



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Hip-Hop Archive Project files**

1979-2004

Sc MG 755

## Summary

**Creator:** Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

**Title:** Hip-Hop Archive Project files

**Date:** 1979-2004

**Size:** 1.46 linear feet (5 boxes)

**Source:** Stickers donated by Brett Crenshaw, September 2000; James Spady material, gift of James Spady, November 2004; and some material purchased from George Robert Minkoff Rare Books, June 2006.

**Abstract:** Launched around 2014, the Schomburg Center's Hip-Hop Archive Project aimed to engage activists, writers, collectors, and scholars in documenting the early movement from the mid-1970s. Schomburg Center staff Steven Fullwood and Lela Sowell led the effort. It is unclear when the Project ended. This collection consists of primary source resource materials such as oral histories with journalist Harry Allen and the Awesome 2 (Teddy Tedd, and Special K); promotional materials for Echo Park, "Hip-Hop Nation: Roots, Rhymes and Rage," and "Hip Hop Appreciation Week." There is also information about the Zulu Nation and KRS-One's Temple of Hip-hop; a complete run of the International Graffiti Times; the Kid n Play comic series; and various journals, magazines, newspapers, articles, books, theses, and dissertations on hip-hop from various collectors, including James G. Spady and James Top.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Hip-Hop Archive Project files, Sc MG 755, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Accessioned by Steven G. Fullwood, December 2004.

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the General Research and Reference Division: books and periodicals.

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio and moving image materials. For more information, please contact the division at [schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org](mailto:schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org) or 212-491-2270.

## Creator History

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## Scope and Content Note

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**Arrangement:** Arranged first by the James G. Spady collection, then generally in alphabetical order by individual or organization name.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

African American musicians  
Music journalists

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Hip-hop (Music)

### Geographic Names

Philadelphia, Pa.

### Names

Alim, H. Samy  
Blow, Kurtis  
Grandmaster Caz  
James, Rick, 1948-2004  
Shakur, Tupac, 1971-1996  
Spady, James G.  
Kid 'N' Play (Musical group)  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture  
Temple of Hip-hop (Musical group)

## Container List

### James G. Spady collection 1993-2004

James G. Spady is the author of *Larry Neal: Liberated Black Philly Poet with a Blues Streak of Mellow Wisdom* (1989) and *Marcus Garvey, Africa and the Universal Negro Improvement Association: A UMUM Perspective on Concentric Activity in the Pan African World* (1985); and the editor of *William L. Dawson, a Umum Tribute and a Marvelous Journey* (1981). He is also co-author, with Charles G. Lee and H. Samy Alim, of *Street Conscious Rap* (1999), and, with Stefan Dupres and Charles G. Lee, of *Twisted Tales: In the Hip Hop Streets of Philly* (1995). A frequent contributor to the *Philadelphia New Observer*, Spady's activities include creating and participating in hip-hop programming, primarily in Philadelphia.

This collection includes *Philadelphia New Observer* articles from 1993-2004, which mostly cover the local hip-hop scene in Philadelphia, and include profiles of national hip-hop figures (such as Tupac Shakur) and Black musicians (such as Rick James). In addition, there are flyers and programs for events organized by Spady and others, including "Dia de'Hip Hop Latino"; "Word Life: Conference on Hip-Hop and Faith"; and "Born with a Veil: The Challenge of Double Consciousness in the 21st Century" from the 19th Annual Souls of DuBois Conference at the University of Pennsylvania. There is also a review of *Twisted Tales: In the Hip Hop Streets of Philly*, and a copy of the essay, "Hip Hop Nation Language", by H. Samy Alim.

#### *Philadelphia New Observer* articles

- b. 1 f. 1 1993
- b. 1 f. 2 1994
- b. 1 f. 3 1995-1996
- b. 1 f. 4 1997
- b. 1 f. 5 2001-2003
- b. 1 f. 6 2004
- b. 1 f. 7 Programs and flyer
- b. 1 f. 8 *Twisted Tales: In the Hip Hop Streets of Philly* review
- b. 1 f. 9 Alim, H. Samy. "The Hip Hop Nation Language"

#### b. 2 f. 1 *Adler, Bill and Ego Trip* 1999-2000

Bill Adler is a journalist, collector, publicist, and record label executive. Born in Detroit, Michigan, Adler was a contributing columnist on jazz and hip-hop culture to *Rolling Stone*, *Village Voice*, and the *Daily News* in the early 1980s. Adler was also a publicist for various projects by Russell Simmons before founding his own record company (NuYo Records). *Vibe*, *The Source*, *Rolling Stone*, *Ego Trip* magazines, as well as a variety of television and museum outlets, have used his personal collection of clippings and photography.

File contains Adler's biography; original photography of *Ego Trip* authors Brent Rollins, Chairman Mo, Sacha Jenkins, Gabriel Alvarez, and Elliot Wilson; press release for *Ego Trip's Book of Rap Lists* and a biography of book's authors; photocopy of advertisement flyer for the book; and photocopy of small feature in *Vibe* magazine regarding *Ego Trip's* book.

#### b. 2 f. 2 Armstrong and Williams flyer collection 1979-1982

Armstrong and Williams were promoters for various hip-hop acts in the 1980s.

File contains six flyers (5 originals, one color copy) of shows featuring the following hip-hop acts: The Cold Crush Brothers, Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, The Funky-Four Plus One, Sha-Rock, Lovebug Starski, Spoonie G., DJ Dr. Cool, Dr. Shock, Tuff Two MCs, DJ Baron, DJ Breakout, Brothers Disco, and the ventriloquist act, Charlie and Wayne. Featured show venues: Skate Odyssey, The New Mosque Disco and Rink, the P.A.L., and The Bronx High School of Science. Flyers also feature early acts from the foundational hip-hop label, Sugar Hill Records, and demonstrate the incorporation of skating rinks and skating culture as important venues for early hip-hop acts.

#### b. 2 f. 3 Co-Motion and April R. Silver 1999-2001

Co-Motion was a community-based political organization founded in April 1999, by April R. Silver during the aftermath of the Amadou Diallo murder. The organization consisted of a group of artists, entrepreneurs, and other local citizens who focused on the socio-economic and political conditions of the African and Latino Diaspora. Co-Motion specifically used hip-hop culture as a political entry point to discuss issue pertinent to Black and Latino youth.

File contains Co-Motion mission statement, and suggested reading list, and four original flyers.

- b. 2 f. 4 **Disco Fever 1986**  
Disco Fever was a popular nightclub in the 1980s, that featured a number of popular hip-hop acts including Kurtis Blow, the Sugar Hill Gang, Afrika Bambaataa, and KRS-One.  
File contains a flyer for the club's 10th anniversary; an essay about Fever Enterprises, a business owned by club and record label proprietor Sal Abbattello; two T-shirts; a key ring; and an address book advertising Disco Fever.
- b. 2 f. 5-7 **Easy A.D. Harris hip-hop collection 1979-2001**  
Easy A.D. Harris is a rapper, collector, and founder of the Cold Crush Brothers.  
File contains dozens of flyers for Cold Crush Brothers performances (1979-1985, n.d.) and other hip-hop performers including Grandmaster Flash and The Furious Five, The Fantastic Five, The Treacherous Three, Force of the 5 MCs, and others. The file also contains letters, press releases, photographs, copies of contracts with record labels, royalty information, and printed materials about KRS-ONE's Temple of Hip-Hop, with which Harris contributed.
- b. 2 f. 8 ***Echo Park: The Hip Hop Musical* 2000 June**  
*Echo Park: The Hip Hop Musical* premiered on June 1, 2000, at the Apollo Theater. The show, written by Sean Couch and Kelly Scott of Lifted Productions, in conjunction with the National Black Theater and Julia Da Borges Cultural Center, chronicled hip-hop's evolution. The musical was broken down into three parts with the first section covering the years 1978-1981, in which the DJ played the key role in hip-hop. The second and third sections highlight the MC and hip-hop's crossover into mainstream American culture. Legendary hip-hop artists such as Kurtis Blow, Grandmaster Caz, and DJ Hollywood joined the show's cast as narrators.  
The file contains photocopies of news articles and reviews related to the show along with advertising materials for the show.
- b. 2 f. 9 **Grandmaster Caz 1992-1997**  
Born in Bronx, NY, Grandmaster Caz, MC and DJ, was a contributing lyricist to "Rapper's Delight", a song considered by many to be foundational to hip-hop's crossover into nationwide popular radio, as well as an original member of the Cold Crush Brothers. He also performed, along with the rest of the Cold Crush brothers, on the soundtrack to the movie *Wild Style*.  
File contains biography; photocopy of still images from his Star Search music video; photocopy of article in *Insomniac* magazine; photocopy of small feature in *Daily News* (1997); photocopy of article in *The Source* (1992); photocopies of promotional and party photography; original promotional headshot; and business card.
- b. 2 f. 10 **Hiphop Appreciation Week 2004**  
Started in 1997 by KRS-One's Temple of Hiphop, Hiphop Appreciation Week aimed to view hip-hop as an international culture for peace. The week consisted of movies, community outreach, and symposiums.  
File contains press releases and advertising materials from the 2004 Hiphop Appreciation Week.
- b. 2 f. 11 **Hip-hop education with Jamee Schliefer 2000**  
Jamee Schliefer is a hip-hop dancer, choreographer, and teacher. She has taught, danced, or choreographed with several groups in New York City including the Ladies Auxiliary of the Retardate Center (1976-1989), Jacques D'Amboise's The National Dance Institute, Thaeater Rehabilitation for Youth, and Robin Dunn's Hip Hop Technicians. Schliefer has studied dance with several dancers and choreographers such as Frank Hatchett of Broadway Dance Theater and Steve "Wiggles" Clemente of the famed Rock Steady Crew. From 1987-2001, she taught at Andries Hudde I.S. 240 in Brooklyn. Her hip-hop class with seventh and eighth grade students became a model for the benefits of hip-hop dance education.  
The file includes biographical sketches, Schliefer's philosophy on hip-hop education, and programs from a May 2000 Hudde Dance Company performance.
- b. 2 f. 12 ***Hip-Hop Nation: Roots, Rhymes, and Race* 2000**  
Brooklyn Museum exhibit that displayed sheet music, clothing, artwork, programs, concert posters, jewelry, and lyrics. In addition to the exhibit, the museum held a concert and symposium on hip-hop.  
The file contains advertising materials, symposium program, press releases, and exhibit object list.

b. 2 f. 13 *IGTimes (International Graffiti Times)*

An arts publication created in 1983 by photographer Schmidlapp, *IGTimes* was the first "aerosol zine". The publication chronicled the art form of aerosol-writing more commonly known as graffiti or street art. In 1996, *IGTimes* in association with Stampa Alternative, an Italian publishing house, published *Style: Writing from the Underground*. The book covered three decades of the aerosol movement including the 1970s-1990s. Schmidlapp and the other two key members of *IGTimes*, Vulcan and Phase 2, formed the Aerosol Armada. From 1988 to 1994, the Armada traveled worldwide promoting and teaching the aerosol-writing art form.

The file includes biographical sketches, *Style: Writing from the Underground* promotional materials, and photocopies of articles about the book.

b. 2 f. 14-16 Kid 'N Play comic series 1992

Kid'N Play was an American hip-hop and comedy duo from New York City, popular in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The duo was composed of Christopher "Kid" Reid and Christopher "Play" Martin working alongside their DJ, Mark "DJ Wiz" Eastmond. In addition to successful music careers, Kid 'N Play also had several hit movies and an animated Saturday morning television show. The first issue of the Kid 'N Play comic series was released by Marvel Comics in February 1992. The comics were written by Dwight Coye and illustrated by Chuck Frazier. The comic ran for nine issues and was discontinued in November 1992.

Files contain the complete run of issues from February to October 1992, news articles, and correspondence.

b. 2 f. 17 *Kurtis Blow documentary, The History of Rap* 1997

*The History of Rap* is a documentary produced by Kurtis Blow. The documentary aimed at teaching young music fans about the early foundations of hip-hop music and culture, and includes biographies of a variety of artists such as Afrika Bambaataa, Grandmaster Flash, and Luv Bug Starski.

File contains description of the documentary; promotional flyer; film talent list; description of film's soundtrack and movie structure; and biographies of the film's director, Tommy Sowards, cinematographer, Arturo Smith, and producer, Blow.

b. 2 f. 18 Levine, Rebecca and oral history transcripts 2001

Writer.

Files contain Levine's proposal for "Know the Ledge: An Oral History of Hip Hop from 1983 to 1995"; transcript of an interview with Harry Allen; and transcript of an interview with the Awesome 2. Harry Allen, also known as the Media Assassin, a hip-hop activist affiliated with Public Enemy and the Awesome 2, hosted the longest running rap radio show in New York City.

b. 2 f. 19 Spinderella 1997-2002

Spinderella, aka Deidra Muriel Roper, was born August 3, 1971. She was an American DJ and rapper who was a member of the hip-hop group, Salt-N-Pepa. Not the first Spinderella, she took on the name at the age of sixteen. The group was popular from 1985-2002 and released hit albums such as *Hot, Cool and Vicious*; *A Salt with a Deadly Pepa*, and *Blacks' Magic*. The group disbanded in 2002; however came back together in 2007. DJ Spinderella also worked as a radio personality hosting the *Backspin*, a nationally syndicated radio show.

The file contains headshot photographs, a hip-hop honors party invitation, and performance flyers.

b. 3 f. 1 Temple of Hiphop 2000

Founded in 2000 by KRS-One, the Temple of Hiphop aimed to preserve and teach the spiritual principles of hip-hop culture. Members included hip-hop legends such as Kool DJ Herc, Afrika Bambaataa, and Grandmaster Flash. The Temple recognized nine elements of "Hiphop Kulture" including breakin', emceeing, graffiti art, deejaying, beatboxing, street fashion, street language, and street entrepreneurialism.

b. 3 f. 2 Top, James 1999-2001

b. 4 An early pioneer of graffiti art in Brooklyn and Harlem.

File contains biography, articles, and printed material about Top.

b. 3 f. 3 Universal Zulu Nation

The Universal Zulu Nation is an organization of men, women, adults, young adults, and youth started by Afrika Bambaatta in 1973. The organization has chapters worldwide and offers service and social awareness programs including mentorship programs, internet training, youth physical fitness awareness, and cultural exchange. Several famed Hip-Hop artists such as Ice-T, Ice

Cube, A Tribe Called Quest, and Yo-Yo are members of the Universal Zulu Nation.

The file contains biographical sketches, brochures, photocopies of news articles, and flyers.

**b. 3 f. 4 Urban Think Tank, Inc 1995-2000**

Urban Think Tank (UTT), Inc. was a nonprofit organization committed to repositioning rap music and hip-hop culture as forms worthy of scholarly study. UTT produced several publications such as *Full Disclosure* and *Doula: The Journal of Rap Music and Hip-Hop Culture*.

The file includes correspondence, several issues of *Full Disclosure: The Business of Hip-Hop*, and an issue of *Doula*.

**b. 3 f. 5-6 Miscellaneous 1990-2003**

Includes several articles related to hip-hop culture, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's "Hip-Hop: A Cultural Expression" program, correspondence, and fliers.

**b. 4 Sticker collection ca. 1996-2000**

**Press releases**

Files contain press releases for artists, albums, movies, and record labels. Notable artists include Dr. Dre, Eve, Fat Joe, Ice Cube, Ice-T, Jackie O, Kid 'N Play, Kriss Kross, Public Enemy, Ruff Ryders, Run DMC, Tupac Shakur, and Wyclef Jean.

**b. 5 f. 1 #1-9**

**b. 5 f. 2 A-C**

**b. 5 f. 3 D-G**

**b. 5 f. 4 H-L**

**b. 5 f. 5 M-Q**

**b. 5 f. 6 R-V**

**b. 5 f. 7 W-Z**