**BIO**

Hunger separates the leader from the rest of the pack. Bizzy Banks always remains hungrier than the competition. Maintaining a commitment to elite wordplay, the Brooklyn-born Trinidadian-American rapper attacks beats with verbal dexterity, a natural sense of melody, and downright pugilistic spirit shaped by a lifelong dedication to the craft itself. Posting up almost 100 million streams and 20 million views, his uncompromising approach has attracted the endorsement of the late legend Pop Smoke and acclaim from *Pitchfork*, *The Source*, *Revolt*, and *DJ Booth*, to name a few. However, his intensity never diminishes or dwindles; it only increases and amplifies on the 2021 mixtape *Same Energy* [Atlantic Records] and much more music to come.

“On this project, everything is the same for me,” he explains. “It’s the same people around me, the same studio, the same producers, the same feeling, the same hunger, and the same energy. The wordplay is as important as ever. Nothing has changed.”

He still takes hip-hop just as seriously as he did during his childhood. Growing up Rastafarian in East New York, he embraced a healthy sense of discipline through fasting and prayer. After his father’s deportation to Trinidad, he shuffled between his mom’s care and his grandmother, *“finding trouble”* and staring down the inherent struggles of the tough neighborhood around him. At the same time, he took refuge in rap. He watched battle raps in person and on YouTube in addition to listening to everyone from Lil Wayne to Chief Keef and Kodak Black. *(He even chose “Banks” as a surname in homage to iconic battle rapper Lloyd Banks).*

Inspired by an after-school program in 2018, he started to drop music online. 2019’s “Don’t Start” established him as a critical force, while “Ready Or Not” and “30” led to a deal with Atlantic Records. His 2020 debut mixtape *GMTO, Vol. 1* crashed the *Billboard* Heatseeker Albums Chart, and he vaulted on to *Rolling Stone*’s *“Breakthrough 25*.*”* Tastemaker praise followed, and *Pitchfork* went so far as to claim, *“Bizzy Banks is at the forefront of Brooklyn Drill’s Next Wave*.*”*

Along the way, he absorbed a handful of life-changing lessons from Pop Smoke prior to his untimely passing.

“I learned a lot from him through the past couple of months that I was cool with him before he died,” he recalls. “He showed me how to move with music and be really exclusive. I took all of that to heart.”

Simultaneously, Bizzy set the stage for *Same Energy* with “Bandemic.” Right out of the gate, it raked in 8.1 million global streams and illustrated his growth. *“I felt like the tone was different from everything else*,*”* he observes. *“I’d gotten more comfortable with the beats and myself. I popped my shit way more*.*”*

That holds true across *Same Energy*. The single “Adore You” [feat. PnB Rock] teeters between a guitar-laden beat and bouncy hook with undeniable charisma. Elsewhere, “City Hot” and “City Hot Pt. 2” [feat. Leeky Bando] embody his lyrical dominance. Over the maddening murmur of drilled-down production, he lays into each verse with a bustling restlessness evocative of Brooklyn’s streets.

“I was excited from *GMTO, Vol. 1*,” he says. “I was seeing who I actually was and feeling the reaction from the fans. I was in my mode in the moment. That gave me confidence. I wasn’t slacking.”

Melodic production underscores introspective rhymes on *Same Energy*’s finale “Just A Letter.” Getting personal, he confesses, *“It feels good when we win, because of all the trauma from the loss*.*”*

In the end, Bizzy Banks stands out as the hungriest rapper not only out of New York, but in the game at large.

“I feel like I’m still underrated,” he leaves off. “I just want people to see the difference between me and everybody else out there.”