

The (Romantic) Fantastic Five & GrandWizard Theodore is a Legendary hip hop group, that laid the foundation for the Hip Hop Culture.

The group was formed with real MC's, producers, writers and vocalist. During this time MC's were rhyming until they called it rapping.

Members were: Grand Wizard Theodore (Theodore Livingston) Prince Whipper Whip (James Whipper) Ruby Dee (Rubin Garcia) Dot-A-Rock (Darryl Mason) Waterbed Kev (Kevin Strong) and his brother Master Rob (Robin Strong).

The Fantastic Five were the only group with two members of Puerto Rican Descent. (Prince Whipper Whip and Ruby Dee)

Grand Wizard Theodore is the younger brother of Mean Gene. Mean Gene taught Theodore the art of DeeJaying.

They were both members of the L Brothers. (The L Brothers were early Pioneers of Hip Hop that laid the foundation for the Hip Hop Culture)

Theodore is the inventor of the scratch and famously known for his perfection of dropping the needle on the beat.

During this time, most DeeJay's would spin the record backwards to repeat the loop of the beat.

Theodore was so gifted, so talented, he could pull the needle back and drop it on the beginning of the beats break.

This technic was called dropping the needle....many DeeJay's tried to copy the technic but no one could do it like Theodore.

The Fantastic Five are well known for their battles with the ColdCrush Brothers. Each group had won their share of battles.

Ironically, Dot-A-Rock and Whipper Whip was once a part of the ColdCrush Brothers, so the groups were very familiar with each other.

Most of the members in each group lived in the same neighborhoods of the South Bronx or East Bronx areas.

Their most famous battle was in 1981 at Harlem World, the winner received \$1K. (Which would be equivalent to \$50k in todays economy)

The ColdCrush Brothers went on stage first and put on one of the most electrifying performances in Hip Hop History.

But when The Romantic Fantastic Five took the stage, every lady in the crowd, across the street and around the corner went Crazy.

The groups dance routines, Scratching and rhymes were so on point, they stole the crowd from The ColdCrush.

The group opened up with a soul clap and started their routines using the popular record "Love Rap" by Spoonie Gee....

Routine:

"Fantastic Romantic Five, ha ha ... Each one is Qualified....to make a dead party come alive....and make the girls gather us like flies"

(When the group performed, they would dress in three piece suits or the latest fashion during that time.

Their voices were hypnotizing, their lyrics were mesmerizing and their performances were spectacular.

One thing the group knew how to do was attract the ladies. Ladies love the Romantic Fantastic Five MC's).

Routine:

“Fantastic Five MC's....and Were pleasing all the Ladies....and when we shock the party and do it right they seem to all go crazy”

Fantastic only performed for 15 minutes, while ColdCrush rocked the crowd for 30 minutes.

But 15 mins was all they needed to win the cash prize. At the end of the night when the host asked the crowd who won

the Battle? Everyone in the building said The Romantic Fantastic Five.

The Fantastic performance has been heard Billions of times by Millions of people on what was then called cassette tapes.

There were no DVD's or CD's during this time. Social media was word of mouth, tapes and Flyers. (This promoted the party)

These tapes were circulated throughout the city of New York and eventually made it's way down South, Mid West,

West Coast and overseas in Africa, Europe, China, Japan and many other countries around the world.

During this time, Hip Hop was so competitive, artist had to come up with new and inventive material, routines and rhymes everyday.

Because of the groups close proximities they would battle each other in Basketball, Baseball, Football, dancing and rhyiming.

The Fantastic performed at every club and party in New York City before touring around the country and overseas.

They are one of the most influential groups in Hip Hop History. Because of so many artist stealing rhymes and DJ technics from this group....

someone owes this group a BAG of money. Many artist have made millions of dollars from imitating The Fantastic Five and Grand Wizard Theodore.

Even tho imitation is the purest form of flattery, stealing is still a crime.

The underground era of Hip Hop was such a unique era and GrandWizard Theodore and The Fantastic Five

is one of the best underground groups during this time. They were pure artist, with some of the greatest rappers ever.

When artist began making records, some of the pureness of hip Hop was lost.

However, The Fantastic Five were able to crossover into the record industry.

The Groups first 12" single, "Can I Get A Soul Clap" (1980) was a routine they would frequently use during their performance.

The group has been seen on Tv, radio and featured in the first Hip Hop movie "Wild Style" in 1982.

Some members of the group launched Solo career's at a time when groups were not a trend anymore.

Waterbed Kev aka Kevie Kev released his first single "All Night Long" on Sugar Hill records in 1983

and Prince Whipper Whip released Whipnotizing on Cold Diss records in 1987.

If i had to compare The fantastic Five to a music group, it would be the Temptations oh Hip Hop.

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