Maurice, who lives in East Harlem with his mom, is a 32-year-old rapper, who has “music in his blood” and has been rapping since he was 14. His family was close to the famous rapper Biggie Smalls, and Maurice reports that Biggie actually held him as a baby. No wonder Biggie and Tupac Shakur are among his most important musical influences.

Maurice composes his lyrics by dictating them to his home attendant, who writes them down, and he has already recorded two songs in a studio, with more to come. If you’re a fan of rap---and even if you’re not,-- check out one of those Maurice’s songs, “Why U Mad”, which he says is about how “many people don’t like me in a sense.” One of the other voices on the track is his friend Hishime, who goes by the rapper name BK Poe, and who not only “supports” Maurice vocally, but who Maurice hopes to include as a Supporter as he develops his SDMA.

See Mo Barz’s “Why U Mad” here