. 2” earned a gold certification from the RIAA. Between projects such as *The Blixky Tape* [2019] and *Growth & Development* [2020], he piled up hundreds of millions of streams as *Complex* dubbed him “*a trailblazer of Brooklyn drill music*” and *HYPEBEAST* assured, “*22Gz is one of the main reasons Brooklyn’s drill scene made its way to the masses.*” He first unleashed *The Blixky Tape 2* in 2021 as “Twirlanta” generated millions of streams and almost 10 million video views. However, he decided to once again embrace the sound he pioneered on *The Blixky Tape 2* (*Deluxe)*.

Beyond the sound, his lyrics matter the most.

“It’s the elevation of *The Blixky Tape*,” he explains. “Since I’ve been in Atlanta, I’d been experimenting with a lot of southern beats, but I’m back on some NYC drill. It’s less dissing and more rapping. That’s the message I’m trying to send now. The city has been getting a little violent, so I’m saying something different.”

Taking no prisoners, he first set the stage for this era with vibrantly vengeful “Retaliation,” cracking 13 million Spotify streams. On its heels, he brought the party with “Said It’s Lit,” which quickly racked up streams in the millions as well. On “Loyalty” [feat. Internet Money], an orchestral Middle Eastern sample buzzes underneath thick bass and glitchy synths. After an elegiac spoken passage, he tears through the production with high-powered and high-speed verses before a hard-hitting hook.

“The sample on the beat was crazy, and I rocked with it,” he goes on. “It’s about certain street codes we live by where I’m from. Loyalty is everything in life, not only in the streets.”

Produced by regular collaborator TeddyDaDon, the upbeat “Toe Taggers” hinges on airy piano as he shows receipts, *“Prior to 2016, ain’t no rappers from Brooklyn on UK beats, check the dates.”* Then, there’s the emotionally charged “Possessed.” Haunting melodies underscore his powerful delivery.

“There’s some pain on there,” he admits. “This is true drill shit.”

The same could be said of “Omerta” [feat. CoachDaGhost]. Something of a spiritual sequel to their previous collaboration “Movie,” these two New York titans lock into a lyrical crossfire punctuated by a pummeling thump.

“We’re switching up the flows,” he adds. “It’s definitely like *‘Movie’* part two. We’re trying to paint a picture for the fans.”

In the end, 22Gz doesn’t continue to impact hip-hop; he leaves an indelible mark on the culture and beyond.

“I’m trying to leave my stamp on NYC and rap,” he leaves off. “I’m going to keep showing everyone how it’s done because I’m the *‘General Blixky’*. Now I’ve learned more about the business and the industry, and I’m ready for the next chapter.”

“This shit gets people through depression and a lot. They don’t even go home and watch TV these days; they just do social media and listen to music. So, what I’m saying means everything.”

**BOILER**

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