

Kill the Record Labels (killtherecordlabels.com) This may look like one of those d.i.y. hip hop videos, informed by mixtape culture, that either use fiction or documentary to glorify artists or the lifestyle. But it's actually a fairly vital documentary inspired by DJ Drama's high profile arrest. The record industry, in an act of confusion, decided to come down hard on mix tape DJs, who make mixtapes, which are not bootlegs, but underground CDs of unreleased, remixed, or advance songs, many by major label artists, and (especially in Drama's case) much of it provided by the major labels to gain promotion and street cred. The hypocrisy is ridiculous, and it's so clear that even young, posturing, in some cases high, rappers and mix tape DJs can be extremely articulate in expressing what is fucked up about this, and are quite adept at putting everything in perfect perspective. Interviews include Bun B, Jim Jones, Chamillionaire, Green Lantern, some white lady, 50 Cent,

Drama himself, and dozens more. There are no comments from scholars and cultural critics supporting the mixtapes or explaining the aesthetics of postmodern repurposing and recontextualization and authenticity. And its not needed. This is also light on original interviews with dissenting voices (cops, prosecutors, lawyers RIAA reps) but those fools so discredit themselves in all the news footage included here that they are heard loudly and stupidly enough. The best bullshit argument enemies of mixtapes make is that there is a link between mix tape sales and a lot of other crimes, like drugs, guns and...terrorism. Of course, nothing was found at Drama's shop during the giant raid and no one ever presents actual evidence of this, but they keep repeating it. This is definitely a d.i.y. hood production (a prominent typo describes the RIAA law *sutes*) and the section of the shadowy "Former record executive" with his voice nearly inaudible because of robotic alteration to protect his identity seems fake and pointless). But it does as good a job as a pro could do, and overall this gives a fine perspective on an interesting subject.