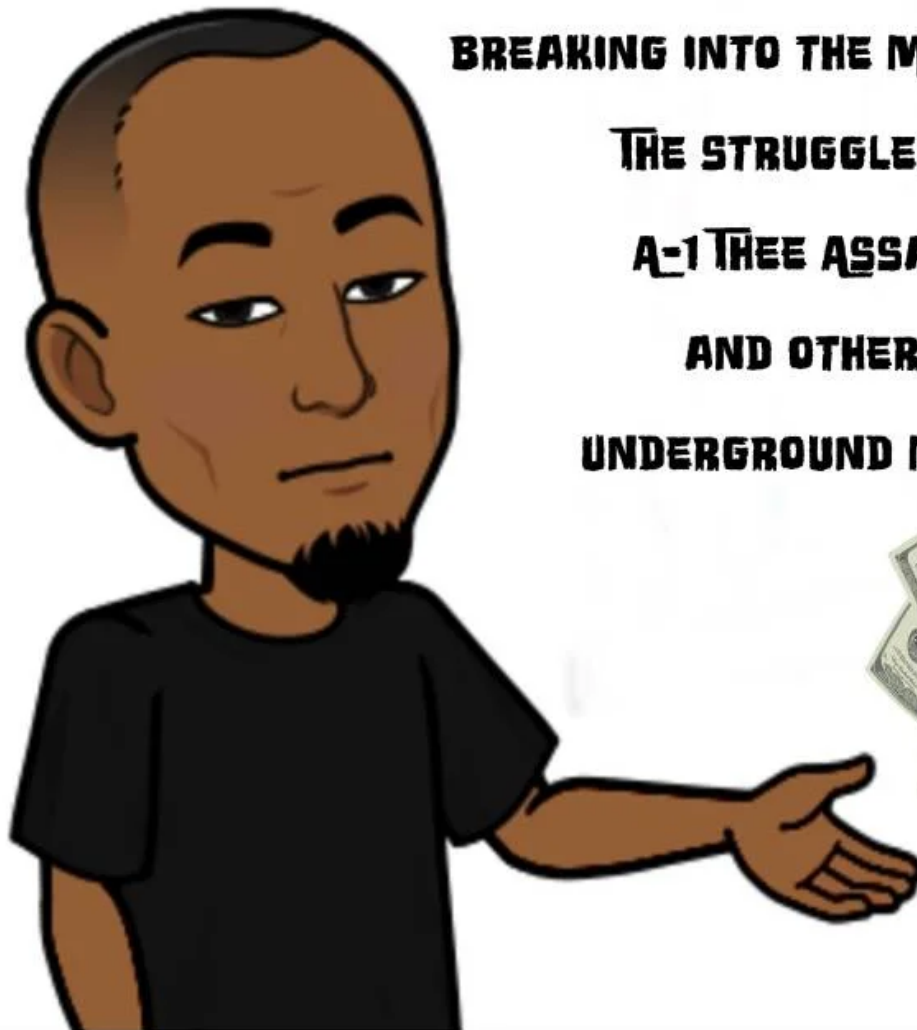


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Breaking into the Mainstream: The Struggles of A-1 Thee Assas'n and other Underground Musicians

ANONYMOUS WRITER PRESENTS:



BREAKING INTO THE MAINSTREAM:

THE STRUGGLES OF

A-1 THEE ASSAS'N

AND OTHER

UNDERGROUND MUSICIANS

Breaking into the Mainstream:

The Struggles of A-1 Thee Assas'n and other Underground Musicians

WITH THIS INFORMATION YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO REGISTER YOUR SONGS WITH MULTIPLE COMPANIES AND MAKE MONEY WITH YOUR MUSIC!! COME EXPLORE THE SUBJECT OF COPYRIGHTING, PUBLISHING, ASCAP, BMI, AND MORE!!!

-- Intro --

A-1 Thee Assas'n is an amazing hip-hop artist who has been making a name for himself in the underground music scene for years. However, despite the artist's immense talent and tenacity, he has yet to make the leap into the mainstream music industry. Breaking into the mainstream is a difficult task for underground musicians like A-1. And never before has any journalist investigated this injustice from the eyes of these humble and gifted individuals. Until now. So prepare yourself. We're about to discuss the various struggles they face while trying to achieve their dream of success.

Also, we'll listen as A-1 Thee Assas'n gives us the game on what he's learned during his two decades in this business. He will explain EVERYTHING AN ARTIST NEEDS TO KNOW to upgrade themselves and transform your love for music from a hobby or a past time into an official professional career!! That's right. Learn from a pro. Gain industry knowledge while A-1 divulges trade secrets on how record companies operate, the difficulties of navigating this music industry without help, and HOW TO MAKE MONEY WITH YOUR MUSIC (including **where** and **how** to register your songs, **when** and **how** much you should charge for features, live performances, etc. etc.)

You will also hear the TRUTH about the illuminati rumors, devil worshipping, the gossip of an evil music industry at work, the corrupt government, secret societies, witchcraft, AND A HELL OF A LOT MORE!!!!!! So fasten your seatbelts. This rabbit hole goes deep!!!!

Ok, let's get right in to it

-- Who is A-1 Thee Assas'n? --

As a veteran musician from the streets of northeast Portland, A-1 has been a factor in the underground hip-hop scene for a while now... Over twenty years, and counting. He is finally ready to emerge with an arsenal of clever punchlines and lyrical wordplay that even the great artist of today respect him for. His talent is outstanding and endless, with skill in audio production, writing, live performances, and audio engineering, his passion for this art completes the recipe for future success within the industry.

Well, at least you would think so...

But the reality is that breaking into the mainstream as an underground musician is no easy feat. Despite his many skills and talents, A-1 Thee Assas'n is still struggling to gain widespread recognition for his music. Many people may not have even heard of him, let alone recognize him as one of the best rappers in the game. This is a problem faced by countless other underground musicians as well. The music industry is notoriously difficult to penetrate, especially for those who don't fit into the mainstream mold.

Overall, it's a tough road for underground musicians, but A-1 isn't giving up. He believes that staying true to his art and building a loyal fan base will eventually pay off. He also acknowledges the pros and cons of signing with a major label versus the independent routes. But even still, he is determined to make it on his own terms. His ultimate goal is to leave a lasting impact on the culture, and with his talent and drive, I don't know, he just might do it.

Despite his past struggles, A-1 Thee Assas'n is determined to overcome these obstacles and make a name for himself within this industry. He recognizes that perfecting his craft is the key to success and refuses to compromise his values. His dedication and hard work have paid off in the form of loyal fans who appreciate his raw talent and unique style. In fact, some critics have even called him the best rapper from Portland. While he may not be a household name yet, A-1 Thee Assas'n is well on his way to becoming a respected figure in the hip-hop community. His journey serves as a reminder that success is not easy, but it is possible with hard work, determination, and a true passion for your craft. The struggles of underground musicians like A-1 Thee Assas'n are but a testament to the power of perseverance and the need for change in the music industry. As fans, we have a responsibility to support and uplift these talented artists, to give them the recognition and exposure they deserve. It's time to break down the barriers that hold them back and pave the way for a new generation of talent to emerge. And with artists like A-1 Thee Assas'n leading the way, we can be sure that the future of music is in good hands.

Another issue that underground musicians face is the struggle to stand out in a saturated market. A-1 has a unique style and sound that sets him apart from other rappers, but it's still hard to gain recognition when there are so many other artists vying for attention. This is where the importance of networking and collaborating comes in. A-1 has worked with other underground artists in the past as well as different producers from coast to coast and he is always looking for opportunities to collaborate with those who share his vision. This not only helps to expand his fan base but also gives him a chance to learn from other artists and grow as a musician.

Despite the challenges, A-1 Thee Assas'n remains optimistic and determined to make his mark in this business. He knows that it won't be easy, but he's willing to put in the work and take the necessary risks to achieve his goals. He's collaborated with a number of other talented artist and producers both local and nationally known such as Kokane, Glasses Malone, Legion Beats, Suga Free, Marvaless, DotCom, OG Eddie MF Kane, SK Beats, G.I. Ginn, Tiksta, BloodFlow, and the list can go on and on and on. Even those in the industry respect and appreciate his authenticity and talent, and they're excited to see where his career will take him in the future.

- Why is it hard for him and artist like him to break into the mainstream? -

Death. Guns. Jail and prison. Fake thugs pretending to be something they're not. Police. Poverty. These are just some of the struggles that underground musicians face. They often come from disadvantaged backgrounds and have limited resources to create and promote their music. Without the backing of major record labels or powerful industry connections, their music may struggle to gain traction.

Another main struggle they face is the lack of exposure. Without the support of a major record label or a big-name producer, it's hard to get your music heard by a wider audience. It's a catch-22 situation: you need exposure to get noticed, but you need to get noticed to get exposure. This is where the power of social media and other online platforms come in, but even then, it's no guarantee of success.

Another challenge is the lack of financial resources to hire other professionals to help you advance in your career. This is where the monetary backing of an investor comes in handy, but unfortunately, a great number of talented and deserving musicians won't ever get that. Many underground musicians are self-funded (meaning they have to cover all their own expenses), from recording to marketing to distribution. This can be a huge burden, especially when there's no guarantee of making any money back. The industry is also notorious for taking advantage of artists, especially those who are desperate for a break.

Despite their talent and hard work being evident, many musicians are overlooked by mainstream audiences and critics. This can be due to the narrow focus of the music industry, which tends to prioritize mainstream trends and popular genres. A-1 has experienced firsthand how difficult it can be to break through this barrier and gain recognition, even despite his unique style and message.

However, he refuses to be deterred. He believes in the power of music. And though he is almost twice the age of other fellow performers in his genre, he remains committed to creating high-quality music that reflects his experiences and struggles. His work ethic is superhuman - often going days without sleep or even allowing himself a break because he's so intensely focused on business and the creation of his music. Yet and still he's had more than his fair share of disappointments. But he doesn't let the negative thoughts affect his focus. He continues to push forward in his quest for mainstream acceptance.

-- What are some of the struggles underground artist face? --

For an underground artist, the struggles can seem endless. One of the biggest obstacles is simply getting noticed. The mainstream music industry is often only interested in artists who ALREADY have a large following or have a unique look or sound that they can market. This means that gifted lyricists like A-1 and yourself can be overlooked, even if your music IS truly exceptional.

Another struggle is the amount of resources it takes to supply the needs of your grind properly. Again, many underground artists are self-funded and self-promoted (which means they have to do everything themselves), from recording and mixing their own music to booking gigs and promoting themselves on social media. This can be a lot to handle, especially for artists who are also trying to balance day jobs or other commitments.

Perhaps the biggest struggle, though, is staying true to your art while also trying to make a name for yourself. A-1 Thee Assas'n is passionate about his music and has a clear vision for his sound and message. But in order to gain a larger audience, he knows that he may have to compromise some of his artistic integrity. This can be a difficult decision for any artist, and it's one that many underground musicians grapple with on a daily basis.

Above all, being an underground artist requires a lot of dedication, perseverance, and work. It's not an easy path, but for those artists like A-1 Thee Assas'n who are truly passionate about their music, the rewards are worth the struggles.

-- MAJOR LABEL OR INDEPENDENT ?? --

Another major challenge facing underground musicians is the decision between chasing a major record label or remaining independent. A-1 Thee Assas'n has studied the pros and cons of both options, and he has made the decision to remain independent for now. He values the creative control and flexibility that comes with independence, and he is focused on building his brand and fan base on his own.

Despite the raw intensity of A-1's music, crossing over to mainstream has been a constant struggle. It's not just about talent or skill, it's also about **connections, marketing, and financial resources**. Many artists simply don't have access to the kind of infrastructure necessary to promote their music on a national or global level.

Furthermore, the music industry as a whole can be very unforgiving to underground artists. Streaming services, for example, often prioritize the most popular artists and songs, making it difficult for new and emerging artists to be discovered. This, coupled with the industry's tendency to focus on profit over artistry, can be discouraging for artists who are more concerned with making authentic and meaningful music than with making money.

But honestly, the choice between picking either a major or independent label is up to you and should be chosen by determining what your goals are at that moment, the benefits the company claims they can do for your career, whether or not you are comfortable with doing business with them, and of course, the length and value of the recording contract. And keep in mind, the terms of said contract will most likely greatly differ from one another. The major labels will want a gigantic percentage of creative control which will limit your ability to make any final decisions concerning which songs will appear on your album, how many tracks it will include, when it will be released, etc. Smaller record labels usually allow the artist to make those decisions, as they are technically still a part of the production process. Smaller labels also are more willing to allow their artist to have the freedom required for them to do their best creative works and produce a top-quality product without the extra stress of the added pressure.

And lets not forget the percentage of your money that each will take off the top of your earnings. With a smaller or an independent company you may be receiving a larger portion (percentage-wise) of the reported income, but since the label is smaller they most likely will have less money to spend on your marketing campaigns, touring budget, royalty advance, production cost, and everything else, so in turn, that reported income you're splitting with them may be smaller than you expected. And in some cases the Indy label will even require the **artist** to pay for some of the expenses themselves (which means the label probably couldn't afford to do it). A major label on the other hand will likely extend to you the perks of financial support for touring, a promotional budget complete with a marketing strategy, a studio budget, a video budget, provide you with business managers, and booking agents, and who knows what else. But at the end of the day, when the money comes in you will be receiving only a small percentage of the profits. The standard practice of the major labels is **EVERYTHING** that they do for you is "recoupable" from YOUR share of the profit income. This means all the money "they" were blowing on your hotels and tours and booking agents and tour managers and advertisements, well, they want all of that money back, plus some, so you are the only one who really ends up paying for everything concerning your project, they pay nothing. So if your sales aren't sizeable, you could very well end up with absolutely nothing when the money comes in, or even stuck with a bill stating you spent more than what your album brought in, which would place you "in the red" with the company, which means that you actually OWE money instead of make any money. But don't think for a second that major labels are all bad, because if you pair together a hot song along with the promotion they can afford to throw behind you, then the profit margin could be HUGE for you. Another plus of the majors is that they already have all the connections and network contacts you need already in place and ready whenever you need them. They are connected to the big television networks, the national talk radio shows, the most popular magazines and websites, the whole nine. It's all at your disposal. That's something that would take an Indy label several years to develop.

So in short, my advice is for you to take your time and make the decision YOU FEEL is best for the situation you are in currently.

-- WHAT ALL DOES AN ARTIST NEED TO DO TO MAINTAIN A PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION WHILE WORKING TOWARD MAINSTREAM SUCCESS? A-1, WHAT DO YOU DO? WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE?? --

"One of the most important things an artist can do is to stay true to their vision and message, while still being open to collaboration and growth." Says A-1.

A-1 also stresses the importance of professionalism in all aspects of an artist's career, from their music to their social media presence. This means putting in the time and effort to perfect their craft, being punctual and reliable in all business dealings, and maintaining a positive public image.

Another key aspect of maintaining a professional reputation is networking. A-1 emphasizes the importance of building relationships with industry professionals and other artists in the industry, while also remaining humble and approachable.

****PAY ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING ADVICE, FOR IT IS EXTREMELY VALUABLE****

In order to GET PAID ROYALTIES ON YOUR MUSIC YOU MUST REGISTER EACH SONG WITH THE NECESSARY ORGANIZATIONS!!! Please understand that. EACH SONG YOU WRITE needs to be registered **separately** with these four companies:

1. Either ASCAP or BMI <https://www.ascap.com/> <https://www.bmi.com/>
2. SongTrust <https://www.songtrust.com/>
3. Soundscan (AND Mediabase)

<https://sxdirect.soundexchange.com/login/?next=/home/>

<https://titlereg.soundscan.com/soundscantitlereg/registerISRC.aspx>

<http://mediabase.com/>

4. A distribution service such as TuneCore, DistroKid, Revel Distribution, CDBABY, etc.

<https://www.tunecore.com/>

<https://distrokid.com/>

<https://reveldistro.com/>

<https://cdbaby.com/>

ASCAP or BMI

ASCAP and BMI are both what are known as "Performance Rights Organizations". You can only sign up with ONE of these companies and it should be the very first thing you ever do!! You can either sign up as a writer or a publisher or register as both. Registering an ASCAP or BMI membership qualifies you as a certified professional in this business. Not only that, but they collect and distribute Publisher Performance Royalties. **Performance royalties are earned whenever music is performed in public, for example in a concert, on the radio, or streamed online.** So if you do **NOT** register YOURSELF as a writer, publisher, or both **AND** register each song you release, **YOU WILL NOT BE PAID BECAUSE YOU OR THE SONG ARE NOT REGISTERED.**

SONGTRUST

"SongTrust will collect mechanical royalties on your behalf. In addition, we also collect other royalties your composition earns (performance and micro-sync)."

Royalties earned through the reproduction of copyrighted works in digital and physical formats. Songwriters are paid mechanical royalties per song sold, downloaded, and streamed via "on-demand" streaming services.

SOUNDSCAN

"Soundscan is not for radio... it is for retail sales. It is the system that is connected to the barcode scanners at retail stores; it tabulates the sales data, and sells it to subscribers at a lofty price"

SoundScan is an online service that tracks the sale of music and video releases. Any music product that carries a barcode is eligible to be tracked by SoundScan, if the retailer elects to report their sales to SoundScan. Almost all of the major independent stores, as well as the chains and big-box retailers report their sales to SoundScan. The service reports sales every Tuesday morning. Anytime you hear information about the top selling records or top selling singles for any period of time, you can be sure that SoundScan provided this information. In addition to sales produced by retail outlets, touring artists can also report their venue sales themselves to the service by faxing in reporting documents.

DIGITAL DISTRIBUTION SERVICE

"What is a digital distribution service? Digital distribution is the delivery of content such as books, movies and TV programs, music, software, and video games via media-specific channels, platforms, and devices. The content can either be downloaded or streamed."

Companies like DistroKid and TuneCore are examples of distribution services. Once you pay a fee and register an account with one, you then can submit your music to them and they are responsible for placing your release on all music outlets they are affiliated with across the web, like Spotify and Tidal. When your music is streamed using their service they pay you a small usage fee in the form of a royalty payment.

There are many distribution services to choose from. My advice is to research the benefits and limits of those that interest you and make your decision carefully based upon your needs.

If you have completed everything correctly you should now get a check from EACH of those four companies above that you have registered your music with. That's FOUR additional paths of revenue coming in to you. Don't be a fool and fail to collect **ALL** of the revenue your due simply because you were too lazy to complete the paperwork for your songs.

-COPYRIGHTS-

You may have noticed that copyrights were not mentioned in thee above four streams of revenue and protections. That's because in actuality registering your work with the copyright office in Washington is a CHOICE, not a requirement. Some recording artist don't even bother to spend the extra time and money it takes to secure a traditional copyright since they're able to release their material and get paid without one.

But keep this in mind.... what if?

The following quote was found on the BMI website in the FAQ section...

Question: "Is it necessary to copyright my songs?"

Answer: "Registering your copyrights is not required but it is highly recommended since doing so will give you certain protection under copyright law in case you need to sue someone for using your song without your permission."

Well put and who could disagree? In the event of that situation arising you'll be thankful you went through the trouble of adding that final layer of protection to your music. But in the end, it's ultimately up to you to decide if your going to do it or not.

Unfortunately, the government has raised the prices on thee already expensive fees of copyright registration. Now you can expect to pay a bare minimum of about \$45 per claim, but that number can easily rise to \$500 per depending on what variation of copyright registration you require, as there are many. But for the majority of us whom only need to copyright song lyrics instead of pictures or newspaper articles, the current price sets at \$65 per song. Now you can imagine how quickly that can become extremely expensive for the average person. But again.... what if? I'm just sayin', the legal protections that it provides may end up paying for itself a thousand times over and making you a millionaire in the process!!

If you decide to go with these traditional copyrights via the government, we have included the contact information for you below.

U.S. Copyright Office <https://www.copyright.gov/>

Also, if you've never registered a song before and you feel a bit lost, they offer comprehensive instructions here...

<https://www.copyright.gov/help/faq/faq-register.html>

SO WHAT'S NEXT?

After you have written and recorded enough material to formulate a project of some sort (an album, mixtape, or EP) you should be working on forming yourself a support team for you as an artist. Even if you have no money to pay them at the moment, wow them with your talent and your master plan to dominate the music industry and see what they can do to help you achieve your goals. Depending on your career plans and what level you're at as an artist, your team may need to consist of:

1. A manager
2. A marketing/promotion agency
3. A booking agent
4. An investor

With these industry pros on your team you are now set to operate like the major labels do, just on a smaller scale. Nevertheless, you can get **A LOT** done and seriously advance where you are in your career with a team like that behind you supporting you. And you should help out wherever you can with whatever you can so the process moves a little smoother and faster (because trust me, there is a ton of work to do!!!)

THE GOLDMINE

The following list is comprised of some additional sites that A-1 Thee Assas'n uses and he recommends that **ALL** musicians utilize the online tools available to you regardless of how big or small time your band might be. Whether you are a one-man record label or signed to the largest conglomerate in the country, this will help you grow as an artist (no matter what genre of music) with either fan engagement, promotions, or earning extra money....

1. Bandcamp <https://bandcamp.com/>
2. ReverbNation <https://www.reverbnation.com/>
3. Number One Music (N1M.com) <https://www.n1m.com/>
4. Audiomack <https://audiomack.com/>
5. SoundCloud <https://soundcloud.com/>
6. Soundclick <https://www.soundclick.com>
7. TuneBubble <https://www.tunebubble.com/>
8. DatPiff <https://www.datpiff.com/>
9. BeatStars <https://www.beatstars.com/>
10. Bandlab <https://www.bandlab.com/>
11. YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/>
12. Veoh www.veoh.com/
13. Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/>
14. Twitter <https://twitter.com/>
15. Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/>
16. TikTok <https://www.tiktok.com/>
17. Koji <https://withkoji.com/>
18. Bandzoogle <https://bandzoogle.com/>

**** EXCLUSIVE BONUS MATERIAL FROM A-1 THEE ASSAS'N HIMSELF ****

If you would like to set up an online music store that will **really** stand out and place you ahead of the competition and you keep **100%** of your profits, then you need to check out the SharePro Music Store Page right here...

19. SharePro Music Store <https://store.sharetopros.com/sharepro-now/join-9678>

Detailed product description

The SharePro music store is a combination of a musician music store and a music marketplace where musicians can buy and sell music. Each SharePro member gets their own free music store.

The SharePro music store is a fully featured music store that helps artists manage their music sales with advanced analytics, unlimited uploads (if they purchase a monthly subscription), and all the tools needed to promote their music.

Unlimited & HQ music storage

Members can upload audio files of MP3, OGG or high quality uncompressed audio formats WAV, AIFF, and FLAC. Music producers who like to sell audio stems also can store large stem files as needed. If you need unlimited storage and more advanced features, subscription options are available.

Advanced music tools

Protect your music with audio watermarks or music preview options, easy to use music license creator for beat sales, copy & paste embed widgets for adding your music to your own website (no coding needed), automated royalty payouts for guest artists or band members, customers can offer custom prices as offer requests and a lot more.

Sell your music to existing SharePro customers

SharePro members can sell their music on our SharePro marketplace and reach a much larger audience of customers who are looking to purchase music. No stores we know offer a built in audience of buyers who already made a purchase promoting their music to SharePro tastemakers. You get access to buyers who have either spent money or are serious about their music career.

Keep 100% of your sales

Your SharePro music store is yours to use however you wish. Whenever you sell an item from your store you keep 100% of your profits*.

OR MAYBE YOU'RE THE NEXT MULTI-PLATINUM PRODUCER WHO HASN'T YET BEEN DISCOVERED

It's time to showcase your talents TO THE WORLD!! You've spent all that time and effort perfecting your sound, so now collaborate with a few artist and watch the magic happen. All you need is an online beat store to load them onto, right? Well I have a high-quality website below. Check it out...

20. SharePro Sell Beats

<https://store.sharetopros.com/sell-beats/join-9678>

SELL YOUR BEATS ON SharePro

Keep 100% of your profits.

Detailed product description

Sell beats with confidence

Sell music with confidence using features such as discounts, customer offers, digital downloads, album sales, featured items, and much more.

Easy to use tools to sell music

We provide several tools to sell your beats with customized music license downloads, audio theft protection, customer offer options, and more.

Keep 100% of the profit

We offer music producers a chance to sell their beat licenses while keeping all of the profit. No where else can music producers get the advanced beat selling tools while also reaping in max profits.

MAYBE WHAT YOU NEED TO HELP MOVE YOUR CAREER FORWARD IS AN INDUSTRY PRO'S FEEDBACK

Well my friend, you're in luck. SharePro can assist with that too for little of nothing!!!...

Submit to hundreds of music submission opportunities

FINALLY RECEIVE REAL PROFESSIONAL FEEDBACK FROM OVER 380 PROS WHO PROMOTE YOUR MUSIC, NETWORK WITH YOU, OR EVEN GET A RECORD DEAL.

21. SharePro Tastemakers

<https://store.sharetopros.com/sharepro-now/buy-credits/join-9678>

Our music submission software makes it easy for music makers to connect with the music industry by streamlining the feedback and review process. Our software promises that music maker submissions are heard & engaged with. In the end, both the music maker and industry professional are rewarded for each submission.

Detailed product description

We Connect Music Creators With The Music Industry

Our music submission software makes it easy for music makers to connect with the music industry by streamlining the feedback and review process. Our software promises that music maker submissions are heard & engaged with. In the end, both the music maker and industry professional are rewarded for each submission.

Guaranteed Plays

Once you sign-up free, you'll be able to select from professional tastemakers to share your music with. They listen or you don't pay.

Real Feedback

Finally, you receive real professional feedback from over 300 pros who promote your music, network with you, or even a record deal.

Be Discovered

Promote your music to today's top tastemakers. Share your music submissions with confidence that it will be heard and reviewed.

Pro's have 48 hours to respond

We track their plays, views, replies, and shares to make sure they are paying attention. If they don't respond in 48 hours you get your submission credits back.

The Pro's get back to you with opportunities

The Pro's message you, share your music on their platforms, send you tips, or maybe offer you a record deal.

Easy to Use

Paste your link from today's popular music sites like Soundcloud, YouTube, Spotify or upload directly into Share PRO.

With the tools and benefits included within these websites (above) combined with the registration information for your publishing credit and writer royalties (ASCAP or BMI), you have literally everything that you need to start from absolute scratch but emerge a certified professional entertainer.

With these sites you can design and publish your own website (Bandzoogle), establish artist/fan accounts on social media pages (Facebook/Twitter), share videos of your performances to friends (YouTube/Veoh), and set up a music store that you can sell your products on and control things yourself (SharePro Marketplace).

You are now ready to get on the grind and make it happen

An artist must always be willing to adapt and evolve. The music industry is constantly changing, and artists who refuse to grow and adapt will inevitably fall behind. It's important to always be open to new ideas, collaborations, and opportunities, while never compromising your own artistic vision.

An important topic we need to touch on is the expectation of you working for free. No matter if you rap, sing R&B, make beats, or play in a band, It is inevitable that one of your friends, family members, a club owner, or another artist will try to convince you to do it for them without charge. Now, there's so much hypocrisy in that request I really don't know where to begin. I mean think about it... this music IS YOUR JOB. YOUR CHOSEN CAREER. AND YOU WORK HARD AT IT. Do you ever see THEM going in to work without clocking in to be paid? Well that's exactly what they're asking you to do!! Although at times an agreement can definitely be reached that can benefit you both. Like an artist featuring on your album for free in return that you do the same or maybe perform at his show without any payment. There are literally hundreds (if not thousands) of ways to barter services in this industry. The entertainment business remains a very small circle and we all need each others services. The concert promoter needs performers, the club owner needs the customers, the actors need the production team, and so forth. If you're a singer or a rapper you probably need beats. Do some business with a producer and strike a deal with them. Do whatever may be necessary to elevate and reach your goals.

A-1 wrote a chorus for one of TIKSTA's tracks called "DECISIONS" that blew me away with how motivating, yet simple, yet complex the meaning of his words were. It's advice we all need to adhere to. It goes...

"Why complain? You got no time for the bitchin'. Life's hard. Got to get in where you fit in. Success comes to those who aren't willin' to settle for less. Time to make a fuckin' decision"

-- Raw and uncensored thoughts & opinions about the music industry, directly from the mind of A-1 Thee Assas'n !!! --

Next, I proceeded to ask A-1 to speak his true thoughts freely on not only the current state of Hip-Hop but on the music industry as a whole. And though he's still classified as an underground musician, the company he keeps has made his knowledge of what goes on in this industry very extensive. And hey, it isn't a big secret that A-1 Thee Assas'n is well connected and surrounded by men with power and even being protected by groups like the Freemasons. No one really knows exactly what makes A-1 so special to them or why they guard him like they do. Maybe it's because of his talents in sorcery and the dark arts. Who knows?!?! There are even rumors going around that A-1 Thee Assas'n is a part of the Illuminati. But again, who knows?!?! So I was hoping he would highlight and reveal some information that only he and those closely associated with that shadow syndicate would know. And after I laid out the questions I could tell instantly by the way he began the answers that it was hopeless to attempt to manipulate him into letting something vital slip from his lips. He couldn't have been more cool and calm as he politely dismissed my allegations as if nothing was ever said. But oddly, I admire his arrogance and I've come to extremely respect his commitment on how important it is to keep your word, and to keep a secret. Maybe we could ALL learn something from this man. Truthfully, his intelligence is a little intimidating, and the hollow look in his eyes can frighten you, especially when you look at him and realize that you're looking at a man that's living and breathing without a soul. Yeah, let that sink in. And if you make eye contact with him there's no doubt you'll notice this to be a fact. But I forced myself to place my fears aside and continue the interview. The following is the complete quote from A-1 Thee Assas'n in it's entirety. No edits. No censorship.

"I can only make a brief statement addressing certain gossip because it isn't my place or my business to speak on, so please understand that. But on the subject of my "unorthodox religious practices"...(or the lack thereof)... I can confirm that for you. Sure. That's true. A-1 is NOT a Christian. I'm actually pretty far from it. Many years ago I was educated by those I can't name and the information I learned altered my perception of traditional religion permanently. But if you choose to give it a label to help you understand it better, then the fact is I'm part of the 2% of the world that believe in Anti-Religion. But don't get it mistaken, I DO believe in God. Trust me, God is real. But I assure you, religion is not. And it was my grandparents (may they rest in peace) that opened my eyes and taught me to stand on my square. My grandfather was a high ranking freemason and my grandmother practiced the mystic arts of magic and casting spells. And since I lived with them ever since I was young, i was privy to sensitive information and taught things no kid should know. And before they died they were adamant about passing all of their combined knowledge on to me. So you can say I know a few things. Yeah. And if knowledge is power than I'm next to the almighty. But nothing I've ever learned in this life has taken my interest of music away. That is my true first love. That's where my power shines the brightest. That's when I cast MY spells. And growing up witnessing how real and raw music was then compared to what it has become now is what is giving me the motivation to continue my assault on the industry. My influence will touch every genre of music worldwide. I promise you. I won't stop until it does. And my take on the industry as a whole, considering all the bullshit goin on behind the scenes with these crooked ass people in control of powers they can't control, not to mention the evil rituals taking place, the murders, the constant abuse of these artist..... I see it all about to implode and then we lose one of God's greatest gifts.... permanently. Unless we take back our freedom to do what thou wilt and say what the fuck you wanna say, the demons who are controlling the government will continue to chip away at the freedoms of us all until they are in complete control and the people have no means to fight back. I know it might sound crazy to you, but it's as clear as a cup of water to me!! Think about it. Do your research. The gun control laws. Government importing cocaine via the C.I.A, Plum Island, The Georgia Guide Stones, The Vatican, The depopulation plan. This shit is way deeper than you can imagine. They've been working this plan for centuries now. And HUMANS don't live that long!!! But music is a divine source of power!!! So by weakening the weapon of power you then can attack without worry. But check it, I'm gonna bless whoever

reads this with these last few words of wisdom, then I'm out. And this is how I really feel about the game right now and I'm a let you know why I feel that way. I just got a few important things to say....

1. The music industry is soft. Especially the genre of Rap & Hip-Hop
2. Streaming services are robbing artists!! The shit isn't cool AT ALL.
3. Rappers aren't hardcore anymore, so that's why I listen to rock music. This way at least i can hear something raw and hardcore. I mean, let's face it, we live in a time where Rihanna's last album was harder than ASAP Rocky's!!! LOL. Now tell me I'm wrong.
4. Thank God Snoop bought Death Row Records. I got faith that with Big Snoop's leadership Death Row can resurrect the west coast. And I heard rumors he has already signed Kurupt, Daz, Suga Free, Kokane, and Merkules to the label.(That's a very powerful squad, but you sleepin on me Snoop!! How can I get at you for possible record deal consideration?? I AM EXACTLY WHAT THE LABEL NEEDS AND IS CURRENTLY MISSING!!)
5. People should stop thinking that all celebrities are affiliated with the Illuminati, cause most of em aren't.
6. Just because a famous person's friend or relative dies, that doesn't always mean they were sacrificed.
7. HOWEVER... some of those rumors y'all be hearing about the music industry are 100% true!!! Now you can believe me or not believe me, I really don't give a fuck. But know that I'm not the type of spirit to lie to you. I'm only here to help. So to all of you aspiring artist out there dreaming of a life in the music industry, just know that shit ain't always what it seems. Don't trust anyone. Don't even believe your own eyes. These snakes can change on you, ya understand what I'm sayin? For the most part this is an industry full of sharks. There is a few good souls left here and there, but overall, it's ran by crooks, rapist, and murderers. And that's just the people at the desk. The ones really running things in the back, hidden from the view of the public eye, those are the smiling faces that will try to take your soul. So just be careful what you agree to. Don't let anyone convince you to violate your morals. Remember, **THEY CAN'T FORCE YOU TO DO IT, THEIR JOB IS TO GET YOU TO AGREE TO DO IT WILLINGLY!!!** That's why they will use incentives like money, sex, drugs, or whatever else it may take to get you to say the magic words!!!!..."

There was a long and uncomfortable silence for a while after that. We sat pretending to ignore each other or act as if we were focused on our phones. Then out of nowhere A-1 burst out with, "But really what does any of that fuckin' matter? I'm sure your listeners have already heard those stories but yet they STILL want to be involved in the business. That's what that music spirit does to people. I know, I'm just as determined to succeed as they are. And there is no man on Earth or demon in Heaven that can stop me!! I'm goin' to the pinnacle so if you're headed to the top, I'll see you there!!!"

* That concludes the quote from A-1 Thee Assas'n *

THE LAST WORDS

Despite challenges, A-1 Thee Assas'n remains committed, and you should too. He has faced so much throughout his career, from financial hardships to spending several years in prison when he should have been touring and promoting his music. But through it all, he has remained focused on his goals and driven by his objective to create music that speaks to his experiences and those of his fans.

So, what does the future hold for A-1 Thee Assas'n? His goals are simple: to continue making music that is honest, raw, and authentic, and to reach as many people as possible with his message. Whether he does this as an independent artist or with the backing of a major label remains to be seen. But regardless of how he gets there, one thing is certain: A-1 Thee Assas'n will never stop making music that matters. And neither should you.

-- CREDENTIALS --

A-1 Thee Assas'n is an American entrepreneur, musician, and business owner born in the city of Portland, Oregon. He is the founder and C.E.O. of **Black Heart Music Entertainment** as well as Black Heart Music Publishing (ASCAP). He also owns an audio engineering company (Workaholic Audio Engineering), a musical production company (A1DidThat), and a slew of online shops that offer everything from marketing services to digital downloads to website designing. Other companies are said to be in the planning phase and should be opened in the near future.

Paper Hound Entertainment, a record label that also boasts an apparel division aptly named **Paper Hound Clothing**, was among the first companies to hire A-1 Thee Assas'n. Terry Lewis a.k.a. Tiksta, the owner and C.E.O. of **Paper Hound Entertainment**, recognized A-1's drive and determination after they released "Assassination Day" back in 2013 and it sold thousands of copies both physical and online. After that success, Mr. Lewis decided to also offer a piece of his clothing company to the hungry artist and now A-1 Thee Assas'n is officially endorsed by **Paper Hound Clothing**.

-STATS-

Stage Moniker: A-1 Thee Assas'n

Label Affiliation: **Paper Hound Entertainment**, **Black Heart Music Entertainment**

Management: John Salter for J. Salt Music Group

P.R.O. Affiliation: ASCAP

Distribution Affiliation: Revel Distribution, CDBABY, DistroKid

Head Advisor: Moms The Muscle

Business Consultant: Octavius Miller from Next Level Promotions WCHHA, LLC

AUDIO BIOGRAPHY

EP Releases:

- The Simple Truth
- HALF ANGEL
- 3 For The Free

Album Releases:

- Mafia Made
- GEMINI
- Time Of My Life
- Unappreciated

Single Releases:

- What The Fuck You Want From Me
- Don't Say No
- Regret
- Body Bags & Obituaries
- Slow It Down
- Lethal
- Stabbed In The Back
- ATTENTION
- Bounce Wit Me

- Color Blind
- I.D.G.A.
- Shit Just Got Real
- Blow My Mind
- Respect My Gangsta

Mixtape Releases:

- Point Blank Range
- Assassination Day
- Five-Five Bully
- Secret Ingredient
- Audio Magic The Mixtape Vol. 1
- Audio Magic The Mixtape Vol. 2

Collaborative Projects Include:

- A-1 Thee Assas'n & Yung Misfa: Lead By Example
- Industry Shook
- A-1 Thee Assas'n & OG Eddie MF Kane: Meet The Villains
- Only The Beginning Vol 1
- Only The Beginning Vol 2
- WAY BEYOND REASON - The M.A.D. Album - featuring Marka, A-1 Thee Assas'n, and Dreas Beats

A-1 Thee Assas'n may be known for his hardcore hip-hop style of flow but he is also an audio engineer, graphics designer, record producer, publisher, and songwriter with credits in many different genres of music. He has worked with so many musicians during his career that his name is already well known within the music industry and his reputation has become that of "the secret weapon".

Over the years A-1 Thee Assas'n has amassed a staggering number of album sales, downloads, and press recognition, not to mention millions of streams verified by ASCAP.

- COLLABORATION HISTORY -

Recording artists, designers, and producers whom A-1 Thee Assas'n has worked with include:

- OG Eddie MF Kane
- BloodFlow
- Juicy J
- Sean Kingston
- Yukmouth
- Marvaless
- Anno Domini Nation
- Glasses Malone
- J Steez
- Kurupt
- Xzibit
- Rick Ross
- Mc Eiht
- Jadakiss
- Gucci Mane
- G.I. Ginn

- Legion Beats
- KP-7
- Suga Free
- Dizzy Wright
- Perry "BlessDaTrack" Thomas
- Polar
- Strange Poet
- Chylz Vargo
- Yung Misfa a.k.a. Sloth
- Dubb Diesel
- Darccyda
- XiX a.k.a. Young Eloquence
- Kokane
- P. Slymm
- Tiksta
- Kxng Crooked
- Mike Mizzle
- King Wavvy
- Corey "Young C" Rolfe from MixDown Studios
- SK Beats
- Kongo Madstak
- D52
- A-1 The Phenom
- Tony Tuk
- Kasynski
- J-Stack
- D Boy
- The Xxodys
- Jonny Swagg
- Goldmouth Da Legend
- Kasette
- 2Chainz
- Daylyte Johnson
- DOT
- Hannah Froggatte
- John Legend
- Jamel "LOUD" from LoudRapBeats.com
- Scarface
- Big O
- Vidal Garcia
- Syke Pachino
- Amy Howell from Designs By Amy
- Jackpot
- Devyn Berg a.k.a. Grimm
- Ron P
- DotCom
- K.Y. The Midwest Marvel
- Breana Marin

- June B
- Cam'ron from Dipset
- TheCorporateThiefBeats
- Cheryl Johnson
- Ricky Turner
- Marty
- and several others.

CONTACT INFORMATION

A-1 THEE ASSAS'N IS ALWAYS LOOKING TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER ARTISTS & PRODUCERS!!
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH HIM (serious inquiries only) CONTACT HIM DIRECTLY BY:

WEBSITE: <https://a1bhmworldwide.com/>

A-1's E-mail:

a1theeassasn@gmail.com

B.H.M. Entertainment's Email:

a1blackheartmusicentertainment@gmail.com

OR ON HIS SOCIAL MEDIA

Personal Facebook Account:

www.facebook.com/GeminiWilliamsA1

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/a1theeassasn>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/a1theeassasn/>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@a1theeassasn>

CAREFULLY SELECTED INTERNET PAGES

LinkTree: <https://linktr.ee/a1theeassasn>

Bandcamp: <https://a-1theeassasn.bandcamp.com/>

NumberOneMusic: <https://www.n1m.com/a1theeassasn>

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/gemini-williams>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/7n4vTsZrXrXQsc2TPPhXEM>

ReverbNation: <https://www.reverbnation.com/a1theeassasn>

Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/us/artist/a-1-thee-assasn/1083356993>

TuneBubble: <https://www.tunebubble.com/artists/A-1-THEE-ASSAS'N>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/music/player/artists/B01BNFVJ5A/a-1-thee-assas'n>

Pandora: <https://www.pandora.com/artist/a-1-thee-assasn/ARPN3ZKkdkztZlq>

Soundclick: <https://www.soundclick.com/artist/default.cfm?bandID=1432809>

Audiomack: <https://audiomack.com/a1theeassasn>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@A1TheeAssasn/>

TheA1Store: <https://thea1store.sharetopros.com/>

Beatstars: <https://www.beatstars.com/a1theeassasn>

BandLab: <https://www.bandlab.com/a1theeassasn>

Veoh: <https://www.veoh.com/users/A1TheeAssasn>

B.H.M. Entertainment: <https://bhment.rhythmic-rebellion.com/>

MTM Custom Accessories: <https://mtmca.onlineweb.shop/>

The B.H.M. Store: <https://thebhmstore.offersupermarket.com/>

Paper Hound Clothing: <https://paperhoundent.com/>

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