

## The Peale, Baltimore

*Out of the Blocks* Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>



Speaker 1 ([00:00](#)):

As the sun goes down and the day gets dark, I wonder why through the night so many lives get lost. Is it the lust for the things that we want or are we really animals and it's the thrill of the hunt? You don't know you. You young brothers have to stop and think, you squeezed the trigger because you blind by the weed and the drinks. You take a life, but don't know what it took for God to create. He might've found a cure for cancer or a cure for AIDS, we'll never know because he's somewhere dead in a grave. Hollywood turned a mass of black youth into the slaves, through the television and through the radio waves. They call it juvenile detention but it's only a cage, because white people fear their fire plus they fear their breeze. They're just a product of the system and no government aid. The school water's full of lead of they're not making their grades. They say, "Our youth are the future" I can tell nowadays they're... Up, I sing the song to you, please listen.

Speaker 2 ([00:46](#)):

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Andwele Ra, [foreign language 00:00:48], Reflection Eternal Barbershop, 2431 St. Paul Street. And Andwele Ra, who was one of my closest friends and business partners. We've known each other for over 20 years. And we just kind of was on the same page with everything we wanted to do far as barbershop creativity and running the barbershop business. Artistry and everything kind of balanced each other out and when he's not cutting hair, making people look beautiful and chiseling people up, as we say in his shop, chiseling people up, he goes in the back and he kind of sits in the back, go in this corner he set up a nice little production area where he just bang out beats and while people are sitting down, they can enjoy him putting his beats together. And as his beats come together, people enjoy it all. So, brother's magnificent... We're just talented brothers, man, at the end of the day and we do multiple things.

Speaker 1 ([01:39](#)):

This is what I call a bang out. You just gonna hear whatever comes to mind, you just take whatever pieces you have and you just create them until you feel something, and you hear something you like, and you "Okay, I'm going to record this. I heard it. I'm going to record it." So it's like just taking... Like putting a puzzle together, you hear little stuff. And you just take what you hear and you put it together, you start putting it together, make it make sense. A basic MacBook Pro, Yamaha monitors and a Mackie mixer, and that's about it.

Speaker 1 ([02:16](#)):

I just loved music all my life, it was just natural for me to like music. And I never understood why... What was this fascination with music with me? And I didn't meet my father, my biological father until I was 22 years old. But I had already... Always heard stories about him, that he played in a band, he played the trumpet and he played almost every instrument, he was in North Carolina. So when I went to meet him and I got to his house, it was just like, music was everywhere. Instruments and keyboards and trumpets and guitars and all this stuff, and I'm like, "All these things were me." And I started slowly seeing myself, so it kind of changed my feeling about him.

Speaker 1 ([03:04](#)):

Music was just like that, it can take me back to good times. You know what I'm saying? Because I can remember being a young boy, really a little boy and sitting in a high chair, eating some SpaghettiOs or something and hearing Marvin Gaye- You Got to Give It Up. It can take me right back to that whole scene. And I can see my mother, you know what I mean? In the dining room. I don't know no dates. If you asked me "Oh, about this time? And this time?" I said, "No, I don't know about that time, but I know what song was playing. I can tell you what song came up" because it's my way of conveying time.

Speaker 1 ([03:40](#)):

Reflection Eternal basically is what it means. I mean, when you come into the doors of this place, is reflecting eternally. Like-minded people, give off high frequencies and good vibrations and you see

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yourself within them. The spaces, you know what I mean? Definitely artistic, creative, open and free flowing. It's got a home-style feel with a big city vibe. Me and my partner, definitely two guys who rarely tug a war with each other, so if he have a vision, I run with it, if I have a vision, he runs with me. So just the whole continuity and the balance that we have with each other to be behind each other's back and just to have our spirit in a place that we know what we call home.

Speaker 1 ([04:27](#)):

And that's the thing, we call this home and it's like coming into our house, coming into our mind and this barbershop's different for a lot of reasons. We got the Chess up, we promote chess, we promote a lot of other events outside of just cutting hair and just basic things. We do a lot of community oriented things that have impact on a community that we build a lot of liaisons, friendship, business, alignments, and just so many things that go further than the shop. Being in that lane attracts so much prosperity for us, the quality of people that we got coming through because they know what we're illuminating and what energy that we giving off. So, you receive what you are, that's the core principle of the universe.

Speaker 1 ([05:12](#)):

We seen a lot of hair salons come, a lot of hair salons go. We seen a lot of barber shops come, a lot of barber shops go. The ones that sticking around now, they're for the longterm because the whole concept of the Black Wall Street is become a more realer. Key business people get more sturdy in their businesses and their feet become more planted, that has effect on everybody that's connected, just like the body. If the head is strong, that means the next vertebrae under the head is going to be strong. You know what I mean? So we have the solid leadership, business leadership and core values that will allow us to even make this big and make that Black Wall Street concept bigger politically, because that's the next area we need to go on. And it's good to have businesses, but what's our political power? Get sturdy on that and get our politicians in, do like everybody else do, because they laid the blueprint. Then we can expand it and we can do the things that we need to do on a high level.

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