The more we endure, the more we can handle. Moreover, every challenge only makes us stronger.

Born and raised one of nine siblings in Southwest Philadelphia, RecoHavoc turned intense hardships into hard-hitting and hypnotic hip-hop. Living through events that would break the best of us, the 21-year-old rapper and “B-Boy” emerged as the next in a long line of Philly rap champs. Within the span of two years, he generated millions of YouTube views, packed shows and earned props from Lil Uzi Vert and PnB Rock. He also led the YNW (Young N Wealthy) movement to national prominence later landed a major label deal with Atlantic Records.

It all came down to rough, raw, and real honesty. “When I started doing music, it made me feel better and happy,” he admits. “When I’m not doing music, I just think about a lot of bullshit. It motivated me. All of the tough things made me strong.”

He found even more strength in music. As a child, he can recall dancing along to classic movies like *The Five Heartbeats*, *The Jacksons: An American Dream*, *The Temptations*, and more with the encouragement of his mother. By the age of ten, he joined underground dance group DOLLARBOYZ, penned raps, and created beats on a computer also gifted to him by mom.

However, trouble never seemed too far off. His parents both struggled with drug addiction as his father found himself in and out of jail. At 16-years-old, RecoHavoc caught a case for robbery and possession, winding up in a Juvenile Detention Facility.

While incarcerated, his mother passed away.

“I had gotten locked up like four days before,” he sighs. “She passed while I was inside. When I got out, I had nowhere to stay, so I had to go down to Georgia and live with my aunt. It was time for me to pursue rap.”

Kicked out of his aunt’s house, 2016 saw him return to Philadelphia on a mission. Inspired by hometown hero Meek Mill as well as Lupe Fiasco, Kendrick Lamar, Gucci Mane, Migos, and Bankroll Fresh, he saved up enough money to record as much as possible. A string of viral tracks such as “Zero Dark 30” paved the way for the breakout single “Lucas.” Beyond showcasing the MC’s bulletproof bars and unshakable flow, the visual highlighted RecoHavoc’s head-spinning breakdance abilities and swiftly clocked over 2.2 million views. Not long after, he garnered the attention of heavyweights such as Lil Uzi Vert, inked a deal with Atlantic Records, and shared the stage with Travis Scott, Cardi B, Rick Ross, and more at Power 105.1’s Powerhouse 2017.

Maintaining this momentum, he ignited 2018 with the single “Flexxx,” which steamrolled ahead on the strength of quick-witted wordplay and a brazen and braggadocios hook. The song laid the foundation for his first mixtape, *STARTED,* which is set to be released later this year.

“After I lost my mom and dad I stopped fucking with drugs,” he elaborates. “I was like, *‘It’s lit now. I’m started.’* The word *‘Started’* means a lot to me. You can’t move anything if it’s not started. You can’t play a game if you don’t press start. You can’t go forward, if you don’t start. It’s started now.”

RecoHavoc continues to not only accept every challenge in front of him, but also succeed. It’s why his story will resonate throughout the culture and among countless listeners.

“I want to bring the fun back,” he leaves off. “There’s too much anger and hate in this *‘jawn*’—as we say in Philly. I don’t create music that sounds down and depressed, because I’ve been through so much sad shit in real life. I write turn up music, so people can turn up. There’s too many beefs. I’m not with that shit. I come from cookouts and family reunions. I want more of those feelings. I’ll give them to you in my music.”