Straight Outta Compton

The oscar nominated film, *Straight Outta Compton,* was definitely one for the books. Centered around one of the most influential rap groups in the history of hip-hop, the film portrays N.W.A’s upbringing, history, and disbandment. During their five years of activity, Americans either joined the group’s fan base or despised their violent and ruthless lyricism.

Members Dr. Dre (Andre Young), DJ Yella (Antoine Carraby), MC Ren (Lorenzo Patterson), Ice Cube (O’shea Jackson Sr.), and Eazy-E (Eric Wright) come together and form their future Rock and Roll Hall of Fame rap group, N.W.A, in 1986. The group comes up during the racial tensions between LAPD and African Americans. The most notable event of this era is the beating of Rodney King. After being harassed by the police for the color of their skin, the group releases “F\*\*k tha Police”. The FBI advises them to stop performing the song because it encourages violence against law enforcement. They did not care about the warning, as they proceeded to perform the song anyways The group begins to fall apart after Ice Cube leaves due to not “receiving his fair share”, despite writing most of the lyrics for the album. Following his departure, the group starts to slowly fade.

The film grasps the essence of what it meant to be a “gangsta rapper”. The incredible acting portrayed by these men led me to believe they were THE actual rap group. O’Shea Jackson Jr., who portrayed Ice Cube, resembles his father’s characteristics in every way. Events portrayed in the film still occur today. Reports of police brutality or acts of racism still find their way onto news reports, but nobody does anything about it. The deaths of Trayvon Martin, Philando Castille, and Freddie Gray are examples of the racial profiling and police brutality we still see today. If you are into old school rap, “gangsta rap”, lyrical rap, or just rap in general, I strongly recommend you see this film. This movie is also a great representation of what it was like as an African American during the Rodney King era. This film deserves a 10 out of 10.

Very well done. Full XP + Sage Advice bonus awarded.