

# Botney “Bar Lingo” Collins

## ARTIST BIO

Those that believe in God often attribute two characteristics to Him: 1) He works in mysterious ways and 2) He has perfect timing. Such could be said about the timing of the birth of Hip Hop and the birth of one of its formidable M.C.'s, Botney “Bar Lingo” Collins. Both birthed during tumultuous times, and one birthed into turmoil, in perfect timing the two would soon cross paths.

Botney “Bar Lingo” Collins was born in the small, blue collar town of Muskegon Heights, MI to single mother Daphne Annette Collins and local musician Kenneth Bankhead. The 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest of three children, and the only male child, Bar Lingo, also known as B.L. was thrust into the role of an adult navigating the responsibilities of being a son, a brother, and ultimately a provider with little to no guidance or direction...except that which was provided from the streets. B.L. found a way to use his hard upbringing that was riddled with poverty, violence, and substance abuse, by utilizing powerful metaphors to combat everyday obstacles that reality so harshly and vehemently dealt. A product of the streets, B.L. had no choice but to find his own way...to walk his own path. He used music as an outlet. After all, music is in Bar Lingo's blood from hanging out in the garages where rehearsals of his father's band in the early '80s would take place, to just listening, dancing, and singing along to Michael Jackson songs. “I was born with music embedded in my DNA. I can't recall a time when music wasn't a part of my life. I used to drum on everything around the house. My love of Music is incomprehensible; it runs deep through my veins. I've wanted to be a musician for as long as I can remember.”

When Bar Lingo found himself in the confines of the Michigan Penal System, Hip Hop became his saving grace...his place of solace. Hip Hop saved him from reverting back to a life of crime and falling victim to the streets. Now, this hard hitting M.C. has emerged to return the favor, and save Hip Hop.

In a day and age where Hip Hop has been watered down and abased to piss-poor lyrics and mediocre hooks, Bar Lingo is a rarity and a breath of fresh air. Needing no hype-man or entourage, B.L.'s music gives the streets a real case of hard, gritty vocals, heavy punchlines, and thought provoking lyrics that will for sure make you use your brain. Being an M.C. Bar Lingo mixes his styles in with the likes of Scarface, 2Pac, Nas, and Jay-Z. Bar Lingo has mastered his delivery of words and honed his craft to sustain confidence to consider him to be amongst the elite heavy hitters of the industry, both past and present. He brings energy to any track that is lacking that push. “Guys get intimidated by how rough my bars be without cursing or using explicit content.” His flow is both smooth like silk to skin but also cuts deep like a chainsaw to a tree. Bar Lingo also brings an energy that speaks to the masses. Once you hear his work, you will be moved by his grace and style, his presence, and his delivery. Once you've witnessed his power on stage, you are an instant fan. You may wonder “who is Bar Lingo”, but by the end of the show, you're rocking with him, singing his lyrics, and you have been moved, mesmerized, and won over by Bar Lingo.

