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So You Wanna Make Music and Change The World?

By Gary Konigsberg

SO YOU WANNA MAKE MUSIC TO CHANGE THE WORLD?

What do Bob Dylan, Elvis Presley, the Beatles and Mozart all have in common? And what do they have in common with practically every other artist who's creativity has changed the world?
They are all unique.
But there is something in common.

They each changed the popular music of their times by combining already popular forms in a new way.

Elvis − on that famous and fateful day in Sun Studios in Memphis he let it all loose and brought it all together again differently... the blues, country, gospel and regional elements that were his influences in his youth all came together into rockabilly, rock and roll, something that had not been heard before. Elvis on Ed Sullivan also brought together the new music form and the new medium − television in a new way which has influenced generations of rock icons to first pick up their guitar.

Bob Dylan... they pulled the plug on his concert when he dared to bring out electric instruments, drums and a backbeat to his folk and protest music. But Dylan had his own vision of his music and it contained his influences from Woody Guthrie but also the last decade of rock and roll and other influences.. again.. he combined popular music forms in a new way.

The Beatles... well they set the world on fire with their style and their hair cuts and all that. The Beatles on Ed Sullivan − still one of the great moments in rock and television history. But do you know that in the mid 60's they didnt release a CD for almost two years and then came out with Sgt Pepper − the orchestation, song structure and the bringing together of elements in a completely new way is what made history.

Mozart? Well, see the great movie, Amadeus, and you will understand better than I can illustrate here. But it is another case in point.

Another one that could be mentioned here is Johnny Cash. As Bruce Springsteen said (not an exact

quote)... Johnny Cash broke down barriers to communication and artistic styles and, not only did he break those barriers down, but he showed why it is important to do so.
Cash's music contains many elements brought together for the first time in different parts of his career.

So the point...? If you want to make music that changes the world, don't just be the latest kid on the block, the latest rapper in the hood, the latest rocker in the backstreet clubs. Do something that has not been done before by combining elements that are already popular in a new and creative way.

Perhaps this unique combining of other art forms is so impactful because it aligns with the derivation of the word "art" itself. The derivation of the word art basically means... to join together.

The world needs great artists. Start!

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Hip Hop Music continues to rules the music charts

By Syd Johnson

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Hip hop music is dominating the online and offline music charts. Hip hop music fans experience an "it's about time" moment every time they turn on MTV, VH1 or any local radio station that doesn't specialize in country music. Even urban channels that used to play only mid tempo rock music have diversified their rotations to include more hip hop music.

Why is hip hop suddenly everywhere?

Suburban Kids! They latched on the beats, nouveau riche lifestyle full of machismo and bling, and they latched on to the party. Hip hop might have started out as a companion to rap music, but today, the two musical genres are a world apart. Hip hop is funky, full of energy, dynamic, catchy, male, female, American, European, Asian and Indian all at the same time.

Modern hip hop is so dance friendly that frankly no cares about the lyrics anymore. I can name a bunch of up and comers in the field including Lloyd Banks, Ciara (or anyone else out of the Missy/Timbaland factory) and Chingy. Then, let's not forget the 3 million people that make up G−Unit and D12. That's

pretty cool.

Now, can I name one verse of any song, by any of these artists? Of course not! These people are selling hip hop music for the club. If I hear even three seconds of a song from any one of them, I'm on the dance floor. Still, I can't come up with two solid lines to any of their songs. Why?

Hip Hop Music Masters

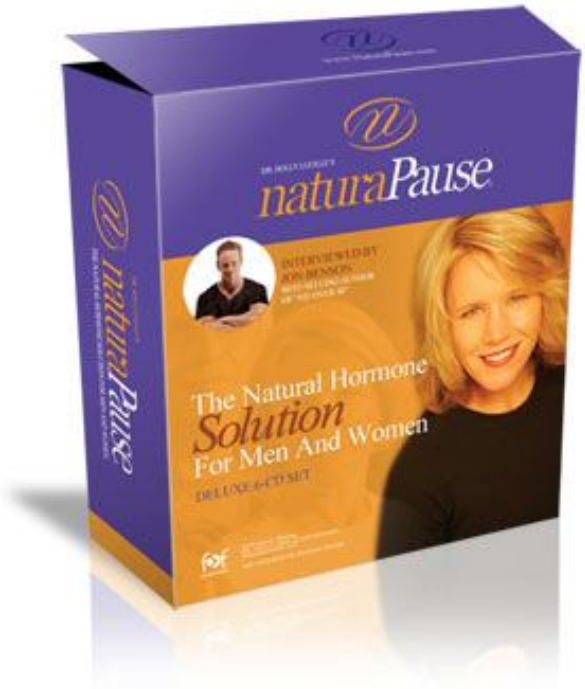
Rap music was artist driven. Hip Hop music is producer driven. Producers are the ones who put together all the ingredients to get you the final product, a hit song. Since the rise of the producers starting with Missy and Timbaland in the mid 90's hip hop music has gone mainstream.

The lyrics don't matter much anymore because the meat of the music−− is in the music. Literally, the complicated arrangements, samples on top of samples, guest stars, wanna−be stars and more, all culminate into MTV ready hit songs.

It's not that hip hop is not deep, or socially conscious. It's just that it has a different lineage. Rap masters were the lyricists. Hip Hop Masters are non verbal communicators. This is the blessing and curse of hip hop music.

That is why hip hop music is so present on radio, cable TV, and now, in the online world. If you think that modern hip hop is a bit much, perhaps you should try one of the streaming radio stations where you can select hip hop music from the 80's and 90's when rappers were still in charge. Get in touch with De La Soul and some of the other early hip hop pioneers.

This article may be freely distributed as long as there's an active link to http://www.rapidlingo.comSyd JohnsonEditor



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