



Encyclopedia of Rap and Hip Hop Culture

By Yvonne Bynoe

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Hip Hop music is comprised of several art forms: 1) MC-ing or rapping 2)B-boying or breakdancing 3)Deejaying (music) and 4) Graffiti art (visual art). This encyclopedia examines all four elements of Hip Hop Culture, providing students, scholars, and music fans with a complete history of the thirty-year music genre. Tracing its early roots from black DJs talking over music in the 1960s, the B-boy dancers in the 1970s, and the scratching and sampling techniques of the '80s to the founding of Def Jam productions, the current East Cost-West Coast rivalry, and superstars such as Eminem and 50 Cent, hip hop fans will find this an indispensable resource.

This encyclopedia includes approximately 100 photographs, discographies after each entry, and a for further listening list at the end of the volume. Also included is the Hip Hop Declaration of Peace.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Adult/High School—A comprehensive resource covering the artists as well as various topics relevant to the culture. The insightful historical introduction will help readers understand the separate elements embraced by rap and hip-hop: the verbal (MCing), and the musical (DJing), break dancing, and aerosol painting. The alphabetical entries cover all these elements and include most of the well-known rap artists and groups, along with some less-familiar names. The articles also acknowledge some of rap's detractors. Average-quality, black-and-white photos are scattered throughout. The author's cross-references are especially helpful and the index will lead readers to information about individual artists beyond their main entry. The appendixes contain a selected discography and statements regarding the appreciation and preservation of hip-hop culture, including the Hip Hop Declaration of Peace. This title will be of interest to browsers and report writers.—*Tim Wadham, Maricopa County Library District, Phoenix, AZ*

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From Booklist

According to author Bynoe, "Hip Hop is a cultural expression that encompasses music, narrative poetry, dance, and art as reflected by its original four elements." Those elements are DJing, MCing (rapping), B-boying (break dancing), and graffiti or aerosol art. Bynoe represents each of these elements in this encyclopedia.

Entries, ranging from *A+* to *Zulu Nation*, include biographical or descriptive information, popular songs or albums, apparel and other marketing ventures of artists, and, in several cases, highlights of artists' criminal offenses. Entries are alphabetical, either by the artist's real last name, or stage name, if the latter is more prevalent. Real names appear in brackets next to stage names but are not cross-referenced or listed in the index. Music-related entries also include a discography with known original recordings or a selection of the artist's complete works.

A list of entries, a preface, an introduction, two appendixes, a bibliography, and an index are included. The introduction offers a historical and cultural look at hip-hop. Appendixes provide a selected rap discography, including recordings of hip-hop and rap classics, and "Statements to Preserve and Appreciate Hip Hop Culture," aka "The Hip Hop Declaration of Peace" unveiled at the UN on May 16, 2002. A selected bibliography includes a sampling of the more credible books, articles, and Web sites on hip-hop.

The indexing and cross-referencing are incomplete. For example, the *U.T.F.O.* is made up of four group members: Doctor Ice, the Kangol Kid, the Educated Rapper, and Mix-Master Ice. None of the group members are listed in the index, nor is there a cross-reference in the index from UnTouchable Force Organization to *U.T.F.O.* Uninformed hip-hop researchers may have difficulty navigating with the inconsistent indexing and cross-references.

Even with its indexing problems, the encyclopedia is a great addition to music and cultural reference collections. *The All Music Guide to Hip-Hop* (Backbeat Books, 2003) includes 20 essays on rap and hip-hop topics but nothing as thorough as this encyclopedia. It is by no means a complete look at a huge and diverse topic, particularly the international scene, but will complement reference collections. *Sue Polanka*

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Review

"Hip-hop is a genre of music and cultural expression long on popularity but short on authoritative reference resources. Hip-hop cultural expert Bynoe's (Stand & Deliver: Political Activism, Leadership, and Hip Hop Culture) encyclopedia should help fill that void by providing a commanding single-volume guide that will be of value to those unfamiliar with hip-hop culture or those who like the culture or music but are unfamiliar with its origins and development. The work examines the four manifestations of hip-hop culture-DJ, MC, B-boy, and graffiti artist-and the 30-year history of the music genre. The more than 500 mostly biographical entries each range in length from a couple of sentences for lesser artists or concepts to several pages for prominent figures like Dr. Dre and Public Enemy. The artists covered run the gamut from true old-schoolers, e.g., Kurtis Blow, to relative newbies, e.g., Lil' Romeo....Bynoe's writing is clear and concise, and her knowledge of the topic is obvious. Her work would make a good addition to public and academic library collections, especially given the current popularity of hip-hop culture and music." - **Library Journal**

"This is a well-written, informative encyclopedia that would sit well on any bookshelf and will appeal to readers of all ages." - **Reference Reviews**

"[B]ynoe chronicles the history and influence of hip-hop via approximately 450 entries, mostly biographical, with a good representation of both East Coast and West Coast personalities....Bynoe's guide is an essential acquisition for all music collections....Recommended for all public and academic libraries." - **MultiCultural Review**

"Bynoe provides a solid overview of the rap and hip hop genre....[t]his work will be a useful resource for students of music and culture at the outset of research. Recommended for undergraduate and public libraries." - **College & Research Libraries**

"Hip Hop culture encompasses more than just rap music, having been founded on the original four elements of DJing (turntablism), MCing (rapping), B-Boying (dancing), and Aerosol Art (graffiti). Although this encyclopedia recognizes this fact in its choice of material, the bulk of the figures and terms discussed in the entries remain related to rap. Although the size of the encyclopedia limits the comprehensiveness of the treatment, a careful effort has obviously been put into making the entries representative of the genre across the scope of its time period. The author includes commercially successful artists alongside lesser-known but more artistically influential creators." - **Reference & Research Book News/Art Book News Annual**

"[A] great addition to music and cultural reference collections. The *All Music Guide to Hip-Hop* includes 20 essays on rap and hip-hop topics but nothing as thorough as this encyclopedia." - **Booklist/Reference Books Bulletin**

"A comprehensive resource covering the artists as well as various topics relevant to the culture. The insightful historical introduction will help readers understand the separate elements embraced by rap and hip-hop: the verbal (MCing), and the musical (DJing), break dancing, and aerosol painting. The alphabetical entries cover all these elements and include most of the well-known rap artists and groups, along with some less-familiar names....The author's cross-references are especially helpful and the index will lead readers to information about individual artists beyond their main entry. The appendixes contain a selected discography and statements regarding the appreciation and preservation of hip-hop culture, including the Hip Hop Declaration of Peace. This title will be of interest to browsers and report writers." - **School Library Journal**

"This is the first comprehensive collection in the genre's 30-year-plus history to contain factual information compiled under one cover. Entries chronicle hip-hop's four manifestations (DJ, MC, B-boy, graffiti artist) and illustrate the differences between rap and hip-hop culture....[p]hotographs, artist biographies and a selected rap discography provide a thorough cross-section of hip-hop history." - **Chart**

"Yvonne Bynoe's *Encyclopedia of Rap and Hip Hop Culture* blends music history with an overall survey of hip hop culture, considering over thirty years of a genre which began back in the 1960s with black DJs talking over music and today has spread around the world. Over a hundred photos pepper references which cover music groups, genres, attitude, style, ethics and more." - **The Midwest Book Review - California Bookwatch**

"This volume provides students, scholars, and music fans with a complete history of the 30-year musical genre. Concise yet comprehensive, the entries range from profiles on legendary performers to topics such as sampling, censorship and tagging." - **MetroLA**

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michelle Beltran:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive currently, people have to do something to make these people survive, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a publication your ability to survive enhance then having chance to remain than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a book, we give you this kind of Encyclopedia of Rap and Hip Hop Culture book as beginning and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

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