

NATIVE FUNK

YAIIVA



LARRY PRICE | Native Photographer

You from Arizona near Flagstaff?

I'm actually grew up in Shiprock NM but I live here in Flagstaff now where I go to school at NAU, graduating this year and have my family.

I know you are a Native rapper what tribe are you?

I'm half Dine' and half Hopi. From Pimion and Hotevilla are where my roots go back

to. Native people who live in urban areas always have other places they can trace their roots too.

Have you performed on reservations or off them?

In the beginning I performed mainly off the reservation. I was fortunate to have performed at many places through out the US and Canada, like San Francisco, Seattle,

Detroit, Albuquerque, Los Angeles to name a few cities. More recently we been hitting the rez scene hard, about once a week and we been getting a real good response for instance we did the Western Navajo Fair this weekend to a crowd of a few hundred. There is a definite market out there, even Magic of NBK was posted up out there and I scene him at all the Navajo fairs this year and the Native folks seem to have nothing but love for him. He actually battled Quese iMC which was a heated battle cause both had each on their toes. We are currently looking to get more major out to the rez for shows because Native folk are loving hip hop and their is a untapped market their is promoted right and toward native folks.

Any stories to tell?

Yeah I got tons of stories but here's one that is one for the books. I use to sing with a pow wow drum group along with emceeing and I think it was 2002 my boy Carlos and I were asked to represent the Save the Peaks organization and at the arrival President Bill Clinton in the Grand Canyon. Carlos my wife and I got their early and were sitted, it was cold as hell that morning. The President was to give an address at one of the canyon lookouts and it was outside in the middle of winter. We waited for bout and hour and the President arrives and they quickly get into the address but first a woman from some department was asked to speak. She was real short and could barely see over the podium. So the President got her a stool and handed toward her. From where I was sitting though it looked like he tried to grab her ass. Out of surprise I said "already he's trying to bust a move." I must not have said it very quietly because people in the audience started busting up laughing. The Prez got red in the face and he sat back down. This was the time around the whole Monica ordeal. Needless to say it was a day to remember. The President came up to me afterwards and shook my hand and just said "I'm glad you came." Not sure what he meant by that. But I didn't mean no disrespect because I was just caught be surprise by what I though I saw but that day goes down in the books. He was a real good Prez unlike the psycho we got now, just wished he would have given Peltier a pardon.

What kind of rap do you flow?

I'm more of a lyrical emcee and I drop knowledge about Native America and consciousness that people from all walks of life can relate too. But I also got some tracks that are radio friendly and more female oriented. As an artist I think you gotta be able to find balance in what ever you do and that also comes from Native teachings. I also got some reality-story telling type of tracks.