

# Transcended by ‘Honesty’

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that he was in, recreated to chilling effect in the video, Moore explained.

“I was never the same after the night my friend was killed in front of me,” he said. “Before then I was innocent and I looked at life as just a wonderful adventure but that night showed me the dark side of life and I’ve suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder because of what happened that night ever since.”

Though Moore started rapping at age 12 and was even signed to a label by age 14, it was around that time that other family members, including his brother, started to fall into addiction. Moore associated with gangs and experimented with alcohol and drugs. By the time he was 19, he was physically dependent on prescription pills, he said.

Even so, Moore’s rap career continued to flourish. He performed in a rap group for assemblies and pep rallies at his school and in 1999 joined another local rap group, Proz and Conz, who went on to sell over 20,000 units between two albums. The group travelled across the United States and Mexico, opening for hip hop greats like Wu Tang Clan, Mac Dre, and Blackalicious in the early 2000s. He even met renowned

producer Swizz Beatz and rap legend Jay-Z.

But as Moore’s momentum grew, so did his dependence on drugs, impacting his focus and performances.

“My opioid addiction took away a lot of my motivation. If I was sick and didn’t have any pills, I wouldn’t show up for studio time or performances dates,” Moore admits. “At times I was too loaded or intoxicated and performed poorly or sloppy. I went from taking them for a euphoric high to needing the[m] to not be sick.”

Moore’s first attempt at rehab was in 2006, which didn’t last long. But on April 6th, 2012, his brother died from an overdose on prescription pills and addiction and depression again took a stranglehold on Moore’s life.

Shortly after wrapping up production for the “Honesty” music video in 2017, he went back to rehab and has been clean and sober ever since.

The video is currently in the festival circuit, having been screened in New York, L.A., and London, and has already garnered numerous awards, including the Gold award at the Indie Film Awards in New York City and the Diamond award at the MindField Film Fest in L.A.

At one screening for a hip-hop film festival in Harlem, New York

City, Moore recalled people in the audience approaching him afterward and sharing their struggles with addiction or talking about having a family member who overdosed.

“It just touched some people,” Arnold, who was also at the screening, said. “The video has really become almost a catalyst for the topic of opioid addiction and making it accessible, to some degree...It’s not taboo, it’s actually just a crisis that needs to be addressed.”

Moore also screened the video at the Community Peace Collaborative meeting, at the north Portland police precinct on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. It again had an emotional impact on the audience.

“Some people cried. Ex-gang members came to me and they thought it was powerful... It touched a lot of people, the addiction aspect and contemplating suicide. Those thoughts and the vulnerability of it really hit home for some people,” Moore said.

That screening landed Moore a job with the city of Portland’s Office of Youth Violence Prevention and he now coaches at-risk youth and current gang members to pursue a peaceful lifestyle. He’s also worked with I AM Academy, entering the youth juvenile system to speak with kids about recidivism



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Comic book artists and filmmakers, the Pander Brothers, Arnold (left) and Jacob were enlisted to direct rapper 3rd Twin’s dream-like music video, “Honesty.”

and the transition process of returning back to society.

“I’m an ex-gang member, an ex-drug addict, and I’m able to give back to community that I took so much from. And that’s a big part of what drives me right now,” Moore said.

An EP with “Honesty” and other tracks is currently available on 3rd Twin’s website, 3rdTwin.com, where the music video can also be

found.

In addition, a full-length 3rd Twin album, called “History in the Making,” is on its way, slated for end of next spring, which will further explore Moore’s journey to the dark side of addiction and back. A coinciding documentary, produced by Gaddis and featuring footage spanning back to the rapper’s early career, provided by Hall, is also in the making.



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CALENDAR December 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">24</div> <b>Christmas Eve</b> National Egg Nog Day <i>Apollo 8 reached the moon (1968)</i>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">25</div> <b>Christmas</b> National Pumpkin Pie Day	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">26</div> Boxing Day <b>Kwanzaa Begins</b> National Whiners Day	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">27</div> Visit the Zoo Day <i>World Bank created (1945)</i>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">28</div> Card Playing Day <i>Iowa became the 29th state (1846)</i> National Chocolate Day	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">29</div> Texas became the 28th state (1845)	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">30</div> <i>Tiger Woods born, 1975</i> <i>Author Rudyard Kipling born, 1865</i>
<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">31</div> <b>New Year’s Eve</b> <i>Artist Henri Matisse born, 1869</i>						