

Chris Rel: How you doing, I'm Chris Rel I'm actually MC of Vice Verse All Stars and we are going to West Africa.

Denny Jackson: Hello, my name is Denny Jackson and I am the vocalist – the only female- in the Vice Verse All Stars.

OMNI Blaize: How you doing? My name is OMNI Blaize and I am an MC, guitarist, keyboardist for Vice Verse All Stars and I am very excited to be going to West Africa.

DJ PrettyNYC: I'm the last one. (laughing) I'm known as DJ Pretty NYCE - DJ for Vice Verse All Stars and I'm just excited to go. Like right now, if you want to send me now just go ahead.

(laughing)

(Graphic) State Department Logo as well as Jazz at Lincoln Center Logo, Nat sound in background

(Graphic) reads “ the Rhythm Road American Music Abroad” with logo of circles, Nat sound in background

(Graphic) Picture of Vice Verse All Stars

Chris Rel: We're struggling musicians. You know, we got two or three part time jobs to try to put music out there but with this actual program we are able to get paid for the art that we love, we love to create.

Nat Sound – Music

Chris Rel : Me and Denny went a year and a half ago to Asia for a month. The experience was so great 'cause it wasn't only like a music exchange we was also able to see the actual cities and meet all the people.

Nat Sound – Music

Chris Rel: When we were in India, how we were able to incorporate that as they were singing Amazing Grace and for Amazing Grace we actually did a rap over that, you know, just to... I never thought I would be able to rap with Amazing Grace

Denny Jackson: The pastor actually asked him to come up and rap. Like, the pastor played the guitar and he asked me to sing a bluesy version of Amazing Grace and he's like Chris come up and rap and we are looking around, like, okay how is this going to come together. But it was perfect. It was perfect.

Nat Sound – Music

Chris Rel: If you're being true to the music, this would be one facet of the United States cause I think that that is what hip-hop is all about, its about showing all the degrees of life experiences and this just says what we have been through.

OMNI Blaize: In the media, hip-hop doesn't always get, you know, a good rap and I think that the music that we create will shed a different light on it that there is positive hip-hop that is good and exciting.

Nat Sound – Music

Denny Jackson: Us like going to Burma and in Malaysia and you know I guess because they look at, you know, the hip-hop in the U.S. and they automatically think that everyone carries guns or we all grew up in the hood... I can stand behind everybody in my group and say that we make good music and that, you know, we are breaking all the stereotypes so that they can see that, you know, there is positive hip hop.

OMNI Blaize: it was mentioned that they have lot of musicians and I really want to share with them, feel with them, and take some of what they do, you know, and share some of what I do and again just kind of take from their experiences and kinda put that into, you know, some of my music and intertwine their stories with my stories and you know, creating new stuff.

Denny Jackson: I'm excited to represent as an African-American, as a female, as a U.S. Citizen, I'm just, I'm just excited... I may be a little more excited than (DJ PrettyNYCE), I don't know....

(laughing)

Nat Sound – Music

(Graphic) Follow their travels at exchanges.state.gov, jalco.org/the road.

(Graphic) Photo credit: Frank Stewart for Jazz at Lincoln Center

(Graphic) Recorded at National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.