

THE *new* SOUND

COLBY LABRECQUE

3.17.25

OVERVIEW

THE NEW SOUND IS AN EXHIBIT THAT CAPTURES THE EVER-EVOLVING SPIRIT AND SOUND OF DUBSTEP FROM CROYDON TO THE GLOBAL STAGE. AUDIO + VISUALS WILL ALLOW VISITORS TO EXPERIENCE JUST HOW DIVERSE THE SCENE HAS BECOME IN THE PAST 30 YEARS WHILE CAPTURING THE EMOTIVE THROUGH-LINE OF DEEP EXPRESSIVE BASSLINES.

OBJECTIVES

THE EXHIBIT AIMS TO GIVE PEOPLE AN IN TO ONE OF LONDON'S MOST INFLUENTIAL UNDERGROUND MUSIC SCENES, WHILE SPECIFICALLY EDUCATING VIEWERS ON DUBSTEP'S ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT. IDEALLY PEOPLE WILL LEAVE A LITTLE MORE OPEN-MINDED ABOUT THE SCENE, THE SOUND, AND THE CULTURE.

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JAMES BLAKE

James Blake emerged in the late 2000s as a key figure in the evolution of dubstep, transforming the genre with his unique fusion of bass-heavy beats, soulful vocals, and experimental production. While dubstep was originally defined by deep sub-bass and syncopated rhythms, Blake introduced a more introspective and melodic approach, blending electronic textures with elements of R&B, classical, and ambient music.

Air & Lack Thereof / Sparing the Horses
Hemlock Recordings 2009

TYPOGRAPHY

PANEL HEADER - NEULIS NEUE BLACK 600PT

HEADER - DIN 2014 EXTRA BOLD 600PT

BODY COPY - DIN 2014 LIGHT 72PT

CAPTION HEADER - DIN 2014 DEMI 54PT

CAPTION SUBLINE - DIN 2014 LIGHT 54 PT

TITLE CALLOUT & DATE - DIN 2014 EXTRA BOLD ITALIC

ARTIST CALLOUT - DIN 2014 LIGHT ITALIC

Hijack the Barber
King Tubby

1975

King Tubby's Meets Rock
Augustus Pablo

1976



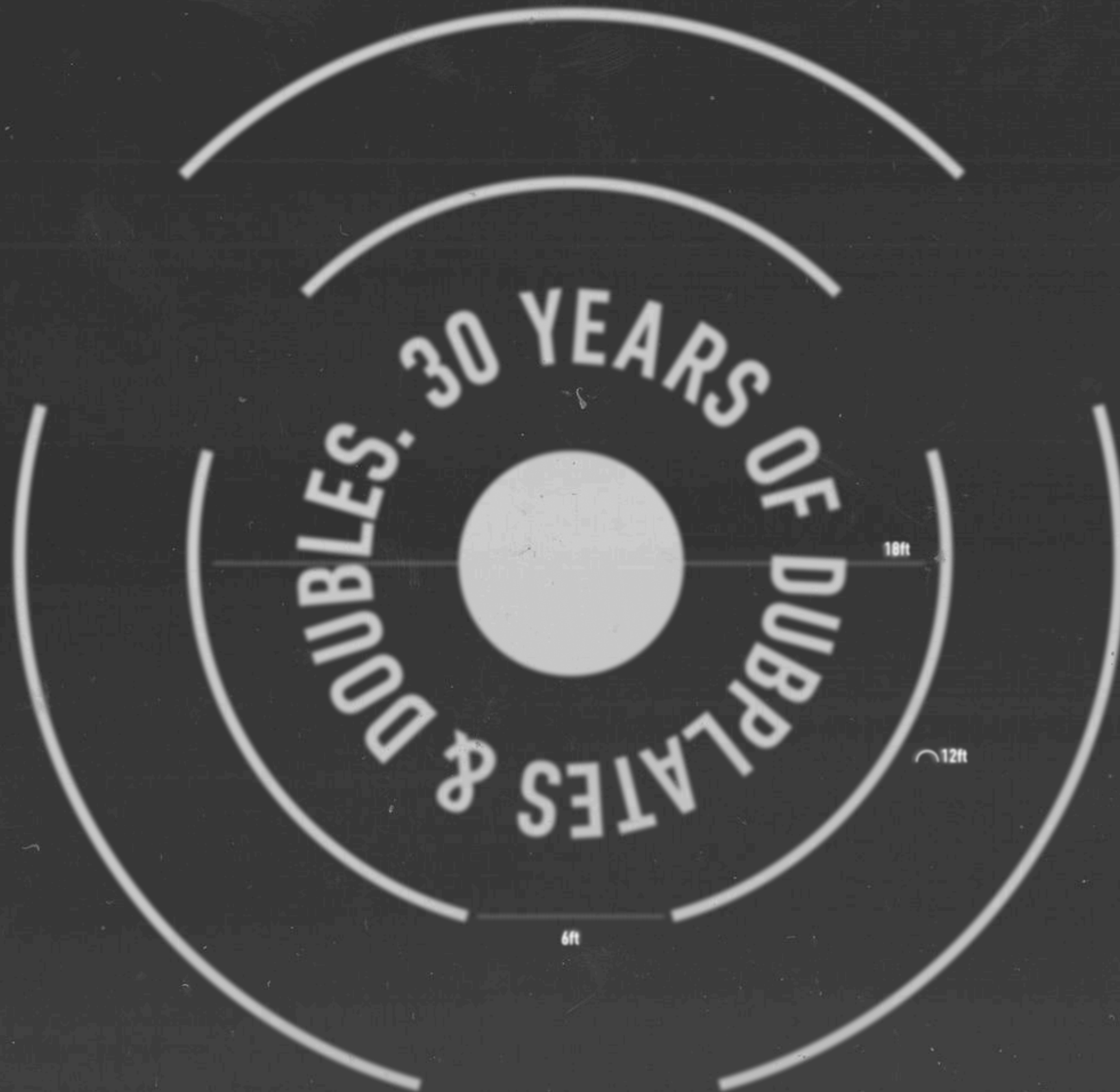
GRAPHIC TREATMENT

DIFFERENCE & DIVIDE

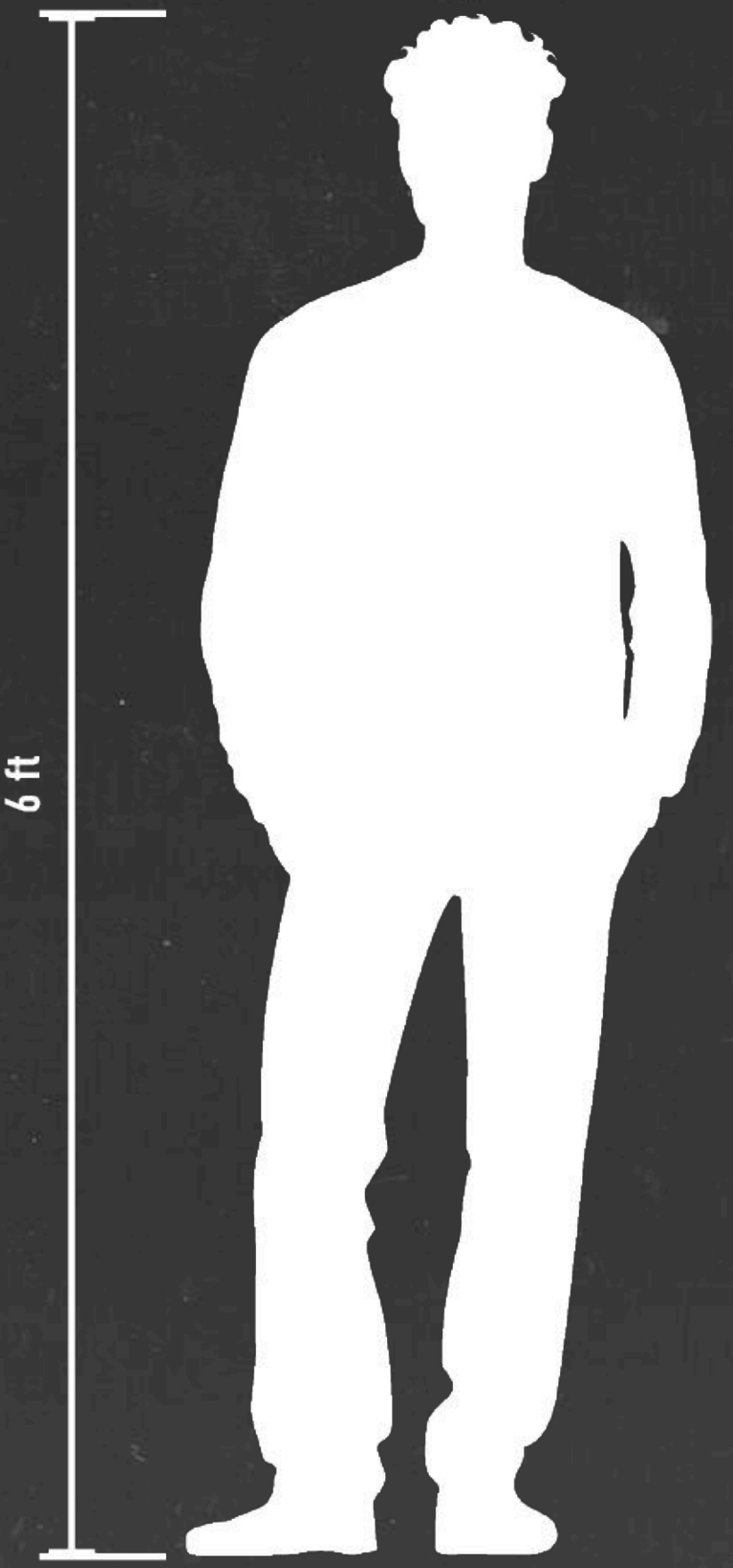
LOW OPACITY

TILT SHIFT BLUR

FLOORPLAN



ELEVATION
L - 12FT PANEL



THE *new* SOUND

5.4ft

5ft

3.5ft

8 ft

1.7ft

Riddim.

Developing in the early 2010s, riddim put a renewed focus on repetition and rhythm, stripping dubstep down to its essential elements. Instead of complex melodies, it relied on rolling bass patterns, syncopated drums, and loop-driven grooves that created a hypnotic, headbanging energy. Pioneers like SubMtronic, BadKlaat, and Bulez Finez shaped its underground appeal, while artists such as SVDEN DEATH and Monox helped bring it to larger audiences. With its raw, minimalist approach, riddim carved out a distinct identity, becoming a staple in bass music culture.

Yasuo
Bommer & Crowell
2014

Mystical Powerzz
Spass
2018

Sheriff (Naro Reboost)
Syzy
2020

Lena
Titan
2023

Horse (grape milk nlp)
Salvatore Ganacci
2024

Tearout.

Built for sheer intensity, tearout dubstep pushes the genre to its most aggressive form. Distorted bass, rapid-fire synths, and chaotic sound design replace traditional grooves, creating an unpredictable and relentless energy. Unlike riddim's steady repetition, tearout thrives on sharp, dynamic shifts that keep listeners on edge. Artists like Marauda (formerly Mastadon), Trampa, and Phiso helped shape its raw, hard-hitting sound, making it a favorite for high-energy DJ sets and festival crowds. Designed for impact, tearout dubstep delivers an unfiltered dose of power and chaos.

Horror Show
Avance
2020

Detonate (Naro Reboost)
EPTIC & HOLI
2022

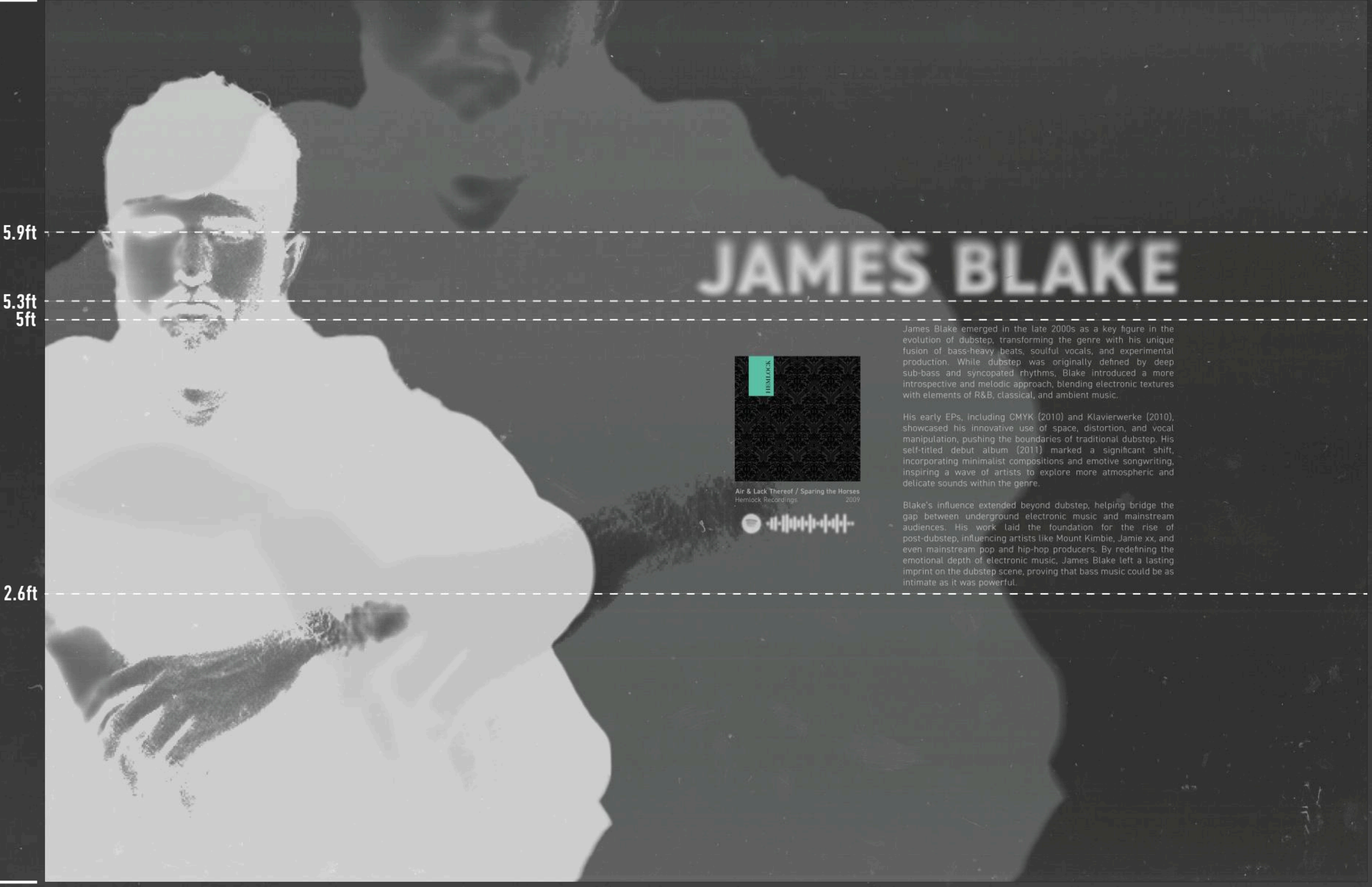
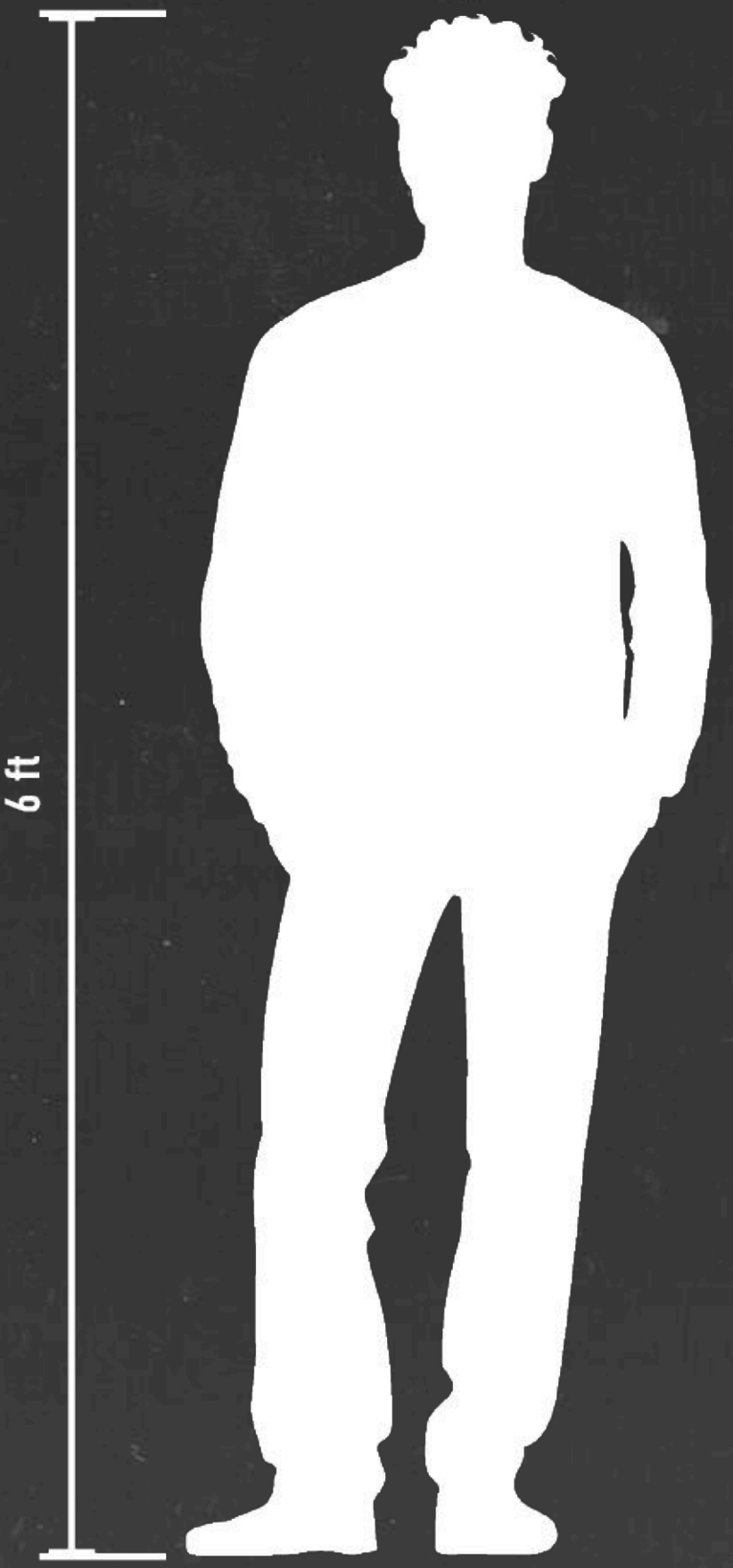
140.

In contrast to the high-energy offshoots of dubstep, contemporary 140 stays true to the genre's original roots. Named after its signature 140 BPM tempo, this style emphasizes deep sub-bass, intricate percussion, and atmospheric sound design, echoing the early work of pioneers like Mala, Loefah, and Kode9. Modern producers such as Kahn, Commodo, and Samba have helped keep the sound alive, blending classic dubstep elements with fresh influences from grime, dub, and experimental bass music. Thriving in intimate club spaces and underground scenes, contemporary 140 maintains the genre's foundational spirit while continuing to evolve.

Killa
Hamdi
2024

Knockout (Requake Remix)
HURTB0X & Shiverz
2024

ELEVATION
L - 12FT PANEL



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His early EPs, including CMYK (2010) and Klavierwerke (2010), showcased his innovative use of space, distortion, and vocal manipulation, pushing the boundaries of traditional dubstep. His self-titled debut album (2011) marked a significant shift, incorporating minimalist compositions and emotive songwriting, inspiring a wave of artists to explore more atmospheric and delicate sounds within the genre.

Blake's influence extended beyond dubstep, helping bridge the gap between underground electronic music and mainstream audiences. His work laid the foundation for the rise of post-dubstep, influencing artists like Mount Kimbie, Jamie xx, and even mainstream pop and hip-hop producers. By redefining the emotional depth of electronic music, James Blake left a lasting imprint on the dubstep scene, proving that bass music could be as intimate as it was powerful.

INFOGRAPHIC



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Bommer & Crowell
2014

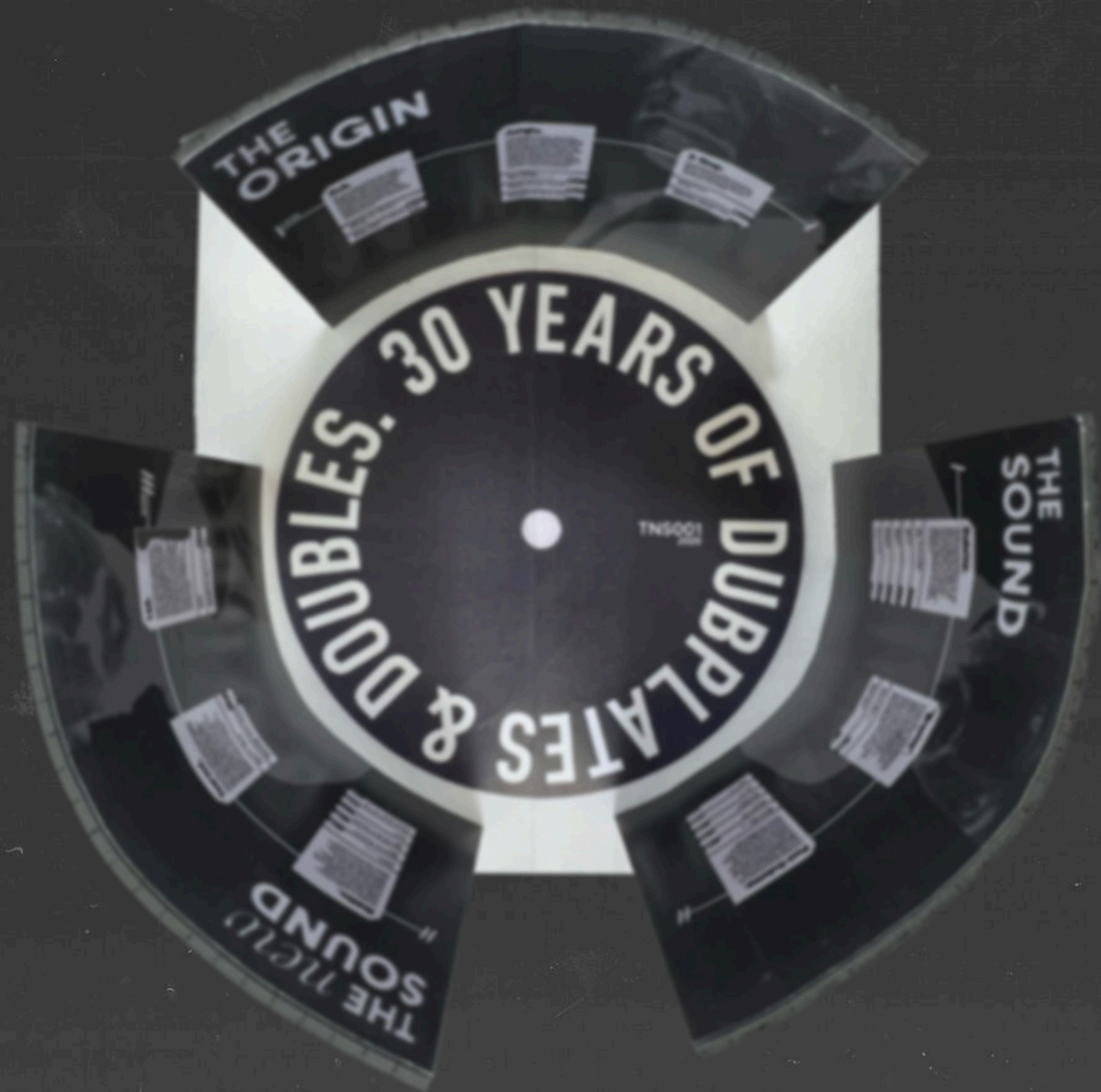
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Spazz
2018

Sheriff (Naro Reboost)
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MODEL



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