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REVIEW

DVD Review: Style Wars

Posted by [Berkeley Joe](#) on October 24, 2005 09:43 PM (See [all posts by Berkeley Joe](#))

Filed under: [Video](#) - Scroll down to read [comments on this story](#) and/or add one of your own.



[Style Wars](#)

DVD from *Music Video Distribu*
Release date: 23 August, 2005

Part of me can't believe I never saw this movie before, and the other part is kinda glad cuz I was able to enjoy it from a fresh perspective, as a guy born in the early 70's, and had some kind of a framework as to what was going on in the timeframe depicted in the film (about 1982), and although I was on the west coast, I remember how hip hop was just starting to blow up, but really, I don't, maybe I just think I do. In any event, it's an interesting history notwithstanding.

People, paint, music, moves, and the big bam beautiful city of New York. And it wasn't just the Bronx. It was Brooklyn, uptown, downtown, queens, staten, the whole nine, I mean, that was how you got all city, you know, you were all city if your shit was on the subways rolling on all the lines through all the boroughs and makin your name and you made that name of what they gave you and then you were christened the best. And yeah, the subway doesn't go to Staten, but maybe you could, like, graffiti the ferry, heh? Never thought of that did you. Anyway, New York had graffiti everywhere, some good, some bad, and the artists would go to all ends to plaster their artistic visions up on the trains for all to see. This is their story.

Basically this thing is a new edition of an old classic PBS documentary from the 80's, polished up & thrown on a dvd and given a bunch of extras; it's all about graffiti culture and the larger emergence of the hip hop culture in general, and it wasn't just about one race doing this that and the other. There were white boys, brown boys, yella boys and girls doin all kines of rockin and poppin and sprayin up their sigils in train yards and what have you. Yeah, I mean, mos def there were preponderances of certain demographics,

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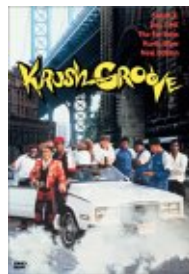
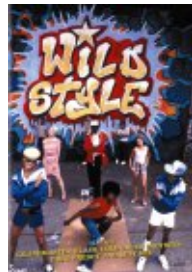
but you catch my drift. Maybe.

The music is bangin'. The art is unbelievable. The dance moves are enough to make you check your spine for scoliosis. But the most interesting part of watching this mind blowin and fascinatin dvd is the snapshot of an earlier age. I didn't say "more innocent," although maybe it was. Who can say? Maybe it was more guilty, actually. New York looks grittier in this movie than it does nowadays in my humble opinion, at least from my perspective of a couple weeks spent there this year. Be that as it may, it was a different time, and the thing to note is what hip hop IS and what it WAS.

Back then, it literally was underground, not a megalopolis business entity posing as something hardcore and subversive. It really was subversive, but it wasn't necessarily violent, and it wasn't necessarily NOT violent. It was the voice of the next generation that had found a new way to express themselves that consisted of four equally important hands and feet and what have you. Dj'ing, mc'ing, graffing, and bboying. And it's all here. All 80's. even back to the 70's, explaining how it started, the graffiti, the art. Yeah, it digs more deeply into that facet, but you can't explain it without going into the other sections, just like you can't explain a dog's tail without mentioning it's eyes & nose. Or maybe you can?

I dunno. If you like art, hip hop, music, dancing, history, or any cogent combination of any of the above then this is must view super extreme action multiplied by 83. Turbo force 7 endorsed. Supposedly. Aloha & gracias.

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latin kings run the streets... we dont die we multi... [\[more\]](#)

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[Dave Nalle](#) (21)

[Eric Olsen](#) (20)

[DJRadiohead](#) (19)

[Nancy](#) (13)

[Historian](#) (11)

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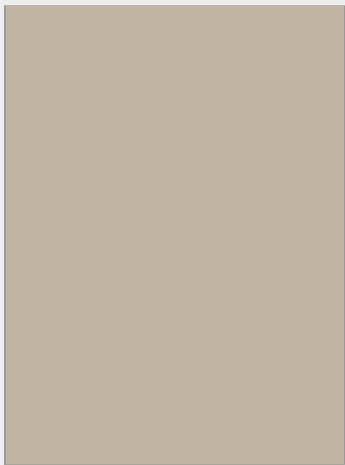
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