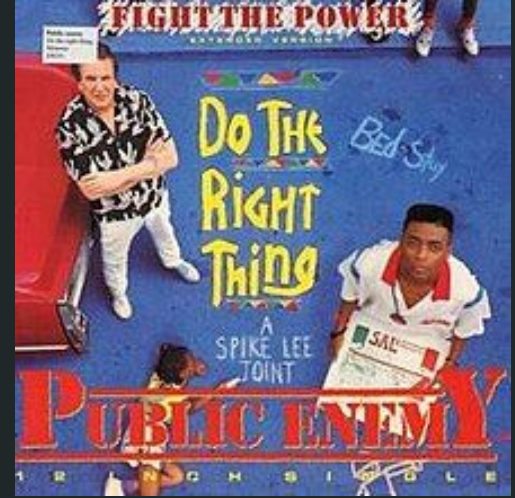


# “Public Enemy”

Hip Hop as an Agent for Social Change



PARENTAL  
ADVISORY  
EXPLICIT CONTENT

Members of HNR 2503, feat. JW Turner

# Public Enemy

Public Enemy in 1989



“Flavor of Love” in 2006-08



# Black Nationalism

As the rhythm's designed to bounce  
What counts is that the rhyme's  
Designed to fill your mind  
Now that you've realized the pride's arrived  
We got to pump the stuff to make ya tough

---

Cause I'm Black and I'm proud  
I'm ready and hyped plus I'm amped  
Most of my heroes don't appear on no stamps  
Sample a look back you look and find  
Nothing but rednecks for 400 years if you  
check

## **“Wake up Call”:**

- Don't buy in to institutional racism
- Push back ... “Fight the Power”

## **Be proud of who you are**

- Malcolm X: “Who taught you to hate?”
- 400 years: since the founding of Jamestown in 1607

# Tupac

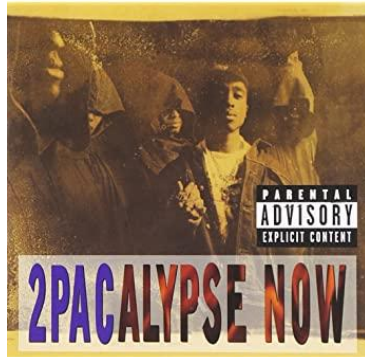
## Background

- Born in Harlem, NY
  - Baltimore School for the Arts
  - Marin City, California
- Afeni Shakur - Black Panthers
  - Father absent ages 5-23
  - Crack addiction
- Love for Hip-Hop and poetry obsession
- “The thing that bothers me is that it seems like a lot of the sensitive stuff I write just goes unnoticed”



# Tupac

## Music Career



- Rose to fame from his 1991 album *2Pacalypse Now*
  - Vice President Dan Quayle declared Tupac's music had no purpose
- Created his own label in 1993 called *Thug Life*
- *Me Against the World*, his third album, got him to stardom
- Tupac's album "All Eyez On Me" is his biggest and best selling album next to his "Greatest Hits" album released in 1998
- His final non-posthumous album *The 7 Day Theory* was recorded in August prior to his death in 1996, but released shortly after under the stage name Makaveli



# Tupac

## “Changes” -1998

First ship 'em dope and let 'em deal the brothers  
Give 'em guns step back watch 'em kill each other

And still I see no changes can't a brother get a little peace?  
It's war on the streets and the war in the Middle East  
Instead of war on poverty they got a war on drugs

- Both of these sections from changes present amazing examples of conscious issues that were affecting the US and black communities at the time.
- One of the main topics in the song is about how the US government was selling drugs to poor communities and how this was destroying them.
- Later in the song Tupac speaks about how these issues caused the black communities to change.



# Tupac

## “Only God Can Judge Me”

- Released in 1996 as a part of the *All Eyez on Me* album.
- The song is Tupac's way of conveying his pain concerning about how many black men turn to a life of crime.
- Tupac incorporates his love towards his home and those who helped him achieve success.
- According to Jordan Peterson's Rubric, I would score the song
- DRR : 9
- Space and Place : 10
- Artistic Persona : 7
- Lyrical Rhyme and Flow : 10
- Historical Knowledge and Respect : 8

# Tupac - “Only God Can Judge Me”

'Cause the streets got our babies, we gotta eat

No more hesitation each and every black male's trapped

And they wonder why we suicidal runnin' round strapped

There's a ghetto up in Heaven and it's ours, Black Power

Is what we scream as we dream in a paranoid state

And our fate, is a lifetime of hate

Tupac is addressing the social idea concerning that many black men turn to a life of crime and drugs, because they want too. Instead, he confronts said idea by explaining that many black men are forced to turn to such a lifestyle, in order to survive.

He further strengthens his claim by addressing that the lifestyle that surrounds black men is one of chaos and hatred. Again, addressing the fact that a life of crime can offer a sense of security and safety, if only temporary.



# Tupac - “All Eyez On Me”

It ain't right: parasites, triggers, and fleas crawlin'  
Sucker, duck and get busted, no emotion  
My devotion is handlin' my business, nigga, keep on coastin'  
Where you goin', I been there, came back as lonely, homie

“All Eyez On Me” is a good example of a gangsta song with a conscious side. In this line, Tupac is addressing the rather dismal conditions of his current location, likely referring to a ghetto or low income housing project. He further addresses that his lifestyle has left him cold and empty, both emotionally and mentally.

The feds is watchin', niggas plottin' to get me  
Will I survive? Will I die? Come on, let's picture the possibility  
Givin' me charges, lawyers makin' a grip  
I told the judge I was raised wrong and that's why I blaze shit

Here Tupac acknowledges the inherent risks of a gangsta lifestyle and accepts them. Further, he addresses that it was not his choice to take on this life, rather, his surroundings influenced him.

# Tupac

## “Brenda’s Got a Baby

I hear Brenda's got a baby But, Brenda's barely got a brain

A damn shame, the girl can hardly spell her name

(That's not our problem, that's up to Brenda's family)

Well let me show ya how it affects the whole community



- Tupac elaborates on how situational issues affect entire communities
- Begins with her father's drug addiction and ends with Brenda's death
- First hip hop artist to narrate the problems that young women were facing in impoverished areas

# Kendrick Lamar

- A modern protest against institutional racism
- West Coast icon
  - The one that escaped
- Compton, as Kendrick describes, is a mad city
  - Gang life, sex, drugs
- Institutional racism trickles down causing impoverished areas to stay impoverished
- “Alright” is the anthem for West Coast Black Lives Matter protests
  - Song speaks of his trials and tribulations growing up in Compton but how he still made it out and how everyone else can be “alright” as well
  - Christian themes



# Eminem

## Background:

- Born on October 17, 1972 in St. Joseph, Missouri as Marshall Bruce Mathers III
- He kept having to move around with his mother and ended up in Detroit, Michigan
- Met Kim Ann Scott (13) when he was 15 and began dating
- He dropped out of school at 17 and his mother kicked him out of the house
- 1995 - He and Kim had their daughter Hailie Jade Scott
- 1999 - a lawsuit from his mother for \$10 million over defamation claims



# Rap Background

- Eminem excelled in his English classes in school which assisted in his ability to create rhythms
- He began his rap career with his friend Mike Ruby a.k.a Proof
- Infinite was his first solo album, released in 1996
- 1999 - His *Slim Shady LP* went multi-platinum, earning him 2 Grammys and 4 MTV awards
- 2000 - *Marshall Mathers LP* which is noted as the fastest selling album in rap history
- 2002 - “Lose Yourself:” won Academy Award and his semi-autobiographical movie *8 Mile* was released
- 2010 - His album *Recovery* won a Grammy as well
- He won numerous other accolades in 2013, 2017, 2018 and his new music is still very popular

# Slim Shady

- ❑ Who is “Slim Shady?”
- ❑ Appearance
  - ❑ How he dressed
  - ❑ Race
- ❑ Wild Card
  - ❑ Humor, self-deprecation, controversial



# Real Slim Shady

- 1) Surface level of the song: Slim goes off in outrageous fashion on his critics, throwing in loads of pop culture/celebrity references along the way. It is meant to be a parody of stereotypical pop songs.
- 2) Deeper Meaning: Song criticizes mass media as being hypocritical, and everyone is entitled to think and say what they want regardless of what others say.
- 3) Lyrical examples:
  - a) "Sometimes I wanna get on TV and just let loose, But can't, but it's cool for Tom Green to hump a dead moose."
  - b) "I'm like a head trip to listen to, 'cause I'm only givin' you, Things you joke about with your friends inside your livin' room, The only difference is I got the balls to say it in front of y'all, And I don't gotta be false or sugarcoat it at all"
  - c) "Of course, they're gonna know what intercourse is, By the time they hit fourth grade, They've got the Discovery Channel, don't they?"
  - d) "And every single person is a Slim Shady lurking"



# Eminem

“Untouchable” in his Album *Revival*



Distinct Lines from the song:

“Hands up, officer don’t shoot  
Then pull your pants up, promise you won’t loot  
We may never understand each other, it’s no use  
We ain’t ever gonna grasp what each other goes through”

“White boy, white boy, you’re a rockstar...  
White boy, white boy, in your cop car...  
White boy, white boy, you’re untouchable”

“Sendin’ white cops in the black neighborhoods  
Who ain’t acclimated to ‘em, like that’s the way to do it  
Who seen some fuckin’ videos of rappers waving guns  
And know nobody black so they act afraid of us  
And that’s racism, the fear that a black face gives ‘em”

“And streets act as a narrator, don’t gotta read comics  
Or be that into characters, just to see that, just to be black  
You better be strapped with a derringer  
Or be “capped in America” like Steve Rogers”

# Present Eminem

- Becoming opposite of what he used to be
- More political
- Mainstream songs in new album
  - ex. Godzilla ft. Juice Wrld
- slim shady almost nonexistent



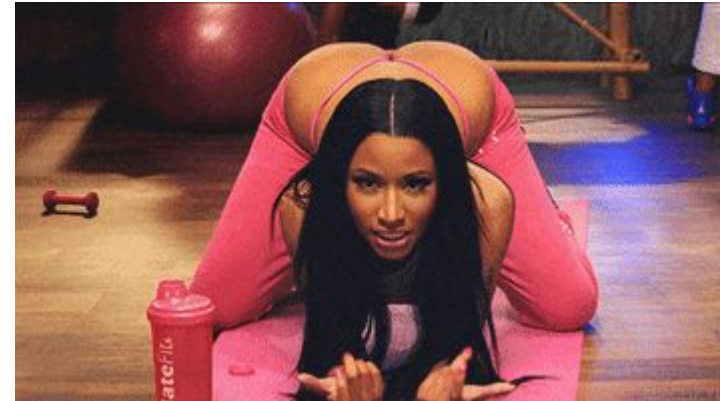
# Women in Hip-Hop

- Men's voices were dominant in protests and Hip-Hop
- Females are using their music to protest the industry
- Only one great female rapper at a time in the past
  - This past year Megan Thee Stallion, Lizzo, Cardi B, City girls, and many more all hit top charts
- More individuality than men
  - Leads to many types of female Hip-Hop
  - Two extremes
    - More feminine
    - More masculine
- 4th Wave Feminism
- Women's Hip-Hop is still criticized and they need to prove themselves, but men never had to



# “More Feminine”

- Nicki Minaj, Doja Cat, Cardi B, Flo Milli
  - Newer “If you’ve got it, flaunt it” philosophy
  - Simultaneously reject and embrace sexual stereotypes
    - Reject: challenge the “skinny white girl” beauty standard
    - Embrace: hypersexualize themselves in an empowering way
  - Most prominent in music videos and artistic persona
  - Challenges what is socially acceptable
    - “Anaconda” music video
    - “Barbie Dreams”



# “More Masculine”

- Young M.A., Missy Elliott, Queen Latifah, MC Lyte, Salt-N-Pepa, Lauryn Hill
  - Each of these artists represent female rappers who portrayed a more masculine persona in their language, clothes, and appearances.
  - Because Hip Hop was previously a male dominated industry, women had to conform to be successful.



# Noname

- Achieved success without making herself “loud”
  - Paved a new way for women in hip-hop rejecting the two normal routes to success
- Has allowed her skill and lyricism to shine despite being authentic, soft spoken, and poetic
- Makes music from her experience as a Black woman
  - Often focuses on conscious, political topics
- Has gone on musical hiatus following claims of possible early retirement
  - Cited frustrations with music industry, the artist-fan relationship, and playing for majority white crowds at concerts
  - Has shifted focus to activism and education



# “Song 33” by Noname

But n\*\*\*\* in the back quiet as a church  
mouse

Basement studio when duty calls to get the  
verse out

I guess the ego hurt now

It's time to go to work, wow, look at him go

He really 'bout to write about me when the  
world is in smokes?

When it's people in trees?

When George was beggin' for his mother,  
saying he couldn't breathe

You thought to write about me?

- Song responding to J. Cole's "Snow on tha Bluff"
  - Noname tweet following George Floyd's murder calling out rappers for not using their platform
  - J. Cole wrote a song discussing Noname's tweets and "tone"
- Noname further calls out Cole's decision to focus on her rather than what is actually important