

= Doggystyle =

Doggystyle is the debut studio album by American West Coast hip hop artist , Snoop Doggy Dogg , released by Death Row Records and Interscope Records on November 23 , 1993 . The album was recorded soon following the release of Dr. Dre 's landmark debut album The Chronic (1992) , to which Snoop Dogg contributed significantly . The style he developed for Dre 's album was continued on Doggystyle . Critics have praised Snoop Dogg for the lyrical " realism " he delivers on the album and for his distinctive vocal flow .

Despite some mixed criticism of the album initially upon its release , Doggystyle has earned recognition from many music critics as one of the most significant albums of the 1990s , as well as one of the most important hip hop albums ever released . Much like The Chronic , the distinctive sounds of Doggystyle helped introduce the hip hop style of G @-@ funk to a mainstream audience , bringing forward West Coast hip hop as a dominant force in the early 1990s .

Doggystyle debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 chart , and sold 806 @,@ 858 copies in its first week alone , which was the record for a debuting artist and the fastest @-@ selling hip hop album ever until Eminem 's The Marshall Mathers LP in 2000 . Doggystyle is included in The Source magazine 's list of the 100 Best Rap Albums , as well as Rolling Stone magazine 's list of Essential Recordings of the 90s . About.com placed the album in number 17 of the greatest hip hop / rap albums of all time . The album was certified quadruple platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . By November 2015 , the album had sold 7 million copies in the United States , and over 11 million copies worldwide .

= = Conception = =

= = = Background = = =

Snoop Dogg came to attention of the music industry in 1992 , through his vocal contributions on Dr. Dre 's The Chronic . That album is considered to have " transformed the entire sound of West Coast rap " by its development of what later became known as the " G @-@ funk " sound . The Chronic expanded gangsta rap with profanity , anti @-@ authoritarian lyrics and multi @-@ layered samples taken from 1970 's P @-@ Funk records . Snoop Dogg contributed vocals to Dre 's solo single , " Deep Cover " , which led to a high degree of anticipation among hip hop for the release of his own solo album .

Doggystyle and The Chronic are associated with each other mainly because each prominently featured Snoop Dogg and because both contain G @-@ funk style production from Dr. Dre . The two releases are linked by the high number of vocal contributions from Death Row Records artists , including Tha Dogg Pound , RBX , The Lady of Rage , while both contain a high density of misogynistic lyrics and profanity in their lyrics . In addition , the two albums are each viewed by critics as early " G @-@ funk classics " , and have been described as " joined at the hip " . ' Doggystyle ' also marked the debut of Death Row vocalist , Nanci Fletcher - the daughter of jazz legend Sam Fletcher .

Gangsta rap has been criticized for its extreme lyrics , which are often accused of glamorizing gang violence and black @-@ on @-@ black crime . The Gangsta rappers responded that they were simply describing the realities of life in places such as Compton , California , and Long Beach , California . Describing Doggystyle in 1993 , Snoop Dogg likewise points to the album 's realism , and the extent to which it is based on his personal experience . He said , " I can 't rap about something I don 't know . You 'll never hear me rapping about no bachelor 's degree . It 's only what I know and that 's that street life . It 's all everyday life , reality . " Explaining his intentions , Snoop Dogg claims he feels he is a role model to many young black men , and that his songs are designed to relate to their concerns . " For little kids growing up in the ghettos , " he said , " it 's easy to get into the wrong types of things , especially gangbanging and selling drugs . I 've seen what that was like , and I don 't glorify it , but I don 't preach . I bring it to them rather than have them go find out

about it for themselves . " He further explained the " dream " that he would pursue after making the album : " I 'm going to try to eliminate the gang violence . I 'll be on a mission for peace . I know I have a lot of power . I know if I say , ' Don 't kill ' , niggas won 't kill " .

= = = Recording = = =

Doggystyle was recorded in early 1993 at Death Row Studios . It was produced in a style similar to The Chronic ; some critics called it a " carbon copy " . Snoop Dogg collaborated with two music groups , 213 and Tha Dogg Pound . Daz Dillinger , of the latter group , accused Dr. Dre of taking sole recognition for producing the album and alleged that Warren G and himself contributed substantially to the production of the project . Death Row Records co @-@ founder Marion " Suge " Knight stated in 2013 that , " Daz pretty much did the whole album " , and that credit was signed over to Dr. Dre for a fee . Snoop Dogg said Dr. Dre was capable of making beats without the help of collaborators and addressed the issues with Warren G and Daz , stating " They made beats , Dre produced that record " . He discussed the track " Ain 't No Fun " , mentioning that Daz and Warren G brought Dr. Dre the beat but " Dre took that muthafucka to the next level ! " Bruce Williams , closely affiliated with Dr. Dre , discussed the recording process during Dre 's time at Death Row Records , stating :

Dre ? s going to be the first one in the studio and the last one to leave . He ? ll start messing with a beat . As the beat starts pumping , the guys start filtering in . Everybody will get their little drink and smoke in . Soon enough the beat starts to make a presence . You ? ll look around the room and every cat that was a rapper ? from Kuruft to Daz to Snoop ? will grab a pen . They would start writing while Dre is making a beat so by the time he ? s finished with the beat , they are ready to hit the booth and start spittin ' . To see those young cats ? they were all hungry and wanted to make something dope . The atmosphere that was there , you couldn ? t be wack .

Williams said the album was never finished and because of the demand for the record , the distributors insisted the album be completed , otherwise they would cancel the album 's orders . This resulted in Dr. Dre mixing the album and inserting the skits within 48 hours , which enabled the album to be released . Rolling Stone writer Jonathan Gold described how Dr. Dre produced a beat from scratch to complete instrumental : " Dre may find something he likes from an old drum break , loop it and gradually replace each part with a better tom @-@ tom sound , a kick @-@ drum sound he adores , until the beat bears the same relationship to the original that the Incredible Hulk does to Bill Bixby " . Gold also described how the track progressed with other musicians adding to the song , stating " A bass player wanders in , unpacks his instrument and pops a funky two @-@ note bass line over the beat , then leaves to watch CNN , though his two notes keep looping into infinity . A smiling guy in a striped jersey plays a nasty one @-@ fingered melody on an old Minimoog synthesizer that 's been obsolete since 1982 , and Dre scratches in a sort of surfadelic munching noise , and then from his well @-@ stocked Akai MPC60 samples comes a shriek , a spare piano chord , an ejaculation from the first Beastie 's record -- " Let me clear my throat " ? and the many @-@ layered groove is happening , bumping , breathing , almost loud enough to see . "

While recording Doggystyle with Dr. Dre in August 1993 , Snoop Dogg was arrested in connection with the death of Phillip Woldermarian , a member of a rival gang who was shot and killed in a gang fight . According to the charges , the rapper 's bodyguard , McKinley Lee , shot Woldermarian as Snoop Dogg drove the vehicle ; the rapper claimed it was self @-@ defense , alleging the victim was stalking Snoop Dogg . He spent most of 1995 preparing the case which went to trial in late 1995 . He was cleared of all charges in February 1996 when he began work on his second album , Tha Doggfather .

= = = Title significance = = =

The album 's title alludes to the doggy style sex position and is a reference to the musician 's name . The artwork , which was done by artist Joe Cool , represents the themes covered in the album and the style of implementation of those ideas . Some critics believe the artwork portrays a woman

merely as a hole to be filled by the man , which they believe adheres to the narcissistic and sexist lyrical themes Snoop Dogg covers . In this interpretation , the cover art and lyrics convey what they refer to as the self @-@ indulgent " gangsta " lifestyle , drugs , cars , sex , and money . The artwork uses several quotes from the 1982 George Clinton single " Atomic Dog " . The quotes come from the dogs at the top of the brick wall on the album cover , which say , " Why must I feel like dat ? " , " Why must I chase da cat ? " and " Nuttin ' but da dogg in me " .

= = Music = =

= = = Production = = =

Dre 's handling of the production was praised by critics . AllMusic writer Stephen Erlewine stated : " Dre realized that it wasn 't time to push the limits of G @-@ funk , and instead decided to deepen it musically , creating easy @-@ rolling productions that have more layers than they appear " . He added that the beats were " laid @-@ back funky , continuing to resonate after many listens " . Rolling Stone writer Touré noted " The Chronic 's slow , heavy beats were a sonic representation of angry depression as accurate as Cobain 's feedback blasts ; Doggystyle is leaner , with its high @-@ tempo Isaac Hayes- and Curtis Mayfield @-@ derived tracks " . He went on to say that " Most of Dre 's hooks and nearly all his beats refuse to linger , as if the songs themselves are nervous , fearful of exposure , restless to get offscreen . " Entertainment Weekly magazine 's David Browne mentioned that " The mix of samples and live music on Dre 's latest , The Chronic , gave it texture and depth , and he continues his knob @-@ turning growth on Doggystyle , fluidly weaving together a gaggle of background singers and rappers , quirky samples , his trademark horror @-@ flick keyboard lines " . The Source magazine columnist wrote : " Dre 's brand of G @-@ funk may be common now , but it is still painstakingly well @-@ produced " .

= = = Lyrics = = =

Snoop Dogg 's lyrics were generally praised by critics , although they caused some controversy . He was acclaimed for the realism in his rhymes and his harmonious flow . Allmusic 's Stephen Erlewine commended Snoop Dogg , saying : " he 's one of hip @-@ hop 's greatest vocal stylists with this record " and he " takes his time , playing with the flow of his words , giving his rhymes a nearly melodic eloquence . Snoop is something special , with unpredictable turns of phrase , evocative imagery , and a distinctive , addictive flow " . Time magazine 's Christopher John Farley noted " Snoop 's rapping isn 't flashy , but it is catchy " and stated " His relaxed vocal style is a perfect match for Dre 's bass @-@ heavy producing . Snoop 's voice is lithe enough to snake its way around the big beats " . The ideas put forward through the lyrics include Snoop Dogg 's adolescent urges , as he freely talks of casual sex , smoking marijuana and gunning down rival gang members . Time magazine remarked that the notions " are often unnecessarily graphic ; at some points they 're downright obscene " and that " the album would have been stronger if such misgivings about the criminal life , as well as Snoop 's touches of introspection , had been applied to some of the cruder songs " . The album also covered gun play , drug dealing and pimping . The New York Times said that the lyrical concepts were delivered in " crudest , rudest terms " .

Some critics said Snoop Dogg was " obsessed with being a ' G ' , a gangster , a lawbreaker who smokes dope and kills with impunity " and that his lyrics depict the black @-@ on @-@ black crime in the inner @-@ cities . The lyrics involve many derogatory terms against woman , with expressions such as " bitches " and " hos " being used throughout , which illustrates the feeling of sexism and oppression within American society . In certain tracks Snoop Dogg and Tha Dogg Pound casually speak of group sex , illustrating the demeaning of women . Snoop Dogg 's lyrics depict drugs , alcohol , sex , and money as methods of escape from oppression , but they also show an underside of the " gangsta " lifestyle and the results of following this lifestyle . The lyrics ' violent representations , including murder and aggressive behaviour , have also generated controversy . C.

DeLores Tucker of the National Political Congress of Black Women named gangsta rap " a profane and obscene glorification of murder and rape " , which can be attributed to Doggystyle .

= = = Content = = =

" Who Am I (What 's My Name) ? " was the first single released from the album on November 30 , 1993 . It peaked at number eight on the Billboard Hot 100 and Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Singles & Tracks charts , and reached number one on the Hot Rap Singles . It is largely recognised as the album 's ' leading single ' , and the RIAA certified it Gold on February 8 , 1994 . It was certified Platinum later the same year . It reached number 20 on the UK Singles Chart in 1994 and re @-@ entered the chart in 2004 , reaching number 100 . In terms of critical reception and the volume of sales , it is Snoop 's most successful single to date . " Gin and Juice " was the second single released on January 15 , 1994 . Like the previous single , it was a hit on multiple charts . It reached number eight on the Billboard Hot 100 , number 13 on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Singles & Tracks , number one on Hot Rap Singles , and number 39 on the UK Singles Chart . The RIAA certified it Platinum on April 6 , 1994 . The song was nominated at the 1995 Grammy Awards for Best Rap Solo Performance , but lost to Queen Latifah 's " U.N.I.T.Y. " . " Doggy Dogg World " was released as a Europe @-@ only single during June 1994 . Even though the single was not officially released in the U.S. , it received some radio airplay which resulted in position 19 on the Rhythmic Top 40 chart . A music video was produced for the single , which gained American video TV @-@ play and won the 1994 MTV Video Music Award for Best Rap Video . It reached number 32 on the UK Singles Chart .

" Lodi Dodi " and " Murder Was the Case " were not official singles , but they received radio airplay and charted in Rhythmic Top 40 . An 18 @-@ minute music video was shot for the two songs , with an accompanying Murder Was the Case soundtrack . The video won the 1995 Video of the Year award at The Source Hip @-@ Hop Music Awards . " Gin and Juice " was nominated at the 1995 Grammy Awards for Best Rap Solo Performance . A bonus track , " Gz Up , Hoes Down " , was included in the album 's first pressing , but not in later versions because of sample clearance issues . Snoop Dogg could not gain the rights to use the beats because the record company was not willing to pay license fees for using the samples . " Gz Up , Hoes Down " was later released on the Death Row compilation " 15 Years on Death Row " . " Tha Next Episode " was listed on the cover , but not included in any pressing . It is considered the original material used for the 2000 Dr. Dre single " The Next Episode " but bears no resemblance to the later song . It was 4 minutes and 36 seconds (4 : 36) long . " Tha Next Episode " was later released on the Dr. Dre mixtape Pretox under the name " Chronic Unreleased Studio Session " , but only 1 : 10 long . " Doggystyle " featuring George Clinton was a 5 : 26 long outtake from the album sessions . It is a singing melody with vocals dominating the song and it extensively samples " Oh I " by Funkadelic from their album " Electric Spanking of War Babies " . Jewell & The Brides of Funkenstein are featured on the chorus . The song was released on " Death Row : The Lost Sessions Vol . 1 " amongst other songs recorded by Snoop Doggy Dogg during his tenure at Death Row .

= = Reception = =

= = = Commercial performance = = =

Doggystyle debuted on the Billboard 200 at number @-@ one , powered by spectacular first week sales 806 @,@ 000 units . As of November 2015 , the album had sold 7 million copies in the United States , and over 11 million copies worldwide . It was certified four times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America on May 31 , 1994 . It is Snoop Dogg 's most successful album ; his following albums were certified single or double platinum . Doggystyle first appeared on music charts in 1993 , peaking on the Billboard 200 and Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums at number one . It re @-@ peaked at number one on the Billboard 200 in January 1994 , when it was already

certified three times platinum by the RIAA . The record was mildly successful in Europe , reaching number 18 in Sweden , number 21 in Germany and number 35 in Austria . It also peaked at number 25 on the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand album chart . At the end of 1994 , the album was number three on the Billboard Year @-@ End Top Albums Chart and number one on the Billboard Year @-@ End Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums Chart . It re @-@ entered the charts in 2003 , peaking on the Ireland Albums Top 75 at number 70 . As of September 2015 , it had spent a total of 74 nonconsecutive weeks on the Billboard 200 album chart .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Doggystyle was generally praised by critics . Rolling Stone writer Touré mentioned " Doggystyle is filled with verbal and vocal feats that meet its high expectations . It speeds through 55 minutes of constant talk as if on a suicide hot line " . David Browne of Entertainment Weekly noted " It is the most limber , low @-@ rider gangsta album to date " and went on to say " Doggystyle is a grim , bleak @-@ faced record . It 's set in a dead @-@ end , no @-@ tomorrow world of cheap thrills " . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of AllMusic stated " Doggystyle and The Chronic stand proudly together as the twin pinnacles of West Coast G @-@ funk hip @-@ hop of the early ' 90s " Stylus magazine presented " The Chronic vs. Doggystyle " article , and stated a strong point of Doggystyle compared to Dre 's album was its follow @-@ up singles and that " some of the album tracks are more famous than the singles " . Vibe magazine expressed that " Snoop is no ordinary gangsta ; that 's impossible for an artist this playful . On his debut , with Dre riding shotgun anthems abound as often as gin @-@ soaked debauchery " . The Source magazine gave the album a 4 / 5 mic rating . It said Snoop Dogg emerged as a rapper who lived up to all the advance hype which came from his work on The Chronic , and discussed songs on the record , stating " If ' Murder Was The Case ' is a stroke of near genius , then ' Lodi Dodi ' is an example of total genius . " NME magazine called the lead single " a pinnacle he conquered effortlessly " and went on to name the record a " benchmark album " .

The album also received some negative criticism . Erlewine of AllMusic mentioned the album did not " surprise or offer anything that wasn 't already on The Chronic " . Christopher John Farley noted Snoop Dogg had little examination over his emotions and feelings . David Browne spoke of " Ain 't No Fun " , stating it was an example of how " musically artful , yet lyrically repellent , this album can be " and went on to say " It 's easy to be impressed one moment and appalled the next " . Renowned rock critic Robert Christgau gave the album a " dud " rating , which signifies " a bad record whose details rarely merit further thought . At the upper level it may merely be overrated , disappointing , or dull . Down below it may be contemptible . " Q 's Danny Kelly observed : " Snoop Dogg 's record is more or less a 19 @-@ track homage to / gleeful rip off of George Clinton 's ' Atomic Dog ' ? It 's inclined to become a touch unimaginative ; a tad , let 's be honest , dull ? And the sleeve competes with The Waterboys ' Dream Harder and Billy Joel 's River of Dreams as the worst attached to a recent release . "

Despite the initial mixed criticism , critical perception of the album later improved , as Doggystyle has earned several accolades and rankings on critics ' " best album " lists . A review of the album 's reissue upped Q 's rating from three to four stars out of five . " A modern classic , " observed reviewer Tom Doyle . The Source magazine later gave the album a classic five @-@ mic rating .

= = = Accolades = = =

The information regarding accolades attributed to Doggystyle is adapted from AcclaimedMusic.net.
(*) designates lists that are unordered .

= = Influence = =

= = = Hip @-@ hop music = = =

Doggystyle is seen by many hip hop pundits as a " classic " and an " essential " album . It is credited with defining West Coast hip hop ; shifting the emphasis to more melodious , synth @-@ driven , and funk @-@ induced beats . About.com stated during the period the album was released , " Gangsta rap never sounded so sweet . " The album is credited for further establishment of the slurred " lazy drawl " that sacrificed lyrical complexity for clarity and rhythmic cadence on Doggystyle and The Chronic . The album is considered as one of the first G @-@ funk albums the style of which many rappers duplicated in later years .

= = = Hip @-@ hop culture = = =

It has been suggested by some writers and publications that Doggystyle has considerably affected African @-@ American culture . Some publications have held the rap genre responsible for social problems such as sexual violence and sexism , which has been blamed on Snoop Dogg and other rappers for calling their controversial lyrics " keeping it real . " The problems of sexual violence and sexism are attributed to lyrics degrading women such as " bitches " and " ho 's , " which some believe have influenced black males . Snoop Dogg and other hip hop artists , including N.W.A , especially Eazy E , Dr. Dre and Ice Cube (due to their success) and Tupac Shakur , have been held accountable for developing the gangsta rap form ; a genre which articulated the rage of the urban underclass and its sense of intense oppression and defiant rebellion , which has been attained through the ability to communicate free of censorship , and has allowed hip hop culture to become a dominant style and ethos throughout the world . Mariah Carey sampled the song " Ain 't No Fun (If the Homies Can 't Have None) " in her 1999 album Rainbow for the remix of Heartbreaker which featured Missy Elliott and Da Brat .

The writers of Enculturation , Steven Best and Douglas Kellner , have noted that Snoop Dogg and other rappers only condemn violence when it is directed against them , otherwise " they celebrate it , internalize it , and embrace it as an ethos and means of self expression , " which some believe has an effect on the black @-@ on @-@ black crime . The release of music videos from Doggystyle and The Chronic has enabled the artists to add visual illustrations to their lyrics , which generally involve Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg driving around South Central , Los Angeles in a lowrider (a vehicle with lowered suspension) . This imagery of the " gangsta lifestyle " is thought to have influenced young black males into trying to live the same lifestyle and it is also noted by T. Denean , writer of Pimps Up , Ho 's Down : Hip Hop 's Hold on Young Black Women , that the videos highlight the representation of class , race and Black masculinity within contemporary urban America .

= = = Subsequent work = = =

Doggystyle is generally considered Snoop Dogg 's best record , in addition to being his highest charting and best @-@ selling album as his later albums were certified double Platinum , Platinum or Gold although Da Game Is to Be Sold , Not to Be Told was certified triple Platinum making it his second best selling album and also his only other one to be certified multi Platinum . It differs from following albums as his later work featured production from multiple individuals , such as The Neptunes , Timbaland and Daz Dillinger , with reduced input from Dr. Dre , which shows a shift from G @-@ funk production . Snoop Dogg 's follow @-@ up album , Tha Doggfather (1996) , did not involve Dr. Dre , as he left Death Row Records . As a result , DJ Pooh was the main beat @-@ maker for the album . Tha Doggfather followed the methods of a G @-@ funk record and initially sold well , but received mixed reviews and failed to produce a major hit single . In 1998 , Snoop Dogg left Death Row and joined No Limit Records , changing his stage name from Snoop Doggy Dogg to Snoop Dogg . During his tenure at the label , he continued several of the themes from Doggystyle with follow @-@ ups to earlier songs , such as " Gin & Juice II " (1998) and " Snoop Dogg (What 's My Name II) " (2000) .

Subsequent studio albums such as Paid tha Cost to Be da Boss (2002) and R & G (Rhythm & Gangsta) : The Masterpiece (2004) exhibited a more mainstream , pop @-@ oriented theme with new sounds , but remained " hardcore throughout " and featured " plenty of street and commercial

appeal ". These releases included three hit singles , " Beautiful " , " Drop It Like It 's Hot " and " Signs " . Snoop Dogg was credited for returning to his G @-@ funk roots in 2006 , which was established with his eighth studio album , Tha Blue Carpet Treatment (2006) . The album was noted for being a " hard and very G @-@ Funk record " .

= = Track listing = =

All songs produced by Dr. Dre .

= = = Cut Tracks = = =

" Gz Up , Hoez Down " (featuring Hug) - omitted on all but the original pressings , due to sample and clearance issues .

" Tha Next Episode " (featuring Dr. Dre) - listed on the track listing provided to retailers before the album 's release , but does not feature on any pressings of the album . The instrumental was later used for Warren G 's track " Runnin ' Wit No Breaks " from his album , Regulate ... G Funk Era The pair later recorded a track entitled " The Next Episode " for Dre 's second studio album , 2001 , which is completely different from the original .

" Doggystyle " (featuring Jewell & George Clinton) - recorded during the album sessions , remaining unreleased until its inclusion on the compilation album Death Row : The Lost Sessions Vol . 1

" The Root of All Evil (Outro) " (featuring Teena Marie) - recorded during the album sessions , remaining unreleased until its inclusion on the compilation album Death Row : The Lost Sessions Vol . 1 . The instrumental was later used for the remix of " California Love " , by 2Pac featuring Dr. Dre .

" Every Single Day " (featuring Kurupt , Jewell and Nate Dogg) - recorded during the album sessions , remaining unreleased until an alternate version was released on Tha Dogg Pound compilation album 2002 .

= = Personnel = =

= = Charts = =

= = = Chart precession and succession = = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =