

# Episode 4: JaciCaprice Clark on Detroit, Relationship-Building and How Hip Hop Is Still At Work!

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**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:00:00] What's up, welcome to hip-hop bruja and online pink platform and podcasts that seeks to provide a critical analysis on everything from hip-hop pop culture to All Things political through an intersectional feminism lens and I'm your bruja host DJ DJ turntables extraordinaire hip-hop feminist poet Community organizer published author editor. Lecturer public speaker Global hip-hop cultural Ambassador and known to be a people's hip-hop scholar, but enough about me

on today's show. We're going to have a really really really good friend of mine. I look up to her tremendously. She's such a dope leader. Just let me tell you how dope she is JC capris Clark is a Visionary who faces any challenge with her eyes wide. She's also an accomplished vocalist producer and has worked on several projects throughout her career because of her diversity of towns. JC Caprice is known as a Swiss army knife by those who've worked with her. I love how that's in her bio because for real she breaks that down and why. Why she excelled in writing be production musical Arrangement audience development vocal coaching Graphics production and so much more her Musical and lyrical Styles have been compared to those of Lauryn Hill Marsha Ambrosius in the Desi yet. She continues to create a style of music that is all her own. She believes that music makes the world go round and uses lyric and Rhythm to encourage people from all over the world to connect with one another and. Perfect timing JC participated in the first cycle of next level as a BeatMaker for team Zimbabwe and since then she served as site manager for Next Level Croatia. Turkey, Australia, Jordan and Russia pronouns. Are she her hers?

Let me tell you how she met because literally everything described here is exactly who she is. She's served as my site manager also for Next Level just as past one. We had and JC can turn nothing into something and work through every issue putting out storms left and right stomping on fire. I mean, that's how I describe JC because she can really pull in folks together ground up. And work through every issue and bring hope to every situation. I mean, I love JC. I mean we're about to work on a couple of projects together some super excited and she's good. Hopefully be hosting some some of our episodes here on HipHop bruja as well. So I'm really excited to have her on the show as we talked about how she's made it work in hip-hop how she connects with people globally as she travels worldwide and how she personally connects with people how she connects through hip-hop her love for hip-hop as well as talk about where she currently resides in Detroit the history of Detroit how people build their how she builds relationship because that's what I love about JC so much. But let me stop talking and let her speak and her do her own introduction to who she is and why she's so dull. Yes, JC. Please break it down for us and share with us. All the good things you bring to this world.

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:04:53] My name is Jacy Caprice and I am an artist educator a creative of vocalist also known as a Swiss army knife because I'm able to do really whatever the occasion. And calls for and I'm extremely happy to be here speaking with you sis. I love how you just called yourself a Swiss army knife. Hey, yo, yeah, you know what? I mean? It's like really whatever. The occasion calls for you know, I whip it out like you need, you know, you need some scissors. I got some scissors, you know, you need some toothpick. I got you. You know, I've always been the type of person who wants to be prepared for for really anything and that's how I've lived my life. That's how I've been raised to be able to be adaptable. So that's where that term comes from dope.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:05:47] I mean as an artist it's so important to be really a. Especially in not just the culture itself. I mean in Hip Hop in general a lot of folks back in the day and folks who don't really realize they are really, you know immersed in all elements of hip-hop and then even even now like. People whether they realize it or not, they really celebrate and not just the four elements five elements of hip-hop but like participating particular in so many areas in hip-hop culture and or just the business itself because you have to be right.

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:06:25] Yes, absolutely and especially as a woman. You know what? I mean like you you have to at an early age and you know, if you're blessed to have a community in a village that supports that and nurtures that you have to really recognize that an early age your power and your awesomeness and the start to develop your voice early on you know that you can be. I'm a forest as you continue to grow here in this world. So, you know, I've been blessed with an amazing Village and an amazing family, you know, my mother and a lineage of women throughout my lineage have been amazing doers and just power forces of women who recognize who they are and have early on and have been around other women who nurture that I mean, that's so powerful.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:07:16] I mean, You're calling into the women around you and women around that's what makes me stronger brings me friend, especially yeah, huh, right? Yes in the struggle just yesterday. I was on interview and I was talking about like some, you know past problem as I had been through and I was like literally saying that hadn't been for the women in my life. In there, I don't think I would have been able to continue on sometimes right, right.

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:07:51] Yeah, absolutely. Absolutely. I mean, we truly we truly hold each other up, you know in the physical sense and even in the spiritual sense, especially in the spiritual sense, you know our ancestors and I mean if it's a powerful Dynamic that is life, you know what we call life. Like, you know, so I definitely give honor to the women in my family who are living as well as those who are ancestors.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:08:17] Mmm. I mean and speaking about the work of being women and or the the calling in of women and you've been in this for a while you've been doing this work and the experience of coming into a scene that's male-dominated. Generally speak that it is very male-dominated. What I do notice in my own 20 years of doing this there is a lot more there's always been women and if involved there's always been women that I've met globally whenever I've. People would always say oh there's not a lot of women dj's balls because everywhere that I went when I went on tour when I traveled I've always seen women women MCS

women dj's just that they were getting the platform a lot of times but now I see there seems to be more women out there as well. But we're still in a very heavily male dominated industry honor amount of men that control. A lot of the spaces in order to be able to really really harness the scene in the way that we can take over take over the world. Like okay, you've traveled a lot and in this what are your experiences and seeing how women are able to to just basically do it?

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:09:51] Yeah. Yeah, you know, it's a really powerful thing when you talk about women and the types of collective that we've established, you know with each other for support systems and for encouragement, you know, I've been a member. 5e Gallery until really just recently but I was a member here in Detroit or the 5e gallery and celebrating women in hip-hop with Piper Carter and you have mahogany Jones and you have booked Brown and you have you know women who, you know incites a riot who we've come together and Miss Corona just like I got name everybody because I love them so much, you know, we've come together. And you use use each other for support, you know and encouragement in a field such as hip hop that has traditionally been misogynistic and the respect of images of women roles of women. I mean, of course has been pioneers of women who write out the batter like, oh, you know, I'm going to be about the business aspect of things and be Pioneers, but you know all this typically when you see, you know, women and videos and things like that. It's always been from a male. A perspective of what the woman's role should be with the exception of you know, shoot that the 90s where you Queen Latifah and Monie Love. You have you know, this this is a gamut of women who are like no, you know, ladies first. We're gonna we're gonna we got a tip this thing. We got to make this thing in that, you know in Balance not imbalance, you know be coming in I in Balance so, you know throughout my career as a producer and be. Raised in a household with the woman who was powerful and recognized her power and strength? I've always had that nourishment to be who I am and to make a difference no matter what the environment was and so being able to link in with women who are doing these things such as the society by the gallery and celebrating women in hip-hop and many other collectives around the globe. It's been a great support, you know, we get together and we talk about. The issues that we face as women doing production or doing performance or education or any of these things that women do that are creative and nurturing. So for me I've experienced. I've seen the ills of the industry, but I've also been a pill. For the industry through connecting with other women within it and that's encouraging each other and presenting images and music and projects that are really the anti, you know, kind of like the anti of what has been giving out on a mass level traditionally throughout our history within the industry of hip-hop.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:12:52] Wow, you just dropped a lot of gems on us like you always do Jay-Z for real. You you're such an end you exactly how it says in your bio your visionary, but you're also just like this leader your Forge been calmness you bring hope you just you think there could be struggles going on but you're like putting out fires, you know, and and on top for real and on top of that you're like you just said that you you've seen a lot of ills but you're also a pill and I'm like damn, you know for real for real and yeah, but I and and circling back to that. I'm really glad you talked about that and you dropped a lot of names of Detroit because Detroit is is so I mean, I can't even I can't even describe in the words. Just how all the folks that are in in Detroit are just talented fears. I mean talk a little

bit about the Detroit seeing I just for the last show the show that's about to air tonight. I just. Put on the show some music by Ellie San Diego. So I'm really excited to to drop, you know her joints and yeah for real so, you know, I'm I'm glad I'm getting so Detroit folks in here, especially you you know, you're my peoples but I mean, yeah talk a little about the Detroit seen, you know explain to us about 5e. I'm familiar with it because of Piper but like, you know for all of us that don't know, you know about Detroit the hip-hop scene the culture the history and the origins of Detroit.

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:14:37] Yes, I mean sadly, you know the history and origins of. Course is Motown, right? I mean when you think about Detroit you think about the early roots of Motown, I mean, of course there's there's a lot of history and lineage before that, of course, but the starting at that point, you know, there's a there's a spirit here, you know, originally, I'm from Ohio, you know, I'm a buckeye and I and I say that you know quietly because I'm amongst Wolverines, you know, I'm a buckeye and I honestly have to say that since I've moved to Michigan and. And that this has been a place that right has been a place that I can honestly say that I belong I can honestly say is home because there's such a creative. I want to say like a bubbling once again, you know the bubbling occurred and then there was Motown. So what's happening here now is that there's a bubbling that's occurring especially in the hip-hop really the Arts community in general so visual arts and parts and Hip-Hop. There's this bubbling that's happening here. And we're just waiting for the pack to scream because there's so much being built up here, you know with women and with men and was collaboration between men and women in hip-hop. It's like it's very encouraging how how the support system is here. One thing that happens is that I found. That a lot of artists have passed traditionally or in the past found that they've had to go outside of Detroit in order to gather information. But the dope thing about that is that with that information is always brought back home. I mean you have like Jessica care Moore who is just an amazing poet who's just traveled all over the globe and it's gotten information, but it's a whole girl comes back home and shares the information. And with the Arts community and include the information includes the Arts Community here in Detroit and what she's doing, you know, you have me if I may even be so bold who travels the world, you know and connects with people throughout the globe, but then comes back home to Detroit and share that information and. Musicians with people all over the world, you know in different countries. So there's a there's a a loyalty. I think it's the best word to the Arts Community with one another here in Detroit that is always been and it just continues to grow stronger and continues to be supportive. As long as we continue to keep our eyes on the prize. I see the white folks eyes, you know, there was a moment where it was like, okay, what are we doing? But now there's an Awakening where people are like, you know, this is what we're doing enough of enough of this rigmaroo and this and this, you know external. Is coming in trying to tell us who we are, you know, we know who we are and we know what we stand for and we know that if we band together that this is going to be some some world-changing stuff that we've known historically as come from out of the Motor City.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:17:52] Yes big yourself up Jaci because I'm again phenomenal. Like you know, originally hip-hop bruha a was a Blog. And then after a two-year Hiatus we transitioned over to become a podcast show which is really really exciting. And actually I think it's even better platform and a better way to outreach

to people all over the world. And of course the first person I thought of was like, oh I gotta get JC

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:18:23] to me energy that means the world. That means the world says because I mean I've I really rever you as someone you know, who is this amazing and such a Pioneer for you know, the things that you continue to do have done, you know as a Pioneer throughout hip-hop history and her story, you know, so I am honored trust me. I am honored beyond belief.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:18:50] Well dang, there's some nice words to say about me. Jaci for real to be called The Pioneer and Hip-Hop. Sometimes I forget my longevity and all this. Well, we're gonna play this track by the one and only JC caprice Clark and we'll be right back after you hear her Tunes.

And you just heard Love Like Water by our one and only guess JC capris Clark. You know that joint is hot. Let me tell you when we were out in the Next Level was putting it down putting Not only was she leading our Squad our cohort. She was laying down tracks. She was singing with us on stage performing. Rhyming spitting freestyling on behind the scenes and like just doing all around and like our crew was pretty dope. We had big piph we had Chaz mere we had bgirl Macca with us. I mean and yourself and then me of course and we were just a dope crew. Like everyone was super talented including JC. Like we would spend a night in the session next thing, you know, we were coming up with joints and doing it from music videos and performing it on stage. The next day that's all telling y'all on. That's how talented JC is now. We're back into the show. I'm going to get into this convo with JC and talk a little bit more about Detroit and all things. We Believe hip-hop is and music is and the power of hip-hop culture through the vision of JC Caprice Clark.

I really love how you talked about the Loyalty how folks in the community like Jessica. I've known Jessica long time haven't talked in a couple years, but. You know just how folks leave Detroit they come back and they bring back information literally to me. That's that that's Community organizing. That's that's a part of that that's cultural organizing right you're utilizing the Arts as a way to like Empower build up our in yourselves and in your community and bring it back to your community and there's a loyalty in that and that's through the Arts. But I also think beyond that because and I'm. Asking this in terms of Detroit. Do you think the folks the reason why they're doing that is not just necessarily loyalty but the things that they face in their communities of Detroit and in the ways, they want to look out want for one another for particular reasons of whatever may be going on in your own communities as well as. What the singing of of Detroit is like and what are the things that are going on? And why why is there's this loyalty because I feel like to me the Loyalty that happens for me in my own communities is because I know that we got to look out for one another right and we going to look out for one another because. Because I when I think about looking out for one another I think about the things I had been through the things that we might go through and I feel safe. I feel safe when my community. That's what I you know, I think about right? Yeah.

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:24:22] No, absolutely. I feel as though because of the Loyalty. I mean there's this generation. A family, you know history that's here, you know folks who were born here folks who had family here for years. And so there's there's there is a community here at that is naturally about looking out for one

another. You know what I mean? I mean, there's there's a hustle there's a grind you know, but there's a loyalty that goes way back in people's people storylines, you know in their lineage. So yeah, and there's a need for Community. It's almost like. You know when you know that they're there are threats because I mean, of course you have digits occasion and you have you know corporations that are trying to do value the land here, you know, so that they can take it if I may be so bold still it. And build upon it, you know and and then call it valuable by their standards, you know, and so, you know the community here in Detroit has like yo, you know, you're not you're not going to take my grandma's house to do this. We have value, you know, this is our Homestead. You know, how dare you and so, you know communities like Highland Park and places that are that are just been, you know, been strong communities have band together and work together to really prevent these things, you know, so don't I mean don't get me wrong though. There are need there are need there's a need for rebuilding but it's really about relationships. And how do you do this? And how do you make sense of this? And if you come in wanting to impress and field and then you got to go and you best believe that folks here in Detroit they got they got. At that fire and that's in their belly was like no you won't do this, you know, so the so the scene here with the Arts is one that's really proactive extremely proactive and there's activism that's to the hearts. You know, there's there's protest here in regards to just dissertation and crazy zoning laws. That are being created, you know and think that this education, you know, we don't we're not standing for that and we're and we're letting you know for arts and we're letting you know by showing up in numbers that know you're not going to do it this way. You're not going to do it this way.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:26:41] Yeah, that's so powerful and I really love how you talk about the Arts in such a way where it. It's really got to strength in the numbers the way you all really band together. And the way you describe it, you know, like you we got fire in our bellies, you know what I mean? And and the way you all band together to be able to resist it in the ways that you do through Arts as that cultural organizing way and sometimes it's not as explicit. Sometimes it is what it is and what it's very direct in its own way not. Hip-hop, right you like it's you know and the subtleties of that like to me some folks who may not consider certain artists as conscious or maybe political. I'm like, what are you talking about? Like they're they're saying something and you're not really listening. Are you really like knowing me? And and the Very form to me of hip-hop itself, whether they're they may not exactly be like say a Dead Prez or jasiri X where it's very direct endure their Consciousness and and the things that they're saying but then certain music out there. They're where they're still saying something and it you got to listen to the story the story itself. And then they're very active. They're very active existing to me is. Is is part of resistance sort of what a lot of folks in hip-hop tend to say but I am bringing it back to you. Thank you for speaking on and describing Detroit for us, you know, and you and you talked a lot about relationship building what you just mentioned and that's who I see who you are. You really know how to bring folks together and since you travel a lot, why don't you speak a lot about that experience of you traveling and the relationships that you're building around the world not necessarily. Globally, but what that's what's that experience like for you? How are you building those relationships? And how do you get to know each other in these different countries and being in these different spaces and meeting folks in the community

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:28:56] one thing that is very out of a lot of things but one thing that's very important to me is just like you express there is relationship building and I feel there are far too many areas here in life where we aren't able to do that, you know on a social educational spiritual Financial level, you know, and what it really comes down to is the the gift of love and the Art of collaboration and so for me, I've been I've really been blessed to be able to travel. The world with this passion, you know in my heart and in my spirit of bringing people together and collaborating and creating ways to bring a balance bring things in Balance again, I in valid through hip-hop and and such programs such as you know next level which both you and I have been a part of I've been a part of that program since 2014 first time as a BeatMaker system. Way and then from there becoming a site manager where we've taken groups of hip-hop artists from the states and from all over the world really and have brought them together to collaborate through hip-hop, but really really saying bless of having the opportunities to create workshops and spaces where we can all come together and create a community based upon what we want to see and not by what is being placed on us or. What we're born into, you know, really bringing our experiences as human, you know and connecting at a human level first through creating to the Arts. And that's really what the Arts does. The most of the arch do is that it connects us at a human level. So my experience throughout the years has been you know, like going the Pakistan or going to to Russia or to Turkey. You know as an American and and bringing both of our you know, the political side of the things that we've been shown on a mass media level, but then bringing our story lines together and working through some of the stuff like okay, what's real? What's not? Who are you who Am I who are we? You know and what does the we mean when we talk of my community or space in which we are both inhabiting and what tools can we use to solidify this Bond because there's things that happen throughout the world and it's things that may happen as we exit out these doorways, you know from this Facebook while we're here what types of things can we do to be effective community members in this community that we're building, you know moment that we have together and so there's been a lot of that throughout the years of asking those questions, but then actually experiencing and participating in communities that are that are just what people need and just what people want and I've been able to do some hip hop and through the arts. You know and it's really just mind-blowing because I remember you know, before I even know what's hip hop, I remember this player. I remember this thing that we were doing on the blacktop, you know, the blacktop I don't recess and now we're sitting around black tops in boardrooms, you know, and it's faces in the community centers talking about hip-hop and still bringing about the cipher in the community except it looks differently, but it feels the same so it's been a real powerful Journey. You know and I continue on with it and I just loved it. You know, I have a passion for people and I have a passion for this work and you know until I can't anymore. I'm going to continue to build relationships and shoot even when I become a spirit. I'll probably still continue to do that as well.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:33:16] You spoke a lot about like the relationships the gift of love and art of collaboration, you know and and finding ways to bring a balance, you know. And the relationships you're building in all these countries and and then you're seeing and witnessing bearing witness to the art that's unfolding and so many places and and how they they understand hip-hop and how they contribute to hip-

hop like what are the things that you see and I spoke to this recently and with Aisha because she was saying and I just saw her at Ncore and I also interviewed her for the show as well. And she was saying how. You know and she always says actually all the time how we need to really look to Global hip-hop and international hip-hop and actually everyone that I run into or speak to who have a greater understanding of hip-hop globally has said that but it's not documented enough, right? It's not documented enough and I think next level is a way has been documenting it in the ways that they do especially with the videos that we all do and. All of those things and what are some of the things that you're learning on how folks are utilizing hip hop around the world? What is the messages? They're saying or not any if they're not but what is it that they're saying How would how do they understand hip hop around the world to me? I really believe that sometimes and especially why should spoke about this is that. There's multiple truths of how hip-hop came to be and we can speak we can Circle back to that conversation later, but I kind of wanted to throw that out there because I definitely do agree with that context that there's so many ways how hip-hop has emerged is definitely our pioneers and Hip-Hop, but there's also so many stories globally that were missing out on on. On hip hop and so speak to that a little bit about what how you're witnessing how Hip Hop's unfolding around the world. Okay.

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:35:26] I love that because you're really and that's what I'm talking with you. I mean, I know we're recording something. This is really don't because I haven't they say it's like we oh, we just connect and so, you know that that's you know on on the on the other side or actually as an addition to wanting to relationship. I've always felt as though. I'm I'm a culture keeper. So, you know in doing Nan a culture keeper and one who? Who wants to see what's going on with it with hip-hop, you know what I mean and and other things as well, but since we're talking hip-hop, so one of the things that I've been able to do and traveling was whether it was a focus of seeing exactly what's going on with hip-hop. What messages have four. Received around the world about hip hop from both a commercial from both the cultural from a you know, in regards to women, you know, what images and What ideologies are being, you know shown there giving their or accept it there and really for black people and people of color, you know, black and brown people. You know, what types of areas are are we, you know, Being shared so to speak. So what I found is that and this is my experience. This is my experience is that every place that I've been to has had an appreciation sometimes even more so than ourselves. For the history of hip-hop not just what you know the beginnings in New York of what now, but I'm talking about the lineage of jazz and afro-caribbean and you know and and and and cysts are brown and black sisters all over the world. So it's been a very. Interesting thing to at times be educated about some of the foundational things of hip-hop being in places like turkey, you know or Russia, you know getting visitors information that I didn't even know. You know, it's been it's been deep. This has been deep the knowledge that that that the hip-hop communities and in places like Croatia and turkey and Zimbabwe and Madagascar and Pakistan and and Russia that they work the study. The research that has been done by The Hip Hop Community is you know, Australia across the. It's not about what has been shown commercial, you know commercially as being the only reference point, you know that has caused a mass research to occur in the countries that I've been in where people like okay we see this but there's got to be more and who who who is this? You know, who were the Pioneers?

How did this come about? Why how does it relate? To what it is that I'm experiencing and this is me talking from their standpoint and with you know, and from conversations that I've had with people and and how do we how do we move together in this, you know to to bring about power? Among and within each other it's crazy, you know and I'm even and if it wasn't used this, you know, I won't be sharing this information because especially when it's a public forum. It's not it's not like you give these like watching a football game, you know, you don't give them all of your moves and all of your runs and plays but because it's you and here we're talking about activism. This is what's happening is becoming a global global connection. That that hip-hop is the vehicle but there's a connection that's happening. That's that's that's that's powerful and it's active and it's connecting. So so hip hop is doing it's doing what it should be doing. We're calling it hip-hop, but it's really it's a lineage of what's been been happening for years and for centuries and Hip-Hop is doing just that on a global scale.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:39:59] Okay? Really love verified like yo, you just said a lot like I think several things wine is I really appreciate you talking about the ways hip hop is still doing it because often times when I speak to folks. Who have been doing hip-hop organizing for a long time? And I hear different folks saying maybe hip-hop isn't what we utilize anymore to to uplift the platform. And for me I pointed when I hear that because I've always been a hip-hop organizer, right? Yeah hip-hop because not only is it a tool for me? It's a part of who I am, you know, and and it's how I live, you know, it's literally I live and sue me. It's something that I just can't simply let go of you know what I mean? I don't just write it it, you know, I'm not one of those. Educators and this is no disrespect because I know there are a lot of hip-hop Educators in and spaces who I respect right like yeah, right. So like yeah absolutely are those who think that well, let me just utilize hip-hop and then I'm gonna yeah. Yeah. Yeah a lineage bright coming black and brown African West caribbean roots. But yes, ma'am, and you know this right but I'm saying right for me. It's just not something that I just let go of you know, right? Yay.

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:41:42] You can't you can't I mean when you've been born into this purpose in this movement, you can't just let it go. What I think is has happened. Is that a couple of things one thing I think as a hip-hop Community here in the state. I think we need to have a refreshing, you know moment of refreshing like you and I've spoken about some some ideas as far as I confer. Well, we can kind of pause and refresh. I also believe that you know, a lot of us are getting older. So you're looking at your mortality you're looking at the work that you've done and if it's made a difference and you're at a point where you're like at a crossroad like, okay, where do I go now? And the fact that some people just don't know where to go. Then you become like, you know, all the elders swinging on the porch that glad I don't you know, I don't know and you're kind of murmur it to yourself, you know, like why are you know young people and I don't know what's happening with him. He becomes like that and my thing is that you know, we are at that moment, but it takes it takes you know, those of us who are still doing the work, you know, like yourself and like myself and the other artists who are traveling the world and. Will sing hip-hop at work, you know around the world and in our own communities to keep reminding them like nah, we feel moving just because you stopped. Does it mean that it stopped, you know, it's much bigger than us. You hear that hip-hop is much bigger than us and keep it push it. There's still work to be done.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:43:18] Yeah, there's to work to be time. It pops at work and it's still going and I and I'm so glad you spoke on that because it's to me it's something that I often hear, especially when certain organizers feel a certain way like. Especially when they hear where hip-hops at and I well I just had a conversation on this but we always come back to this conversation about hip-hop purism and the identity of hip-hop and to me I have a problem with that because I love tradition acknowledging the origins of hip-hop, and I also love hip-hop to me and in my understanding right is a young culture started by young folk and to me it the people that lead this movement of Hip Hop culture should be young folks that we're still be multi-generational but Young Folks leading that. So to me, I follow their lead. So what young people are listening to if I whether one agrees or not, I feel that we have to. Open ourselves up to understand, you know, maybe you might not like it. Maybe not your Forte whatever Samia I when I hear that I sense a little bit and this is me. You need me not really trying to be super. Yeah, intellectual the conversation but like yeah, I think that to me that's a form of respectability there. It's this constant like well, you know, this isn't a way in this is not like it. That's another that's another level of policing to me that I'm just not. You know what? I mean

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:45:00] it is and it puts up walls. You know what I'm saying? Like what what's the ideal is that you know each generation at this smooth transition, you know what I mean? And you know to do this type of work takes energy and the body ages. You know and there has to be a innovation. I mean I'm with you I want there to be innovation and I want their I want it to sound different and I want it to be different because that's what those that's what grows Systems off is when they really don't you know, they think they got it and then it switched, you know what I'm saying? So I don't want it to be you know, exactly the same night now now where I identify with is where we don't lose the foundation. We don't lose the smoke. We don't eat we don't lose the focus and spirit in the reasoning behind what we do in the art, you know, whether it's hip-hop or Visual Arts and performance arts or any of the art creative arts writing art that we don't lose that thing. It's like doing algebra, you have to build up to get to an end result. So it's important that we continue to take notes and to respect the process in the stages that get us into the Next Generation and that includes the people who have been there. And there's that help to get you here who have survived through it so that you could you know, make an emoji video or is that you could you know Mumble rap or whatever they call, you know what I'm saying? So that you could express yourself. However, the technology and whatever resources that you have for your generation. That's where I am with that but I feel you

and that was Jaci Caprice

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:46:39] Clark breaking it down on Innovations and. Shins and how he holds on to this generation as we maintain the foundations of hip-hop culture and would Pioneers have been guiding us all along with we're going to take a quick break as we listen to this tune from this Detroit Legend and we'll return to this conversation on the foundations of hip-hop culture.

You want poems by the one and only legendary Detroit Legend, New York Legend? Jessica care Moore poet writer. performer artist activist and so many ways founder of black girls rock in Detroit. I mean always holding it down someone I admired

tremendously. I actually first met Jessica care Moore back in 1994. We were on the same line up at NYU was myself. Jessica care Moore Sarah Jones hair mod and all these other phenomenal phenomenal artist. I mean it was the epitome of a time of hip-hop that was up and the way people like Sarah Jones and Jessica care Moore and so hair as well as like Saul Williams was taking poetry into a different realm and a whole other level. Really pioneering the way for spoken word and a lot of people need to pay homage to folks like Jessica care Moore for real, but now we're going to get back into this conversation about foundations of hip-hop culture with JC, Caprice Clark.

Yes. Yes, you spoke it. I mean all truth and and he spoke to this so I'm circling back now are around is because you're talking about when you travel globally and you're seeing that there's even a consideration of thoughtfulness aknowledge more so than here here Us in the US of a of the respect of the foundations of not just hip-hop at the lineage connecting the blues to Jazz to fall to Soul and. Why do you think that is why do you think and this is not the first I've heard of that right? And I've experienced it myself traveling. Why do you think there's this profound respect for the origins of the culture and then when we come here and and this is not to say that doesn't exist here because there are folks that really care about the foundation of hip-hop and our Pioneers, but absolutely, however, there's still this like. I don't know what it is right like this with a lot of up-and-coming artists who have disrespected like I don't need to learn that and and it does exist. So let's turn let's name that right. I have friends who are deaf professors who teach in the dance hip hop? Profession and they're disappointed time and time again where young folks who are learning the culture of dance the dance culture itself particularly and then they don't feel they have to why did he need to learn to origins of hip-hop and a questionnaire even as DJ's like there's a lot of DJ classes now and I love it. I love that it exists and a lot of the DJ's I think are the ones that I know that exist are doing it right there talking about. About some of the history in terms of the semantics of the history of like who invited what and who created what but I think there's missing some depth to it. The the the culture itself in the aspect of really why it came to be and I think those are so important to speak about so why do you think there is yeah. Why do you think In other countries across the world, they're really respecting the foundation's. What do you think that is and that that's a good question.

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:53:44] That's an amazing question and one that I'm yeah. I mean, you know one that I'm still trying to. You know, I'm pack and and figure out myself because it's really it's a kind of a new phenomena for me to recognize and to actually be able to say that. You know, I mean like it's still new in my mind. I can guess I can take a couple of guesses and some things based upon my experience, but you know even as a disclaimer, I'm still I'm still trying to figure that out too, but I had seen that. Our struggles here in the state, even though there are still some similarities but you know, what I've experienced is that we can to get distracted.

So where everything is so fast here. Everything is so damn fast here in the United States of America you go to Africa stuff ain't that fast, you know you go to Turkey there's energy and when I say fast, I mean Pace not energy-wise. You go to different countries and people still uphold like values like okay, we need to take a minute and have lunch together this shut everything down and list had at least a meal together. I mean, so there's certain value structure. That I think play a role

that are still being upheld globally that we here in state just don't do anymore. And I believe that it's that there's that there's some systematic stuff there. I think this historical things that if we you know really want to get deep as to why and how that has happened and we're going we can talk about that too, but maybe another podcast but I feel as though. The basic ways in which we relate to one another on a human level are still being upheld in in other countries. We're here a lot of those Falls Fallen by the wayside, you know, and that's not everybody and I'm not saying everybody's like that. But I think but there have been some things to TJ. Please set into play that has gotten us to where we are now to where we're beginning to forget who we are. I mean shit look at history. Look at what's being taught in the school. I mean, you're you're talking about taking out a whole a whole. You know black of history when it comes to slavery, you know, I mean, how dare you you're talking about taking the Arts out of school and and and art programs like those are key things that keep us connected and that keep us connected to our history our present and our future so the fact that these things who has actually been on The Chopping Block. It's just really fastest to me and. It hasn't made its way and a lot of the different countries. Not that it stopped being tried because it is but it hasn't quite made it there. So people still have the time to pause and Research into figure out and pontificate and connect with one another because it still has value. For which they're not being distracted from and won't be distracted from and I think that we need to get back to that and saying you won't distract me from this so that we can continue to connect as generation moving forward.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:57:23] Wow think that that you speak to the larger issue a lot of times when people are what's the word they're just not necessarily stagnant, but there's this like well because we're so distracted and it's not even just the level of distraction of. Just media right technology. There's like a gay you mentioned the systemic issues. Why were distracted of people are surviving capitalism, right the surviving like, you know and the day by day, right and then of course on top of that with like all the distractions of media all the distraction of our digital age that that keeps us in that

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:58:06] exactly tools to keep you there.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [00:58:08] Right and it is connected in it. Then and I know sometimes I don't know it gets we lose sight of the values and then or we forget the values because we're so busy. Try to mad that survived manage trying make it but then also we get wrapped up into escapism to right because you're too busy trying to survive that we want to escape. Yeah, and then sometimes we get into self-care mode, which I think is an important thing, but I think. Being and and this has been on the rise in talking about and a lot of our organizing Community shifting into a collective Community Care way so that way it's not an individualistic approach but more of a community approach on how we care for ourselves and how it requires Community to keep self-care as well. So yeah like yeah speak to a lot of the issues. I think you literally just answered that question for as folks that have traveled globally and seeing what we're experiencing here in America in the United States the especially this Current. And it's been going a long time, but it's currently a rising in this kind of In the kind of state that crisis that were in in terms of the xenophobia that we're experiencing and bearing witness to and and how are people around the world viewing America. I know that's a loaded question, right? But like yeah how people perceive us right there still welcome. Yeah, right, but

how have you come across these questions when you travel, right? How do you come across that right? Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [00:59:59] Yeah, excellent question and you know and I can't and I have to say, you know, what programs like next level in American Music abroad, you know, we as artists do these programs not not out of the ignorance of where they come from, right so we know communism we know we know sexism. We know these isms through which cultural diplomacy has come about in order to to kind of fight against right? But what happens if this is programs and as artists is that we focus more on the shunt, but we talked about, you know, collaboration and communication and production and education and how we're able to connect just with on this level across the globe. It's not about politics, even though we have the support of our country. It's about community building and relationship building. So that is exactly what happens, you know going to Russia, you know where we're getting ready to do a program and Russia but going there and visiting and connecting with the hip-hop Community there and and both of us, you know, bringing our misconceptions to the table and saying yo, this is what I've been told. This is what I thought but being able to sit at the table and dispel the myth and and too kind of sift through the bullshit to see that you know, even though we're in a location that's not where I'm from. You know what I mean? I live there but this is where this is where I'm from. This is my experience of being on this part of the planet because we're all on the. Say let it you may be in Turkey. You may be arrested. I maybe the United States at the end of the day. We're all in this big ball of gas called the world. So this is the experience that I've had Living in America and these are how these experienced are able this is how we connect on a human level. It's an awesome thing.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [01:01:51] Hmm. Thanks for sharing all of that. I love hearing it. Um, now let's bring it back to here at to you as the individual tell us a little bit about your story how you came into hip-hop how you started doing it? Your experience as an artist what led you on what inspires you what brings you to your music and all the things that you do because you are that Swiss army knife and you do everything like for real like I'm surrounded by just Talent folks, you know

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [01:02:25] we're an awesome community sis we are truly an awesome community. Yeah for me, you know, I got my start really really early on, you know, my mom and and my father my dad is you know is a very logical and analytical guy but he's a lawyer right? He's retired now and my mom on the other side of that the other end of the book in the other end of the spectrum is an artist that a Creator and a visual artist and Dancer. So I think just in my DNA I was born to do this and so my parents, you know, they were divorced but I understand why now because I didn't need to have both of them in the same vicinity in order to create a balance that they were both there. I think this would have been a different story. I think I probably would have gone to either one side. Too much or the other too much. So, you know, I live with my mom and so her being a creative and being a woman I learn by example on what it meant to to become to be, you know to be in the art. So I've had this all my life. I've been in a communities Arts communities on my life. I went to art schools all my life and I've been fortunate and blessed to be in spaces where I'm able to be heard and to take the time to hone in on my talents and skills. So my brother and I, you know growing up my brother and I we wish we would wake up seven o'clock in the morning and we would we would be in our room

we shared a room and we would create music from 7 a.m. Until like 8:00 p.m. You know, and at that time, we didn't know that it was hip-hop. We were just creating this sound this was in Ohio right Booth wouldn't even New York or you know, Chicago or some of these places where you hear about, you know, the early beginnings of hip-hop, you know, this wasn't the bedroom at 1462 Summit Street, Columbus, Ohio, you know, so I always had this passion of creating music and connecting with people through the Arts. I've always loved what the Arts. Do, you know, whether it was, you know, performing a play or creating a play for my family in the living room. I just love how. How we all came together to share our stories and so I think just being an African American woman. I think that just naturally that this was the storyline that that I that was written for me to collaborate and to connect people to the Arts and throughout my whole entire life. I've been nurtured to do just that with my own music, you know, I've done producing. I think a lot of things that I've done is been in the background, you know, I went from the first stage to the back of the stage because in order to be a Swiss army knife, you got to kind of know you got to know what all you got to know the side of the stage, you know, the wings. You got to know the front of the house the back house. You gotta know the mezzanine, you know, you got to build it back up. You gotta know it all so, you know from the front I went to the back and learned how to produce and learn how to create music and and just honed in on that gift. And contains the connected people that way and this is really just a short story of it, but just just growing to become well-rounded and helping others and seeing what it takes to so move the move people and to help them become as now springboarded me even more so into my own personal mission with my own band to continue to travel internationally because they see Caprice an audio see that's out to my band here in Detroit just an amazing community of musicians radagast and trade priest Aisha Ellis. Darius team say and then my that's my band a and I have ab and B Ladera William Harley that Hearted Girl Siobhan and I have one more as well. No, I entertained. Oh my brother my real brother William Clark if my drummer so, you know springboarded me into this mission to continue to focus on social equality and being able to bring the tools to create. Through music You Know by putting us all on an even playing field, you know, having the tools having the machinery for us to create music together regardless of what your story is, but bringing his story Into the situation and creating from that. So that's kind of a brief overview of where I am now next year. We'll with American Music abroad. We've been chosen for the season and so will be on a 21-day. Tour, we're not sure where we're going yet, but we're going to do it, please. Yeah, we don't know where we're going yet, but we're going and then musicians that are part of this band are just like me where we are individuals, but we've come together to empower one another at the collaborate. You know, I'm a big collaborator and so, you know JC Capri-Sun audio stay. It's just that and that's where we're getting ready to take flight in a blast off to next so be on the lookout right?

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [01:07:42] I'm excited. I was just hey what's in the works for you? But now that I hear that I mean, yeah, is there anything else that you're looking forward to in the next coming year aside from your tour with your band?

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [01:07:56] Yeah, you know, yeah definitely looking forward to the tour the band but really looking forward to continuing the work with Next Level program as a site manager we're ready to go to Jordan this month. We'll be going to rest the next month and I'm on both of those and the next year. I'll be going to

Ethiopia in January. So really looking forward to continuing that relationship with Next Level because they've been an amazing vehicle and amazing family. I mean once a vehicle it's been an amazing family a group of artists to move with and to do this work with and to bring bring other artists within the communities who are doing this within this. When they switched to a meeting point and and moving together, so I'm really looking forward to that and I'm also looking forward honestly since because some rest some opportunities to read to write and to just kind of just take some time to just reconnect with my community here. I mean, it's so funny. I'm seeing people. People on the Fly here, you know, like hey, we got to connect and you know, I'm not the type of person who's a bunch of you know, yeah, we gotta we gotta we gotta I like to do it. So I'm looking forward to really carving out moments to to arrest and then continuing the mission. I mean like you and I, you know, we've been in discussions about what we want to do together as women in hip-hop and creating a moment of pause and reflection and information sharing and creating some. In forward to developing that with you as well as

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [01:09:29] I'm excited. Yes, girl. any final thoughts before we head out.

**JaciCaprice Clark:** [01:09:38] Yeah. Yeah. I just really I just really want to encourage our community to continue to connect with one another and there's still work to be done whether you actually get up and physically do it or you share your your mental capacity and your experience with the Next Generation. And with those of us who are still in the state of movement. I really just want to encourage us to connect to believe and to reflect. And share with one another our stories and where we've come this far as well as where the hell were going next.

**DJ Kuttin Kandi:** [01:10:16] Well, thank you Jaci for being our show for dropping so much knowledge on us so much wisdom. You talked about everything from being that cultural keeper that collaboration of love. Finding the foundation's having the Loyalty in our communities to really protect one another and how really this is all about relationship building looking out for one another building Community staying connected and keeping true to its foundations while we. We try to be as Innovative as possible as we look towards the new as we look towards this generation and other generations to come and forging this intergenerational hip-hop and international hip-hop.

Really I appreciate you for just bringing your whole self to this conversation talking about Detroit. I mean, really. Exactly how I know how you are and you were going to bring it to this conversation. So I appreciate you. I look forward to working with JC in the future as we work on so many projects together because trust I will be out in Detroit this coming fall. So I'm really excited to get to spend time with JC one more out there together making some plans because just like JC says hip hop is still at work. Well, that's it for this show. I hope to see you all next week on hip-hop bruja. Peace.