

Celebrate Good Times With Alexander Keith's

CHSR set to celebrate National Hip Hop Week

Troy Neilson

The Brunswickan

With National Hip Hop Week right around the corner, UNB's student radio station, CHSR, is working hard to organize a week that hip hop heads won't soon forget!

The week of September 16-22 will mark the first time that Hip Hop Week has been celebrated in Canada. It's a great opportunity to explore the hip hop lifestyle that has helped unite people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

So what is hip hop? Hip hop pioneer KRS-One defines hip hop as more than just music.

"It's an attitude. It's an awareness. It's a way to view the world." So rap is the music we listen to, "but hip hop is something we live."

KRS-One also defines hip hop's nine elements to be: "breaking, MC'ing, graffiti art, DJ'ing, beatboxing, street fashion, street language, street knowledge and street entrepreneurship, trade & business." Hip Hop Week at UNB will help to promote the presence of these elements in Atlantic Canada.

Hip Hop Week events kick off with a movie night at MacLaggan Hall Auditorium on Wednesday, September 19th. For only a toonie, you'll be able to view "Black & Gold" and "Wild Style". Both films "take a look at the context that gave birth to new urban movements."

Thursday, September 20th will be hip hop heaven on CHSR 97.9 FM with a special day of programming. From 4 pm to 1 am, strictly hip hop content



Special to The Brunswickan

Clearly a force to be reckoned with, rapper Pimp-T will be among the performers Saturday, September 22, in the SUB Ballroom. Above is a capture from his upcoming video for "Petty Crime."

will be aired. So, tune into CHSR for special content including "interviews with artists such as Sarah Jones (whose song "Your Revolution," was recently banned by the FCC as it challenged sexism and consumerism in mainstream hip hop), to turntablism & scratching, and the beats and breaks of underground, old school, and other variations of the hip hop genre."

The biggest event of the week goes down on Saturday, September 22nd in the SUB Ballroom. Don't miss out on "The Breaks: A Hip Hop Experience."

This live event will showcase some great B-Boy, MC and DJ talent from our region. Prepare yourself for a great show as the "Lokdown Crew from Halifax will challenge a local group to a breakdancing showdown."

MC's will include ILLOGIC, First Words, Tech Thai, Pimp-T and others, while DJ'ing skills will be showcased by DJ STV and 2Live. The live show runs from 8 pm until 1 am. It's a wet/dry event, so all ages are welcome. And for the very affordable \$3 cover charge, it's a show you won't want to miss!

Film and Hip Hop

Pierre Loiselle

The Brunswickan

On Wednesday, September 19th, CHSR will be screening a couple of films that take a look at the context that gave birth to the new urban movements know as hip hop. The event will take place at 7:00 pm in the MacLaggan Hall Auditorium on the UNB campus.

The feature film, *Black & Gold*, is a 76-minute digital video documentary that tells the story of the Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation who grew out of the largest and most powerful street gang in New York. They have abandoned their criminal past and are following in the footsteps of the Black Panthers and Young Lords. The product of over one year of filming on the front lines of New York City, *Black & Gold* combines the testimony of Kings and Queens with a fast-paced stream of images and hip hop beats that capture the texture of their struggle and of the urban landscape in which it takes place.

For those craving the true roots of rap, *Wild Style* (1982) captures the hard core South Bronx scene at its birth. The stars of *Wild Style* form the pantheon of hip hop's pioneers: DJ's Grand Master Flash, Grand Wizard Theodore, D.St.; rappers Grand Master Caz and The Cold Crush Bros, The Chief Rocker Busy Bee, Double Trouble, Fantastic Freaks and Rammellzee and BBoy champions The Rock Steady Crew. Beat Music by legendary Blondie guitarist Chris Stein and Fred Brathwaite.

Wild Style stars the legendary subway artist Less Quinones and the queen of the graffiti scene, Sandra Pink Fabara. Graffiti Masters Dondi, Zephyr and Daze also bombed for the movie. Fab 5 Freddy, who along with writer/producer/director Charlie Ahearn, helped create *Wild Style*, shines as the smooth hip hop impresario Phade. *Wild Style* follows the outlaw artists through the train yards to the rap/breakdance clubs. The movie climaxes at a massive outdoor jam, definitely the most famous hip hop party in history!

Admission is a mere \$2 for both films.



Criminal Records 'Jail Break' Hip Hop Venue was a Bust

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On Saturday, August 25th, Prince Edward Island's only hip hop record label, Criminal Records, ventured to put on a one-of-its-kind hip hop show.

The venue, entitled 'Jail Break,' featured underground hip hop artists representing three of the four Atlantic provinces. Artists from Nova Scotia included 2-time Urban Music Association of Canada (UMAC) Awards nominee Classified, as well as Bonshah, Spesh-III-K, J-Bru, J-Bizzy and more.

Repping PEI were Tech Thai, DJ Calypso, Busted Flow (K-Flow & MC Squeegee) and Ill Factor. Lastly, 2000 UMAC nominee, Pimp-T was putting it

down for New Brunswick. Unfortunately, a couple unpredictable factors prevented the show from blowing up:

1. The owner of the building locked the doors to fans at 10:30 pm.

2. The bar was closed for renovations. These two factors caused no more than 30 fans to show up. Ignoring the record low numbers, these underground artists proceeded to put on a dope show anyway!

Pimp-T started off the show, performing his hit underground single, 'Tha Pimp-T Theme,' the upcoming single, 'Petty Crime,' and several other tracks. Watch for the video for 'Petty Crime' to hit Much Music in late 2001. His flashy b-boy dance moves, helped him recover from a weakening voice near the

end of his set. For more information on Pimp-T, check out:

<http://www.pimpt.com>

Tech Thai then snatched up the mic, mixing his tracks with freestyles expressing his displeasure with the size of the crowd. All-in-all, this emcee proved he's got skills and when combined with the forces of DJ Calypso's 3+ years of DJing experience, they form the almighty group known as Moonlit Groove.

After the show, Tech Thai said "Some artists like to make their beats from scratch and I have mad respect for that. But my biggest thrill is taking an old sample and weaving a beat into it. To me, that's what it's all about." And indeed Tech Thai's group, Moonlit Groove, seems to be a

master at the art, as their most impressive track took the theme from 'Matlock' and turned it into an amazing beat. If you ever get a chance to hear this track, you'll forever be a Moonlit Groove fan!

Unfortunately, the most anticipated act in my mind didn't happen. MC Squeegee and K-Flow opted not to perform due to the small turnout. I was kind of disappointed, because after hearing a short sample of MC Squeegee's 'This Or That,' it was apparent this emcee has skills. You can check out the sample of this track off of the Criminal Records webpage at:

<http://www.criminalrecords.cc/st/>

So to break the building's eerie silence, Bonshah grabbed the mic, threw a random instrumental onto the turntable and

turned the room upside down with his amazing freestyle skills. This spontaneous act provided true backing for Classified's claim that Bonshah is the most amazing emcee in Nova Scotia.

Spesh-III-K then hit the stage, providing comic relief of sorts during technical difficulties, and then threw down several tracks from his new album.

Following his performance, the real show started! Classified, Bonshah and J-Bru hit the stage putting on a fierce show. Everyone was up on their feet, bopping their heads as the trio performed an onslaught of tracks from Classified's repertoire, including the hit 'Unpredictable,' as well as 'Past Out,' 'Crossing Lines,' 'Politics' and more.

Classified is most definitely the best hip hop artist in Eastern Canada, having more than proved that at this show! If you ever get a chance to see him perform live, be sure to check him out.

Finally the show wrapped up with tracks from J-Bizzy and his crew.

All in all, the show was great and a lot of fun. I really enjoyed the taste of underground Eastern Canadian hip hop that I observed. It's just very unfortunate that so very few people showed up for the show. It was a show that was definitely worth the admission fee!

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