Uncuffed My Mixtape: Locked Up And Grinding All My Life

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[00:00:00] IVY: Yeah, man. This is Anthony Ivy.

[00:00:02] TIM: And this is me, Tim Hicks.

[00:00:05] IVY: And it's time for the Uncuffed. My Mixtape.


[00:00:20] TIM: We recorded these mixtapes when we were both inside of different prisons.

[00:00:25] IVY: Solano.

[00:00:26] TIM: And I was at San Quentin. But today, we're coming to you from the outside.

[00:00:32] IVY: Yeah, man, we out that day. We free.

[00:00:35] TIM: First up, here's Ivy's mixtape from Solano State Prison.

[00:00:40] IVY: Hey, hey, my name is Anthony Stick Talk Ivy, and you're listening to a song on my mixtape: Lil Durk Locked Up. Yeah, these one of them songs, man, you just listen to and you vibe with. He said, I can't see your face, we talk through cell phones. That's a true statement in prison, man. Cause you gotta communicate through phones and letters.

[00:01:01] SONG: I can't see your face, we talk through cell phones. I salute you a thousand times, cause you ain't sayin nothin. It hurt your heart, man...
[00:01:09] IVY: Yeah, man, it hurt your heart, man. And your kids tell you a jailbird, man. Bein in here, man, and tryna be a father to your kids, and tryna be a mother to your kids behind these walls.

It's a real struggle.

Man, whoever thought you'd be passing out them straight trades, man, you know. My family, when I went to jail, man, they couldn't believe it, they like, damn, Lil Anthony. He done went to jail. He got 17 years.

Yeah, man, when I look in the mirror, I see my son's face, you know? Like, damn, I'm in here, you know, doing my time. I'm not out there with them. But soon, I will be, and I'm gonna make it count.

You know, being in, being in prison, and doing this time, it's crazy, cause, it be like a class reunion, you know. I be seeing my old, my old partners and stuff, man, in here. It's like, a lot of people locked up, but it's like, maybe, even more people that was just out there dead, so. It's like a blessing and it's a curse, you know, I'm still here, so. I could be thankful for that.

And I'm thankful, you know, for my family for having my back through this time, you know, being locked up. Having that support system. You know, I just want to say, thank you to my wife, you know, holding me down through the struggle, you know, leading to my success. And when I get out, man, we gon ball.

We gon do our thing, we gon to the top, we gon to the moon, we gon to the stars. Free my guys though. Keep y'all head up. It's that song right here man. Make you think. Freedom is on the other side, man, and we gonna achieve that.

[00:03:24] TIM: That was Anthony Ivy, talking about his favorite song, Locked Up, by Lil Durk.

[00:03:30] IVY: Yeah, I know man, I was locked up for a minute, but I'm back now man. I like that song man, that thing slap. And let's hear the mixtape you recorded in San Quentin. Press play on that thing.

[00:03:42] TIM: I'm Tim Hicks. I'm from East Oakland, California. And my favorite song that I go to is Nipsey Hussle, Grinding All My Life.

[00:03:53] SONG: All my life, been grinding all my life. Sacrifice, hustle paid the price. Want a slice, got to roll the dice. That's why, all my life, I been grinding all my life.

[00:04:03] TIM: Nipsey Hussle's Grinding All My Life is a success story to me. It's a, it's something that reminds me of where I was and where I'm at now. Because I was a grinder, you know, I'll grind all my life, you know, feel like I was grinding my entire life, you know. So, you know, trying to get it, trying to make it, selling drugs. You know, coming from a place of poverty, you know.
[00:04:26] **SONG:** Like myself, I say self made meaning I designed myself.

[00:04:35] **TIM:** I listen to that song every day to remind me of, of the hustle, you know. And I, you know, I get up and I go to all of these classes now that I'm in prison, you know, I go to all of these classes, these self-help groups and educational groups and, and, you know, courses. And I'm on a path of getting my AA degree now.

Something that I never had before, you know, so, you know, I try to keep inspiring myself daily, you know, by listening to that song.

[00:05:05] **SONG:** All my life, I've been grindin on my life.

[00:05:07] **TIM:** All my life, grindin on my life. Sacrifice. Hustle pay the price. You want a slice? You gotta roll a knife. That's why I'm grinding. I'm grinding, grinding all my life.

[00:05:18] **SONG:** I got everything I said I was going get on my kid. In addition to that fact, I went legit. I the, according to the weight of the position in this bids that look like I'm just gonna keep on getting rich. Ah, no, the west side...

[00:05:49] **IVY:** That was Uncuffed producer Tim Hicks talking about Grinding All My Life by Nipsey Hussle.

[00:05:58] **TIM:** Yeah, man, that was one of my favorites, man, and it still is to this day, man. I got that thing all recorded. I'll be listening to it every day, man, out there, right now, as a free man, you know? Because Nipsey is the dude, I miss him.

[00:06:12] **IVY:** Yeah, man. Nipsey Hussle, man. He make that motivation music, man. And you already know what we gon do, man.

We're gon grind, we're gon grind. And we gon grind some more, man.

[00:06:22] **TIM:** All day.

[00:06:23] **IVY:** So, shoutout to all my guys, man. Locked up at Solano, man. Shoutout to all my guys that's locked up in the prison system, man, that's actually trying to do good, man. You know. Hope y'all get out soon, man.

[00:06:34] **TIM:** Yeah. And I want to give a shout out to my dudes over there at San Quentin, man.

You know, y'all already know, man, I was there with you, man. The struggle is real. But once you free, man, them shackles is off, man. And you truly uncuffed, man. And I'm telling you, freedom is good, man. So y'all gonna make it, man. Keep the faith.

[00:06:50] **IVY:** To listen to more mixtapes, check out our website, WeAreUncuffed.org. Or you can subscribe to Uncuffed in any podcast player.
[00:07:00] **TIM:** And thanks to the team at Uncuffed and KALW Public Radio: Ninna Gaensler-Debs, Angela Johnston, Sonia Paul, Kathy Novak, Eli Wirtschafter. James Rowlands, HakHakimen, and our sound designer, Eric "Maserati E" Abercrombie.

[00:07:20] **IVY:** And thanks to the team at San Quentin and Solano who make this possible, especially Lt. Guerrero and Lt. Berry who approved this episode.

[00:07:29] **TIM:** Uncuffed gets its support from the California Arts Council and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and listeners like you. Tune in next week for another brand new episode of Uncuffed. And thanks for listening! Yeah man, thanks for all the listeners out there man, keep listening.