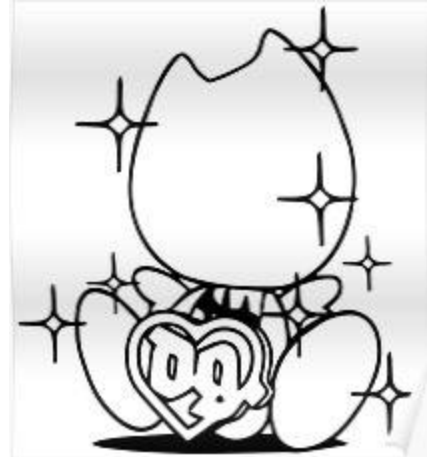


6 Things to know about Drain Gang

"Drain Gang " is a group of musicians containing Swedish rappers Bladee, Ecco2k, Thaiboy Digital, and Whitearmour. They display both an abstract and atmospheric sound, creating this so called "Cloud Rap." The "Cloud Rap" scene was a reality made entirely by these artists in stockholm sweden. This heavily autotuned and talented group is revolutionary, even if it takes time to understand.



1.DG ceo: Bladee

Bladee, a rapper from berlin has created his own reality for both himself, and thousands of others. "I'm a private person. It's hard because I don't like talking about myself," Bladee says in a Fader interview. He describes the world in very abstract and complex ways such as, "I'm a trash star in a trash world." and "The world is a trash island, you have the power to create your own reality." He explains that this is a material world and material things are all trash. The only truth is really inside of you. Many people consider him to be "ethereal and angel-like." After getting hit with lightning in Thailand on his most recent trip, he said that he should be dead after that, and it's surprising he's alive.

2. Ecco2k

Zak Arogundnade, also known as Ecco2k is by far one of the most influential and talented musicians in the scene. At age 5 he learned how to use graphic design software. From this young age he showed creativity and talent that made his future shine. Now with many features and an album of his own, he has gained a large online presence and admirable fashion sense and personality. He focuses primarily on economic issues, and supports economically beneficial resources. Hence the name "ecco.

3. Thaiboy Digital

Born in Khon Kaen, Thai, Thanapat Thaonthawong, aka Thaiboy Digital, has made a strong impact on the cloud rap scene. He moved to Stockholm after his mother got a job in Sweden. He soon met Bladee and Ecco, and started making music around 2012. After moving

back to Thailand in 2015 he started making music independently and is still constantly trying to make the effort to see his friends back in Stockholm. He says he gets inspiration from Soulja Boy and Future. "When I was falling down, music gave me wings, and I came back time after time. His new album *Legendary Member* took off as soon as he released it. Thaiboy has a big impact on dg and is for sure an influence to many artists around him both online and in his home country.

4. The roots of dg

Drain gang, consisting of Bladee, Ecco2k, Whitearmour, and Thaiboy Digital started off in the early 2010s. Bladee and Ecco were just 13 and formed a punk band. Bladee says, "We were basically just making noise, we didn't know how to play music at all." After this he distanced himself from the punk scene and they started focusing on graffiti. Around this time he met Thaiboy Digital and Whitearmour through mutuals. After some freestyling on Whitearmour's beats, and a long night of partying, Whitearmour and Thaiboy had the idea that they would just sing in auto tune. From there they changed their names several times. From smog boys, to shield gang, to gravity boys, they settled on Drain Gang.

3. Influences and their effect on the rap game

Through not confining with one singular genre, they have been able to reconstruct a reality of music for both themselves and many others. Being influenced by Chief Keef, Glo Gang, Bass Hunter, James Ferrars, BABYTUNE\$, and more, they found inspiration even though they were generally detached from the rap scene as a kid from growing up in Sweden. When asked if he sees an influence on the way American artists present themselves on internet platforms, he responds with "Now I'm making into something real that you can see and hear, and I'm happy people can f**k with it and make it their own, or just get inspired by it."

4. Yung Lean and Sad boys

Yung Lean, Yung Gud, and Yung Sherman. The Stockholm based rap group became friends with Drain Gang in around 2012. Bladee had his first collab with the sad boys on the tracks *Heal You*, and *Bladerunner*. Yung Lean, or Håstad quickly became widely successful, earning the 2019 Bram Stoker Medal of Cultural Achievement by the [University Philosophical Society](#) at Trinity College in Dublin. He's also collabed with many big names such as Travis Scott, Denzel Curry, and A\$AP Ferg. With his large and increasing discography, Sad Boys have helped both Drain Gang and Bladee himself gain recognition with their countless collabs and strong friendship. Many people associate dg with sadboys on social media because of the "cloud rap" sound.

Draining is an overall underground scene, but has an extreme impact on the people involved in it. This Sweden based rap scene has helped many people around the world create their own unique art, being influenced by these extreme music icons. This eye opening "genre"

has helped me through some of my worst times, and made my best times better. However regardless of all the interesting facts and pasts of this group, my dad hates it.

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