

Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes by Byron Hurt

A. Intro

- sit down interview with Hurt, montage of Hurt at shows mixed w/ rap videos
 - "I love Hip-hop..."
 - Trying to get us men to take a hard look at ourselves...
 - It's like we're in a box--strong, tough, lot of girls, player, pimp, in control, dominate others...if not...get called [derogatory language]"
- 1:30 TITLE ***Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes***
- "Hip-hop is a Man's game"--Sug Knight
 - There's an identification with the most stereotypical masculine images --it's a prison for us
 - rapper: "you're not doing all that, but you can"
 - 3:00, 1st woman—"escape the prison of Hip-hop"

B. BIO-

- h.s. football, ladies man, hip-hop and rap fan
- after college--hired out of college to educate about men's violence against women "I became conflicted about the music I loved"
- "So I raised money, bought a camera, hired a crew and began my journey to examine the representations of manhood in hip-hop culture..."

5:45

C. Everybody wants to be hard

Datona Beach, FL; BET Spring Fling Wkend "felt like I was in a real live rap video"

1. rapping kids montage--
2. Interview Question "why are so many rappers preoccupied with violence and gunplay?"
 - Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, cultural critic VO
 - western montage; sound--Sopranos theme w/ hip-hop remix
 - Dr. James Peterson, hip-hop scholar--2 components to masculinity
 1. verbal ability
 2. ability to negotiate violence and survive
 - 50 cent video, *Many Men*; Public Enemy's logo
 - Kevin Powell, Hip hop historian—hip-hop was born in ghetto, war zones; mini montage on ghetto development in 60s
hip-hop energy was positive, as a response to violence
3. Why is it so important to be hard?-Fat Joe, rapper
 - Dr. Jelani Cobb Spelman College--boast; history of black men trying to deny their own frailty; one side...psychic armor, on the other it's like a running joke...irony
 - Studio photo shoot scene: Busta Rhymes, Mos Def, Talib Kweli, De La Soul; jokingly poses tough-style, gangsta
 - Conrad Tillard Hip-hop minister; fathers punch child in the chest, you got to be ready (footage of fathers and sons, street sports, rap video)
 - Chuck Creekmur CEO, allhiphop.com, "our culture limits the range in which we can express our emotions "(rap video & performance montage)
 - Jackson Katz anti- sexist activist; if you don't have real power, you do

- have control over your body...accounts for hyper-masculine (macho, dominant) posturing
- Powell--crack, gang environment, prison environment (footage Reagan, drugs, gangs, prison)
- Battle rap in street
- Chuck D (no personal title, just name)--confrontation with the wrong person--street credibility (footage-prison rap video, Tupac/Biggie press)
- 4. Interview Question: Rappers' non-chalant about violence
 - Jadakiss, rapper, answer: Do you watch movies
--Hollywood movie montage and Bush quote
Manhood is about...
(Montage: no VO, Homicide stats, news, rap and movie shots)
 - Chuck D: "black death has been pimped by the corporations and young people think that street credibility is the thing that will ride them to some kind of profitability in life"

21:20

D. Shut Up and Give me Your Bone Marrow

1. Introducing, Nelly-rapper, business man:
non-profit for literacy and leukemia, and pimp juice beverage
2. Spellman college women protest Nelly over video
 - Asha Jennings, Student Gov't President; Lauren Clark Student
Gave Nelly option to address both issues, he declined
(Interview shots cut with Nelly video *Tip Drill*)
3. Sarah Jones Performance artist-mindset of white slaveholder
4. Mikael Moore, Morehouse Student--be real to how I've been socialized to watch those videos...excited , turned on
5. Sut Jhally, founder Media Education Foundation—"the bad thing about ads and music videos is that this is the only way that women are presented, so the only way men are allowed to make a connection with women in the popular culture is through sexuality and through their own desires"
6. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Spelman College--culture perpetuates...women are primarily sex objects and people to be f@%ked
7. Byron Interviews Russell Simmons about Spellman controversy—"I think we have to challenge sexism as a whole the way it stands in the community and not the poetry that reflects the culture...(what are you doing personally)...I can't address every issue because I don't have the equipment; I'm trying to figure out what special contribution I can make."
8. Beverly Guy-Sheftall "we still think sexism is not an urgent issue"
(Montage: Black women stats on sexual violence, cut with *Tip Drill* video)
"It is true that these women appear not to be resistant...I would hope that they understand the extent to which they are participating in a culture that commodifies women"

27:31

D. Sisters and Bitches

1. Spring Bling—

- interviews, judgments on the street--women's attire

NWA sound byte *A Bitch is a Bitch*

Hurt VO [reads the situation for the audience; does not let interviewees responses speak for themselves]

- [Guys cross the line] Montage: NWA *A Bitch is a Bitch*,
- Hurt sitdown commentary--"they are talking about you",
- women interviews/footage unwanted touching;
- Police interview

32:56

E. Bitch Niggaz Hurt questions language use of n-word and b-word

1. Challenging Manhood

- Clip: 50 Cent questioning Jah Rule's manhood in front of millions
- degrading men by calling them "less than a man," girly man, gay
- insult is double, an assault on women and a malicious form of masculine identity
- false sense of power and a way to make others feel powerless
- calling manhood into question, calling sexuality into question
- Hurt asks: What does that say about us? Could it really be saying that we're insecure about our sexuality?

2. Interview with transvestites--Does homophobia bother you? No it turns me on...

3. Studio interview; Busta Rhymes: refuses to talk about homosexuality issue "What I represent culturally doesn't condone it."

4. Preacher commentary.

5. Gay black comic footage.

6. Interview with gay black man hip-hop fan.

- Ironic that hip-hop is so homophobic, but also it's so homo-erotic

7. Emil Wilbekin, former editor, Vibe magazine, interview on homo-eroticism in hip-hop: "Showing black men, naked, greased up, god-like."

8. Critic-who? "An erotic intensity that bonds men at the expensive of women"

42:00

F. Manhood in a Bottle

1. Clear Channel Hip hop power conference

Montage of wannabe rappers on the street--Hurt challenges them with a question about violent and sexist representations...

- "they don't give us deals when we speak righteously, they don't think we want to hear that"

2. Historian--Golden Age of diversity in early 90s Hip-hop

"manipulated and commodified by this white male power structure"

3. studio interview w/ Talib Kwali "media did not used to define hip-hop...Media is defining hip-hop now"

4. Carmen Ashurst-Watson Former President, Def Jam

"the time that hip-hop turned into gangsta rap was the time when the majors bought up all the labels and I don't think that's a coincidence;"

5. now 60-70% white audience; after 700,000 it's all white people
6. Hurt interviews white guy from Ohio in Datona blasting hip hop from Dad's SUV
 - M-1 Dead Prez—it's a put on; I know you white boys
7. White students interview in library--appeals to our sense of learning about other cultures Does it reinforce stereotypes--YES
8. If you really want to look at where this notion of predatory black men comes from, look back at *Birth of a Nation* (montage from film)
9. Jackson Katz—KKK were smart they would have invented rap music...YIPES
10. Stephen Hill, President, BET Music video programming—look at the people making the videos (passed the buck)
11. Chuck D- it ain't their fault, it's systematic
 - Overwhelmingly, it's white men in suits making the decisions
 - It may be the job of Black record executives to speak up
12. Jadakiss, rapper, "At the end of the day it's only entertainment...as long as nobody's shooting...I'm just tryin to feed my daughter"

58:15

G. Conclusion-Hip hop is trapped in a box

VO

"I longed for a broader vision of manhood in the music I grew up with, the music I love."

Credits.