

Hip Hop Artifacts Go on Display in Cleveland

Written by Robert ID4435
Monday, 14 July 2008 11:17 -

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum, a nonprofit organization in Cleveland, Ohio is displaying hip hop artifacts from the beginning era of the wide spread and widely accepted hip hop culture.

Not since the early days of rock and roll has an African-American-driven cultural phenomenon taken such a strong hold of mainstream American society as hip hop. In its more than 30-year existence, hip hop has transformed itself at least as much as it has transformed the culture at large.

Whether hip hop primarily reflects the culture from which some of it arises – the violence, despair, the sexism – or gives vent to the frustrations of that culture, remains a question. What is clear is that its main concerns, from simple human relationships to the burning social questions of the day, echo those of early rock and roll. HIP HOP JUST PUMPED UP THE VOLUME!

Some of the Hip hop artifacts viewable now at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum in Cleveland include:

Assorted Hip hop Flyers c.1977 – 1985

Includes flyers from Saul Abbatiello, Afrika Bambaataa, Phase Too, Grandmaster Flash, Lovebug Starski and DJ Kool Herc.

Slick Rick

Hat & Eye Patch c.1985

Slick Rick's eye patch was not an affectation, as he was blinded in the right eye by broken glass

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as an infant.

Run D.M.C.

Tennis Shoes & Sunglass Frames c.1985

Grandmaster Flash

Mixer & Cap c.1988

****Flashformer Mixer by Gemini****

Cap by Kangol

Ice-T

Body Count T-Shirt c.1998

Release of Contract from Sire Records, November 12, 1992

After much public pressure, Sire Records asked Ice-T to pull the track "Cop Killer" from his 1992 Body Count album, claiming the track advocated violence against police. Ice-T refused, feeling the request compromised his artistic integrity. This letter released the artist from his recording contract.

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“Radio Suckers” lyric manuscript 1988

Rolling Stone magazine August 20, 1992

Concert Poster August 28, 1991 (Emunclaw, Washington)

N.W.A.

Letter from the F.B.I. to Priority Records August 1, 1989

Baseball Cap c.1990

2 Live Crew

“Banned In The U.S.A.” 45 rpm single, vinyl 1990

Public Enemy

Original Artwork c.1989

Tour Program Sketches c.1989

From It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back album

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Spin Magazine October 1992

****Flavor Flav of Public Enemy Clock c.1988****

“Fight the Power” lyric manuscript

L.L. Cool J

Leather Jacket 1995

Design by Vanson Leathers

Pepa of Salt-n-Pepa

Jacket 1988

Design by Mary’s Fashion

Snoop Dogg

The Source Magazine April 1998

T-Shirt and Sneakers c.2000

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“Money” lyric manuscript c.1998

This lyric segment is from an unreleased rap by Snoop Dogg

Jay-Z

Hockey Jersey and Sneakers c.1999

Notorious B.I.G.

Leather Jersey c.1995

45 rpm Records c.1995

These singles were from Biggie Smalls’ personal collection. He used these and many other records as backing tracks and samples for his early live performances and recordings.

Andre 3000

Sweater and Sneakers 2003

Mike D.

Gloves and Goggles 1999

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Wyclef Jean

Harmonicas c.1996

Lauryn Hill

Leather Jacket by levi stauss 1998

Queen Latifah

****Stage outfit 1989****

Queen Latifah photo c.1989

House of Pain

Ring and Pin c.1992

De La Soul

Necklace 1989

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Prince Paul

Notebook 1988

As the producer for De La Soul, Prince Paul wrote production notes in this notebook during the recording of their debut album, 3 Feet High and Rising.

“Rapture” lyric manuscript

Written by Debbie Harry & Chris Stein

Performed by Blondie

Released on the album Autoamerican 1981

“Rapture” was released in January 1981. It became one of the first substantial hits to reference hip hop, and it was the first rap-influenced single to reach Number One on the Billboard chart. The lyric references Fab 5 Freddy. The “Rapture” video, in which Freddy has a brief cameo, was the first hip hop video to be shown on MTV.