

“RAP IS SOMETHING YOU DO. HIPHOP IS SOMETHING YOU LIVE.” - KRS ONE

As I reflect on Hiphop as a prevalent subculture in its 40th year of existence, I am reminded of many things. How the culture touched my life at a young age, how I watched the culture infiltrate every corner of mass media, fashion, dance, and popular music, and eventually after reaching mainstream status, slowly become a cliché of itself. As with all things, the more iterations something generates, the more diluted it becomes. I suppose the raw visceral nature of Hiphop and its origins could never truly remain %100 pure.

But I feel as though we have lost so much of the culture to commercialism that we are almost unrecognizable to the originators of the art.

Is it because of the subject matter in Rap? not really.  
we've always had a plethora of subjects and styles from the lude to the truly enlightening.

Is it because of the monetization of the culture? I don't think it's that either.  
Hiphop from the beginning was big business not only to its practitioners but also to the companies and businesses that were willing to take a chance on it in its inception  
(Adidas Owes us a lot of money)

it's not the way we present ourselves. it's not that we sign big contracts and forget about our neighborhoods (although those could be contributing factors).

It's the way we allow entities outside of the culture to "SELL" our culture back to us. They take our slang, style, and traditions and then have the audacity to try to program us with it.

To try to tell us what the trends are.

They pluck us from our humble beginnings, infuse us with material excess, and feed us suggestions that we then feed to later generations.

there was a time where we set the trends . not them.

The MilkCrate Monologues is the Lyrical reflection of thoughts on life, hopes, dreams, failures, and triumphs told through the chosen communication medium of Hiphop, Rap.

Hiphop Theatre is a relatively new concept, so in a way, the cast and I are creating a trend. a format. a mechanism to deliver hiphop culture through its own traditions without a middle man.

MilkCrate has no Music or Instrumentals. Yet it has a Rhythm.

MilkCrate has no trappings of the entertainment industry. yet it seeks to influence and challenge the perceptions of your mind.

All we have is a stage and a group of people dedicated to bringing the concept of Rap and Hiphop to you as you've never heard or seen before.

If the beginnings of the culture we celebrate are any indication, then we're in good company.

Enjoy the show!

- RJ WAYNE Aka PHILASIFER  
Author and Director of the MilkCrate Monologues