

ROOSH WILLIAMS

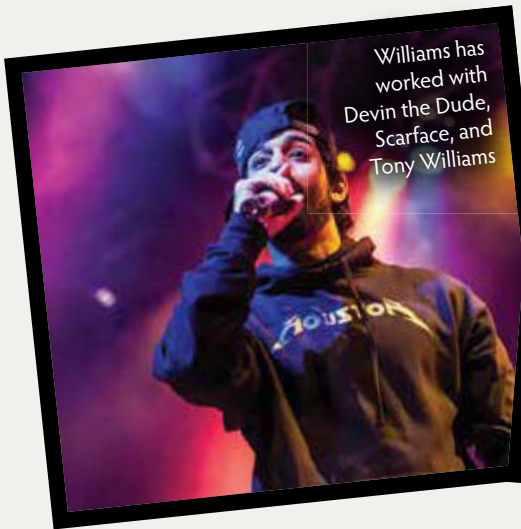


Taylor High School graduate moves to L.A. to continue pursuing his hip-hop career

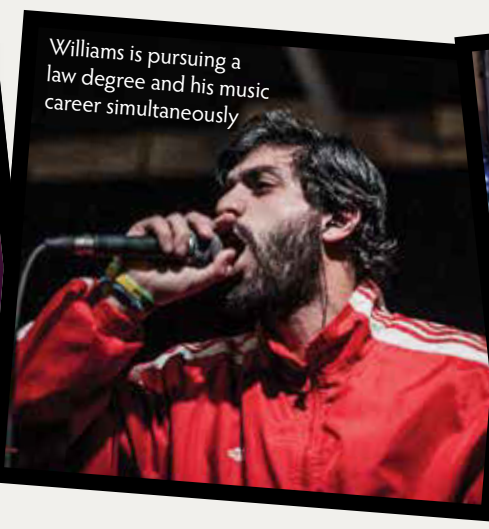
*Written by Sara K. Parker
Photography courtesy of Roosh Williams*

F For 27-year-old rapper and hip-hop artist Roosh Williams, an epic road trip from Houston to Los Angeles marked the next phase in his music career, as well as the pursuit of law school.

Roosh Williams, a 2007 graduate of Taylor High School, moved to L.A. to pursue his music aspirations



Williams has worked with Devin the Dude, Scarface, and Tony Williams



Williams is pursuing a law degree and his music career simultaneously



Has performed at venues such as Austin Music Hall, Warehouse Live, House of Blues, and SXSW

Journey to Success

A 2007 graduate of Taylor High School, Williams went on to attend the University of Texas at Austin (UT) for a degree in corporate communications all while writing, creating, producing, and performing. By his junior year of college, his performance schedule was blooming and he began to realize the possibility of a career as a rapper. "I started getting booked for parties and concerts out-of-state and my career just started taking off." Now, five years after graduating from UT with honors, Williams has two albums and a slew of memorable performances under his belt.

"I love the rush, uncertainty, and unpredictability when performing in front of a crowd that is seeing me for the first time. I love the ability to use a medium like music to captivate and connect with complete strangers. It's quite an experience," Williams says.

That experience has included performances at major venues such as Austin Music Hall, Warehouse Live, House of Blues, Norman Music Fest, Fitzgerald's, Houston Beer Fest, and being a five-time performer at SXSW. Williams has worked with icons in the field, including Devin the Dude, Scarface, and Grammy Award winner Tony Williams. On the heels of the initial success of his first album, *Deja Roo*, Williams' latest album, *Unorthodox*, hit the Top 40 on iTunes the day of its release.

Creative Inspiration

Williams ascribes his ambitious nature to three inspirational figures: his father, Michael Jordan, and Muhammad Ali. "I am captivated by the journey that is required to achieve greatness, especially when personified," says Williams. "I think greatness is taken for granted, so I have nothing but admiration for people who defy all odds and overcome adversity on the highest of levels."

His own journey as an independent artist is a story of drive, creativity, and talent that began in elementary school

when Williams was first exposed to rap. Throughout the years, the self-taught rapper wrote and produced tracks, experimenting with and honing his craft, but he didn't initially set out for a hip-hop career.

A Man of Many Talents

"I don't really believe in going somewhere just to go," the Katy native said about the big move. So this past summer, he took some time off from writing, recording, and performing to work on law school applications. His efforts paid off with a scholarship to the Gould School of Law at the University of Southern California. "The consistent theme [in my life] is that I value education, and the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge," Williams says. "I've got the best of both worlds - law school gave me a reason to [come out here], and I can still keep doing what I do while pursuing my degree."

On the Horizon

Williams is working toward a third album and embracing his broadening horizons as he dually pursues a flourishing entertainment career and a law degree. His advice for others with big dreams is, "Don't feel hesitant about leaving your comfort zone. Put yourself in an uncomfortable place, challenge yourself, and figure out what you're made of." **KM**

SARA K. PARKER is a freelance writer and an adjunct English teacher at Lone Star College. She also has four children who try tirelessly to keep her current on what's trending in music and entertainment.

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