

How the East Coast Rocks: A History of Hip Hop in Halifax: 1985 - 1998



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 [MA Thesis \(6.419Mb\)](#)

Date

2012-11-20

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Metadata

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Abstract

Between 1985 and 1997 a hip hop culture emerged in Halifax, Nova Scotia through rap music artists' live performances at various venues, and by releasing original music on commercial and non-commercial cassette tapes and compact discs. This thesis examines the evolution of this grassroots musical culture through the lenses of Halifax's geography, innovative musical and technological trends, ever-present racial politics, and a strong "do-it-yourself" ethic. This thesis argues that hip hop in Halifax during these years can be divided into two eras distinguished by dynamic racial and stylistic changes. While the 1980s saw a predominantly Black hip hop community take root around Uniacke Square and Gottingen Street, the 1990s saw a geographic and demographic shift as the rap music scene expanded and competed with the mainstream music scene of the city. In doing so, the integrated downtown hip hop community produced a significant amount of work, overcoming institutional opposition

URI

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The History of Hip-Hop: 1925 to Now. Share. PINTEREST. Hip-hop discovers that touring is a great way to generate income, as the Fresh Fest concert featuring Whodini, Kurtis Blow, Fat Boys, and Run DMC, reels in \$3.5 million for 27 dates. Battle rap assumes the spotlight in hip-hop, as UTFO's "Roxanne Roxanne" diss song attracts over 100 responses. The most popular response came from a 14-year old female named Roxanne Shante. Shante's "Roxanne's Revenge" allegedly recorded in Marley Marl's living room sold more than 250,000 copies. 1985. Sugar Hill Records goes into bankruptcy and is forced out of business. Salt-N-Pepa make their first appearance on Super Nature's "The Show Stopper." 1986. May 19: It's Dark and Hell Is Hot (DMX album). December 22: Flesh of My Flesh, Blood of My Blood (DMX album). December 21: ...And Then There Was X (DMX album). October 23: The Great Depression (DMX album). September 16: Grand Champ (DMX album). July 31: Year of the Dog Again (DMX album). January 23: Muscles (album). List of Mixtapes. List of EP albums. List of Soundtracks. List of Compilation albums. List of Live albums. List of Posthumous albums. List of East Coast hip-hop albums. Hip-hop re-invigorated Halifax's north end and connected the marginalized Black community here to marginalized Black communities everywhere. Ciphers went from

alleys to bars, and featured acts like Down by Law, The Care Crew, New Beginning, Leather Cap Posse, emerging producer Joseph "Jorun" Serra and a break-dancing collective. Gottingen Street turned into a hip-hop hub. DJ Afrika Bambaata came by in 1985, shocking peeps with scratches. Production at this time was simple; rhymes and themes were Halifax-centric with local beefs and views. Down by Law, "Modr'n World Thang" (... Trailer Park Boys originated from a real love of hip-hop: it's an art that offered cultural richness in the absence of material prosperity. Hip hop (or hip-hop, the two can be used interchangeably) began as a culture and art movement in the Bronx, where demographics were rapidly shifting in the early 1970s. During the 1950s and 60s, many white, middle-class people left the cities to move to the suburbs. The East Coast - West Coast divide evolved into a full-on rivalry between the two groups, which ended with the unsolved murders of Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G. From the ashes of the rivalry between the East and West Coasts came late 1990s hip hop, which saw artists like the Wu-Tang Clan, the Fugees, and Diddy reach new levels of popularity. Hip hop became a worldwide phenomenon at this point, too, with new audiences and artists emerging in places like Tokyo, Cape Town, London, and Paris. The Rub Hip Hop History 2016. Legendary Queens rapper-turned show host N.O.R.E. teams up with Miami hip-hop pioneer DJ EFN for a night of boozy conversation and boisterous storytelling. The hosts and guests engage together in fun, light-hearted conversation - looking back at their paths to success, highlighting their lives, friendships, and iconic moments within their career. In this unfiltered series, drinks are flowing and jokes are rolling - take a seat at the table with N.O.R.E & EFN. You Gotta Relax! To see how we u G. Gareth Emery: Electric For Life.