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To begin with this presentation, I first wanna start off with the **PHILLY POETRY SCENE.** Philly has always been described as a city of individualism. It's known for producing people that radidate an ideology of being "1 of 1." To branch off that, it ties into our essential question of …

"What made the Philly Spoken Word scene so unique?"

The Philly spoken word scene was so unique because It centered people from a city of trials and tribulations. When I say this, I'm not trying to push the narrative of struggle is the key to making good work, but in the same sense, Philly individuals convey art from both experience and perspective in a way like no other.

Naila Mattison describes the environment as "VERY underground." She speaks about there not being a set place to perform poetry for the people indulging in the art, which then transitions to the group of poets being involved in a super tight knit community. Philly ties away from other cities because it isolates itself. This type of behavior is exhibited in and out of the walls here. You'll see this behavior in neighborhoods, gangs, school clubs, etc. What this means is that it's not just a poetry thing, it's a people thing.

- To really put a knot on that, it's like if you wasn't here before stuff was popping, or you ain't been doing it.. Then it's like.. It's gonna be hard for you to really get those open arms you may be looking for.

"PHILLY IS REAL CLIQUE-ISH."

"YOU GOTTA KNOW HOW TO MANEUVER."

To transition with that, the environment poses as a factor for the isolation, connection, and community that comes with the poetry scene. It’s felt as sacred for the people.

Behind the pieces of what people see on the exterior of the scene, there’s the within. That picks up on our next essential question of

“What sets Philly writers apart from other cities?”

PHILLY IS ONE OF A KIND.

ISOLATION

CONNECTION

COMMUNITY

The writers of Philly exhibit a demeanor that is strong. As stated previously, art is conveyed through perspective and experience. Living in both the city and interacting with an abundance of people, you're gonna understand where the soul and passion comes from when pen is put to paper.

The writers here are a witness to what it is to be from Philly and with that comes the built in creative aspect. Philly appeals so much to outsiders because of this factor. Philly and the people have seen everything, from highs and lows, and the biggest part is that everyone is talented. The uniqueness is so prominent because everyone is able to write the stuff that someone just won an award for in another city. To be frank, even if you're known, you're getting the same response as everyone else.

"YOU HAD TO HAVE WORDS. YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO USE YOUR WORDS. AND YOU WERE IN THE ROOM WITH OTHER PEOPLE WHO COULD WRITE."

"YEAH OKAY.. AND WHO ARE YOU?"

The style of writers is so fascinating and frequently copied because all of our different kinds of art goes hand and hand with one other.

For example, Naila Mattison speaks about how Hip Hop and Poetry often fed each other hand to mouth.. And she would even write her poetry to hip hop beats! This isolates the writers because the rhythm that comes with the writing draws a clear distinction between Philly and others.

That raw emotion fueled everything when it comes to the poetry scene. It makes it passionate, the hunger of the writers made it stand out.

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POETRY X RAP MADE IT SPECIAL.

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CHERRY PICKING

TO BE CONTINUED.

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