

## **BIOGRAPHY**

## Mamarudegyal MTHC (Born Diana Hellson - 11, January 1992) is an Afro Indigenous Hip Hop and R&B Artist.

After winning 1st place in Aboriginal Idol Showcase at age nine with Destiny's Child's "Jumpin Jumpin", and continuing on her journey in the performing arts, Diana had found a home in the theatre, on the stage. Throughout her childhood and into her youth, Diana found herself on stage Acting, Singing, Dancing, Playing musical instruments, and finding opportunities that allowed her to learn skills in the Media Arts; Film, Photography and Animation. At the age of Sixteen Diana delivered the Spotlight monologue in the Vagina Monologues and was eventually winning over audiences in Southern AB through Theatre & performing Heavy Metal, Blues, Lounge and other genres of musical covers from 2005 - 2012, often as the lead vocalist and bassist of a band and other times as a solo artist with backing tracks.

While transitioning through motherhood, Diana stayed true to on her path by attending Hip Hop Dance workshops up to 6 Months pregnant and performing in Siksika Nation, AB at 5 weeks post-partum. By her 21st birthday Diana was a member of both Empirical Freedom Krump, Ellipsis Tree Theatre Collective and a backup Dancer for Calgary Indigenous rapper Lil Smokey. Diana had been involved in a plethora of arts workshops, projects, and performances and had an overwhelming arts resume to show for it. Her involvement with Empirical Freedom Krump (MPFree) and Ellipsis Tree Collective became a time of metamorphosis and discipline, shaping her identity as an artist and permanent member of the Hip Hop Community at large; and through her involvement with MPFree was given her KRUMP name (a name assigned to a dancer based on the style and personality that naturally occurs while doing KRUMP) "Mamardegyal", by leader of MPFree and long time Mentor, Reignmaker. November of 2012 provided a chance for Diana to break out onto the Local Hip Hop scene through a slot on the Line up opening for Indigenous Rapper "Joey Styles". Soon after her solo debut as Mamarudegyal, she was offered an opportunity to collaborate with Edmonton's "Psych Ward Kidz (Deranged House Music)" on a song entitled "Dark Secrets", a piece that provokes discussion of Residential School's in North America, through speaking frankly of pain and trauma. Upon its release "Dark Secrets" found a following in the Aboriginal Hip Hop Community of Southern Alberta and Psych Ward Kidz began to include Mamarudegyal in their live performances regularly.

By 2013 Mamarudegyal was performing regularly with Psych Ward Kidz, MPFree and Elipsis Tree. It had been a wonderful year for her career but nearing its end, things at home had become tenuous and she was faced with a decision. Stuck between a rock and a hard place and short on time MRG finally decided that the best decision for her and her family was to move from Calgary AB to Vancouver BC.

July 15th 2014 MRG and her family landed at YVR and promptly found herself on stage the night of July 30th, 2014; a second debut to an entirely new audience. From that point on, MRG began to surround herself with the local Hip Hop community in Surrey, Burnaby, New Westminster and Vancouver. Mamarudegyal MTHC has since become a valuable member of the BC Underground Hip Hop Scene through her work in founding Rudegang Entertainment and Winning Fraser Valley Music Awards in two categories (2017). Going up against 26 Vancouver Bands and taking 1st place in CiTR FM's Battle of the Bands and winning multiple "Best Emcee" Contests has solidified her place in Hip Hop and is motivation to keep moving towards her goals.