

# NEW KIDS

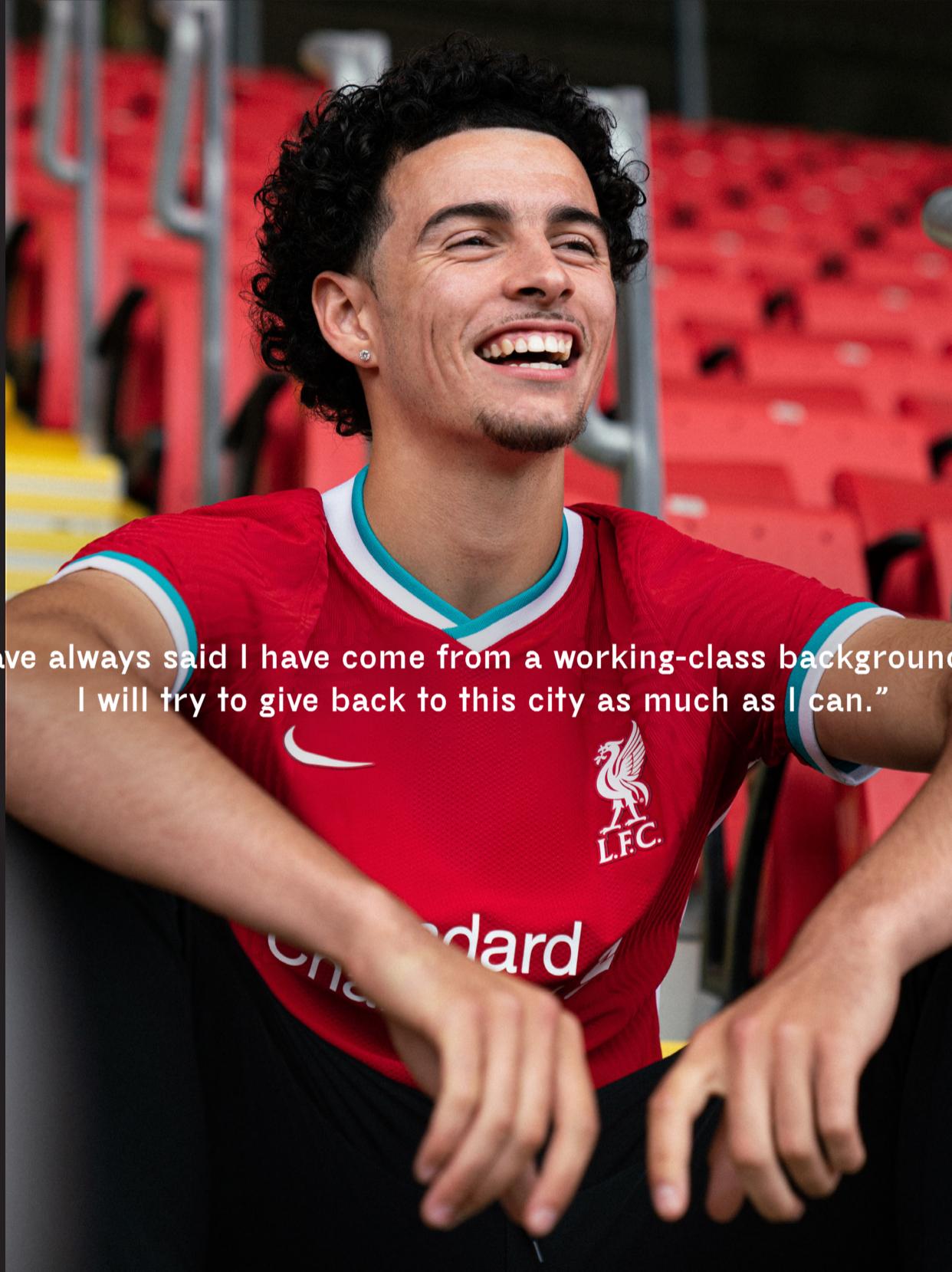


# ON THE KOP

# CURTIS

JD PRESENTS

"I have always said I have come from a working-class background and I will try to give back to this city as much as I can."



# JONES

As many know, I come from a working-class background. Nothing flash, just a normal family.

When I'd play football, it would always be on the streets, like anyone really. And we all used to play at the top of Gilbert Street in Liverpool. The school I went to, St Vincent de Paul, we would take the goal from their pitch and stick it at the top of the street. We would always make sure we put it back at full time!

So that was literally my life, you know. Playing football and just doing what normal kids do. There was a bit of mischief, too, of course, but I was fortunate enough to be a talented kid that always had a goal and when I wanted something, I would stick to it.

That was football. So that is what I did.

There are times when there is nothing else to do. So it is all about playing football. I was fortunate to have a gift and a talent to take it further.

I had people around me who could see that too, so they helped me on the right path and that is one I've stayed on to this day.

I used to play for Mossley Hill and any time I was free of a weekend, we'd be at tournaments and I've still got all the

trophies that I won from my younger days. Player of the Year, top goalscorer, Best Player... they are still pride of place.

I guess I have always had a talent.

Footy in the streets, there were never teams, it was every man for himself. There was no passing to anyone. So that is where I learned my skills. You had to make sure you could do a bit on the ball. I had to dribble and shoot if I was to win, so that is the style I grew up on and still have to this day.

I was always around the older boys too so that helped toughen me up. They didn't hesitate to leave one or two on me. I had to get stronger and quicker. I had to be. It helped me a lot.

I don't know who told the media I've been at Liverpool since I was nine by the way, I was only six! It all came from my head teacher at school at the time, Mr Stewart. He would take us to the Vernon Sangster to train with the Liverpool coaches and they could tell I had something. But as a street kid, there are other things going on that I always liked to get involved in too.

But to be fair, Mr Stewart told my mum that I had a really good chance, so from then on, my mum took me off the streets and drove me on to become who I am. So I am grateful for

both of them. I have a lot to thank Mr Stewart for to be honest. I think his name is Phil, but at school, he was just 'Sir'. That's just what you call teachers, isn't it?

Everyone was looking at me like a normal kid at the time but Mr Stewart knew his football and he told my mum I had a chance. She would see me play against other kids and could tell I was good enough to maybe go far.

Mr Stewart gave me the platform and then my mum built me and guided me on the right path. She made me understand I needed to choose football over the streets to have the right life. She is the one that made me become so dedicated to the sport and I am so grateful.

My family is a huge influence. The main two are my mum and my brother. In terms of the money you earn from contracts and stuff, they are always the first ones to tell me not to be stupid and do things with my lifestyle that become a bit flashy or be seen as a show-off. That is not where I come from.

I have always said I have come from a working-class background and I will try to give back to this city as much as I can. So I will never ever let money get in my head and take me off track.

I started to understand football properly when I started to

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play in competitive games for the club. It was when we had proper kits, boots and managers that I really started to pick up more about the game. That is when it really got drummed into me that I could be something.

I fell in love with the game from a kid but to be training and playing, that was all I wanted to do. I was around about 10 or 11 when I started to really knuckle down, stay off the streets and took this 100 per cent seriously.

In terms of not thinking too far ahead, I try not to do that too much because if it doesn't work out in your head, that is when the road can become a bit bumpy.

I have always been a confident kid and never really felt pressure. But the older you get and the better you become, you start getting told what is at stake and that is when you feel it a little bit more.

You know at the end of the day, it is about earning points and winning trophies and that, suddenly, was where I was at. That is how it has been for years now. I think the first year when I came in, it was different, but now it's just step by step.

And so far, so good.

# NEW KIDS ON THE KOP

JD PRESENTS

Meet the New Kids on the Kop — the young creators and innovators who stand on the cusp of greatness, heralding a new dawn for Liverpool.

Leading the charge is Curtis Jones, the gifted LFC midfielder from Toxteth who broke onto the scene this season.

Fresh and fearless, the 19-year-old encapsulates the untamable spirit of this new talent that is shaking up the city and demanding to be heard.

New Kids on the Kop is an homage to the restless and relentless talent of Liverpool's new scene leaders. Most of them you may never have heard of before. And that's the point.

They are the sleeping giants of our city's youth culture and New Kids on the Kop is a celebration of their undeniable potential.

These are their stories, their streets and this is their style.

# ECHO

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NEW KIDS ON THE KOP

## DAYZY

Humble, polite and softly-spoken, David Sebuyange never thought he would end up making music. When his dreams of playing professional basketball were thwarted by a 2017 injury, it left David, aka Dayzy, searching for a new path. He describes himself as a 'rap vocal artist', his chilled-out sound fusing rap beats with old-school hip hop lyrics. Raised in a creative family the 19-year-old said: "Growing up there wasn't as much time spent on the internet so we all used to go down to local community projects together and that helped me to become creative. Culturally, Liverpool is very inclusive. Everyone is a big community so I would say Liverpool has helped shape me into being myself, as an artist."



"The culture that we are born in creates your reality as a person. Specifically with Liverpool there's a raw kind of underdog mentality within it."

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## NUTRIBE

Collective Nutribe is made up of members Stickydub, 25, Yloh, 23, and Doopsman, 25. Bringing hip hop and boom bap to Liverpool's rap scene, the trio see their sound being inexorably linked to their home city. Stickydub said: "I think of myself as Scouse, not British. I think Liverpool always had an alternative standpoint because of its social and political and historical themes." This is echoed by Yloh: "The culture that we are born in creates your reality as a person. Specifically with Liverpool there's a raw kind of underdog mentality within it." Doops added: "When you're around people and they hear your voice a little smirk or a smile always comes on their face. Then when they hear your music it's even better."

## MIA

'Go Off Sis' is as much a rallying cry as it is a podcast name for 22-year-old Mia Thornton. A self-described 'adopted Scouser', the Middlesbrough-born broadcaster uses her platform to talk honestly and openly about everything from relationships to race relations. Mia said: "We like to think of ourselves as more than a podcast. We are building a community of people who are all about living life and doing things they love. We're a podcast for the people." As for the city she calls home Mia added: "Liverpool was the making of me. I never had ambitions before I moved here. I was from a small town and I moved here and it showed me another side of my own potential."



**NEW KIDS**

GOALS



# THAT'S JUVEY

"Where I'm from bleeds out through the rhythms – the sounds and the accent, it's a working-class rhythm."

Eloquent and intuitive, That's Juvey, a 24-year-old rapper, can reel off Greek mythology as easily as his own lyrics. Juvey, real name Kyle Owen, describes his music as 'a stream of consciousness about history and mythology'. His approach is instinctive and grounded in the belief his inspiration comes from a higher power. "I just believe in spirits – they write the lyrics. It takes the pressure off me. It's what the Greeks believed in, the nine muses who allowed the artists to create and I believe I'm just the conduit." Raised on his dad's Scouse House records, Kyle's Ellesmere Port upbringing echoes in his music. "Where I'm from bleeds out through the rhythms – the sounds and the accent, it's a working-class rhythm."

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## PODGE

Adam Charrow, aka Podge, may be from over the water but he was 'raised by the internet' where he cultivated the eclectic music tastes that shape his own sound. The 21-year-old said: "I just make music that I enjoy. I'm not going out of my way to be different but my tastes are a bit unique and that's the end product." A 'nerdy kid into video games' Adam's spacey, electronic melodies sample everything from white noise to ambient sounds. He said: "When no one is doing what you're doing and affirming it, you can get into a self-conscious thought loop. "I just keep my head down and make music."

# ARCHIE & LEE

There aren't many 19-year-olds who can say they've 'made it' in America — but Archie Erskine is already straddling the Atlantic with his psychedelic, kaleidoscopic video style. He and videography partner Lee Robinson, 18, have collaborated with homegrown talents such as Dayzy and Tremz as well as US rap acts. Archie said: "Right now I would say that the Liverpool music scene is the most exciting it has ever been because enhancements in technology mean people can record from home. We have these rising talents." Lee said: "We represent Liverpool to an international audience, wherever we go, we always have Liverpool on our backs. Most of the shoots we are at in America, we're wearing Liverpool kits and shouting out Liverpool in some way. Working with these tattooed artists with millions of followers, we get them shouting about our city."

JD PRESENTS





## DEZ

Director and model Rubi Deschamps, aka Dez, is a Liverpool-grown talent with big dreams. Chatty, warm and friendly, she's like your best mate, but with a strong head on her shoulders. Rubi, 21, uses her videos and social media to show a raw and unfiltered version of the world around her – most notably in her 17-minute documentary 'Behind the Dream' about Liverpool FC right back Trent Alexander-Arnold. Shot almost entirely on a handheld camera, it offers an up-close look at the man behind the mural. Rubi said: "With the Trent video, it was to show everyone what he's like and create a rapport with him. I want to show people for who they really are. I want to show things that are raw and truthful. I like the idea of being able to capture a moment – good or bad or spontaneous – I've always been into that."

"You're not rewarded for being egotistical here but people are rewarded for experimentation."

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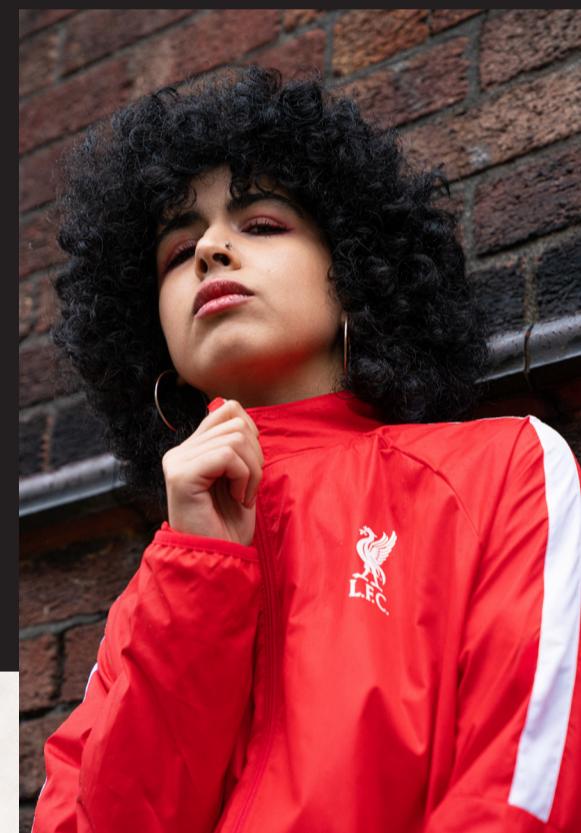
## NILOO

A multidisciplinary artist from Toxteth, Niloo Sharifi, aka NILOO, struggles to pin herself down. The 24-year-old has dabbled in everything from filmmaking to writing and editing. And while working across a number of creative outlets, it's Niloo's home city that's helped shape much of what she does. Born in Liverpool, Niloo moved to Iran before returning to Liverpool 8, an experience that led to her curating Arrival City, a project aimed at opening up conversations about immigration and the city. She said: "Liverpool is not a place that rewards self-consciousness – it's not an attitude that's encouraged here. You're not rewarded for being egotistical here but people are rewarded for experimentation. Place is a really important connecting thing, even more than other factors of identity."



## SUB BLUE

Tyler Mensah, aka Sub Blue, has always felt like an outsider looking in. The 22-year-old, from Runcorn, makes electric, soulful RnB inspired by his experiences of growing up in the suburbs. He said: "My music is about telling the stories of the people around me, my family and friends, and the experiences they go through. Coming from the suburbs I'm like a bit of an interloper." Living on the fringes of a city and a music scene he burst into at just 15, Tyler's love for Liverpool runs deep. He said: "Liverpool for me is more my home because of where I'm involved in the scene with my music. It's just such a creative city. There's always so much going on and so many people who you connect with. The music scene and the community are so supportive."



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