

Hip Hop and Cowboys? By Simeon Russell

Every kid grows up playing Cowboy, throwing on a cowboy hat, a fake holster with fake guns and running around shooting up anything that moves, having a with duel with a tree, or the kid down the street if the tree wasn't available! Even as a kid growing up in the inner-city, we played cowboys and watched cowboys on T.V. I can remember watching old western cowboy/kung-fu flicks with my father. There was a series called "Kung Fu" starring David Carradine, it as one my favorite Saturday shows to watch with my father, after watching Saturday morning cartoons.

This show was surprisingly popular in the black community. Follow me now! As kids, we ran around playing cowboys; kung-fu flicks have been popular in the black community since the 60's-70's or since Bruce Lee became popular. So isn't it natural that the show "Kung Fu" featuring showdowns between kung fu masters and cowboys be a hit in the black community? Seems so to me.

Now let's take this a step further. The inner-city black community primarily gave birth to Hip Hop music. Kung-fu is littered throughout Hip Hop music, most notoriously with the Wu Tang Clan. I guess you can kind of sense that from the name of the group right. Well, doesn't it seem only right that cowboy culture mashes up with Hip Hop culture? Well, it has!

Check out the website www.hiphopcowboys.com , they promote live rodeo shows with a Hip Hop twist. Quoted from their website, it *"is a new venture geared towards building the bridge between the Hip Hop Industry and the everyday common life of a Traditional Cowboy! We give and are part of Community driven events geared towards Youth Growth and Advancement, Family Oriented and Charitable Events!"* The rodeos feature Hip Hop artists, the bull riders are primarily black and the audience is primarily black. You can view their events by logging onto <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheRealHipHopCowboys/>

It doesn't stop there, Cowboy Troy, a cowboy rapper, had a top 25 rap album "King of Clubs" in March of 2014. His highest ranked album, "Loco Motive" was ranked #2 on the U.S. Country charts and 13 on the rap charts in 2005.

Want more?

In 2004 popular rapper Nelly released a song with Tim McGraw entitled "Over and Over" which peaked at #3 on the billboard charts. Other country-rap collaborations include Jason Aldean and Ludacris, B.o.B and Taylor Swift, Brad Paisley and L.L. Cool J, Florida Georgia Line and Nelly and probably the most epic (at least in my book) collaboration includes two legendary artists, Willie Nelson and Snoop Dogg entitled "Superman"

Believe it or not, Country music and Hip Hop music reference many of the same themes, so it makes sense for fans to enjoy both. Admittedly, both fans probably enjoy the other within boundaries... Ha Ha!

I mean, even Country Western films and Hip Hop films deal with the same themes; outlaws, crime, shootouts; or is that just America? Huh...

Well, whatever it is, I'm sure it's only a matter of time before we see the Hip Hop Cowboy drama/action film epic! Oh wait! Django Unchained!