

Hip hop Through My Lens Podcast
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PremiereGT2

Hello, I am Yohan Bellee, today I'm gonna talk to you about Hip hop culture, about its origins and how it changed across the years.

Officially, Hip-hop was born on August 11, 1973, at a back-to-school party in the recreation room of 1520 Sedgwick Avenue in the Bronx, New York City. The movement was pioneered by Jamaican-American DJ Kool Herc (Clive Campbell), who innovated the "break beat" technique by isolating and extending the instrumental drum beats of funk records.

There are four main elements in hip hop culture, the pillars of what it was and what it became now: Turntablism or DJing: it consists of the musical foundation of the culture, involving manipulating records and audio on turntables to create beats, loops, and scratching. Rapping or MCing: it consists of the vocal element where an artist rhymes over beats, using rhythmic and lyrical storytelling. Breaking often B-boying/Breakdancing: it is the physical, acrobatic dance style developed to match the rhythm of the DJ's breaks. And finally Graffiti Art: The visual expression of the culture, involving stylized aerosol writing and murals on city walls and subway cars. Old-school hip-hop relies heavily on boom-bap beats, intricate lyricism, and storytelling. In contrast, modern hip-hop is characterized by heavily processed, 808-driven electronic production, melodic vocals, and rhythmic ad-libs. I think Rap is a vital medium for social expression because it elevates marginalized voices, bypassing traditional gatekeepers to offer unfiltered accounts of lived realities. It transforms storytelling into rhythmic advocacy, allowing artists to challenge systemic inequalities, document working-class history, and mobilize listeners for activism.

For me, hip-hop is a transformative, living culture that blends resilience, storytelling, and creativity. It is a life style based around the four pillars I quoted earlier. I first discovered this amazing culture and musical genre 2 or 3 years ago with names like Kendrick Lamar, Pete Rock, and The group A Tribe Called Quest and at the time, I already started liking it, but about last year it really became alongside jazz one of my two favourite genre.

This is the end of my presentation, I hope I managed to convey what I felt about all of this correctly and I hope you enjoyed my ranting about hip hop and I'll thank you for listening.