



CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT (clothes not listed are model's own): BIIG PIIG WEARS: ASOS DESIGN JUMPER WITH ROLL NECK AND RIB DETAIL £16; ASOS DESIGN X GLAAD DENIM JACKET IN COLOUR BLOCK £55 BONE SLIM WEARS: ASOS DESIGN UTILITY JACKET IN METALLIC SILVER £40; ASOS DESIGN BUCKET HAT IN CHECKERBOARD £12 LAVA LA RUE WEARS: WEEKDAY DENIM DUNGAREE TOP £25; DICKIES WEBBING BELT IN WHITE £15 NIGE (all his own outfit) LIBAAN WEARS: MAHARISHI LONG-SLEEVED T-SHIRT £65 (maharishistore.com); ASOS DESIGN OVERSIZED RENAISSANCE PLACEMENT PRINT SHIRT £30 NAYANA IZ (all her own outfit) LORENZORSV WEARS: ASOS DESIGN WASHED OVERSHIRT WITH CONTRAST STITCHING IN BLACK £25; ASOS DESIGN BANDANA IN BLACK PAISLEY £6 MAC WETHA WEARS: ASOS DESIGN RECYCLED TAPERED JEANS IN WHITE £30

NINE8: A RADICAL CREATIVE COMMUNITY

THE EVOLVING LINE-UP PUSHING UNDERGROUND CULTURE FORWARD ON THEIR OWN TERMS

Nine8 is...

Lava La Rue: 'A London-based DIY arts collective. We make art, music and garms and throw events. There's around 20 [of us in total], nine in the music group [and the rest on the] arts board. We make cover art and produce for each other, swapping creative currency and references.'

Bone Slim: 'A family, making awesome shit for everyone. Hopefully, you guys get inspired by that and make cool inspiring shit for us.'

Getting started

Lava La Rue: 'Biig Piig, Mac and I were in music class together at college. We'd have little cyphers in my bedroom with a shitty mic plugged into a guitar amp and pass it around. Mac was already producing Bone Slim, we were all cross-referencing and ended up on a tune together. The cyphers turned into events. Lorenzo came to the first one and the first "Lava's secret sessions" in 2016 – my 17th birthday.'

Libaan: 'I've known Nige since year seven and got to know the whole collective when I started skating with Lava.'

Nayana iz: 'I met Lava last summer and she introduced me to everyone.'

What we do

Lorenzorsv: 'I'm an artist, student and I create clothes.'

Mac Wetha: 'I make music in several formats. I'm everything but an MC.'

Biig Piig: 'I'm a vocalist. My sound is jazz-hop or trip-hop.'

Lava La Rue: 'I'm a musician, rapper, the creative director of Nine8, full-time.'

Nayana iz: 'I make music and used to make clothes. I dropped out of school so this is my job.'

Libaan: 'Music. Outside the collective, I teach kids how to skate and do crewing, putting up musicians' stages.'

Nige: 'I'm a student and brand manager of a clothing line, record label and café, all under one roof, called MAP.'

Bone Slim: 'I rap a lot.'

The music

Biig Piig: 'There are so many different sounds, hard-hitting energy. It's not all jump

up or chilled out, we fuse it together. We don't limit what we create, we figure it out.'

Lorenzorsv: 'I could have a trap beat with dark tones or do [my song] *Summer Outro* and you can vibe. [It's] jumpy even though they're contrasting sounds.'

Lava La Rue: 'As a black working-class person coming up, there's drill around me, but I'm queer and there's not a lot of space within that genre. We're creating fluid spaces where there's co-existence from people from all parts.'

Our mixtape

Biig Piig: 'We've found a sound that best describes the era we're in the way we see it. We learn from each other and discovered that Nayana can really sing.'

Mac Wetha: 'I mixed and recorded every track and co-produced most of them. Consider this a taster of what's to come. Really big things are about to happen.'

Group dynamic

Lava La Rue: 'If I'm mum, Lorenzo and Libs are cousins, Nige is uncle, Biig Piig is big sister and Nayana little sister. Mac's dad and Slim's step dad. We're all kinda goofy with this unified outlook on life [that's] positive. My little flat in Ladbroke Grove is Nine8 HQ. Somehow [we all fit in and] I end up cooking. It just so happens that we all skate too.'

Favourite memory

Biig Piig: 'The Nine8 holiday. Five of us went to an Airbnb in Jerez and made some of the first tracks we released on SoundCloud.'

Nige: 'Brainchild Festival [this year] was brilliant. The show was one of the best I've felt and chilling out in camp was fun.'

Nayana iz: 'Six of us went to Middlesbrough for Lava's birthday in May. We stayed with her auntie and went to all the clubs.'

Next expect

Lava La Rue: 'More visuals, music, banging music videos. Everything on a bigger level. It would be sick to do our own festival.'

Biig Piig: 'We've built something inside London but we're hoping to push it outside.'

Bone Slim:

'World domination... in a nice way.'

WE MAKE ART, MUSIC AND GARMS AND THROW EVENTS... WE PRODUCE FOR EACH OTHER, SWAPPING CREATIVE CURRENCY AND REFERENCES

Clockwise from right: **Biig Piig**, 20, @biig_piig; **Bone Slim**, 22, @boneslimbone; **Lava La Rue**, 20, @lavalaru; **Nige**, 21, @nasty.nige; **Libaan**, 22, @goldenlateefa; **Nayana iz**, 17, @nayana179; **Lorenzorsv**, 19, @lorenzorsv; **Mac Wetha**, 21, @lloydmacd; @nine8collective