**Transcript**

**Wesley Pepper:** [00:00:00] Good day world. Uh, Wesley pepper. Yeah. And you are tuned into my podcast Wesley Pepper's Art Lexica . Yes, man. Uh, but anyway, yeah, man. Um, first and foremost, um, I hope you digged last week's episode. Um, where I speaking, where I spoke about, um, The processes behind my, uh, current body of work, it's actually going pretty well.

[00:00:41] I, from a art-making, uh, perspective, um, I'm actually nearly, done to be quite honest. Um, also quite, quite tiring. Uh, it's actually quite tiring it's really been sapping, uh, every, but like in a good way, you know, it's like, like, like with an athlete, um, I have a good friend that runs the Comrades and they always speak of this.

[00:01:04] Um, it's a good pain in, I mean, I can't relate to running, but I, I love that metaphor and I guess I'm experiencing a little bit of that. Uh, yeah, but that's been a lot of fun. So look out for that show and more, um, there'll be more content around that coming forth or coming. In, uh, um, in the coming weeks. And, uh, before we introduce our guests today, um, I must first say, you know, big up to spudcaster

[00:01:31] they are my, uh, they are my hosts and my producers, you know, they, they do fantastic work. They check them out, man. Um, they do a whole bunch of 'em. They produce a whole bunch of other shows, not just me and, um, yeah, man, check them out. So, um, Moving on into today's episode, uh, we're taking a bit of a musical direction.

[00:01:52] Um, so I'm talking to, uh, van Iller . Um, I actually know him by his, uh, I only found out the other day that his first name is Thapelo. Um, And, um, yeah, I mean, I knew him from around, uh, from around town, you know, the old, old Newtown Braamfontein scene. And, um, he's a, um, easy music producer and, um, I guess he's a musician as well.

[00:02:20] Uh, man, he does really interesting work. He always produces or rather his sound, I could always liken to. I guess that, uh, I, um, sound of the inner city man, you know, because his influences, uh, and his surroundings were very similar to mine. And, um, I always found it very, very interesting. How other artists or musicians in, in, in his case a musician sort of interprets that influence because as you know, I do it, like through the bird and, um, I know.

[00:02:52] Well, what to do. We interpret the, the city in a different way and, uh, filmmakers and so forth. And today we're going to kind of get into the music side of it. And we're going to hear what Van Iller has to say. So stay tuned for that. And I'll talk to you after that.

[00:03:07] **Spudcaster:** [00:03:07] baobulb.org is a podcasting platform. And a medium for storytelling. This podcast is also available on all the major podcasting apps, including Apple and Google podcasts, podcast your life with baobulb.org .

[00:03:22] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:03:22] All right, man. Uh, Van Iller. Um, or Thapelo AKA, I was actually saying in my intro that actually I found only out on Facebook that your name and stuff. I did not know that.

[00:03:37] How did you, how did you let's start off with them and how did you get the name Van Iller ? You know, how did you, how did you decide?

[00:03:44] **Van Iller:** [00:03:44] Uh, it was 2010. I was a student in Bloem at that time. So we, we started out a band called vanilla rock.

[00:03:55] it was just (indistinct) mixed with rap and poetry

[00:03:59] and a few of us. So that's how vanilla rock started. So, um, Yeah, it was actually vanilla rock and it was just like a name of a genre but it's what we also called ourselves.

[00:04:15] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:04:15] Interesting. Uh, interesting. Uh, why, uh, vanilla rock has kind of got like a, a a, yeah, it's got a, it's got , an interesting, like twist and feel to it. Uh,

[00:04:29] **Van Iller:** [00:04:29] I'm saying, you know, like Bloem also has like this hardcore rap thing.

[00:04:37] So it was always like, yo he's from Maf Town, he's iller, and then

[00:04:43] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:04:43] yeah, actually I stayed.

[00:04:49] Yeah. Yeah. Actually I stayed in Bloemfontein, when was it? In the early nineties. Um, I was there for about three years. Um, and I actually, my sister, uh, at one stage was there for about five years or so maybe four years, I was out there too, not too long ago. Um, so I'm familiar, I'm familiar with Bloem.

[00:05:07] **Van Iller:** [00:05:07] Um, yeah.

[00:05:09] I was right there in town by CUT

[00:05:14] Yeah.

[00:05:15] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:05:15] Okay. Uh, yeah, interesting small world. Uh, so check here man. Um, just for my listeners, um, how I, um, kind of built up to this here, we're just going to talk about your, um, bit of your background in music, you know, um, background in general. Um, and I want to kind of like ask us because, um, I know you from like around town, uh, the Newtown Braam area, and, um, I know that you sound.

[00:05:42] Um, I was actually commenting on that. So, um, I've picked up over, over, over time. So this was when Newtown started to buzz, like in the early 2000, 2005. Um, I remember back then, like when the spoken word also has really started to buzz , there was a real like city aesthetic man. That was, that that was sort of represented in everybody's work.

[00:06:05] So that's just from poetry to , to, to music even to stage and theater. Um, to a degree there was even a bit of a lingo, which was also quite a, like, uh, you know, just for the cats in the city, in the inner city. And, um, Yeah, man. I know that you all, that you, you know, you worked a lot there and all of that, so I know your music has something to do with that, but, um, before we get there, uh, just give us, just give me my listeners, like, uh, just like a brief rundown on like, where are you from?

[00:06:36] Um, you know, that type of thing and you know, that type of thing, like where are you from? What do you do, blah, blah, blah, blah, that type of thing. Yeah.

[00:06:45] **Van Iller:** [00:06:45] Yes. So, you know, I'm born Thapelo Kotlhai and you know, I'm a boy from the Northwest though. I'm from Mafikeng

[00:06:57] and you know, as far as, um, where I come from with the, I went to school. Kingsway Christian school. Um, and to another school here in Mafikeng , you know, so that's where I really got into like the, arts like, they made it, they put it on us to have like this Badlands life, you know, it was. For the arts and academics were all very, very important.

[00:07:30] So I got involved really early and you know, every, I guess it just keeps, I keep getting into something new something else. So I've always just been exploring and learning and you know, it since baby young. I don't paint as much anymore, but I used to be. Yeah, like painting and, um, so yeah, I,

[00:08:06] the art, the art really that's where the? feeling came. Yeah. Yeah.

[00:08:10] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:08:10] Yeah. Okay. Interesting. Interesting. Uh, so when did you arrive in, uh, in, uh, I mean the city, when, um, and I know also you told me you also a lecturer or you taught at one, um, Uh, college isn't it. Yeah. So how long were you there? Um, so I said, I want to sort of work up to that man.

[00:08:28] Um, because like I said, like, um, um, I'm interested in exploring like how, um, that sort of aesthetic, um, in, in, um, in artists work and in your case, your sound, uh, so, um, Okay, so you from Maftown , I get that. Um, also, that's funny. How many of, how many artists and musicians come from, um, come from the Northwest?

[00:08:52] Uh, I know of quite a few, in fact, um, had, there must be something in the water, in the air. Uh, so like, uh, you got into Joburg , um, Where did your sort of your political schooling start, man? You know, where did you decide that this is what I want to do? This is how I want to use my, um, my, uh, my, my creativity, and this is the direction I want to go into.

[00:09:17] **Van Iller:** [00:09:17] Yeah, I guess it was in Bloem in 2010. So I did a year in Bloem and because of my, matric like, I was like commercial subjects, like A student in accounting. So. That kind of put me in finance. So I did finance for one year in free state at the UCT. So over there that's when I really like now being on my own having my own place and making my own decisions that kind of lead now.

[00:09:51] Took me away from finance and threw me into the arts, like starting a band to perform in the Macufe Art Festival and just fight for the arts now. And then that took me to only do finance for one year. Then the, after that, which is exactly 10 years now. That's where I really focused more on the arts. And I started doing some visual arts at Mmabana, which is like an art center here in Mafikeng.

[00:10:23] And then the music, like ever since I was a kid, I started playing, um, The cello, because I was like a little bit taller. So they put me on the cello, which in 2011 , in 2011, I changed the cello for the viola, the guitar and the piano. That's when I decided to do music and performance arts full time. Okay. So Jozi Jozi came after that whole year of like doing music and the arts.

[00:10:55] So I just thought, like I just needed a degree or diploma to make it official. That's in 2012, I went to. To Joburg. And then I enrolled, I checked out all the sound schools and then I really liked damelin because they put you in the big studio from the first year. Yeah. You know the other school just wanted to put you in the big studio the next year.

[00:11:21] From the first day, I could just like be recording, learning about accents. It was just like a whole different type of world.

[00:11:30] sound design music for movies that was just what I want to do. So, so in 2012, um, you know, I went to Braamfontein and the Braamfontein campus of Damelin , and then I moved to Jozi and then man, it's been a bliss.

[00:11:53] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:11:53] Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. There's a lot of, there's a lot of serious. Um, uh, what I always, what I've always enjoyed about, uh, about, about I guess is the energy there's that sort of mix of, uh, student, um, you know, like the real radical students from WITS.

[00:12:10] Um, and those colleges versus like the arts, because there's a lot of cause the art scene, um, in particular street and graffiti arts is pretty as pretty hip that side. I mean, now because of gentrification, the gentrification of, um, Of of most of the city has actually become dumbed down. But, but, but like about 10, yeah, 10, 13 years ago, there was, there were, there was really something cool them.

[00:12:35] And so, yeah, I mean, so I am. And so you, uh, so you were real a multi, you know, you play multiple instruments. Uh, tell us a little bit about, uh, about your, I guess I'm going to call it genre of music now because, um, these days, um, When you speak to musicians, um, and it's not even it's writers too, like writers and artists in general, don't like to be boxed.

[00:12:59] Um, and I get that. Um, I understand that, but you know, just for, um, you know, this for commercial purposes, I'm just saying the genre of music. Uh, just explain to us a little bit to, uh, the style, you know, the influences. Um,

[00:13:16] **Van Iller:** [00:13:16] okay. So, um, you know, Um, I like, like right now I produce a lot of upbeat stuff, but I came from classical and jazz.

[00:13:31] So the classical side playing the Viola and the cello like I'd reall like those nice samples that I'm getting like a double up. like bass play. I used to sample like just because I've been from classical music. But I always, always wanted, like I know right now that there's a guy RKelly right now. We're not even supposed to be supporting this guy.

[00:13:57] He was like, like with the beats and just the mastering during the mixing of sounds. Like for me with like a futuristic producer, like even today, like how, how people from like, trap, like the new trap. So are borrowing a lot of sounds that he was producing for like 20 years ago.

[00:14:25] I just wanted to be like this super producer, you know, could have like, Richness, even in pop sounds, you know, just having those like I really like live. I like digital to sound live as much as possible, but I also like to keep it, uh, and, and, and fun, you know, I kind of, you know, I think most of the time it's like, what project is this?

[00:14:59] What am I really trying to achieve.

[00:15:02] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:15:02] So man, just to come in there, like actually I've noticed, and this also cuts across all genres, because what you're saying there I've, I've heard artists say that same thing is that like, uh, it's very difficult to box, uh, you know, music or even poetry or fine art because as an artist you need to in South Africa, In particular South Africa, you have to adapt to basically any and, every other client that's that's out there.

[00:15:30] So in one month you can basically work on three, maybe four genres to depending on how hot , or how productive you are. And I'm I'm, I'm, I'm actually. Now that, now that you mentioned that I'm actually thinking that like one should explore that thing a bit more .

[00:15:43] Isn't actually a genre or style or actually an, um, an aesthetic. So you're saying that you're working on a lot of more ads and stuff. Yeah. So I know one thing about, um, about how they compose, uh, ads is though, is that, uh, uh, feel free use, quote me on this, or rather for my listeners don't quote me on this.

[00:16:03] Um, I know that, uh, that the, is it the rhythm or the beats, et cetera. Very, very specific tempo. And that's because it's to keep the listener or the, or the audience. Glued to that certain jingle. So I, I know there's a, some form of manipulation or if that's the right word in terms of sound, but I do think that that type of, um, you know, working in that, um, working in that field, is it like, I don't know, is it beneficial to you or do you think it's something, you know, or do you think it's making you, uh, bit more for the lack of a better word commercial?

[00:16:39] **Van Iller:** [00:16:39] Uh, you know, I think, I think if, if just speaking on creativity, It's really nice to sometimes get a script of what people really want. So you just get a script and somebody's like, Hey, for this one, you know, it's about energy and, you know, good. Like we'd like some electronic sounds because there's an energy drink and we liked you to be explosive.

[00:17:05] And then that is like, you know, this is more about insurance. We just want something like super, you know, so this script would really let you know, but as far as getting fulfilled, I think like

[00:17:19] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:17:19] we just lost him there for a second, um, just give me a second there. Uh, we lost you there for a little bit . Uh, just repeat that last sentence.

[00:17:36] **Van Iller:** [00:17:36] Oh, yeah. I would say like sometimes, you know, it just depends how creative you are. So, um,

[00:17:47] I would like, I would like the ads. because, they, they, the ones that have the most money, but

[00:18:00] I mean, it just puts you back in the classroom again, like yo I really have to come up. very creative and produce something that because most of the time you get a bit like I, is it gonna work? Are they gonna so you end up like doing a bit too much? And then, you know, but I guess the reaction is there, the other peoples, cause they, they don't actually know what they want.

[00:18:25] They just know what's gonna work. What's gonna work with them. So I guess like finishing it off is the best thing ever because. Now, you know, like you're, you've really pushed yourself and you've given them a design that they didnt even, know could be created. You know? So I guess like doing that commercial work is really nice because it goes further and it can lead more jobs.

[00:18:56] Yeah. You know, like this is a bit competitive, so you really want to do your best

[00:19:08] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:19:08] interesting.

[00:19:09] **Van Iller:** [00:19:09] Definitely. I do. I do love the commercial work and, um, you know, that's ads, ads, ads, you know, there's this, there's a lot of people that tune into ads and just. Watch TV for ads.

[00:19:30] I guess the best thing is to, to remember what you are selling and, and the value of it. And who is it for? And then just

[00:19:44] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:19:44] hello,

[00:19:46] Eish Zoom nah that's zoom calling for you. Um, So, yeah. Well, I get that last point you were saying about you don't have a problem with the commercial side of the industry, the listener, excuse me, we had bit of a technical thing earlier. Uh, excuse me. It seemed like I, my throat is dry just give me a second.

[00:20:07] You could, you could, you could, um, I can hear there's a bit of a TV in the background, so maybe if you can just move

[00:20:12] further away from that.

[00:20:17] Yes. Hello? Um, yeah, man. So just for the listeners, we just had another technical, you know, mix up the, you know, um, I've been complaining so many times about, uh, who, uh, anyway quality, but anyway, I don't want to, I don't want to jump. run with it.

[00:20:36] **Van Iller:** [00:20:36] Yeah. Too many people on right now.

[00:20:41] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:20:41] You know, anyway, this is so many reasons, actually, man, um, I think there's actually two and a half or two more questions left.

[00:20:50] Let's let, let's give that. Um, what current, uh, what kind of projects are you working on now, man? Um, and this is actually, or rather, let me just give you some background about that first, because I understand what you're saying, whether they're all a commercial thing. And I know that a lot of our musicians, um, Because of COVID, uh, they've been, you know, gigs dried out, um, and it's like that all over the globe.

[00:21:13] So, um, I know that, um, and there's also been difficult to monetize the streaming platforms, you know? Um, I know that's also, uh, quite, uh, quite, quite a bit. So how has your, how have you as a musician sort of like, um, you know, work around that and like, what are you working on right now?

[00:21:33] **Van Iller:** [00:21:33] Uh, to stay afloat

[00:21:34] what I do right now is I, I make all types of beats that people want, so they can come. And then I custom make it for them. It would take about an hour if they do exactly what they want or whatever. So that's what I've been doing. And then just the recording, you know, young artists trying to record mix master.

[00:21:56] Just those services. And then, you know, I've been doing a lot of radio type of gigs and stuff like that, but on, on my passion, like my, the one that really makes me happy, you know, it's just producing original songs and stuff like that. Personal projects. I've got like a lot of them, but the first thing that I really want to let go, uh, probably maybe a week or two after this uploads.

[00:22:30] So, but, um, Just to do a collection like music I've been doing for like the past three years, four years, just to make a collection. before like I really, rap up, my, my debut album, but I just like, and it's 64 songs, so I never have to put on a collection of 64 songs.

[00:22:58] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:22:58] That's like, geez, that's almost five, seven albums, depending on how you break it up.

[00:23:05] Gee Whizz almost six albums. Shit.

[00:23:08] **Van Iller:** [00:23:08] I saw Chris Brown one time saying like he had a very busy year. So it's like you release like 50 songs at once. Cause he had like a busy year and he had like 150 songs, but I was like, you know, it really makes sense. Cause if I put up the 64 songs, they going on like 400 platforms and now I can just let people explore and discover.

[00:23:33] So they can discover their favorite songs. And I need that music that you could say. I moved from, you know, like music coming from four years ago, three years ago, two years ago, you know, It's music. I might never use again, at least if I get it published and license, it can end up in films. It can end up.

[00:23:54] So I'm just looking for a way to like this music. I really love it. I mean, I produced it and I want to throw it out so that I can really now start working on the cover and you know, the stuff that's been holding me back from that.

[00:24:14] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:24:14] That's that's actually super interesting. I love that. I love that. Actually. Uh, just give me a little bit of quick little breakdown.

[00:24:20] Like, I mean, can't do it on all 64, but uh, what's the just like, give us a just give me like a, I guess it's in the overall, like what's the, what's the music about ? Is it just a yeah. And or rather and or was this music created in last year?

[00:24:37] **Van Iller:** [00:24:37] Uh, most of it was put together last year. So it's all different kinds of sounds like I've even like, this is also a showcase for my record label, which.

[00:24:49] Which is also like, so I've got this guy he's from the DRC, he's a French singer. He's been doing amazing things. So me and him have been going back and forth and then he's in my label. I'm helping him with publishing and production of new music. You know, he's jazzy. And we met in Newtown actually. I was a manager and a producer for a live artist called Prince of new town.

[00:25:27] At that time, I handled the booking at Nicky's Oasis and catch a band. We actually had the same lineup. It's just the two of us for the whole night. So Nikki wanted us to perform like. One hour ' 30's, each so have like a beautiful night. Hmm. Hmm. And then I think I heard him on DJ Cleo or like somebody like that.

[00:25:52] I'm like what this guy can do some house.

[00:25:58] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:25:58] Yeah, yeah, yeah. I get you. I get you.

[00:26:02] **Van Iller:** [00:26:02] By inviting him over. And man, he was just doing like these, you know, you could say like improv one, but they came out, like he wrote the song, like getting lady really like excited. Yeah. It sounds,

[00:26:22] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:26:22] it sounds, it sounds great.

[00:26:24] **Van Iller:** [00:26:24] Yeah.

[00:26:25] And then I've also got Didi Khunou know she's on , BET, Africa. So she's also one of my artists that we work really closely with her. And just a lot of surprises. I think these 64 songs you could say, it's really urban music, but there's, hip-hop there's house like, you know, the buzz of the city, you know, like just what the city really sounds like right now.

[00:26:56] And. Post the last decade and just like the last few years of the decade, what kind of the most important sounds.

[00:27:09] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:27:09] Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. That's very cool. That's very cool. I like that. I like that. That's pretty cool. I like the whole thing. you know the last sound of the decade. That's that's, that's pretty cool because it definitely entering something completely different or we've entered something, something really, really different.

[00:27:26] That's fucking cool bro. I really dig that, man, um, we actually leads up to like a, sort of a, sort of a follow-up question like, um, Because you make a, you make making, you're making a point there, which, um, which I understand, like you say, most of your, uh, stuff was produced or produced last year.

[00:27:40] And, um, funny enough, um, I know of quite a few, uh, um, um, artists and this also cuts across, you know, writers, uh, play writers, visual artists who has been actually quite productive last year. And, um, uh, find enough early, early on this morning, I was talking to the gallery and, um, They do or on a very similar on a similar high where they just had this large or rather, the lady that works for the gallery, but you know, she's in contact with many, many other artists.

[00:28:11] Um, um, um, is that like this, this, this, um, artist has just sort of worked on this huge catalogs. Um, that's actually quite interesting. Um, I think just from a, uh, Podcasting from my perspective, I actually want to track that, um, that's that's very cool, bro. So, um, just two questions, technical questions on, um, on all of this, do you launch all the music?

[00:28:33] All the 64 songs at one time and then how do you, uh, like promote it or, you know, sell the idea or yeah. How does that work?

[00:28:43] **Van Iller:** [00:28:43] Yeah. You know, I'm still trying to figure out, should I have like a series to put out. Like episodes so that they can engage a bit more. But as far as making it tangible, I also want to do like the LP side of it, you know, the LP can only accommodate 15 songs. But as far as like,

[00:29:10] The digital copy. Like, you know, there's no printing on DVD discs and stuff like that. So I'm a, I'm going to make it very limited. Just, you know, like how photographers release a book and only , like 300 copies available or something like that. So I just want to make it like a tangible piece with the LP and just make it fun, you know, just for people who really love music and archiving.

[00:29:38] Music, but as far as digitally, I'm going to make them available everywhere . Um, and I just want people to discover because there's no really, um, one genre, but I mean, it's coming from one umbrella,

[00:29:56] uh, what's

[00:29:57] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:29:57] your, excuse me, excuse me. Excuse me. Uh, what your label's name?

[00:30:02] **Van Iller:** [00:30:02] Fresh

[00:30:05] Freshpoet brand. And at one point.

[00:30:19] That was my childhood name is Tiki solo Tiki main, my cousins, Tiki, Tiki, Maine, and then fresh poet, AKA you know, van iller rock. Yeah,

[00:30:34] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:30:34] yeah, yeah.

[00:30:39]**Van Iller:** [00:30:39] whenever you meet a lot of people and then, you know, I don't know if I need that bit and then you inherit the name.

[00:30:49] Yeah, yeah, yeah,

[00:30:50]**Wesley Pepper:** [00:30:50] yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. That's how, us here in, South Africa work to all the global listeners.

[00:30:55] That's like a South African thing. It doesn't get more authentic than that for sure. Brother. Like even where I'm from. Yeah. You get a nickname and. Kind of remix and it gets Buick and you go to another place. And this guy adds his little bietjie, like, uh, I've had so many nicknames in high school, uh, and in college I was involved and I was in the art school there.

[00:31:20] Like I picked up many.

[00:31:22] Well, let's say your name, your name is

[00:31:32] yeah, like I, firstly, firstly, uh, like, uh, they used to tease obviously, uh, they used to tease me with a name a lot. A lot. And funny enough, like growing up in, in Kimberly and square park, which is like a middle class English speaking coloured neighborhood, um, you know, in coloured areas there's is, is Afrikaans and English speaking.

[00:31:54] It's the whole thing. Anyway. Um, Um, there was actually a guy up the road, his name was Wesley Salts. Can you believe that? So I was obviously been burned. He is so yeah, not salt it was sauls or salt or some shit like that, but like, it, it, it sounded a lot like salt and we actually were friends. Believe it or not, um, at one stage and like I was ripped off and like, like, um, I'll tell you like, um, I actually, when I, when I arrived in Joburg as like full-on to work and blah, blah, blah, blah, uh, my first sale, my first art sale that I, that I did, but also music, um, Guy.

[00:32:35] He like asked me what's my name? And I'm like, you know, Wesley like, Whoa, that's a cool name. And I'm like, okay. I think I better just run with it. So I know there's also a lot of value to people's names, so that's fucking cool, bro. I like that. Um, uh, I'm I'm I dig it, I dig it a lot, a lot, a lot, a lot.

[00:32:56] Um, just two more questions on the, uh, on the record label. Um, is it you, are you the, um, You know, you're working with other people or is it, or, or have you have you set it up already? So in other words, like people is listening and so on. If they want to work with you and what what, you know, is it, you know, are you open for business?

[00:33:16] **Van Iller:** [00:33:16] Yes. You know, um, with the label, everything, I just wanted to create a home for all the music projects that I do, because it's very early from like, you would take your copyright ? You know piracy, was such a big deal, especially with the internet again. So yeah, I just wanted to create a home and ownership, you know, for, for my music.

[00:33:42] So that's how I created the label came about. And I just use the one of my nicknames again. Hmm.

[00:33:49] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:33:49] Yeah, I dig it. I dig it.

[00:33:52] **Van Iller:** [00:33:52] So it's only me. Like, I'm really the person behind it, but like to work in, like, you'd find a certain here. I've got a friend who's been doing something though. And then they come on board as a photographer and somebody comes in and, you know, photographers are really great creative directors.

[00:34:15] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:34:15] Absolutely. And very visual. Very, very cool. I've worked with photographers before.

[00:34:21] **Van Iller:** [00:34:21] And I like to work with fine artists, cause I like to do different stuff for my covers,

[00:34:27] even last year I was trying to approve some cats but I never actually got to my deadline and then I just kept doing more and more and more and more music with no deadline. Like where is this music going? Like yo music, you, you shouldn't really worry where it's going because people are discovering songs with streaming songs and the way licensing is happening right now, you don't need the universal Sony.

[00:34:57] You can just tune, call or whatever, you know, and then they filter out your music, to other people. And then you just like collect checks. Digitally. Like, it's just a funny world but i'm all alone there , like production and stuff like that. And I collaborate with a lot, you know, it's something new that I would never have done alone .

[00:35:20] So bringing somebody into the studio and also trying to get them excited and dancing is, is a great challenge.

[00:35:35] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:35:35] I'm feeling that my brother feeling that I'm feeling that. Yeah. Um, like in closing, man, um, so you say you're going to be releasing all of this, uh, in the next few coming months or so, uh, how does everybody listening here get hold of you and, uh, yeah, . So I'm like, I'm talking like social media handles, you know, uh, websites, et cetera, et cetera.

[00:36:03] **Van Iller:** [00:36:03] Okay. So yeah, I am out there on the social medias and, you know, I'm always looking to collaborate and do new things. So, um, the easiest way, I guess, would be like to get me on email, which is bookvaniller@gmail.com. And then, you know, um, I guess we can just. Get to talking and build a relationship and stuff, but yeah, on social media, I guess, whenever something new or something that I've done, I like to share links over there.

[00:36:36] So. It's at van underscore iller on Instagram and Twitter. I'm easy to find on Facebook. Just Van Iller, or you can use my name, Thapelo Kotlhai .

[00:36:51] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:36:51] Yeah. Thapelo it was lekker speaking to you, brother. Um, I remember the last time, um, we always spoke about, you know, doing a sort of collaborative sessions, um, as I think that's probably more, um, relevant now, or that's not relevant, but like, um, I think even, even though we're in different cities now because of COVID and all of that, but, um, we, I still, I still, I still think it's something that can still happen in in this year, man.

[00:37:16] Um, Because, uh, the interesting thing is that like artists have become quite innovative in these times and there's some really interesting things, you know, bubbling up, man. And, um, I like that. I like the, the, the, the, that, that, that, that 64 song jissus that's I like that a lot. Uh, and I can totally see the strategy.

[00:37:38] I think that's a dope ass strategy. Yeah, man. Thanks brother. For coming through. Um, um, Yeah. Yeah, man.

[00:37:50] **Van Iller:** [00:37:50] I mean, we've been trying to get this together for a couple of weeks now, but you know, I'm really glad it's going to be coming out eventually

[00:38:04] the music like I'm always going to be up on the music and doing new things. I think it's the times right now have even. Opened it up to everybody to now be more willing to, to, to, to, to, to join adventures and take new journeys and discover new things. So I think definitely right now, it is the time to be collaborating with people outside of basically working on new formats, you know, to put out to the world, which is.

[00:38:40] I think it's a great time right now to start any thing because the people are super wide open because everything new, everything experimental is really going to work and give somebody else, gets to be creative and do something new, you know?

[00:39:01] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:39:01] Yeah, man. I'm feeling that my brother, uh, enjoy the rest of the day, you know, uh, and we'll be in touch through social media and stuff.

[00:39:11] And I'll definitely, you know, when we, uh, before the episode gets published. Um, yeah, man, thanks a lot for coming through brother. And, uh, I guess like, just keep safe and, Oh shit, man. This is the last question. Uh, are you going to get vaccinated?

[00:39:29] **Van Iller:** [00:39:29] Um, you know, the vaccine, I think my buddy, I think I've got a quite strong immune system and I've been like, I've even granted what I need to stay safe.

[00:39:41] I don't think, I think the vaccines, because like our government is, is there's a shortage. I think I would want to leave it to people with like cancer, like, you know, the HIV's and stuff, but I, I don't think. Unless I am like really sick, yeah,

[00:40:06] but I think for now I wouldn't want to take a vaccine. I wouldn't discourage anybody from taking the vaccine, but I wouldn't be vaccinated because as you know, vaccines also weaken certain parts of your body, but you know, we're not talking about anything negative towards the vaccine, but, um, no, and those that were vaccinated have a higher chance of getting cancers right now.

[00:40:37] So we don't want to talk too bad about the vaccines but, you know, I'll just say like I'm healthy, I'm taking my veggies. Yeah, yeah,

[00:40:48] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:40:48] yeah, yeah, yeah. I hear you brother.

[00:40:52] **Van Iller:** [00:40:52] Yeah,

[00:40:56] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:40:56] thanks for coming through brother. Uh, we'll be in touch nah and, uh, yeah, and all the best for everything. And like I said, man, I'll be in touch by social media nah.

[00:41:04] **Van Iller:** [00:41:04] Thank you for having me Wesley. I appreciate you brother

[00:41:06] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:41:06] one love brother. My brother will be in touch. Aweh..

[00:41:10]**Spudcaster:** [00:41:10] Baobulb.org is a podcasting platform and a medium for storytelling. This podcast is also available on all the major podcasting apps, including Apple and Google podcasts, podcast your life with baobulb.org.

[00:41:27] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:41:27] And I hope you guys enjoyed that. Uh, That's some really interesting strategies around getting his music out there. Yeah, man, um, van is pretty smart in that regard. Really, really, really, really cool. Uh, yeah. Sorry about the technical issues, you know, um, it's a South African thing. Um, I'm tired of complaining about that, but anyway, man, uh, moving forward, man.

[00:41:49] Yeah, man. So look out for some really interesting, uh, episodes coming up in the future. I think, um, next week I'm talking about the finishing off of the artwork. So that's me kind of on a solo trip. I know I've got Sabelo Soko, not too long after that. And, um, Natalie proper actually hasn't confirmed yet.

[00:42:08] Although she said she is pretty keen and she's a super, super talented, uh, artists with some really interesting characters. Definitely looking forward to that. Um, yeah, man. So, um, remember to check us out on all this, excuse me. Yeah, my throat. Yeah, my throat is dry today. I'm remember to check us out on all the streaming platforms, man, and big up to Spudcaster for hosting me and baobulb.org for hosting and producing my show, man.

[00:42:32] Um, thanks guys. Um, you know, you can catch it on all the streaming platforms. Um, any other comments? Um, feedback was always highly, highly appreciative. I got a really cool call, not too long ago. About the episode on, um, On the 26th of, uh, of February, um, I had a really cool, uh, phone call. Somebody call me with regards to a man like, yeah, man.

[00:42:55] So I appreciate those types of things guys. So keep it coming through and stay tuned for more super, super cool network on the dopest art-based podcast out there. Boom! I've said it. Cheers world. Um, catch you next week.