

= Chief Keef =

Keith Cozart (born August 15 , 1995) , better known by his stage name Chief Keef , is an American rapper and record producer from Chicago , Illinois . During his teenage years and while under house arrest , Keef 's music videos were met with acclaim from local high school students . His increasing popularity led to him being the subject of a brief bidding war among labels . Ultimately , Keef signed a major record deal with Interscope Records and later signed with 1017 Brick Squad . Keef also became the CEO of his own record label , Glory Boyz Entertainment , which later developed into Glo Gang . His debut album Finally Rich was released on December 18 , 2012 .

Since becoming famous , Keef has continued to experience ongoing legal issues . Despite being dropped from Interscope in late 2014 , Keef continued self @-@ releasing mixtapes through his Glo Gang label . Although Keef had originally planned Bang 3 to be released as his second album , a then @-@ track from the album , " Nobody " , developed into its own project . Keef released Nobody as a full @-@ length album in December 2014 , while continuing to delay the often @-@ pushed back Bang 3 .

= = Life and career = =

= = = Early life (1995 ? 2010) = = =

Chief Keef was born Keith Cozart in Chicago , Illinois when his mother was 16 , and is named after his deceased uncle . He grew up in the Englewood neighborhood on the city 's South Side . Keef is estranged from his biological father ; when he was a minor , Keef 's legal guardian was his grandmother , whom he lived with during his residence in Chicago . He began rapping at a very young age , regularly listed as 5 , using his mother 's karaoke machine and blank tapes to record his music . During his childhood , Keef attended Dulles Elementary School and the Banner School , a therapeutic day school . Keef dropped out of Dyett High School at age 15 .

= = = Early years , Finally Rich , and subsequent mixtapes (2011 ? 13) = = =

In 2011 , Keef first earned local attention from Chicago 's South Side community with his mixtapes , The Glory Road and Bang . In December , Keef fired gunshots from a Pontiac Grand Prix in Chicago 's Washington Park neighborhood . Police showed up at the scene and the incident resulted in Keef being arrested and charged with unlawful use of a weapon . Keef was consequently placed under house arrest at his grandmother 's house for 30 days , followed by another 30 days of home confinement . It has been noted that by the time this incident occurred , Keef had already achieved local South Side popularity , and that much of his early fan base consisted of high school students in the area . While under house arrest , Keef posted several videos to his YouTube account . These videos were at the forefront of Chicago 's hip hop subgenre , drill . The attention he received increased during the short time between the release of his mixtapes , Bang and Back From the Dead , and music videos , including " Bang " , " 3Hunna " and " I Don 't Like " . Once his house arrest ended , WorldStarHipHop released a video of a child hysterically celebrating Keef 's release from house arrest , affording Keef further virality . Early in his music career , Keef 's song " I Don 't Like " became a local hit in Chicago , which was described by a local party promoter , as " the perfect Chicago song because ' niggas just hate everything out here . ' " It also caught fellow Chicago rapper Kanye West 's attention , and West created a remix of the song with rappers Pusha T , Jadakiss and Big Sean . In response to these events , David Drake of Spin writes that in 2012 , Keef " suddenly shot up out of obscurity . "

In the summer of 2012 , Keef was the subject of a bidding war with many labels to sign him , including Young Jeezy 's CTE World . While 2013 proved to be a relatively quiet year , in terms of his music output , Keef began the year by signing with Interscope Records , as a separate deal promised his own label imprint , Glory Boyz Entertainment (GBE) . The deal was worth \$ 6 @,@

000 @, @ 000 over a three album layout , as well as an additional \$ 440 @, @ 000 in advance , to establish GBE . The deal also set up rights for Interscope to pull out of the contract in the case that Keef 's debut album failed to sell 250 @, @ 000 copies by December 2013 . Chief Keef 's debut studio album Finally Rich , was released on December 18 , 2012 . Featured guests on the album included rappers 50 Cent , Wiz Khalifa , Young Jeezy , Rick Ross and his fellow Glory Boyz member Lil Reese .

On March 26 , 2013 , it was announced that Keef would be a part of XXL Magazine 's 2013 Freshman Class . On May 8 , 2013 , Gucci Mane announced via Twitter that Chief Keef was the newest member of 1017 Brick Squad Records .

Keef was featured on " Hold My Liquor " , the fifth track off Kanye West 's album , Yeezus , released on June 18 , 2013 . Keef 's contributions to the track were praised by musician Lou Reed , with Reed stating , " ' Hold My Liquor ' is just heartbreaking , and particularly coming from where it 's coming from ? listen to that incredibly poignant hook from a tough guy like Chief Keef , wow . "

On his 18th birthday , August 15 , 2013 , Chief Keef celebrated by releasing the mixtape Bang , Pt . 2 . Bang , Pt . 2 was highly anticipated as the first project following his debut album , but received a mixed to negative critical response . On October 12 , 2013 a further mixtape , Almighty Sosa was released . Like Bang , Pt . 2 , Almighty So also received mixed to negative critical responses . Following his October 2013 jail term (see § Legal issues) , he began working on his second studio album and a biopic .

= = = Bang 3 , Nobody , and The Cozart (2014 ? 2016) = = =

Keef began experimenting with the production of his music in 2014 , which Meaghan Garvey of The Fader noted as being fitting for Keef , as the rapper has " always been more concerned with vibe than meaning , and production is his most efficient tool to create a mood without getting bogged down by pesky syntax . " In January , Keef announced working on a new mixtape entitled Bang 3 . In February , Keef revealed the cover art to his upcoming mixtape Back From The Dead 2 , which served as the sequel to his critically acclaimed mixtape , Back From The Dead . During the month , Keef stated that his former lean addiction and bad mixing contributed to the lack of quality music on his two mixtape projects Bang Pt . 2 and Almighty So and that he was also disappointed in both projects . Later in the month , Keef announced an EP before his second studio album Bang 3 , entitled Bang 4 , as a preview . The following day , Fredo Santana announced that he and Keef were going to release a collaboration album . In March , Keef released the first official single from Bang 3 entitled " Fuck Rehab " featuring his fellow Glo Gang artist and cousin Mario " Blood Money " Hess , which marked Hess 's final appearance on a song before his death on April 9 , 2014 . On March 14 , Keef released the official music video for " Fuck Rehab " . Although Interscope executive Larry Jackson announced that Bang 3 would be released on June 10 , it was again delayed .

In October 2014 , Keef was dropped by Interscope Records , but confirmed via Twitter that every project he had planned , including the release of the long @-@ awaited Bang 3 would still be released , as he planned . Young Chop criticized Interscope 's decision to drop Keef . Despite being set for a Christmas 2014 release , Bang 3 did not materialize . Keef 's mixtapes , Mansion Musick , which was set for a November 28 release , and Thot Breakers , which was set to release on February 14 , 2015 , were also noted to not release as scheduled . However , Keef was successful in releasing Big Gucci Sosa , a 12 @-@ track collaborative mixtape , with Gucci Mane , as well as Back From the Dead 2 , which was made available for digital download from iTunes . Keef experimented with the production of his own tracks , self @-@ producing 16 of the 20 songs on the mixtape . David Drake of Pitchfork Media , stated , " For his first steps into rapper @-@ producer territory , he shows promise ? though it 's tough to imagine most of these beats working outside the context of a Chief Keef album , as they are primed to frame his vocals . " Rolling Stone ranked the mixtape 25th on its list of the 40 best rap albums of 2014 , with the publication commenting , " The bleak world from which he came still shapes his sound ; it 's a bleak and lonely record , with few guests and a darkly psychedelic shape formed by drugs and likely PTSD . Yet he finds a gleeful humanity inside the world 's rotten core , with bluntly potent , economical rapping that gets strong

mileage per word . " In November , Keef announced Nobody , a " Glo Producer album " that featured guest vocals from Kanye West and Tadoe . The album was set to be released on December 2 , but was ultimately released on December 16 . The album 's title track was noted for being one of Keef 's more emotionally driven outputs , with Chris Coplan of Consequence of Sound writing , " the track itself feels like the apex of a night spent binge @-@ drinking . " Additionally , the album was awarded a 7 @.@ 0 / 10 score by Pitchfork Media 's Meaghan Garvey .

On February 18 , 2015 , Keef released Sorry 4 the Weight , a 20 @-@ track mixtape . Elliott Pearson of The Alibi commented " Sorry 4 the Weight is another consistent chapter in the rapper 's singular Midwestern gothic repertoire , and if ' What Up ' is any indication , he 's made serious progress as a beat @-@ maker too . " The mixtape was largely a solo effort , featuring only Andy Milonakis and Glo Gang labelmate , Benji Glo . In 2015 , Keef 's track " Faneto " was noted for slowly building momentum since its October 2014 release . On April 24 , 2015 , Keef announced his next album , titled The Cozart , adding that it would be released soon .

In May 2015 , Keef signed with FilmOn Music , a division of media tycoon Alki David .

On July 11 , 2015 , Marvin Carr , better known by his stage name , Capo , a longtime member of Keef 's Glo Gang label , was shot and killed in a drive @-@ by shooting in Chicago . Upon killing Capo , the drivers of the vehicle reportedly struck a stroller with 13 @-@ month @-@ old Dillan Harris in it , killing the baby instantly . Keef later announced via Twitter that he would be holding a free benefit concert to tribute Capo , as well as encourage concertgoers to donate to Harris ' family . Additionally , Keef announced the formation of the Stop the Violence Now Foundation , in an attempt to decrease crime in Chicago . Due to outstanding warrants in Illinois , Keef was scheduled to attend the concert via hologram from a sound stage in Beverly Hills . The concert , organized by HologramUSA and FilmOn Music originally intended to be held in Chicago 's Redmoon Theater , faced a series of delays after Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel 's office claimed Keef was " an unacceptable role model " and that his music promoted violence . Keef 's representatives then worked out an arrangement with promoters of the Craze Fest event , located in Hammond , Indiana , in an attempt to hold the concert there . Keef 's hologram was able to plea for peace in Chicago , stating , " Stop the violence , stop nonsense , stop the killing . Let the kids grow up , " before performing " I Don 't Like " . Fearing that the concert was a threat to public safety , Hammond mayor Thomas McDermott , Jr. successfully organized for the city 's police to shut down the generators powering Keef 's hologram . McDermott was quoted saying , " I know nothing about Chief Keef . All I 'd heard was he has a lot of songs about gangs and shooting people ' a history that 's anti @-@ cop , pro @-@ gang and pro @-@ drug use . He 's been basically outlawed in Chicago , and we 're not going to let you circumvent Mayor Emanuel by going next door . " Chicago Tribune columnist Eric Zorn criticized Emmanuel and Hammond for their decisions , claiming they infringed upon Keef 's First Amendment rights .

= = = Retirement (2016 @-@ present) = = =

In March 2016 , Keef tweeted that he was retiring from rapping . He confirmed his retirement in response to a tweet asking if it were true . The announcement came as Keef 's recorded output was slowing down .

= = Other ventures = =

= = = Glo Gang = = =

As part of his signing with Interscope Records , Keef 's label imprint , Glory Boyz Entertainment (GBE) , was established . Keef , along with his manager , Roan Manuel , each owned 40 % shares of GBE . Keef 's cousin and fellow rapper , Fredo Santana , Keef 's uncle Alonzo Carter , and Anthony H. Dade , owned the remaining 20 % of GBE . Various associates of Keef 's would be signed with the label , such as rappers Lil Reese , Fredo Santana and producer Young Chop . The

label had already been active since 2011 , however only released mixtapes and was not a full on record company . After releasing Keef 's Finally Rich in December 2012 , the label was set to release an album by Lil Reese in the coming months , along with various mixtapes . However , on January 3 , 2014 , Keef said that Glory Boyz Entertainment was " no more , " and was starting a new record label named Glo Gang . Prior to his death , Blood Money revealed in an interview the members of Glo Gang to be Keef , Tray Savage , Ballout , Capo , Tadoe , Justo , and himself .

= = Personal life = =

At the age of 16 , Keef had his first child , a daughter , born Kayden Kash Cozart and nicknamed Kay Kay . Keef was served with a request for child support by the child 's mother . In November 2013 , DNA documents revealed that Keef had fathered a 10 month old daughter , and was subsequently ordered to begin paying child support . In September 2014 , Keef announced the birth of his third child , and his first son , whom he named Krüe Karter Cozart . In May 2015 , Keef was sued by another woman , claiming that Keef is the father of her child . Due to never originally responding to the legal documents , Keef was ordered to court , with a warrant for his arrest placed as the consequence for his absence in court . Despite these issues , LA Weekly reported that , at least on Instagram , Keef , " appears to take fatherhood seriously . " In August 2015 , Keef caused controversy after naming his newborn son Sno " FilmOn Dot Com , " inspired by his current record label , FilmOn Music , to promote his album Bang 3 . Nevertheless , following a paternity dispute over the child , FilmOn Music retracted the name rights until the paternity is settled .

Two of Keef 's cousins , Fredo Santana and Tadoe , were signed to his Glory Boyz Entertainment label . Keef 's stepbrother was shot dead on January 2 , 2013 . Another of Keef 's cousin , Mario Hess , also known as Big Glo , who performed under the stage name Blood Money , was shot and killed in Chicago 's Englewood neighborhood on April 9 , 2014 . Hess had been signed to Interscope Records just two weeks prior to his killing . In an interview with Billboard , Keef explains how Big Glo 's death influences his life , " When that happened that was the biggest lesson . It told me ' You gotta grow up . ' "

After being evicted from his Highland Park home , Keef relocated to Los Angeles . In an interview with Noisey 's Rebecca Haithcoat , Keef told Haithcoat his favorite part about Los Angeles is , " the quiet . " After moving to Los Angeles , Keef began indulging in his new @-@ found hobby of art collecting , once he discovered the paintings of art teacher Bill da Butcher , while in rehab . Once acquainted , da Butcher began working on paintings personally meant for Keef . Keef believed that his move to Los Angeles benefited him ; in an interview with Billboard , Keef stated " I got away from all the unnecessary trouble . It 's better out here [in L.A.] than in Chicago , because I got in so much trouble . I like living out here . I think it improved me . It changed me , and [inspired] me to go somewhere bigger . "

= = = Legal issues = = =

On January 27 , 2011 , Keef was apprehended on charges of heroin manufacture and distribution . As a juvenile offender , Cozard was determined " delinquent " , rather than guilty of his charges , and served time on house arrest .

In December 2011 , Keef left his grandmother 's home holding a coat over his hands in front of his waistband . A policeman stopped to question the rapper , who dropped the coat , flashed a handgun and ran away . Officers chased then 16 @-@ year @-@ old Keef , who turned around several times and pointed the gun at them . The policemen " discharged their weapons , " but missed . They caught him a half @-@ block later and recovered the pistol , which was loaded . Keef was charged with three counts of aggravated assault with a firearm on a police officer and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon . He was also given a misdemeanor charge for resisting arrest . He was held in the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center until a judge sentenced him to home confinement at his grandmother 's house .

On September 5 , 2012 , Chicago Police stated that Keef was being investigated for a possible

connection in the shooting death of fellow rapper and Englewood resident , Joseph Coleman , who performed under the stage name " Lil JoJo " . This came after Keef had mocked his death on Twitter , which he later claimed was the result of his account being hacked . Coleman 's mother has openly claimed that Chief Keef paid to have her son killed .

On October 17 , 2012 , Cook County prosecutors asked a judge to remand Keef to juvenile detention for alleged parole violations stemming from a video interview he held at a shooting range which included him discharging a firearm . A hearing was set for November 20 , 2012 , which was subsequently pushed back January 28 , 2013 , and then moved up to January 15 . The website that posted it , Pitchfork Media , was ordered by the court to provide the interview 's footage after they removed it three months prior . On December 31 , 2012 , Keef was issued a judicial summons for a new and unrelated alleged parole violation . Prosecutors claimed that he failed to notify his juvenile parole officer about a change of address . A hearing was set for January 2 , 2013 . Although prosecutors requested that he be jailed , Cook County judge Carl Anthony Walker allowed him to remain free , citing that he had not been presented " any credible evidence . "

On January 15 , 2013 , Keef was taken into custody after a juvenile court judge ruled that the aforementioned gun range interview video constituted a probation violation . Two days later , Keef was sentenced to two months in a juvenile detention facility and was additionally made a ward of the state . He completed serving the sentence on March 14 , 2013 .

On January 17 , 2013 , Keef was sued by Washington , D.C.-based promotion company Team Major for \$ 75 @, @ 000 for a missed show . According to the firm , Keef was supposed to perform at the IndigO2 Arena in London on December 29 , 2012 but never showed . Neither Keef nor his label has given any kind of response as to why he missed the date . He ignored the lawsuit and the court sided with Team Major , ordering Keef to pay \$ 230 @, @ 019 to Team Major by default .

On May 20 , 2013 , he was arrested in an upscale hotel in DeKalb County , Georgia for allegedly smoking marijuana in public and for disorderly conduct . He was released later in the day . Eight days later , Keef was arrested for driving 110 mph in a 55 mph zone in his hometown Chicago , and also for driving with an unlawful amount of passengers . He was later released on a bond . He returned to court on June 17 , and pleaded guilty to speeding . He was ordered to pay a \$ 531 fine , serve 18 months of probation , complete 60 hours of community service and undergo random drug tests .

On October 15 , 2013 , Keef returned to jail for a 20 @- @ day sentence due to a probation violation after testing positive for marijuana . On October 24 , 2013 , Keef was released ten days early for good behavior . However , again on November 6 , 2013 , Keef was sent back to jail on another probation violation . Then following a stint in rehab , Keef was arrested on March 5 , 2014 in Highland Park , Illinois for DUI of marijuana , driving on a suspended license and cited for having no proof of insurance .

On February 4 , 2014 , Kim Productions filed suit against Keef to recover losses they allege they incurred after he failed to appear at a RapCure benefit concert in Cleveland , Ohio in June 2013 . The suit alleges that Kim Productions provided Keef with a \$ 15 @, @ 000 deposit for the performance . Despite the advance , the lawsuit further alleges that as a result of Keef 's failure to appear , the concert had to be cancelled .

In June 2014 , Keef was evicted from his Highland Park home . Although Bal Bansal , the owner of the house , maintained Keef was a good tenant , and that his departure from the home was voluntary , police confirmed it was an eviction .

= = Image = =

Keef is often seen as a representation of the " Chiraq " gangsta rap culture that is present in Chicago . Additionally , Chief Keef is often referred to as " Sosa " by himself , his peers , and the media . The nickname , " Sosa " is a reference to the drug dealer " Sosa " from Scarface the movie . LA Weekly reported that Keef 's Glo Gang entourage respects the rapper . One member of the Glo Gang , Ballout , stated , " We learned all that from Sosa , we be in the studio with him so much , " calling him , " a rhyiming machine . A music genius . Black Justin Bieber , if you ask me . " The New

York Times stated that Chief Keef , " symbolizes , " Chicago 's drill music scene , and is the " best known of the young generation of Chicago rappers . " In November 2012 , Lucy Stehlik of The Guardian , described Keef as drill 's , " alpha male . " David Drake of Pitchfork Media writes , " Chief Keef is in rarefied air for street rap ? a creative voice with an original , cohesive aesthetic , " adding , " to the grassroots , among a new generation of stars , he sits at street rap ? s aesthetic center , not its margins . "

Keef has drawn comparisons to 50 Cent , as The New York Times writes , that like 50 Cent , Keef makes thuggery , " a major part of his early @-@ career persona . " Lupe Fiasco , who has been involved with a controversy with Keef , has been referred to as an " antagonist " to Keef 's more gangsta @-@ rap persona . The New York Times writes , " Lupe Fiasco is a stern and didactic teacher , but it ? s arguable that Chief Keef ? s music is far better at ringing warning bells . " Another rapper , Common , has praised Chief Keef 's contributions to rap , stating , " I think Chief Keef brought something that nobody else was doing and he brought it raw . He brought it real . With that , I have to respect that as an artist that he has come and brought that . " Other rappers , such as Rhymefest and Lupe Fiasco , however , have been critical of Chief (see controversies section below) .

= = = Controversies = = =

= = = Hip hop feuds = = =

In June 2012 , Chicago rapper Rhymefest authored a blog post critical of Keef 's image and message , describing the rapper as a " bomb " and a " spokesman for the Prison Industrial Complex " . The post was also critical of rappers Waka Flocka Flame and Rick Ross , citing similar reasons . Rhymefest reiterated these views in a subsequent interview with Salon .

In an August 2012 interview with Baltimore radio station 92Q Jams , Lupe Fiasco stated that Chief Keef " scares " him and went on to describe the other rapper as a " hoodlum " and representative of Chicago 's " skyrocketing " murder rate . A tweet from Keef 's account threatening Lupe Fiasco was posted on September 5 , but then Keef claimed that his account had been hacked and that the previous tweet was inauthentic . On September 13 , 2012 , Fiasco released a video interview in which he made amends to Keef .

In November 2014 , rap group Migos and Glo Gang member , Capo , were involved in a physical altercation in a Chicago restaurant . Later , Keef uploaded an image onto Instagram featuring the alleged stolen chain belonging to rapper Quavo of Migos . Though this incident escalated the already existing tension between members of Glo Gang and members of Migos , the feud between the two groups was later seemingly ended .

= = = Instagram = = =

On September 15 , 2012 , Keef uploaded an obscene photograph featuring the rapper receiving fellatio from a female fan onto the image sharing application Instagram . Keef shortly removed the image from his account . However , his account was subsequently banned for violating Instagram 's terms of service . Keef has since created another Instagram account , and has had his activities on the app mentioned by various outlets .

= = Discography = =

Albums :

Finally Rich (2012)

Bang 3 (2015)