Annotated Bibliography

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Hip hop, most specifically rap music, has existed essentially since the inception of the Sugarhill Gang. This guide in Volume 1 explains the very origins of the music so many people today are still captivated by. Beginning in New York, but quickly migrating to Los Angeles, hip hop music was used as a platform to speak out against injustice by underrepresented communities. It, in time, became an anthem for these communities to demand respect and equal treatment. This guide details how specific artists used hip hop politically and morally to advance their own agendas.


The second volume in the Hip Hop in America series, this work discusses the alternative creative hotbeds that have become noteworthy in the American hip hop industry. Cities on the east coast, such as Atlanta and Miami, have lead the way for places all over the country, including the Midwest and Southwest, to make a mark on the industry as well, each with their own unique twist.


A categorized list of Denzel Curry’s published works. The list includes release dates and statistical chart information.

A categorized list of Kodak Black’s published works. The list includes release dates and statistical chart information.


A categorized list of Rick Ross’ published works. The list includes release dates and statistical chart information.


A categorized list of XXXTentacion’s published works. The list includes release dates and statistical chart information.


Bein interviews Curry about his experiences coming of age in the diverse “hood” that is Carol City, Miami. In a casual affair, Curry describes real life in the neighborhood he’s from, describing restaurants, parks and why the area is conducive to curating powerful musical talent.
Retrieved 26 March, 2019, from revolt.tv/stories/2019/02/01/7-rick-ross-songs-070098bbf0.

This article highlights some of the career-defining songs Ross has released across his numerous albums.


Itemized timeline of notable events in XXXTentacion’s career and personal life with an emphasis on legal encounters and project releases.


Speaks as a justification in the lyrical subject matter of southern rappers with a focus on Kodak Black and his project, Lil B.I.G. Pac. Kodak in this puts together a collection of songs to highlight a struggle complimentary to the one Kendrick Lamar did on his Grammy-nominated album, To Pimp A Butterfly, stating it is important to recognize the struggles of modern African Americans is complicated and ever-evolving.


In this autobiographical work by the surviving member of 2 Live Crew, Luther Campbell talks his childhood in Liberty City. Growing up in a time strife with racial tensions and inequality, there were 2 goals for children to escape this future, bulk up and play football or wander into the rap/trap game. Through his dedication to the art, Luther Campbell began his record label and founded 2 Live Crew, Miami’s all-time most iconic hip hop group. Known for their oversexualization and vulgarities, 2 Live Crew caught the ear of the Miami youth and the ire of everyone else subjected to listening to their work. This book details how 2 Live Crew responded to public reception, demanded respect for their craft and found unlikely success in one of the strongest record labels in the south east.

Noted to have taken inspiration from the cinematic world of “Scarface” Miami, Ross blends his real, hard Miami with that of old. He has formed an identity and a body of work unlike any other in the industry, creating something so unique, it can only be Miami.


Ross’s fifth album, broken down into its thematic concepts and features, appealed to fans and listeners alike. Not changing, but evolving his persona, Rick Ross takes the opportunity to describe the same life he had on this previous works, while remaining fresh and entertaining.


Clarkson catalogues the buzz around Kodak Black and his Broward County counterparts from the internet where writers and fans have gathered to laud their efforts. The region has talent brooding for a while and Kodak and X opened the flood gates, making South Florida relevant to the music industry.


Erickson uses his platform to describe how Denzel crafts his music to express his current opinions on the current state of the industry without preaching. He partitions his newest project, TA13OO, into light, grey and dark themes; each chapter accentuates his versatility and delivery of complex concepts adding to the new musical flavor Curry is ushering into the new generation.

Kodak Black’s inaugural studio album was accompanied by a released documentary detailing the rapper’s youth and inspirations. The association between the two may as well be proof of Kodak’s claim that as he raps, he illustrates.


This is the story of how a young boy from the projects of Pompano Beach metamorphosed into the icon known as Kodak Black. Farzan focuses on how Kodak’s numerous run-ins with the law have shaped his past, his career and will shape his future. From car theft and home invasion to sexual assault, Kodak Black can’t seem to keep out of trouble and, in turn, toes the line between project hero and industry villain. Regardless of perception, his success is undeniable and his fans are optimistic about his future.


Findlay remarks how Denzel Curry with two of the singles off his latest album has shown the music industry how he can be successful while remaining genuine to himself. His music and his sound will not waver based on his recognition and popularity and that is exactly why he can become a voice of his hip-hop generation.


Fitzgerald follows Denzel Curry for a day to get to know the real man that he is with all of the important details of his character are often lost in between the fame. Denzel proves he is a genuine, funny, hardworking artist just trying to do the best for his home state of Florida.

This video remarks on the debate over the magnitude of XXXTentacion’s musical and social legacy.


Review by Fleming on Denzel’s early album depicts the complex nature in which he wrote his music from such an early point in his career. Experimenting between hard-hitting barrages of rhymes and honest, personal work, Curry begins piecing together the style that would propel him to stardom.


Through some of troubles fame brought Rick Ross, he was able to craft his “Mastermind” album to not only save his image, but enhance it. The features he secured for the album were curated to produce a visual, moving piece to secure his legacy as the boss of hip hop.


The article by Kennedy highlights the effect of the social media on the lives and careers of artists like XXXTentacion and how it enhances their ability to connect with their audiences lyrically and emotionally.

The Harvard Review of XXXTentacion’s album, “?”, remarks on the lack of cohesion through the project. The in-depth analysis of each of the songs looks into the songs and the subject matter of the whole work. The opinion states that there is more left to be desired.


Curry talks about how his experiences of diversity in Miami and personal loss have shaped his music and his message. He says he gives his music to those who need it, as he has been in their position before. He works to continue evolving his style and his music to best represent everything he wants to deliver.


Ross, during a brief, post-concert interview, remarks on his athletic career growing up in Carol City, Miami. The all-county recognition holds as a reminder of home for the international artist.


Rick Ross breaks down his inspirations and expectations for the first album he released to begin his career. Noting that he had targeted the urban street population from which he came, Ross reaffirms his current audience and still works to do them justice.

This interview discusses how Curry’s dark and meaningful themes have set him apart from his current rap class and have influenced his daily life. He discusses how the deaths of Trayvon Martin and XXXTentacion spoiled the shine on his home and internally disassociated him with Miami.


A chronological listing of the legal run-ins Rick Ross has experienced throughout his career; violence and drug-related charges and crimes are most prevalent as his music would suggest.


USA, Da Capo Press.

The rise of hip hop in the south is chronicled by Sarig through anecdotal sequences detailing the lives and works responsible for this southern movement and hip-hop revolution. Beginning in Miami, the style of Miami Bass is credited as the catalyst for not only Miami rap, but all southern rap. The efforts of Luther Campbell and Fresh Kid Ice set Miami apart from every other city also adapting hip hop music to their regional tastes. Looking beyond just Miami, this book follows the whole shift from the 2 “traditional” coasts, East and West. OutKast from Atlanta and Lil Wayne from New Orleans were effectively models for the music scenes in their cities.

Schube interviews Curry while he was living out in Los Angeles after the release of his 2018 album, asking him about how his life changed after his successes. He talks how he has taken inspiration from Gucci mane and works to bring recognition to his home city of Miami.


This article highlights the impact of XXXTentacion’s first project on the hip hop community.


The article discusses the link between the successful music Kodak has created and the tribulations he has experienced as a young man from the projects. The album is said to focus on Kodak Black’s psyche, an introspective work that tells the story from inside the man.

Weingarten makes the claim that XXXTentacion, in both music and story, has created a career which has shaken all aspects of the hip hop industry. His personal mix of controversy, personal music themes and a disdain for the status quo all allowed for him to succeed in the manner he did.


In the days before Dieuson Octave was known as Kodak Black, ‘J-Black: middle-school rap prodigy’ used harsh criticism and his driving ambition to create a body of work worthy of respect and relevance. The article singles out the songs of Kodak’s youth which pave the way for his recognition and success.