

mc eiht menace 2 society

****MC Eiht Menace 2 Society: A Deep Dive into the Iconic West Coast Rap Legacy****

mc eiht menace 2 society is more than just a phrase—it represents a pivotal moment in hip-hop history where raw storytelling met cinematic influence to shape West Coast rap's gritty narrative. MC Eiht, a legendary figure in the rap scene, is forever linked to the cult classic film **Menace II Society**, a connection that has helped cement his status as a street poet and cultural icon. If you're curious about how this association came to be, its impact on hip-hop, and why MC Eiht remains relevant decades later, you're in the right place.

The Origins of MC Eiht and His Rise in Hip-Hop

Before diving into the **Menace II Society** connection, it's important to understand who MC Eiht is. Born Aaron Tyler in Compton, California, MC Eiht emerged from the West Coast rap scene during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Recognized for his deep, laid-back delivery and authentic street narratives, he became one of the defining voices of gangsta rap.

Early Career and Compton's Impact

MC Eiht's roots in Compton—a city often spotlighted in hip-hop for its struggles and stories—shaped his lyrical content. His music reflected the realities of inner-city life, including violence, poverty, and survival. This authenticity resonated with listeners and helped him rise to prominence with his group, Compton's Most Wanted (CMW), before launching a successful solo career.

Musical Style and Themes

Known for his distinctive voice and storytelling ability, MC Eiht's style blends gangsta rap with a smooth flow that contrasts with the harsh realities he raps about. His lyrics often explore themes of loyalty, street justice, and the consequences of a life surrounded by crime, giving fans an unfiltered look at urban struggles.

The *Menace II Society* Connection

The 1993 film *Menace II Society*, directed by the Hughes Brothers, is a gritty portrayal of life in South Central Los Angeles. It's renowned for its unflinching look at violence, youth culture, and systemic issues affecting African American communities. MC Eiht's involvement with the film helped amplify his career and connected hip-hop fans with the movie's raw narrative.

MC Eiht's Cameo and Soundtrack Contribution

MC Eiht made a memorable cameo appearance in *Menace II Society*, playing a character that embodied the very streets the film depicted. Beyond acting, MC Eiht contributed to the movie's soundtrack, which featured tracks that further illustrated the film's themes. His song "Streiht Up Menace" became iconic, serving as an anthem that perfectly complemented the movie's tone.

This track, with its haunting production and vivid lyrics, captured the struggles and mindset of the film's protagonist, Caine. "Streiht Up Menace" remains one of MC Eiht's most recognizable songs and a staple in 90s gangsta rap playlists.

Impact on MC Eiht's Career

Being part of **Menace II Society** propelled MC Eiht into a broader spotlight. The film's success introduced his music to audiences beyond the typical hip-hop fanbase. It also solidified his reputation as an artist who authentically represented the realities of street life, making him a respected figure in both music and film circles.

Why **Menace II Society** Still Matters in Hip-Hop Culture

More than 25 years after its release, **Menace II Society** remains a cultural touchstone, particularly within hip-hop communities. The film's influence extends beyond cinema into music, fashion, and social commentary, with MC Eiht's involvement playing a significant role.

Authenticity and Representation

Menace II Society offered a raw, unfiltered look at urban life without glamorization, a narrative echoed in MC Eiht's music. This authentic representation helped shift how stories of inner-city life were told, inspiring countless artists to explore similar themes with honesty.

Soundtrack Legacy

The soundtrack of **Menace II Society**, featuring MC Eiht and other prominent West Coast artists, is considered one of the best hip-hop compilations of the 90s. It introduced listeners to a range of voices and styles that defined the era. Tracks like "Streih Up Menace" continue to influence contemporary artists who appreciate the fusion of storytelling and production.

Exploring MC Eiht's Discography Beyond *Menace II Society*

While MC Eiht's association with *Menace II Society* is a highlight, his broader body of work deserves attention. His albums showcase his evolution as an artist and his commitment to narrating the complexities of street life.

Key Albums to Know

- **We Come Strapped (1994):** MC Eiht's debut solo album, featuring the hit "Streiht Up Menace." It set the tone for his solo career with raw lyrics and West Coast production.
- **Death Threatz (1996):** This album continued MC Eiht's storytelling tradition with tracks focusing on survival and loyalty.
- **Section 8 (1999):** Named after a housing program, this album dives deeper into social issues and personal reflections.

Collaborations and Influence

Throughout his career, MC Eiht collaborated with notable artists like DJ Quik, Tha Chill, and even East Coast rappers, bridging gaps within hip-hop. His influence can be seen in artists who emphasize storytelling and street authenticity, proving the lasting impact of his style.

The Cultural Significance of MC Eiht and *Menace II Society*

The partnership between MC Eiht and *Menace II Society* is a testament to how hip-hop and film can combine to create powerful narratives about marginalized communities. It opened doors for artists to cross into acting and for films to utilize authentic voices from the streets.

Inspiring New Generations

The themes MC Eiht rapped about and those portrayed in *Menace II Society* continue to resonate with younger generations facing similar challenges. The blend of music and film created a blueprint for how art can reflect social realities and inspire dialogue.

Preserving West Coast Rap Legacy

MC Eiht's work, especially his connection to *Menace II Society*, preserves an important chapter in West Coast rap history. It reminds fans and newcomers alike of the genre's roots in storytelling, resistance, and truth-telling.

From his early days in Compton to his iconic role in *Menace II Society*, MC Eiht has remained a steadfast voice in hip-hop. His ability to translate lived experience into compelling narratives ensures that both his music and the film continue to engage and educate audiences. For anyone exploring the intersections of music, film, and urban culture, MC Eiht's journey through *Menace II Society* offers invaluable insights into the power of authentic storytelling.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is MC Eiht in the movie 'Menace II Society'?

MC Eiht is an actor and rapper who played the character A-Wax in the 1993 film 'Menace II Society.' He is known for his role as a member of the main character's group.

What role does MC Eiht play in 'Menace II Society'?

MC Eiht portrays A-Wax, a close friend of the protagonist Caine, in 'Menace II Society.' His character is involved in the gang lifestyle depicted in the film.

How did MC Eiht's involvement in 'Menace II Society' impact his career?

MC Eiht's role in 'Menace II Society' helped boost his visibility beyond music, showcasing his acting skills and solidifying his presence in hip-hop and entertainment.

Is MC Eiht's character in 'Menace II Society' based on real life?

While 'Menace II Society' is a fictional story inspired by real-life urban struggles, MC Eiht's character A-Wax is a fictional creation and not directly based on a real person.

What themes does MC Eiht's character represent in 'Menace II Society'?

MC Eiht's character A-Wax represents themes of loyalty, street violence, and the challenges faced by young men growing up in impoverished urban environments.

Did MC Eiht contribute to the soundtrack of 'Menace II Society'?

Yes, MC Eiht contributed to the 'Menace II Society' soundtrack, which featured hip-hop tracks that

complemented the film's gritty urban atmosphere.

Additional Resources

****MC Eiht Menace 2 Society: An In-Depth Exploration of the Iconic Collaboration****

mc eiht menace 2 society represents one of the most notable intersections between West Coast hip-hop and cinematic storytelling in the early 1990s. MC Eiht, a prominent figure in gangsta rap, contributed significantly to the soundtrack of the 1993 cult classic film **Menace II Society**. This collaboration not only cemented Eiht's status as a powerful voice in the genre but also helped define the gritty, authentic soundscape that the movie sought to evoke. This article delves into the cultural and musical significance of MC Eiht's involvement with **Menace II Society** and its impact on hip-hop and film.

The Context Behind MC Eiht and Menace II Society

Menace II Society, directed by the Hughes Brothers, is widely regarded as a landmark film in the urban drama genre. It explores the harsh realities of life in South Central Los Angeles, focusing on themes of violence, poverty, and systemic disenfranchisement. The film's realistic portrayal of street life demanded an equally authentic soundtrack, and MC Eiht, known for his raw lyrical style and affiliation with the Compton-based group Compton's Most Wanted, was a natural fit.

MC Eiht's gritty storytelling and street credibility complemented the film's narrative, making his contributions to the soundtrack an essential element in shaping the movie's atmosphere. His involvement was more than a mere feature; it was a symbiotic relationship where the music and motion picture elevated each other.

MC Eiht's Role in the *Menace II Society* Soundtrack

MC Eiht's presence on the *Menace II Society* soundtrack is most famously marked by the track "Streih Up Menace." This song encapsulates the film's themes of violence, survival, and the cyclical nature of street life. The raw lyricism and haunting production provide an auditory reflection of the protagonist's struggles, making it a standout piece both within the soundtrack and Eiht's discography.

The track's impact was multifaceted:

- **Authenticity:** Unlike more commercial rap tracks of the time, "Streih Up Menace" offered an unfiltered glimpse into the complexities of street life.
- **Emotional Depth:** The song resonates with a somber tone, highlighting the fatalistic outlook of many youth caught in violent environments.
- **Cultural Reflection:** The lyrics and production style mirror the socio-political climate of early 1990s Los Angeles, particularly post-Rodney King and the LA riots.

MC Eiht's gritty delivery and poignant messaging helped the soundtrack transcend typical genre boundaries, appealing to film audiences and hip-hop fans alike.

Analyzing MC Eiht's Musical Style in Relation to *Menace II Society*

MC Eiht's style is characterized by a slow, deliberate flow paired with vivid, narrative-driven lyrics. This approach aligns closely with the pacing and tone of *Menace II Society*, where tension builds

gradually and the story unfolds with a stark realism. His vocal style was well-suited to the soundtrack's need for authenticity and emotional resonance.

Production and Sound Design

The production on "Streih Up Menace" features minimalist beats, heavy basslines, and atmospheric synths that create a dark, contemplative mood. The production complements MC Eiht's storytelling by providing space for his lyrics to take center stage without overwhelming instrumentation.

This style contrasts with some contemporaneous West Coast hip-hop tracks that favored more upbeat or funk-sampling approaches, highlighting the unique niche Eiht carved within the genre. The track's sonic elements emphasize the tension and despair portrayed in the film, enhancing the viewer's immersive experience.

Lyricism and Thematic Content

MC Eiht's lyricism on the *Menace II Society* soundtrack is deeply tied to the film's narrative. The themes of violence, loss, and survival are explored with unflinching honesty. His lyrics do not glamorize the gangsta lifestyle but instead provide a cautionary tale that mirrors the protagonist's trajectory.

Some key lyrical elements include:

- **Graphic Storytelling:** Detailed depictions of street violence and its consequences.
- **Emotional Vulnerability:** Moments reflecting the internal conflict and despair of young men trapped in cycles of crime.

- **Social Commentary:** Subtle critiques of systemic issues contributing to poverty and violence.

This depth of content lent an additional layer of gravitas to the soundtrack, distinguishing it from more commercially driven rap albums of the era.

Impact on MC Eiht's Career and Legacy

The association with *Menace II Society* expanded MC Eiht's reach beyond the core West Coast hip-hop audience. The soundtrack's success introduced his artistry to a broader demographic, including filmgoers who may not have been familiar with his previous work.

Boost in Popularity

Following the release of the soundtrack, MC Eiht experienced an increase in mainstream recognition. "Streiht Up Menace" became one of his signature songs and remains a staple in discussions of classic West Coast rap. The track's enduring popularity has ensured that Eiht's contributions to hip-hop history are not overlooked.

Influence on Future Collaborations

MC Eiht's work on *Menace II Society* set a precedent for future collaborations between hip-hop artists and film projects. His ability to create music that authentically represented cinematic narratives influenced how soundtracks were approached in hip-hop culture.

Artists and filmmakers increasingly sought partnerships that could deliver genuine storytelling through music, a trend that continues to this day.

Comparisons with Other Hip-Hop Film Soundtracks

When situating MC Eiht's **Menace II Society** work within the wider context of hip-hop film soundtracks, several comparisons emerge.

- **Compared to **Boyz n the Hood** Soundtrack:** Both soundtracks share thematic similarities, focusing on urban struggles, but MC Eiht's contribution tends toward a darker, more introspective tone.
- **Versus **Above the Rim** Soundtrack:** The **Above the Rim** soundtrack features a wider range of artists and styles, blending gangsta rap with more commercialized sounds. MC Eiht's work is more narrowly focused on authentic street narratives.
- **Legacy Soundtracks:** The **Menace II Society** soundtrack, bolstered by MC Eiht's presence, helped define the blueprint for future hip-hop and film collaborations, emphasizing narrative cohesion and cultural relevance.

These comparisons underscore the unique position of MC Eiht's contributions in hip-hop's intersection with cinema during the 1990s.

Pros and Cons of MC Eiht's **Menace II Society** Soundtrack

Participation

- **Pros:**

- Enhanced authenticity of the film's soundtrack.
 - Expanded MC Eiht's audience and artistic influence.
 - Provided a powerful musical narrative complementing the film's themes.
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- **Cons:**
 - Limited commercial appeal due to darker themes and slower tempo.
 - Potential typecasting of MC Eiht within gangsta rap narratives.

Despite some limitations, the collaboration remains a high point in MC Eiht's career and in the history of hip-hop soundtracks.

Enduring Cultural Significance

Decades after its release, MC Eiht's work on the *Menace II Society* soundtrack continues to resonate with audiences and artists alike. It stands as a testament to the power of music to deepen the emotional impact of visual storytelling. Moreover, the track "Streiht Up Menace" has become a cultural touchstone that encapsulates the struggles and realities of a specific time and place in American urban life.

MC Eiht's authentic portrayal of street narratives provided a voice to underrepresented communities

and helped frame the broader discourse around violence and survival in inner-city neighborhoods. This fusion of hip-hop and cinema paved the way for future creative collaborations that prioritize genuine storytelling over commercial appeal.

In the contemporary landscape of hip-hop, where soundtracks and cross-media projects continue to evolve, MC Eiht's **Menace II Society** involvement remains a benchmark for artistic integrity and cultural relevance.

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mc eiht menace 2 society: *Sincerely Yours, Love Letters 2 Hip-Hop Vol. 1* Quaran S. Rogers, 2023-06-13 Meet Sincere or Sin for short. Just your average inner-city youth, navigating his way through life as a normal African American male, raised by a single mother, in a community riddled with crime, sex, drugs, money, and death. Journey along with him as he discovers and uncovers the layers of himself through some of life's most delightful disasters. This urban, theatrical, non-fiction rollercoaster is sure to have you all in your feelings as you devour each and every word of the bite-sized chapters as they draw you in and leave you craving for more. There will be love, hate, sex, drugs, music, comedy, hope, inspiration, education, and just that overall feeling of a good read. Regardless if you are snuggled up next to a warm cozy fire with your favorite cup of tea, or on the train heading home after a long day at work, this book is sure to transport you into the wonderful world of Sin. Enjoy!

mc eiht menace 2 society: *Hip Hop around the World* Melissa Ursula Dawn Goldsmith, Anthony J. Fonseca, 2018-12-01 This set covers all aspects of international hip hop as expressed through music, art, fashion, dance, and political activity. Hip hop music has gone from being a marginalized genre in the late 1980s to the predominant style of music in America, the UK, Nigeria, South Africa, and other countries around the world. Hip Hop around the World includes more than 450 entries on global hip hop culture as it includes music, art, fashion, dance, social and cultural movements, organizations, and styles of hip hop. Virtually every country is represented in the text. Most of the entries focus on music styles and notable musicians and are unique in that they discuss the sound of various hip hop styles and musical artists' lyrical content, vocal delivery, vocal ranges, and more. Many additional entries deal with dance styles, such as breakdancing or b-boying/b-girling, popping/locking, clowning, and krumping, and cultural movements, such as black nationalism, Nation of Islam, Five Percent Nation, and Universal Zulu Nation. Country entries take into account politics, history, language, authenticity, and personal and community identification. Special care is taken to draw relationships between people and entities such as mentor-apprentice, producer-musician, and more.

mc eiht menace 2 society: *Say It Loud!* Robin R. Means Coleman, 2013-08-21 In a collection of essays based on direct interview research, *Say it Loud!* amplifies the voice of ordinary African-Americans as they respond to media presentations of Black society. Each chapter investigates ways in which African-American identity is constructed, maintained, and represented in mass media and how these portrayals are interpreted within the African-American community. Together the essays cover a vast array of media messages in television, film, music, print and cyberspace. From the Boondocks comic strip, *The Cosby Show*, and *The Color Purple* to the music of

rap artist DMX and original testimony from a Menace II Society copycat killer, the material included in this volume is examined as context for the African-American struggle to achieve definition, meaning, and power. *Say it Loud!* offers rare insight into how this struggle is both helped and hindered by the representation of race in our media culture.

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mc eiht menace 2 society: Rap and Politics Lavar Pope, 2020-10-19 Rap and Politics maps out fifty years of political and musical development by exploring three specific moments of local discourse, each a response to failures by local, state, and national governments to address police brutality, violence, poverty, and poor social conditions in Oakland, California and the surrounding Bay Area. First, in the mid-1960s, Black youth responded to repressive political and socioeconomic factors in West Oakland by founding the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, whose representation of violence and community aid, as well as its radical and militant approach to Black Nationalism, became a foundational discourse that shaped the development of rap music in the region. Second, from the collapse of the Party in the early 1980s through the 1990s, gangster rap emerged as a form of political expression among local youth, who drew heavily on radical and militant elements of Panther discourse in their lyrics and artwork. Third, hyphy music in the mid-1990s to early 2000s continued these radical discourses and also incorporated coordinated, subversive public behavior to the mix. The result was a critique of endemic problems facing the local Black community, but also an infectious subgenre of party music that gained mainstream popularity. Overall, this study shows that the specific types of representation created to resist problems of racism and poverty in Oakland is actually key to understanding other rap undergrounds, grassroots subcultures, and social movements elsewhere. In the process, Rap and Politics offers readers a new model focused on the development of settings, representation, movements, discourse banks, and impact within underground rap scenes.

mc eiht menace 2 society: The 'Hood Comes First Murray Forman, 2002-04-30 Examines the significance of the 'hood in rap and hip hop The 'Hood Comes First looks at the increasingly specific emphasis on real neighborhoods and streets in rap music and hip hop culture as an urgent response to the cultural and geographical ghettoization of black urban communities. Examining rap music, along with ancillary hip hop media including radio, music videos, rap press and the cinematic 'hood genre, Murray Forman analyzes hip hop culture's varying articulations of the terms ghetto, inner-city, and the 'hood, and how these spaces, both real and imaginary, are used to define individual and collective identity. Negotiating academic, corporate, and street discourses, Forman assesses the dynamics between race, social space and youth. Race, class and national identification are recast and revised within rap's spatial discourse, concluding with the construction of the 'hood, a social and geographic symbol that has become central to concepts of hip hop authenticity. Additionally, the book analyzes the processes within the music and culture industries through which hip hop has been amplified and disseminated from the 'hood to international audiences.

mc eiht menace 2 society: Billboard , 1993-07-10 In its 114th year, Billboard remains the world's premier weekly music publication and a diverse digital, events, brand, content and data licensing platform. Billboard publishes the most trusted charts and offers unrivaled reporting about the latest music, video, gaming, media, digital and mobile entertainment issues and trends.

mc eiht menace 2 society: Kendrick Lamar and the Making of Black Meaning Christopher M. Driscoll, Monica R Miller, Anthony B. Pinn, 2019-09-25 Kendrick Lamar has established himself at the forefront of contemporary hip-hop culture. Artistically adventurous and socially conscious, he has been unapologetic in using his art form, rap music, to address issues affecting black lives while also exploring subjects fundamental to the human experience, such as religious belief. This book is the first to provide an interdisciplinary academic analysis of the impact of Lamar's corpus. In doing so, it highlights how Lamar's music reflects current tensions that are keenly felt when dealing with

the subjects of race, religion and politics. Starting with Section 80 and ending with DAMN., this book deals with each of Lamar's four major projects in turn. A panel of academics, journalists and hip-hop practitioners show how religion, in particular black spiritualities, take a front-and-center role in his work. They also observe that his astute and biting thoughts on race and culture may come from an African American perspective, but many find something familiar in Lamar's lyrical testimony across great chasms of social and geographical difference. This sophisticated exploration of one of popular culture's emerging icons reveals a complex and multi faceted engagement with religion, faith, race, art and culture. As such, it will be vital reading for anyone working in religious, African American and hip-hop studies, as well as scholars of music, media and popular culture.

mc eiht menace 2 society: *Ego Trip's Book of Rap Lists* Sacha Jenkins, Elliott Wilson, Jeff Mao, Gabe Alvarez, Brent Rollins, 2014-03-25 *Ego Trip's Book of Rap Lists* is more popular than racism! Hip hop is huge, and it's time someone wrote it all down. And got it all right. With over 25 aggregate years of interviews, and virtually every hip hop single, remix and album ever recorded at their disposal, the highly respected Ego Trip staff are the ones to do it. The Book of Rap Lists runs the gamut of hip hop information. This is an exhaustive, indispensable and completely irreverent bible of true hip hip knowledge.

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mc eiht menace 2 society: *Joel Whitburn's Top Pop Albums, 1955-2001* Joel Whitburn, 2001 From pop music's early LPs to its latest CDs, *Top Pop Albums 1955-2001* is a sweeping, stunning saga of Billboard's Pop Albums chart. This artist-by-artist listing includes every charted album from 1955 through June 30, 2001 - over 22,000 in all by more than 5,200 recording artists, and the more than 225,000 cuts from those albums. Along with complete chart data, artist biographies and complete track listings for every artist, *Top Pop Albums* sports new features such as each album's CD availability, data from the newly researched *Top Pop Catalog Albums* chart, updated album pricing and more, making this the biggest, broadest, absolute best albums book ever! Hardcover, ISBN 0-89820-147-0.

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mc eiht menace 2 society: *The New Film History* J. Chapman, M. Glancy, S. Harper, 2007-04-25 The first major overview of the field of film history in twenty years, this book offers a wide-ranging account of the methods, sources and approaches used by modern film historians. The key areas of research are analysed, alongside detailed case studies centred on well-known American, Australian, British and European films.

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mc eiht menace 2 society: *Who Got the Camera?* Eric Harvey, 2021-10-05 Reality first

appeared in the late 1980s—in the sense not of real life but rather of the TV entertainment genre inaugurated by shows such as *Cops* and *America's Most Wanted*; the daytime gabfests of Geraldo, Oprah, and Donahue; and the tabloid news of *A Current Affair*. In a bracing work of cultural criticism, Eric Harvey argues that reality TV emerged in dialog with another kind of entertainment that served as its foil while borrowing its techniques: gangsta rap. Or, as legendary performers Ice Cube and Ice-T called it, “reality rap.” Reality rap and reality TV were components of a cultural revolution that redefined popular entertainment as a truth-telling medium. Reality entertainment borrowed journalistic tropes but was undiluted by the caveats and context that journalism demanded. While N.W.A.’s “Fuck tha Police” countered *Cops*’ vision of Black lives in America, the reality rappers who emerged in that group’s wake, such as Snoop Doggy Dogg and Tupac Shakur, embraced reality’s visceral tabloid sensationalism, using the media’s obsession with Black criminality to collapse the distinction between image and truth. Reality TV and reality rap nurtured the world we live in now, where politics and basic facts don’t feel real until they have been translated into mass-mediated entertainment.

mc eiht menace 2 society: *Joel Whitburn Presents Top R & B/hip-hop Singles, 1942-2004* Joel Whitburn, 2004 The only complete history of Billboard's Hot RandB/Hip-Hop Singles chart, this book by Joel Whitburn is a mammoth monument to one of America's most beloved music styles. All the chart hits are here with complete with in-depth chart data, essential artist information and much, much more! Arranged by artist, this authorized Billboard Chart book includes everything from the the early RandB bands, doo-wop groups, sweet soul singers, hot funk unites, sexy divas and the hottest hip-hop stars of today. Each listing has a bio summary and then shows peak chart position, chart debut date, total weeks charted for every song that cracked the charts. Over 4,400 artists and nearly 20,000 song titles.

mc eiht menace 2 society: *Major Labels* Kelefa Sanneh, 2022-10-04 One of Oprah Daily's 20 Favorite Books of 2021 • Selected as one of Pitchfork's Best Music Books of the Year “One of the best books of its kind in decades.” —The Wall Street Journal An epic achievement and a huge delight, the entire history of popular music over the past fifty years refracted through the big genres that have defined and dominated it: rock, R&B, country, punk, hip-hop, dance music, and pop Kelefa Sanneh, one of the essential voices of our time on music and culture, has made a deep study of how popular music unites and divides us, charting the way genres become communities. In *Major Labels*, Sanneh distills a career’s worth of knowledge about music and musicians into a brilliant and omnivorous reckoning with popular music—as an art form (actually, a bunch of art forms), as a cultural and economic force, and as a tool that we use to build our identities. He explains the history of slow jams, the genius of Shania Twain, and why rappers are always getting in trouble. Sanneh shows how these genres have been defined by the tension between mainstream and outsider, between authenticity and phoniness, between good and bad, right and wrong. Throughout, race is a powerful touchstone: just as there have always been Black audiences and white audiences, with more or less overlap depending on the moment, there has been Black music and white music, constantly mixing and separating. Sanneh debunks cherished myths, reappraises beloved heroes, and upends familiar ideas of musical greatness, arguing that sometimes, the best popular music isn’t transcendent. Songs express our grudges as well as our hopes, and they are motivated by greed as well as idealism; music is a powerful tool for human connection, but also for human antagonism. This is a book about the music everyone loves, the music everyone hates, and the decades-long argument over which is which. The opposite of a modest proposal, *Major Labels* pays in full.

mc eiht menace 2 society: *Performing Identity/performing Culture* Greg Dimitriadis, 2009 *Performing Identity/Performing Culture: Hip Hop as Text, Pedagogy, and Lived Practice* is the first book-length ethnography of young people and their uses of hip hop culture. Originally published in 2001, this second edition is newly revised, expanded, and updated to reflect contemporary currents in hip hop culture and critical scholarship, as well as the epochal social, cultural, and economic shifts of the last decade. Drawing together historical work on hip hop and rap music as well as four years of research at a local community center, Greg Dimitriadis argues here that contemporary

youth are fashioning notions of self and community outside of school in ways educators have largely ignored. His studies are broad-ranging: how two teenagers constructed notions of a Southern tradition through their use of Southern rap artists like Eightball & MJG and Three 6 Mafia; how young people constructed notions of history through viewing the film Panther, a film they connected to hip hop culture more broadly; and how young people dealt with the life and death of hip hop icon Tupac Shakur, constructing resurrection myths that still resonate and circulate today.

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