

= Basehead =

Basehead , also known as dc Basehead and Basehead 2 @.@ 0 , is an American alternative hip hop group formed by Michael Ivey in 1992 . Ivey serves as the group 's songwriter and leader , performing vocals and various instruments . Basehead 's 1992 debut album , Play with Toys , was recorded at Ivey 's home with various studio musicians . Ivey formed a touring band for live performances , which contributed to Basehead 's second album , Not in Kansas Anymore . The group 's current lineup consists of Ivey , drummer Aaron Burroughs and bassist Brendan Ciotta .

Basehead has received praise for its distinctive sound and lyrics . The group 's music incorporates elements of various genres , including blues , funk , hip hop and rock . The lyrics of Play with Toys and Not in Kansas Anymore focus on subjects such as alcohol and cannabis use , depression , philosophy , politics and relationships . Beginning with the 1996 release of Faith , the group 's lyrics have focused primarily on Christian themes , which carried over to its albums In the Name of Jesus , dc Basehead and Rockalyptic Music .

= = History = =

Basehead released its debut album , Play with Toys in 1992 on the small independent label Emigre . Vocalist Michael Ivey recorded much of the album at his home on a four @-@ track with various friends . The album received favorable reviews and frequent airplay on college radio . Rolling Stone reviewer Kevin Powell wrote that " Without being preachy , Basehead 's unconventional style challenges listeners to get beyond their basic instincts and open their minds , search their souls . " Assembling a five @-@ member touring band , Ivey toured the United States and Europe , opening for the Beastie Boys , Stone Temple Pilots , and Ween . After College Music Journal featured Basehead on its cover , the group received attention from major labels , and signed with Imago Records , a former subsidiary of BMG the following year , releasing its second studio album , Not in Kansas Anymore . Rolling Stone reviewer Danyel Smith called the album " an alternative to the benign bullshit music that floods the chain stores and commercial radio waves . " Stephen Thomas Erlewine wrote that " Although it retains many of the same qualities of their critically acclaimed debut [...] there 's nothing that has the same sense of discovery that made Play with Toys an interesting record . "

In April 1994 , Basehead recorded its third studio album , Faith , which retained the musical elements of previous albums , but featured lyrics focusing on religious themes . During this period , Ivey also formed a side project , Bastard Youth of Basehead , also known as B.Y.O.B. , and founded I3Records , an imprint of Rykodisc Records focusing on alternative music aimed at and produced by African American musicians . In December 1994 , Imago separated from BMG , and Faith was not released until two years later . The album 's release problems resulted in the cancellation of a planned tour between Basehead and B.Y.O.B. Although some band members felt that they had not been given proper financial compensation for their work , Ivey stated that he took a smaller percentage of the songwriting credits than he was legally entitled to , and that the group 's underpaid work would have " laid the groundwork " for future success if Faith did not have release problems .

In 1998 , Basehead released its fourth studio album , In the Name of Jesus on the label Union of Vineyard Workers . In 2002 the group changed its name to dc Basehead , releasing their self @-@ titled fifth album on November 19 . Hamlin wrote that " the mastermind 's [...] effective use of subtly shifting patterns inside a repeating framework , and his talented co @-@ conspirators lift DC into distinction . " Reforming as Basehead 2 @.@ 0 , the group released its sixth studio album , Rockalyptic Music in 2007 .

= = Music and lyrics = =

Basehead 's musical style , which fuses elements of blues , funk , hip hop , pop , psychedelic , reggae , rock and rhythm and blues , is often regarded as alternative hip hop and alternative rock . David Jeffries from Allmusic described Play with Toys as " slacker rap " . According to Michael Ivey ,

" There are hip @-@ hop elements in there , but if a hardcore hip @-@ hop fan bought it , they might be disappointed " . Ivey also stated that Basehead 's music " doesn 't have the expected samples and sounds . " The lyrical themes of Play with Toys and Not in Kansas Anymore focus on diverse subjects , including alcohol and marijuana use , depression , philosophy , politics , racism , and relationship breakups . Francis Davis wrote that Ivey 's lyrics " [subvert] both rock and gangsta @-@ rap conventions . " Basehead 's albums and performances feature live instrumentation , which differentiates the group 's sound from that of mainstream hip hop artists who rely solely on sampled instrumentation . On the group 's albums , vocals and instruments are altered with studio techniques for effect . Ivey 's vocals mix singing and rapping . According to Ivey , Basehead 's former DJ , Citizen Cope , " doesn 't play music . He makes sounds ? [he 's] an instrument in his own self . He might scratch certain words for a special effect . "

In 1994 , the group 's lyrics shifted to Christian themes , starting with the album Faith . Andrew Hamlin describes the lyrics of Faith as having " caught Ivey mid @-@ capitulation . He wanted Jesus in his life but he also wanted his beer , his pot , his television , and his lust . " During the release of Faith , Ivey stated that Basehead 's fourth studio album , In the Name of Jesus , would feature even more Christian @-@ oriented lyrics than Faith . Regarding the lyrics of In the Name of Jesus , Hamlin writes that " chanting praises leaves the Basehead mastermind without his characteristic wit , and he lacks the energetic exhortations that often lift gospel performers above sameness in material . " Regarding dc Basehead , Hamlin wrote that the album 's lyrics were " miles in some direction or other from any stereotyped Christian rock bin . "

During a performance in which the group received a request for early material , Ivey stated " I 'm still trying to work it out ? how to follow God and still give you the old shit " and introduced the group 's Christian songs with self @-@ deprecation , referring to the songs as " the new , reborn , love @-@ God Basehead stuff . " In a 1998 interview , Ivey stated " I 'm kind of wary of the Church . I know there 's this whole Christian music market , but I don 't think , theology @-@ wise , I 'm in agreement with a whole lot of Christians . [...] In fact , I don 't know whether I like even being called a Christian . "

= = Band members = =

Michael Ivey ? guitar , vocals
Aaron Burroughs ? drums
Brendan Ciotta ? bass

= = = Former members = = =

Bill Conway ? bass
Keith " Lazy K " Lofton ? guitar
Clarence " Citizen Cope " Greenwood ? turntables
Brian Hendrix ? drums
Jay Nichols ? drums

= = Discography = =

Play with Toys (1992)
Not in Kansas Anymore (1993)
Faith (1996)
In the Name of Jesus (1998)
dc Basehead (2002)
Rockalyptic Music (2007)