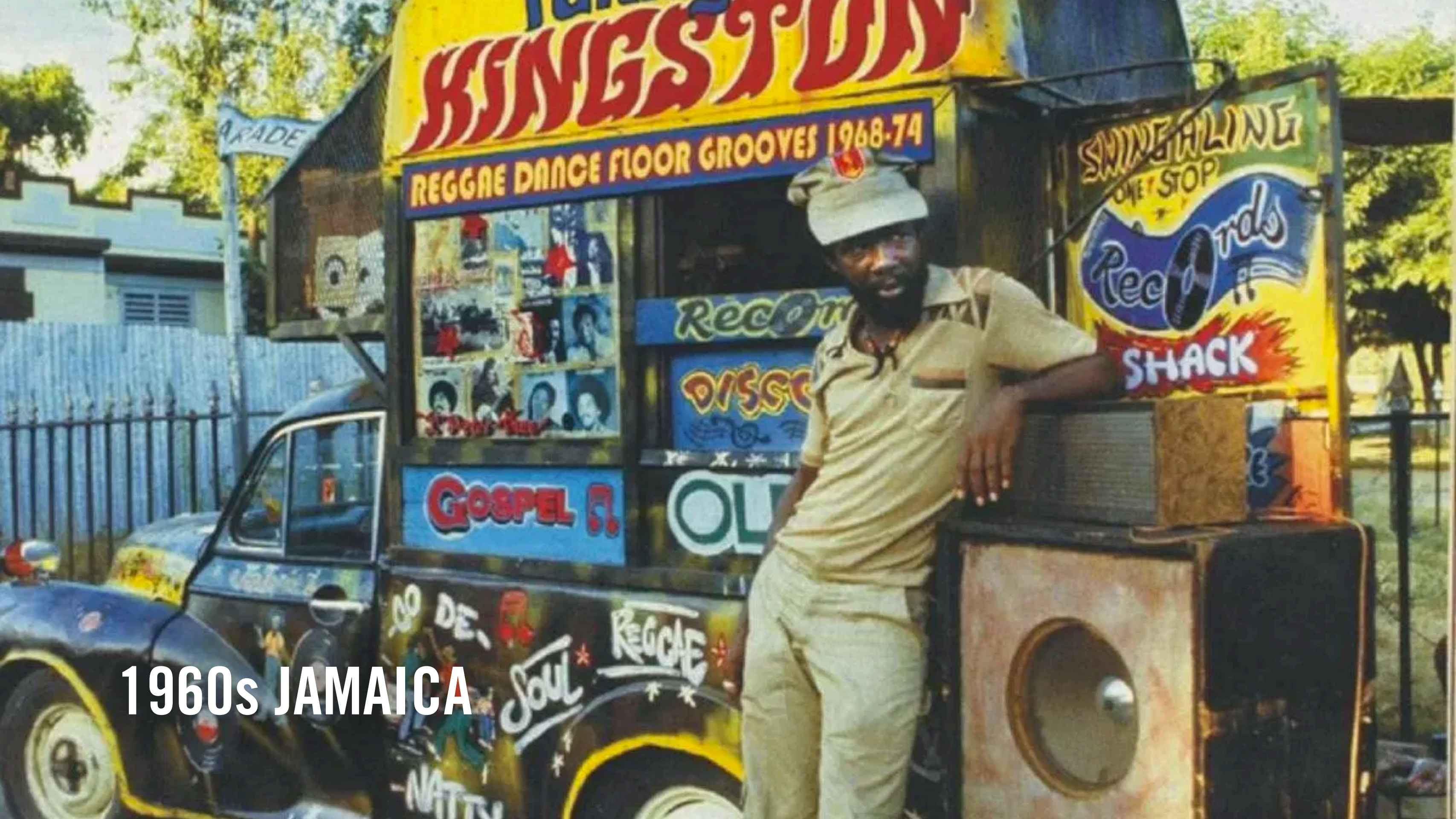




**DUB & HIPHOP**





1960s JAMAICA



# REGGAE PRECURSORS

American radio:  
Doo-wop, R&B, Motown

Jamaican innovations:  
Ska (early 60s) & Rocksteady (late 60s)

Studio One & Bunny Lee (Producer)







# ROOTS REGGAE

Mid 70s vocal groups

Embrace Zion and reject Babylon

Ska + Soul + Rastafari

The Abyssinians

Black Uhuru

Burning Spear

The Congos

Israel Vibration

Mighty Diamond

The Wailers (Bob Marley)

Wailing Souls



Listen: The Congos, "Fisherman"



# DUB

Dub producers took previously recorded reggae tracks and stripped them down, often removing most of the vocals in remixing or "dubbing" the original.

Producers:

Coxsone Dodd, Leslie Kong, Duke Reid, Joe Gibbs,  
Lee "Scratch" Perry, King Tubby

Backing bands:

Sly & Robbie, Roots Radics, Upsetters





# SOUND SYSTEMS

a sound system is a roaming party, a group of DJs,  
an incredibly powerful custom-built speaker  
system, a studio, and a record label

Studio + label + speaker system

Fierce competition





# DUBPLATES

Selector plays records and the deejay “toasts”

Deejay needs instrumentals to talk over

Initially a vocal-less mix on the B-sides of records

Emergence of one-off “dubplates” of current songs

Acetate cuts, limited to a few plays

High demand







# KING TUBBY

Listen: Augustus Pablo, "King Tubby Meets Rockers Uptown"

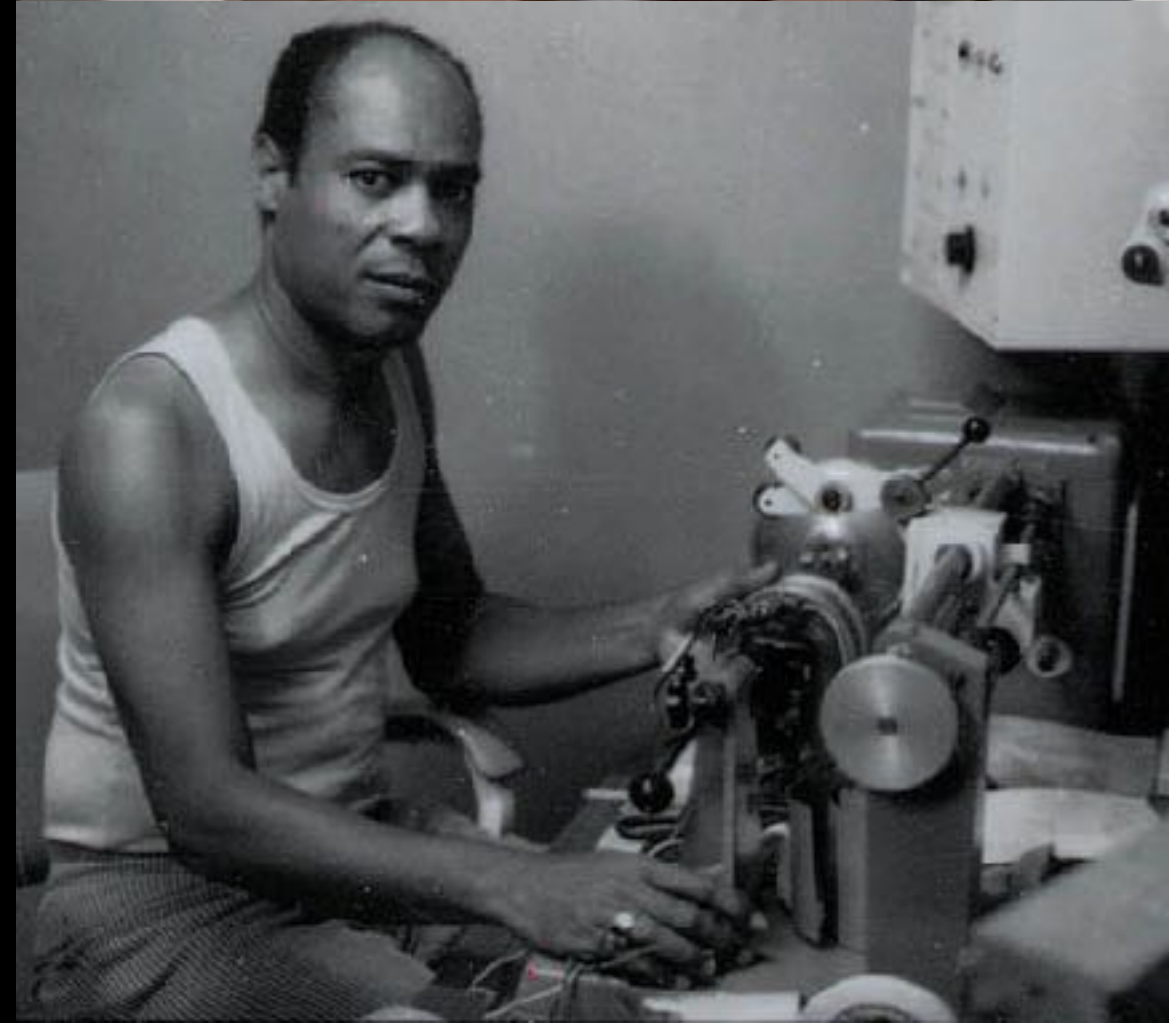


# MIXER AS INSTRUMENT

Music Center Incorporated (US) 12-track mixer with 4 aux channels for effects send + unknown custom modifications

Originally installed in Dynamics studio in Miami, but made its way to Jamaica in the 60s.

Presto acetate lathe-cutter would cut acetate records in real-time.











Inputs / Outputs

Sends

EQ

Volume / Pan



# EFFECTS

Reverb, Delay, Phasing

Fischer Space Expander (reverb)  
1960s (top right)



Mu-Tron phaser, 1973 (bottom-right)  
(later famously used on Smashing  
Pumpkin's *Siamese Dream* in 1993)





# EFFECTS

Roland Space Echo  
Tape speed + feedback adjustments

Still in widespread use

Dub is “the ghost in me coming out”  
– Lee Perry







Listen: Israel Vibration, "Prophet Has Arise" and Dub





Listen: Israel Vibration, "Prophet Has Arise" and Dub



# INFLUENCE

Styles across the world

Dancehall / Ragga

Post Punk

Trip Hop

Illbient

Hardcore Punk

Drum and Bass

Electronica

Ambient

Hip-Hop

Dubstep

Pop





# DANCEHALL

From the “Sleng Teng” riddim, with toasting

A preset beat on the Casio MT-40

Developed by King Jammy and Wayne Smith

Mid 80s











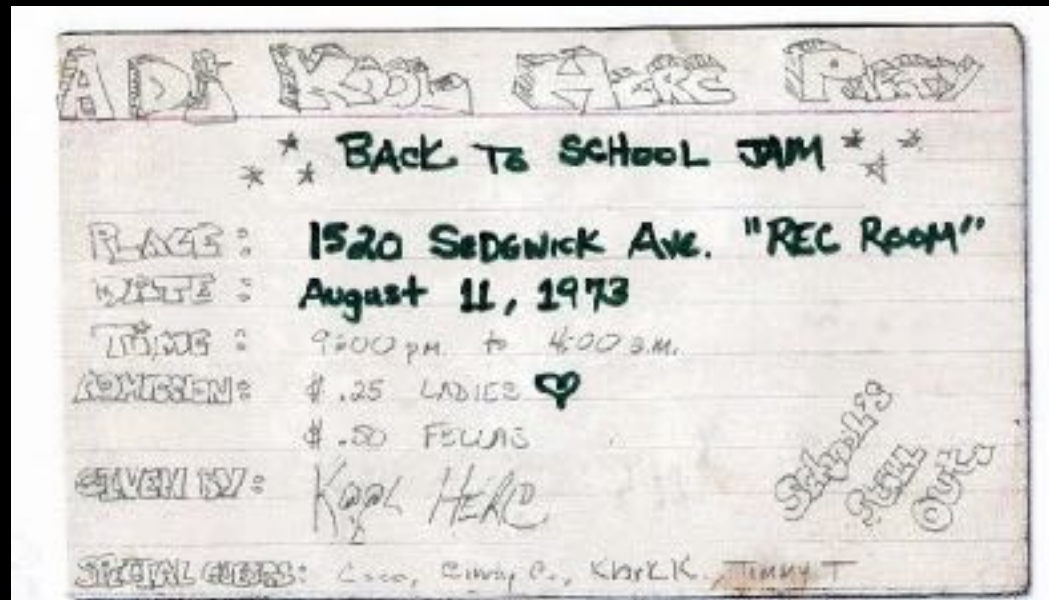
**“Bam Bam”** has become one of the  
**most sampled** reggae records ever.



# KOOL HERC

Clive Campbell immigrated from Kingston, Jamaica in 1967 at age 12 to the South Bronx in NYC

Started throwing Kingston-style parties, playing hard funk and soul – eventually had his own soundsystem, Herculords





# The Break

Kool Herc used a disco setup with two turntables and a simple mixer.

What is a break beat?





# SOUTH BRONX

## 1970s/80s

Cut off from the rest of the city by Robert Moses' development of the Cross Bronx Expressway in 1963, depressing an already impoverished area

White flight and landlord abandonment: arson to collect insurance money, "Bronx is burning" (over 40%)

Clashes between black and latino street gangs with a largely white police force



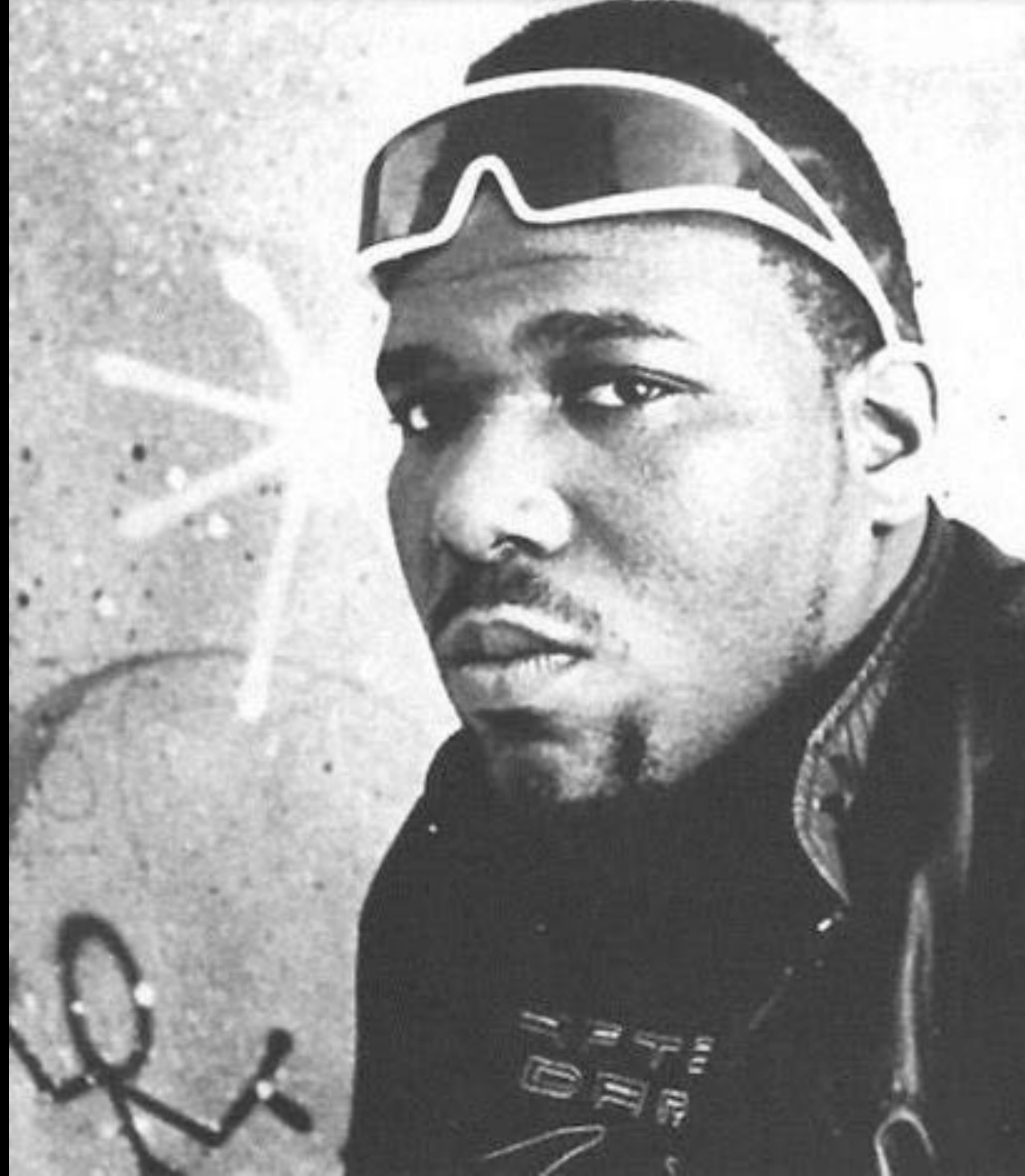


# AFRIKA BAMBAATAA

A former gang leader in the Black Spades became a community leader and DJ, founding Zulu Nation to provide 'peace, love, unity' within the emerging hip hop community in NYC and beyond.

Outlined the four elements of hip-hop:

- DJing
- MCing
- Breakdancing
- Graffiti









# GRANDMASTER FLASH

Expanded on Herc and Theodore's techniques to elevate the turntables to a virtuosic instrument

Listen: "The Adventures of Grandmaster Flash on the Wheels of Steel" 1981

DJ mixer





# PLANET ROCK

Afrika Bambaataa and Soulsonic Force,  
1982

Influenced by Kraftwerk, Y.M.O., Gary Numan, George Clinton, “Electro” style blends synthesizer and vocoder sounds with breakbeats, expanded the palette and ambition hip-hop production

Listen: Afrika Bambaataa & Soulsonic Force,  
“Planet Rock”





20/2

12/11/2023





# PLANET ROCK

Recorded in a Manhattan studio





# UNIVERSAL ZULU NATION

After a transformative trip to Africa, Bambaataa created the Universal Zulu Nation in mid-70s, a group that promoted hip-hop culture as a means of promoting social justice. Associated with early innovators in hip-hop

DJ Red Alert  
KRS-ONE  
Public Enemy  
Jungle Brothers  
A Tribe Called Quest  
Queen Latifah  
De La Soul  
Monie Love





# Public Enemy

Listen: "Fight the Power"  
(1989)

Theme of Spike Lee's *Do  
the Right Thing*

Bomb Squad production  
– multi-tracking DJ mixes





# QUEEN LATIFAH

Listen: “Ladies First”,  
1989

Activist, Native Tongues  
and Zulu Nation  
collectives

Later successful as an  
actor and TV  
personality





1982

UX-S



90  
TYPE II (CrO<sub>2</sub>)



A





# CASSETTE DECK

Introduced in the 60s in Germany by Philips, popularized in the US in the late 70s by Sony

DJs would record their performances to tape and sell dubs

Boombox, enabled breakdancing

The mixtape – MCs showcasing their skills on breakbeat tapes and distributing to radio DJs





# Erik B and Rakim

Listen: "Paid in Full", 1987

Aspirational themes

Remixed by Coldcut (also '87) – international crossover success in the dance clubs









# RUN DMC

“New school” – drum machine oriented, more rock and less soul and funk influence

First hip-hop group to have a gold record

Listen: “Walk this Way”, 1986

Instead of sampling Aerosmith, they got Aerosmith









# DIGITAL SAMPLERS

E-mu SP-1200, 1987

Akai MPC-60, 1988

Fine-grained control over samples:  
pitch-shift, looping, and pad-based  
triggering

Can 'slice' samples, important for the  
emergence of electronic dance styles





# SAMPLING

"Funky Drummer" by James Brown

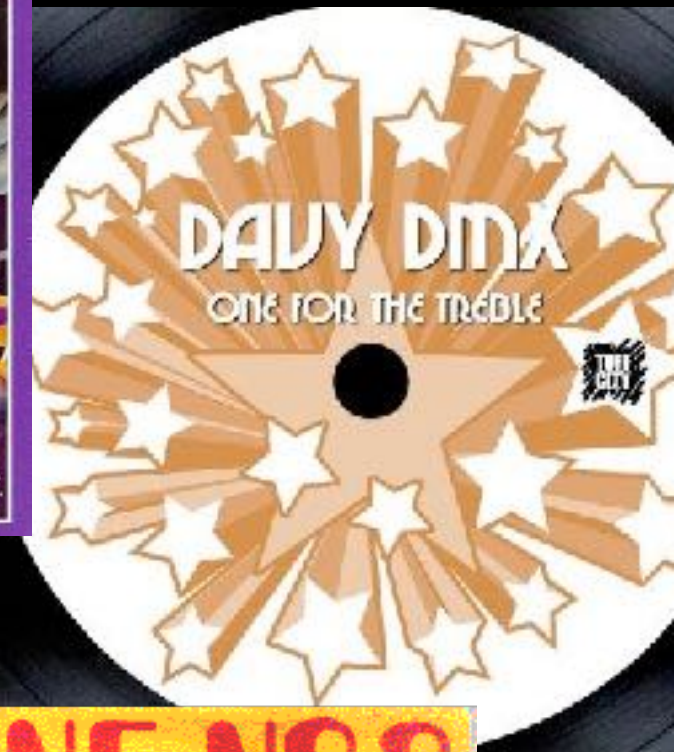
"You'll Like It Too" by Funkadelic

"West Coast Poplock" by Ronnie Hudson and the Street People

"Get Me Back on Time, Engine No. 9" by Wilson Pickett

"Amen, Brother" by The Winans

"One for the Treble" by Davy DMX





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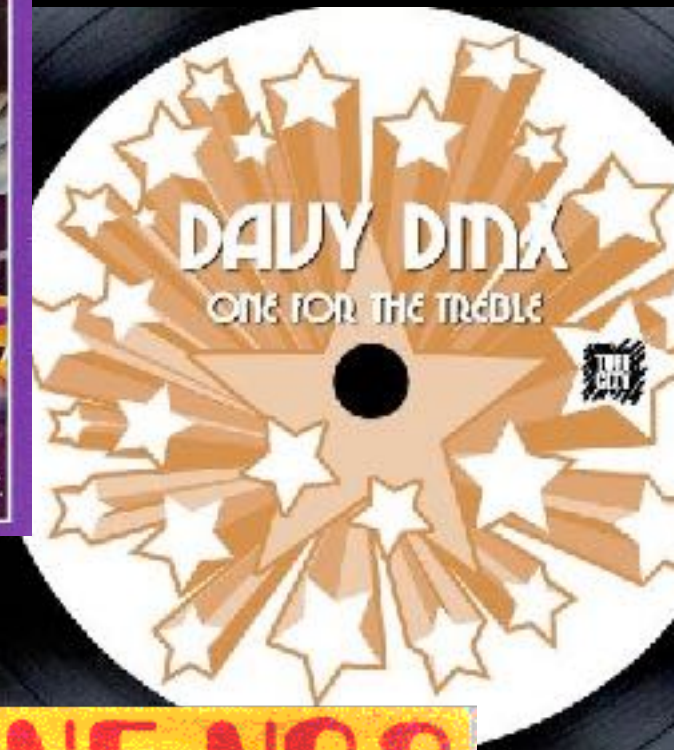
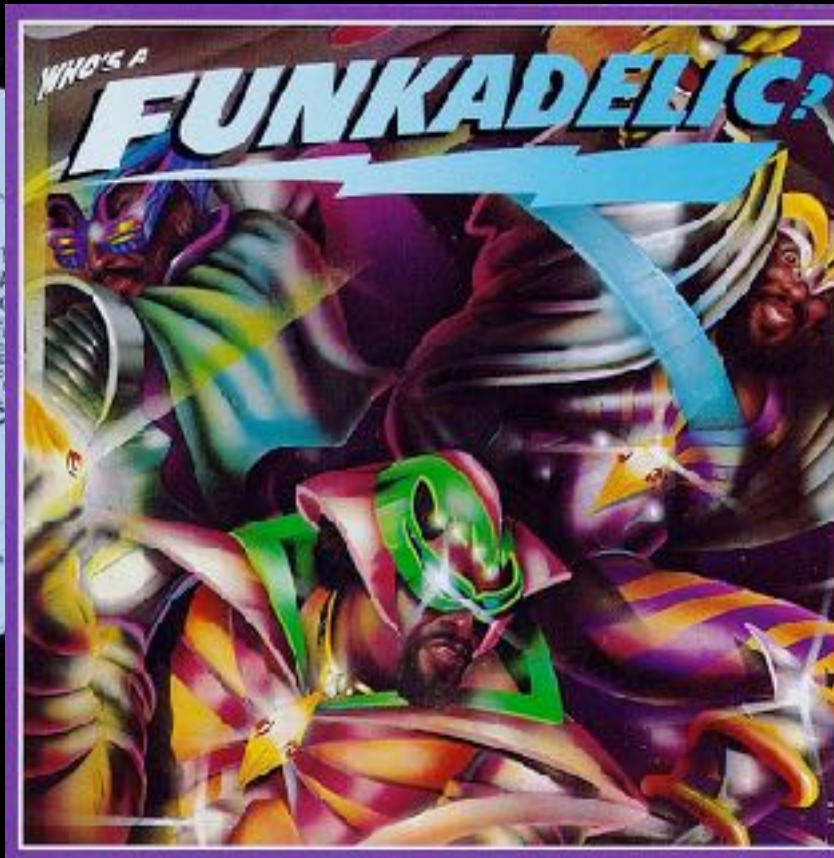
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# N.W.A.

Ice Cube, Dr. Dre, Eazy-E, MC Ren, and DJ Yella

*Straight Outta Compton* (1988), first hip-hop hit album with explicitly violent themes, was the introduction of gangsta rap, and shifted focus to the West Coast





# GANGSTA RAP & URBAN VIOLENCE, EARLY 90s

The mid 1980s saw a sharp increase in violent crime among urban youth and the rise of gangs, demographically-targeted law enforcement, and the incarceration of a disproportionate number of black men (war on drugs)

Lack of opportunity and the perceived failure of previous African-American social justice initiatives led to a desire to represent the “reality” of street life coupled with aspirations of mainstream success.

Hugely successful and has dominated hip-hop until recently.



# TUPAC SHAKUR

*Me Against the World, 1995*



# NOTORIOUS B.I.G.

*Ready to Die, 1994*





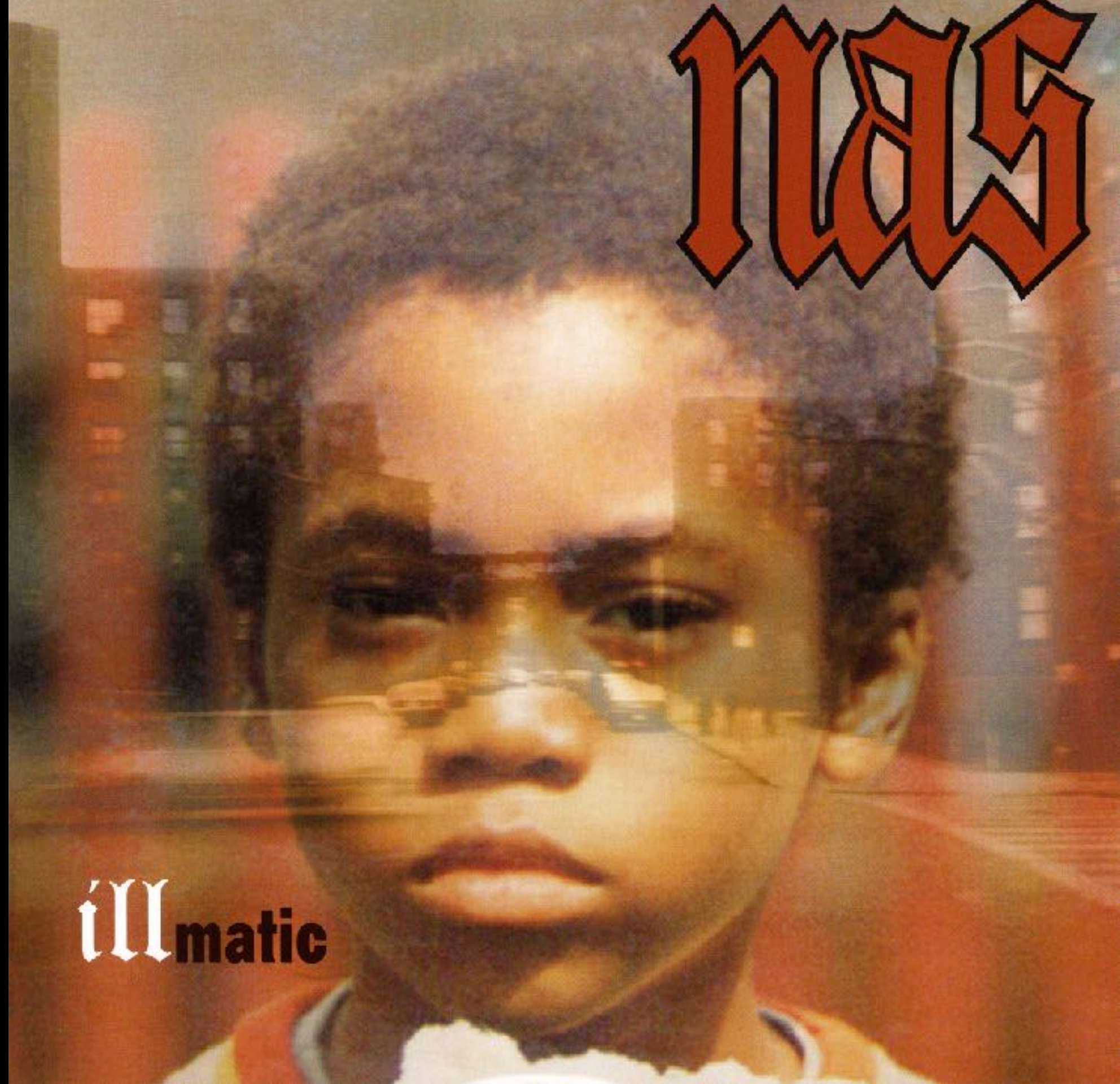
# ILLMATIC

Debut by Nas, 1994

Production by Q-tip and DJ Premier

One of the most widely celebrated  
albums in hip hop history

Listen: Nas, "Halftime"





AT

GLAD

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DOCKSMITH