

The History of Hip-Hop

Hip-hop brought with itself a lot of opinions. Some say it had been a long time coming, others say it was unexpected. A lot of people also have a lot to say about who they think the forefathers of Hip-hop are. That question always almost sparks an unending argument.

Records have shown that in the 1970s, some cities in America were almost “shutting down”, the unemployment rate skyrocketed, people were losing their jobs, school teachers went on strike, nothing was going well. In the people’s desire to attain some level of sanity, and normalcy, they reacted to the situation in their own way. Gatherings, mini parties, and clubs nights on certain days started becoming a norm.

In 1973, a teenager, DJ Kool Herc, was known for spinning records at parties and according to him, he noticed how people reacted to certain parts of a record, especially the drum breaks, and how they would wait for that particular part to come on, then put a lot of energy into displaying whatever moves they had. That continuous action inspired him to create a double-turntable, using two turntables, where he made a switch back and forth between the same records of different remixes, focusing on the part that made people excited. He called it the “breakbeat”. On August 11, 1973, during his sister’s birthday, DJ Kool Herc drew more crowds than ever before, using his break-beat style which people loved. According to history, from this perspective, the success of the party and the positive reactions started out the grassroot of musical revolution.

In the Hip-Hop Founding Fathers Documentary, a Historian named Danny Wells, talked about Louis Armstrong. He said, "It's almost as if people give tribute to Louis when rapping, because he actually introduced that style of music." Also, another man talked about a certain Frankie Croker. When the interviewer asked him to describe him, he said, "He was a humongous man, he had a deep voice and everyone just wanted him to come DJ at their parties, he always said things like, "Put your hands up in the air, act like you don't care. The speaker described the feeling as a "thrill".

Furthermore, a DJ Hollywood talked about KC the prince of rap, as one of the first ever to rap to a beat.

A couple of people, individually interviewed, one of whom was Master D, said Grandmaster Flowers, a British DJ in Brooklyn was known as "The Mixologist". He was said to have worked with several artists and clubs, and he kept retaining clients. Ralph McDaniels, an interviewee had this to say: "Any event which DJ flowers was a part of, was bound to be hot".

Hip-hop has gotten better as it grows, more people now fall in love with it. A lot of people, regardless of age, now appreciate it even more. As illustrated, several people contributed to the rise of hip-hop. Morton Hill said, "It wasn't just fashion or the people dancing, it's majorly the spoken word".

Works Cited

1. Articles: The story of DJ Kool Herc , The Last Poets.
2. YouTube Video: FOUNDING FATHERS: The Untold Story of Hip-hop – Narrated by CHUCK D.