

Hip-Hop

Weekly

A peek at
the history
of Hip-Hop

May, 2010

PLUS:

The biography of
Lupe Fiasco!

Lupe Fiasco

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The History of Hip-Hop

By: Jackson Reeves-Henning

November 1974: The birth month of hip-hop, with the help of Clive "Kool Herc" Campbell. Hip-hop began in the poor, black, urban culture of the Bronx. It was very influenced by gang life but eventually spread to black and white, poor and middle-class people and became popular all around the world.

"Herc" was a reggae-rapper from Jamaica who moved to New York in 1967. He got started rapping in 1969 and became big about five years later. One day, in Bronx, New York, he started making music with turntables. At around that same time, a man from the Bronx, Theodore "Grand Wizard" Livingston, accidentally started studying and creating the scratching sound of the records on the turntables. The coincidence of this really started the foundations of hip-hop itself. Hip-hop was mostly brought up in New York from Jamaican immigrants who knew about "Toasting". "Toasting" is an artist rapping over the instrumental sections of a record. Rap or hip-hop music was a development of what Jamaicans called "dub music," which is rapping over recorded percussions; like drum beats, bells, horns, bass etc... The ancestors of hip-hop were "deejays", or also known as spinners, who used this technique to make the crowd dance, and create long non-stop songs. "Kool DJ Herc" ended up getting two other "master of ceremonies" ("MC's", a nickname for rappers) and they created the first rap crew, "Kool Herc and the Her-

culoids". From there hip-hop dancing got started, inspired by James Brown with his many singles, such as "Get on the Good Foot", "Funky President", and "Sex Machine". Dancing became an artistic expression at parties, and dance moves were named, including the move "B-Boy" which referred to break dancing, named by "Herc" himself. This got very popular and many hip-hop dance groups formed, including "Rock Steady" and "Capoeira" and a lot evolved from there. Hip-hop took off, with more artists, songs, albums, cultures, and styles. That's how hip-hop is where it's at today, so many artists with completely different styles and backgrounds. Along with new songs and albums being produced every few days; to please the ears of hip-hop fans everywhere.

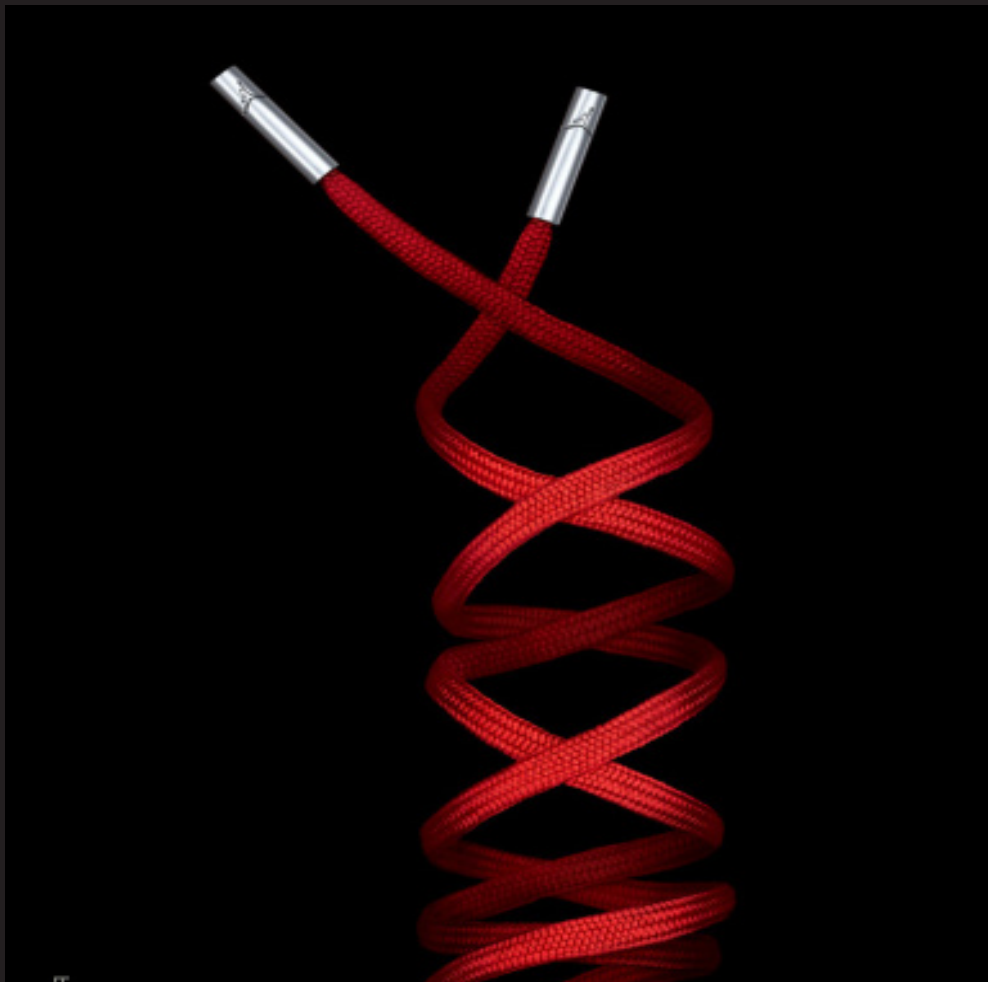


Clive "Kool Herc" Campbell



B.O.B

New album in stores!
In the top ten albums on iTunes, buy now!



Hip-Hop's New Style

By: Jackson Reeves-Henning

Money, fame, sex, and women. If you have listened to a hip-hop song recently, you have probably heard some rappers talking and showing off these things. Stupid? Outrageous? Unnecessary? These might be some things that come to mind, and I agree that rapping about money, fame, or women is stupid.

Hip-hop today has turned into songs with rappers raging about how much money they have, their popularity, and even homophobia or lyrics degrading to women. This has taken over hip-hop, instead of how hip-hop started, which was rapping about cultural experience and expression, African Ameri-

A photograph of Talib Kweli, a hip-hop artist, with his hands raised in a gesture. He is wearing a maroon jacket over a green t-shirt and a patterned beanie. The background is a plain, light color.

“We have never let the media define us, so why are we doing it now?”

-Talib Kweli

can society, and political activism. To become popular, sell records, and get a record deal, people have to sing about how much money they have or the woman they can get. I think this is quite stupid, and money and fame should not have anything to do with popularity. I'm not saying everyone today is like this; there are plenty of rappers not stuck in this style. Talib Kweli (pictured) is a good example of one. “We have never let the media define us, so why are we doing it now?” he says. Talib Kweli, or “Truth Seeker” in Arabic, is a hip-hop artist from Brooklyn, New York. Kweli has a unique sound, and does not hold the new style of rapping about money and fame that has evolved.

Rappers have to act tough or “gangster” to become popular. Record labels are looking for people who act and rap like this to sign them, and it's really pretty silly if you ask me. People should be able to act and sing the way they want, without worrying about getting signed or not and being able to make a living off of rapping.

Hopefully you have learned that rapping about money, fame, sex, and women is stupid and unnecessary; because really, who wants to hear songs like that? It just ruins the great music of hip-hop, and it should not be about how much money you have.

Letters to the editor

So, I was wondering the other day, why are most rappers black? Is it something about their voice? Or is it something else? It doesn't seem like there should be such a huge difference. I mean, there are a lot more black rappers than white ones so; I'm interested to know if you have any insight into that. It's just a strange thing with no real explanation.
-Asher Kenen

I like Hip-Hop Music, but not all hip-hop. I feel that many of the messages are the same played-out messages. Ok, so you have the car, the money, the bling -- so what? And don't even get me started on the videos. I feel like the artist's music should inspire people. A lot of their music does not show off their artistic talent, but rather it shows off their lack of intelligence. They could at least use real words. Shouldn't hip-hop be about expression rather than money? -Rachel Carow

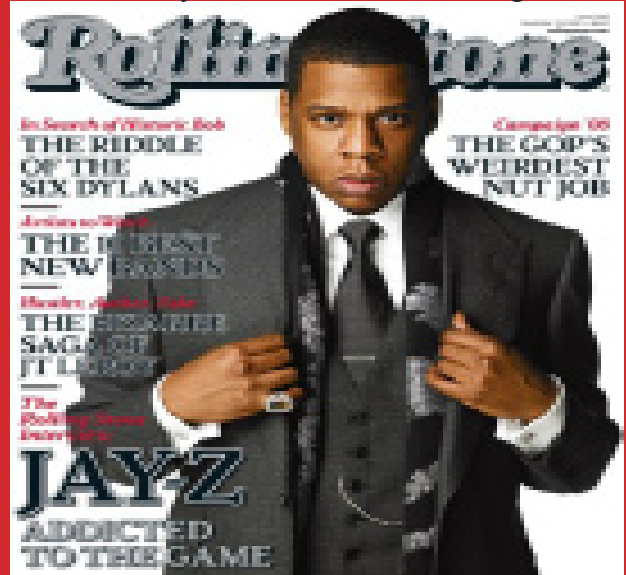
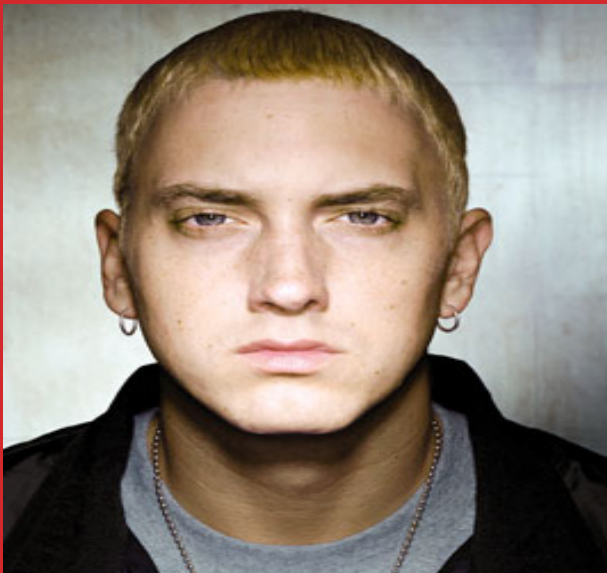
Hip-Hop Artists Today



ABOVE: Bobby Ray, also known as B.o.B

BELOW LEFT: Eminem

BELOW RIGHT: Jay-z on the cover of Rolling Stone





TOP: Tu-
pac Shafur
(2Pac)



MIDDLE:
Curtis Jack-
son (50
Cent)

BOTTOM:
Kanye West



LUPE

By: Jackson Reeves-Henning

Is Lupe Fiasco just another rapper? I would not say so. Born a Muslim on the Westside of Chicago, he is diverse and unique in many ways.

Born into a Muslim family on February 17, 1982, Fiasco was the fifth out of his nine siblings. His father was an engineer and a drummer, and his mother was a gourmet chef. Lupe's birth name is Wasalu Muhammad Jaco, and he got the name Lupe Fiasco in high school. He first started rapping under "Lu," short for Wasalu, but then converted it to Lupe because he had a good friend named Lupe, and he thought adding those two letters wouldn't be too big of a stretch. The last name 'Fiasco' came from an album called, "Firm" with a song in the album called "Firm Fiasco." He liked how it

looked on paper and so he became Lupe Fiasco. Fiasco was very young when he got into rapping, but the "Gangsta rap" music and lyrics that were popular at that time intimidated him. He didn't like the Gangsta rap style as much, with its loud, violent, and rough lyrics. He decided to quit the rapping and hip-hop business, until he became re-inspired in 1996 by another famous rapper, "Nas." Nas' album, "It Was Written" amazed him, he liked it so much, and he became attracted to hip-hop once again. He formed a group called "Da Pak," but they soon broke up, and Lupe chose to go solo from there. He created many mixtapes and uploaded them online, and became a pretty famous internet artist.

Lupe Fiasco ended up catching the ears of one of the most monumental artists out there, Jay-Z. Jay-Z later offered Lupe a record deal with "Roc-A-Fella" records. Lupe had already started releasing singles and making money, so he turned down that offer and started his own record label, "1st and 15th Entertainment," which is a branch of Atlantic

Records. From there, he released his first album, "Food and Liquor" which became a major success, earning him four nominations at the 2007 Grammy Awards.

Fiasco formed another group called "Child Rebel Soldiers" in 2007. They created many mixtapes, including "The Cool" in 2007, which built his reputation even higher. He had released only one studio album, and at the end of 2007, and claimed he was ending his music career. He stated, "I'm just wearing down, I'm never doing mixtapes again, not even internet ones..." Despite this though, he said he would promote his next album "I'll do my three, and then I am going to keep moving to the next phase of life..." The



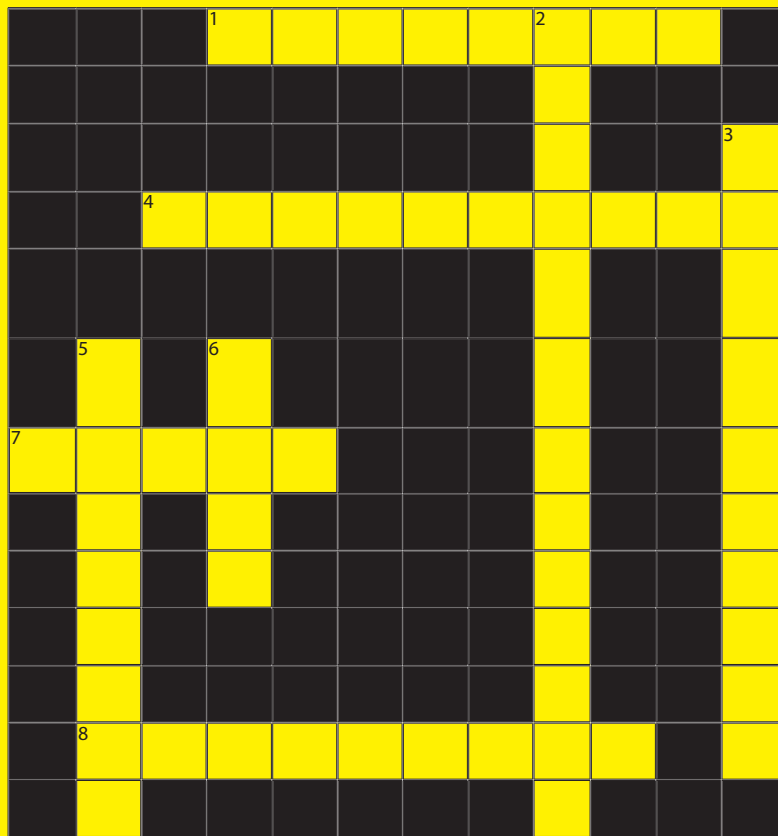
success of his song "Superstar," from his album "The Cool" had people hoping he would reverse his decision, but there was no such luck. He announced his retirement in 2008, and announced his other interest, literature. He also announced that he would be

making his third and final album, "LupEND," which has not come out yet. Outside of the music world, Lupe Fiasco is an entrepreneur, and has said that he is going to launch a Lupe branded jacket with a clothing designer, Dr. Romanelli. Lupe did not want to get stuck in modernization with the jacket so he decided to inspire the jacket from the World War I and World War II era, with a chain stitching style that got wiped out in the 1960s with the invention of computerized stitching.

Lupe Fiasco has had an exciting and fulfilling twenty-eight years of his life so far, and will do a lot more in the future to come, whether it's with music or not.

Hip-Hop crossword

by: Jackson Reeves-Henning



ACROSS

DOWN

1. B.o.B (2 words)

2. Eminem's latest album (2 words)

4. Wasalu Muhammed Jaco, also known as... (2 words)

3. Lil Wayne

7. "Fight the _____"

5. Early famous rapper (2 words)

8. Jay-z's record label (3 words)

6. 50 _____