

Baltimore strong — Chiffon celebrates their intersectional scene

July 15, 2020



Around the beginning of 2020 we [announced](#) the return of Baltimore underground institution with the new single "[Woke Me](#)" right before the entire world arrived at a standstill. And as we all were (and still are) confined to our respective spaces and only tending to essential errands; the rallying cry to stand up against systemic injustices became a just as essential focus and cause as we watched (and continue to watch) as our world became one vast boulevard of businesses shuttered with plywood doors and windows. Before the pandemic hit, Chiffon's Amy Reid, Chase O'Hara and Will Ryerson enlisted visual artist Corey Hughes and an entire Bmore ensemble of fellow artists, dreamers, designers, dancers and doers to celebrate the occasion at The Compound. And while the debut of the following video for "Woke Me" has been postponed until now as we have collectively shifted toward finding new outlets of activism, innovation and discovering new ways to be better allies – Chiffon has dedicated the visual as a celebration of their friends and luminaries that are an integral part of their local scenes and communities (and far beyond).

The Corey Hughes-directed visual for "Woke Me" is like a dream state event set in an opulent ballroom of enchantment and wonderment. Captured and curated before the lockdown; the audience is invited to join some of Baltimore's best and brightest stars that are criminally underrepresented in both – and outside of their home digs. A contemporary viewing of the video feels like entering a vision world of an alternate and inclusive new realities of togetherness and camaraderie. Chiffon and a posse of polymaths and eclectic aesthetes bust moves to some of the smoothest and serene grooves in the world that are spiced with plenty of ear and mind catching flavors and audio illuminations.

Witnessed as a diverse army of collaborators, cohorts, champions, mixed media/multi-media creatives and bosses of tomorrow and today's new empires of new arts – Chiffon sets the bar high of squad goals and community support that exists to uplift and exalt the LGBTQ+, non-binary, BIPOC and other progressives that extend beyond the semiotic realm of labels.



Chiffon now proudly presents the incredible people who made this video happen and encompass part of the incredible, intersectional and multidisciplinary cross sections of the Baltimore scenes:

Corey Hughes



Corey Hughes via the artist's [website](#).

The idea for “Woke Me” was to re-create the feeling of wandering through a party late at night, thinking about other things, and then being brought back and grounded into the present moment by the people around you. It’s a celebration of the dancers, performers, artists, and musicians in Baltimore and the collaborative creative energy of the city.

Really appreciate everyone at The Compound for letting us use and help design the space and the crew that made this video happen. <3

EN'b



EN'b is a lost child who sings of Han as their diaspora blues. Born in Koreatown Los Angeles but calling Baltimore their home, they explore the dissonance between home, journey, and pain of diaspora through their music inspired by traditional Korean music, Rhythm and Blues music of the Black diaspora as well as Korean tunes their dad loudly sung on family road trips. They speak about 'Han' -- "a theorized culture-bound syndrome in that denotes a collective feeling of oppression and isolation in the face of insurmountable odds, the overcoming of which is beyond the nation's own capabilities. It connotes aspects of lament and unavenged injustice. " They have worked with the Red Emma's Collective, Fusion Partnerships, OZone collective to create platforms for POC Artists, and the North Avenue Knowledge Exchange for free community workshops in Baltimore City. They have performed on stages in Baltimore, MD including, Creative Alliance, The Crown, Metro Gallery, Wind-Up Space, and the Kennedy Center. They are currently fundraising for and working on their debut EP.

Links: [Spotify](#), ["Take Care"](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), [Gofundme](#).

Alex Shade



Alex Shade via [Twitter](#).

Alex Shade is a multidisciplinary theatre artist in Baltimore, MD. He is a founding member of The Oven Theatre Company, a Baltimore-based social action theatre collective, focused on creating new work geared toward starting and continuing conversations about social and political issues.

[@TheOvenTheatre](#) [@alexjshade](#)

Abdu Ali



Abdu Ali is an American avant-garde electronic musician, writer, and multidisciplinary artist who primarily works in social practice. Their work is a yielding poetic uprising that often interrogates ideas of identity as well as narrate and promote liberation from oppressive ideologies and systems. Their music is an idiosyncratic blend of punk, jazz, Baltimore club music, and rap that has graced stages across the U.S. and Europe. Through their energetic visceral performances, spiritualizing audiences, they have been anointed as a cosmic, punk, and soulful tempest on stage. In 2019 birthed as they lay, a fluid creative project focused on conjuring collaboration, digital media, & dialogue based exhibitions. Unapologetically black, gay, with sociopolitically queer, Abdu Ali's work is bold, raw, and most importantly life-affirming. They are based between Baltimore, Brooklyn, & Berlin. [Bandcamp](#)

Dj Diaspora



DJ Diaspora via [Soundcloud](#).

I've been spinning an eclectic mix of music on vinyl since 1998, highlighting broken beat, deep house, Afrobeat, jazz, jungle, and the African diaspora.



Feat. Amy Reid with Background Vocals by Chase O'Hara Direction & Editing by Corey Hughes Cinematography by Tyler Davis

DANCERS - Alex Shade • Marissa O'Guinn Dahl • Eze Jackson Caitlin Rife • Abdu Ali • Naomi • Erin Reid • Joe Lee • Hunter Hooligan • Rovo Monty • Laura Krapache • Eunbi CHILLERS - Michelle Uckotter • Becca Morrin • Colin Foster • Will Ryerson • Max Fisher • Margaret Palmquist • Pangelica First Assistant Camera • Nick Gorey Gaffer • Nick Hughes

Art Direction • Becca Morrin

Set Design • Colin Foster Production Assistance by Claire Di Salvo & Michelle Uckotter Filmed at THE COMPOUND in Pre-Pandemic BALTIMORE, MARYLAND • 2020 A.D.

* CHIFFON - - - T H I R D E P * <https://chiffon.bandcamp.com/>

'Read the full article here <https://www.weekinpop.com/features/baltimore-video-woke-me-chiffon>