

Despite his short time in the spotlight, Bandmanrill revolutionized hip-hop by rhyming dexterously over the club music from his native New Jersey. Yet even if the 20-year-old doesn't sport the years of experience some of his friends and collaborators can claim, dance is something of a birthright to those who grew up immersed in the scene. That universality is evidenced by the way Bandman was able to almost immediately connect with a huge audience before being backed by any label. He uploaded his breakthrough hit, "Heartbroken," in the spring of 2021, the Jersey native was discovered by hometown entrepreneurs from his beloved Newark, NJ by Dawan "DB" Brown and Saad Amin who welcomed him to their combined label imprints 100% Pure and 1865 Black Flag Entertainment. The tandem forged a partnership with the legendary record executive "Steve-O" Carless and his Defiant Records imprint, Bandman is poised to break his disruptive style even wider. In the two years since "Heartbroken" — which introduced Bandman to a national audience and cemented a relationship with Mcvertt, his go-to producer—the artist has become something of a phenomenon. His debut album, November 2022's *Club Godfather*, showcased his versatility, proving that being nimble and forceful is not a contradiction—it's simply the mark of an expert MC. As he turns his attention to the future, it's difficult to imagine a version of rap in the 2020s without Bandman close to its center.