

## Kayla Thompson unveils live EP of original songs

**Local rapper's inspiration from last year's 'All Hallows Bash' inspires unplugged project**

Kayla 'KVtheWriter' Thompson's electrifying opening act performance at last year's All Hallows Bash, a socially-distanced Halloween concert headlined by Muhammad "Mvstermind" Austin and Tonina Saputo, motivated her to transform the magic made that night into a live EP, "KVtheWriter: Unplugged."



For the band, she enlisted her late father's friend and former bandmate, Craig Florez, who pulled together veteran musicians, including Brock Johnson, Gerald Warren and Kevin Doyle. "That moment made me want to put the music on wax for other people to hear it," Thompson said. "I wanted to give people the opportunity to bring a concert to their homes with this project."

Generally, artists distribute their music for free on all digital platforms. Her debut EP "Love Sucks!," second project, "The Ratchet Tape," and three other singles were released digitally for free. Her third project, an unplugged EP with newer renditions of previously recorded music, includes live instrumentation and songs redeveloped into genres outside of hip-hop, including rock.

The EP rolled out as a presale bundle until April 12 that included a CD, a poster, a downloaded link to the album and a magazine where she interviewed all of the creators involved with the project for \$100. The EP officially dropped April 13 with merchandise sold separately. Both were available for purchase on her website, <https://kvthewriter.com/>. "I realized how little money artists make from Spotify, Apple, Music, Tidal and other distribution sites," Thompson said. "There's no reason why an artist should have 100,000 streams and only make \$200. I put a lot of money into this project and wanted to recoup some of the costs."

Thompson, a **graduate of Hazelwood East High School**, has a bachelor's degree in Cultural Anthropology from Webster University and a master's degree in education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She's the manager for school programs at Alive and Well Communities, a nonprofit organization with a focus on how toxic stress and trauma affects health in Black communities.

[http://www.stlamerican.com/entertainment/living\\_it/kayla-thompson-unveils-live-ep-of-original-songs/article\\_536fa6f0-9fc8-11eb-8788-0319a610d4d6.html](http://www.stlamerican.com/entertainment/living_it/kayla-thompson-unveils-live-ep-of-original-songs/article_536fa6f0-9fc8-11eb-8788-0319a610d4d6.html)

April 17, 2021