

AMAL

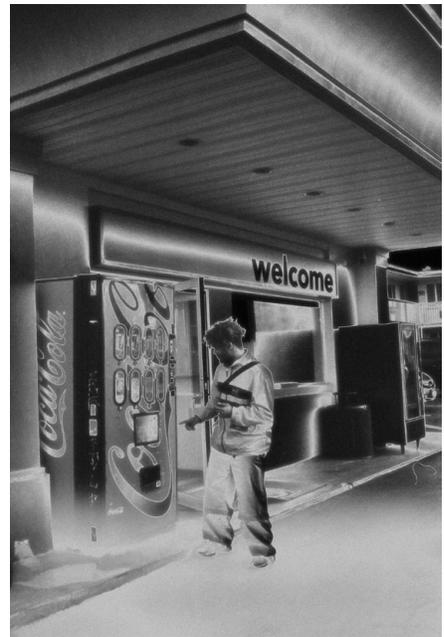


THE DEBUT EP FROM AMAL OUT MARCH 27

D.C.'s usually seen as a city full of marble statues and former class president types, but Amal Handley, born and bred in Silver Spring, rides fast and plays loose alongside the colder and uptighter in his town. With a little bit of the freewheeling, house-hopping, genre-freaking DNA of the DC mainstay Beautiful Swimmers, a sexy, liquid voice like Rhode Island's Galcher Lustwerk, plus a squeeze of Myrtle Avenue's jacking AceMo and MoMa Ready, Amal's first EP, DANCE CONCEPT, is a petri dish of sounds collected up and down the coast, centered right at home in the nation's capital.

Growing up in Silver Spring, Amal's initial foray into music lived with the local hip-hop scene. Across the past decade, he's produced tracks for local rappers that include Wifi Gawd The Khan, Nappy Nappa, Warhol.SS, Black Kray - and that influence shows. Like Kray's drawl or WiFi Gawd's subterranean delivery, Amal's voice is all dark flourish and slow flows, too good not to feature on his first work as a solo artist.

His debut EP, DANCE CONCEPT, is a sonic metrocard into the underground of the nation's capital and the work he's influenced by - a "space you never knew existed," he says. It's a cosmic sauce, mixing the influences from his past, his present, and the city he calls his forever home, to create an astral sound that goes beyond the District. From the 808's classic enough to pay homage to DC's sneaker of choice - the New Balance 990's - or his flow, as buttery as anything out of Baltimore - AMAL's debut EP reveals the promise of a steadily-thriving underground-meets-internet scene that's been hidden in plain sight for years.



Photography : Samantha Duong

DANCE CONCEPT is the first release from ROOM, a DC-based cultural studio that also operates as a collective of DJs, video artists, developers, producers, engineers, and more. ROOM collaborates with pioneering musicians to produce immersive installations, video artworks, and brand identities. The group also acts as a platform for local artists, hosting a weekly mix series (www.room.haus & SoundCloud) in addition to a radio show on DC's Full Service Radio in Adams Morgan. DANCE CONCEPT's release will also be accompanied by ROOM's first run of apparel, as well as an interactive web experience.

DANCE CONCEPT will be preceded by 547S, a single featuring b-side remix from 35mm (Peter Markoski), ROOM's in-house mixing engineer and producer. The 35mm remix injects acid synth lines and heavy house drums to Amal's original production. Markoski was responsible for mixing the full EP as well. His previous work includes mixing credits for a number of local 1432R releases from Max D, Sami%SuYung, and Dawit Eklund (among others).

Mastering for DANCE CONCEPT was primarily driven by Nick Garcia, while 574S was mastered by Duncan Stanbury.

Credits:

- Amal:** Production
- Peter Markoski:** Mixing
- Nick Garcia:** Mastering [5474S (35mm Remix), 990S, GEORGIA AVE, DTS, FREE JUDO]
- Duncan Stanbury:** Mastering [574S]

Photography provided by
Samantha Duong

