

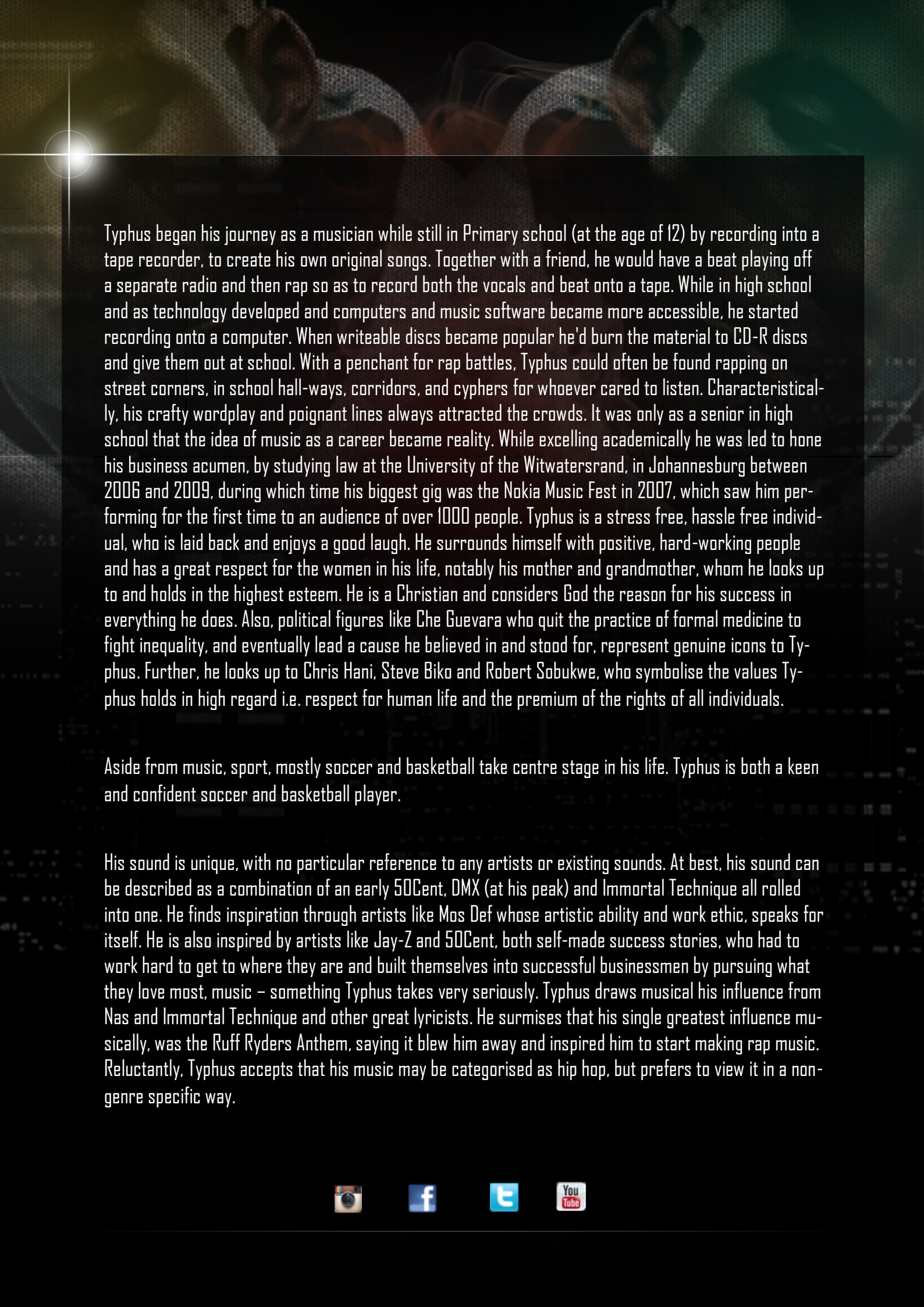
Biography

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"My aim musically is more than just to make music; it's to be heard; to inspire greatness; to give hope and to give people music to define moments in time, and experiences in their lives. For me it's about leaving a legacy that stretches beyond fame and publicity; it's about speaking to someone in a way that only the right lyrics on the right beats can."

The story of Typhus begins in Georgetown, Washington D.C., USA, where Ashford Nyatumba, was born in 1987 to South African parents. On returning to South Africa, Typhus was raised in the township of Eldorado Park, south of Johannesburg. He holds both US and South African citizenship. An inquisitive child who learnt quickly, he always had an extensive vocabulary and impressive command of the English language. He speaks English, Afrikaans, Zulu and Sotho. Always an ambitious youngster, as a child he'd make money by selling crafts made from waste he found around the house, which taught him the value of money and hard work. Typhus has demonstrated his unique business acumen by forming his own entertainment label, Home B-Aced Entertainment launched in 2005 and views himself not just as an artist, but rather as a brand with his music being the vehicle through which that brand is promoted.





Typhus began his journey as a musician while still in Primary school (at the age of 12) by recording into a tape recorder, to create his own original songs. Together with a friend, he would have a beat playing off a separate radio and then rap so as to record both the vocals and beat onto a tape. While in high school and as technology developed and computers and music software became more accessible, he started recording onto a computer. When writeable discs became popular he'd burn the material to CD-R discs and give them out at school. With a penchant for rap battles, Typhus could often be found rapping on street corners, in school hall-ways, corridors, and cyphers for whoever cared to listen. Characteristically, his crafty wordplay and poignant lines always attracted the crowds. It was only as a senior in high school that the idea of music as a career became reality. While excelling academically he was led to hone his business acumen, by studying law at the University of the Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg between 2006 and 2009, during which time his biggest gig was the Nokia Music Fest in 2007, which saw him performing for the first time to an audience of over 1000 people. Typhus is a stress free, hassle free individual, who is laid back and enjoys a good laugh. He surrounds himself with positive, hard-working people and has a great respect for the women in his life, notably his mother and grandmother, whom he looks up to and holds in the highest esteem. He is a Christian and considers God the reason for his success in everything he does. Also, political figures like Che Guevara who quit the practice of formal medicine to fight inequality, and eventually lead a cause he believed in and stood for, represent genuine icons to Typhus. Further, he looks up to Chris Hani, Steve Biko and Robert Sobukwe, who symbolise the values Typhus holds in high regard i.e. respect for human life and the premium of the rights of all individuals.

Aside from music, sport, mostly soccer and basketball take centre stage in his life. Typhus is both a keen and confident soccer and basketball player.

His sound is unique, with no particular reference to any artists or existing sounds. At best, his sound can be described as a combination of an early 50Cent, DMX (at his peak) and Immortal Technique all rolled into one. He finds inspiration through artists like Mos Def whose artistic ability and work ethic, speaks for itself. He is also inspired by artists like Jay-Z and 50Cent, both self-made success stories, who had to work hard to get to where they are and built themselves into successful businessmen by pursuing what they love most, music – something Typhus takes very seriously. Typhus draws musical his influence from Nas and Immortal Technique and other great lyricists. He surmises that his single greatest influence musically, was the Ruff Ryders Anthem, saying it blew him away and inspired him to start making rap music. Reluctantly, Typhus accepts that his music may be categorised as hip hop, but prefers to view it in a non-genre specific way.



He defines his sound as its own special category of music, calling it simply "beautiful music". His music is tangible and real, drawn from "common man" experiences and everyday life. Importantly it is a perfect blend of intelligent, well thought out lyrics with feel-good catchy beats aimed at making people think and dance. In many ways his music is both for the serious thinker as well as the escapist looking simply to enjoy good hip-hop. He is a true artist in every sense and views the microphone as his canvass on which he paints his thoughts using similes, metaphors and double entendre. Beside the producers and vocalists he works with, his material is entirely his own creation, he writes and performs all his own songs.

His bit of inspiration for up-coming artists is simply that "Hope inspires belief. If you stay hopeful, work hard and stay committed to what you do, true to who you are, and real to your talent and abilities, you have no choice but to succeed!"

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The feeling I get from saying something in a song that's memorable, or moves someone, is the most amazing thing about music for me. Having people quote my lines and appreciate the thought that goes into my writing process is what drives me to make my music as intelligent yet as accessible and commercially appealing as possible."

Typhus self-released his debut album 'The Mind Speaks Volumes' which boasts 15 tracks as well as three music videos. Typhus highlights his favourite songs off the album as 'Eyes Open' (track 15), 'Summa Tym' (track 9), 'Sweet, Sweet Love' (track 11) as well as the album title track (track 1). He is currently working on his sophomore project to be entitled "BeYouTFull Music" and his ambition is to be an international recording artist with a major global following. For now though, he intends to build a solid African following and a hip hop network through which to expand his reach, and sound into neighbouring regions once he has fully established his brand in the South African market!

"My music is a perfect union of mind, body and soul - in that it makes people think (mind), dance (body) and it speaks to you on a deep and conscious level (soul)."

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