



B-SIDE

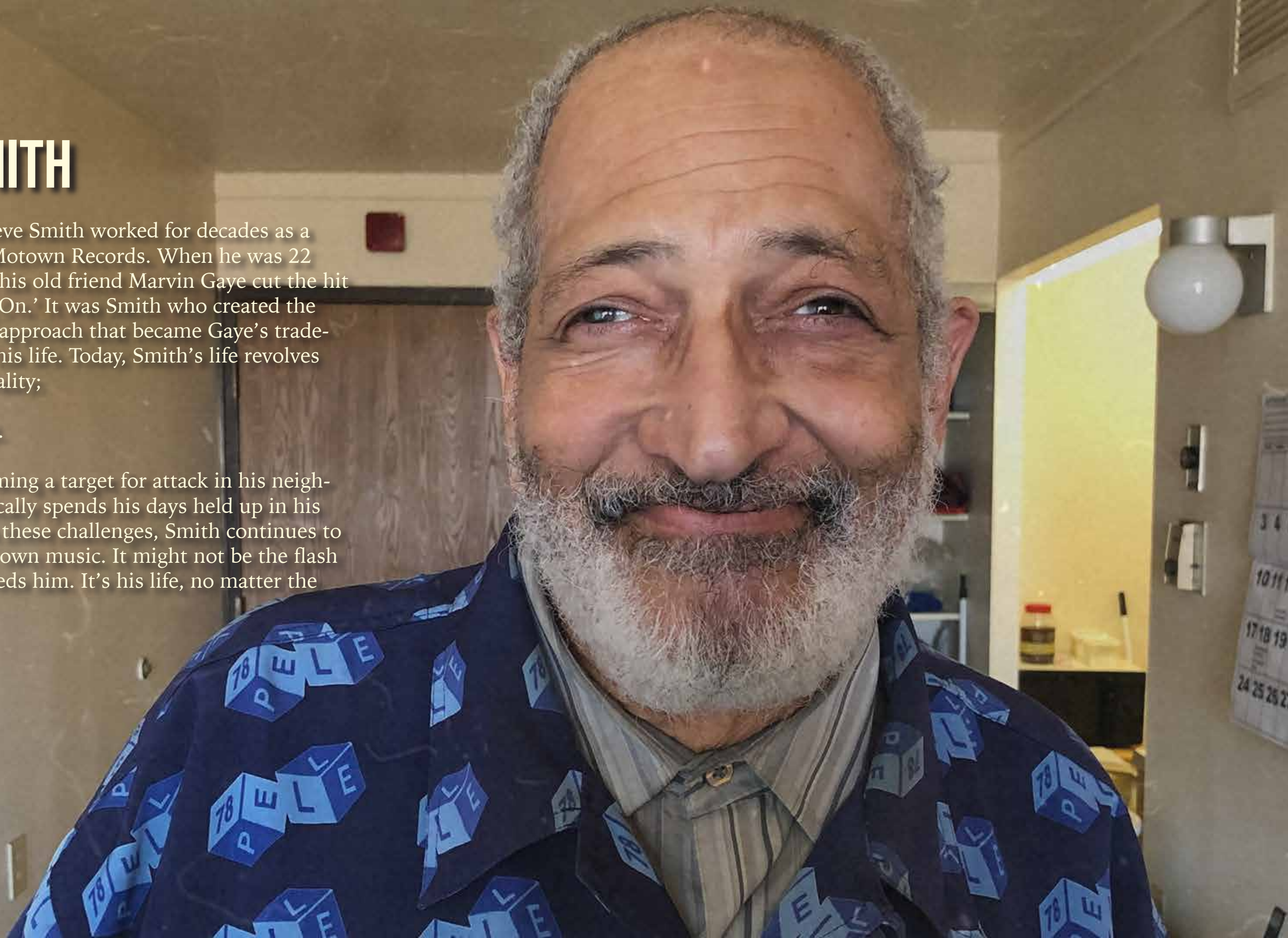
A conversation with Motown Records Engineer Steve Smith

STEVE SMITH

A local Detroiter, Steve Smith worked for decades as a music engineer for Motown Records. When he was 22 years old, he helped his old friend Marvin Gaye cut the hit song 'What's Going On.' It was Smith who created the multi-layering vocal approach that became Gaye's trademark for the rest of his life. Today, Smith's life revolves around one harsh reality;

Steve is legally blind.

Worried about becoming a target for attack in his neighborhood, Smith typically spends his days held up in his apartment. Through these challenges, Smith continues to adapt and create his own music. It might not be the flash of Motown, but it feeds him. It's his life, no matter the circumstance.



VISUAL

The film will rely heavily on warm, yellow based images with heavy shadow. Cutting between archive footage from Motown's heyday, we want the current footage to share a similar texture. Heavy shadows and muted tones will be utilized to create that texture.





A man wearing a cap and headphones stands in a recording studio, looking towards a large window. The room is dimly lit, with a desk and various audio equipment visible in the background. The man is wearing a striped shirt and dark pants. The studio has a professional feel with various pieces of equipment and a large window looking out into the night.

NARRATIVE

The film will focus on the early part of Steve's audio engineering career. He will recap the artists that shaped him, leading to his greatest professional accomplishment; Marvin Gaye's 'What's Going On?'

The film will transition to his life now, as an elderly man. He recounts the glory days, and documents his new frustrating reality; Steve is legally blind. But he never allows that to hinder him. Early learned lessons, and advice from Marvin, help Steve see the positives in his life.







THANK YOU!