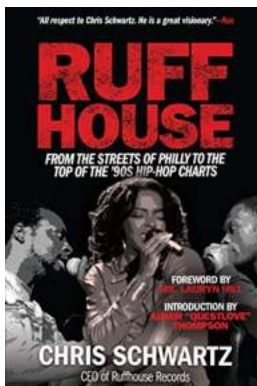


From The Streets Of Philly To The Top Of The 90s Hip Hop Charts

In the vibrant and ever-evolving world of hip hop, few artists have risen from humble beginnings to achieve worldwide success like the artists from Philadelphia. This bustling city on the East Coast has been a breeding ground for some of the most influential and talented names in hip hop, who not only conquered the streets but also dominated the charts throughout the 1990s.

Philadelphia, also known as Philly, is renowned for its rich musical history, particularly in genres such as soul, R&B, and jazz. However, it was during the 90s that the city became a hotbed for emerging hip hop acts that brought a unique flavor and style to the genre, captivating listeners across the nation.

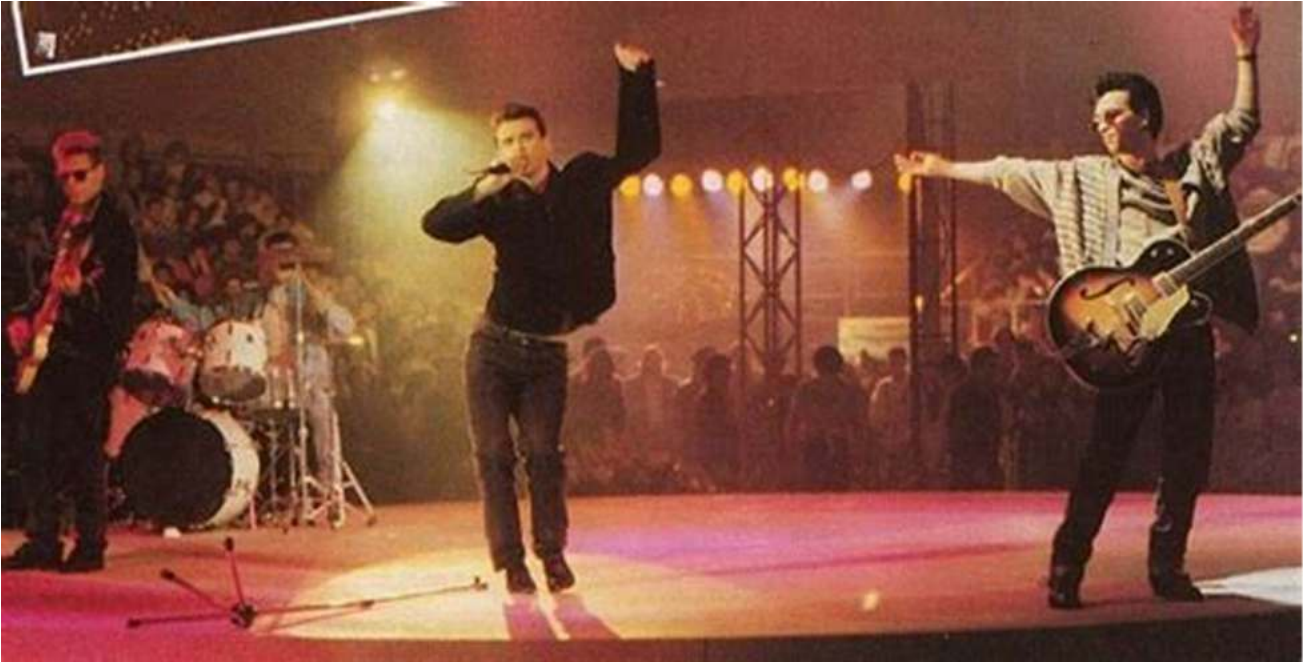
One of the most iconic figures to emerge from Philly's streets and achieve unprecedented success during the 90s was none other than Will Smith, also known as The Fresh Prince. Smith, along with his childhood friend, DJ Jazzy Jeff, became a force to be reckoned with, combining humorous lyrics and catchy beats to create an infectious sound that resonated with audiences of all backgrounds.



Ruffhouse: From the Streets of Philly to the Top of the '90s Hip-Hop Charts by Chris Schwartz (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2355 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 207 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Before his rise to fame, Smith honed his skills by performing in the streets of West Philadelphia. With his undeniable talent and charismatic stage presence, he quickly gained attention and attracted the interest of record labels. The Fresh Prince and DJ Jazzy Jeff's debut album, "Rock the House," was released in 1987, giving them their first taste of commercial success.

However, it was their 1991 album, "Homebase," that catapulted them to superstardom. The standout single from the album, "Summertime," became an instant classic, topping the charts and solidifying their place in hip hop history. The track perfectly captured the essence of a carefree summer day and showcased Philly's soulful sound, instantly resonating with listeners worldwide.

While The Fresh Prince and DJ Jazzy Jeff undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the 90s hip hop scene, they were not the only Philadelphia artists to rise to the top. Another iconic duo that emerged from Philly's gritty streets was the group

Boyz II Men. Comprised of Wanya Morris, Nathan Morris, Shawn Stockman, and Michael McCary, Boyz II Men introduced a soulful and harmonious approach to R&B-infused hip hop.



Boyz II Men's breakthrough single, "Motownphilly," released in 1991, showcased their vocal prowess and infectious energy. The track paid homage to their roots while seamlessly blending Motown-inspired music with hip hop elements. The group continued to dominate the charts throughout the 90s, earning multiple Grammy Awards and becoming known as one of the most successful R&B groups in history.

Another notable artist who took the hip hop world by storm during the 90s was Beanie Sigel. Born and raised in South Philadelphia, Beanie Sigel (Dwight Grant)

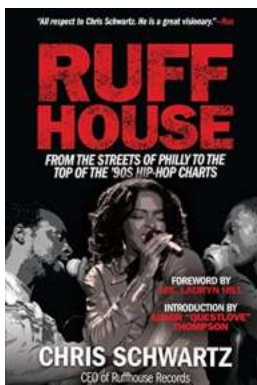
rose to prominence as a member of the legendary Roc-A-Fella Records, founded by hip hop mogul Jay-Z.

Beanie Sigel's debut album, "The Truth," released in 2000, showcased his raw talent and lyrical prowess, solidifying his status as one of the most respected artists in the game. Known for his authentic storytelling and gritty street narratives, Sigel provided a unique perspective on Philly's urban reality, captivating listeners with his undeniable talent.

From the streets of Philly to the top of the 90s hip hop charts, these artists exemplify the talent and creativity that emerged from this vibrant city. Through their unique sounds and captivating performances, they not only achieved commercial success but also left an indelible mark on the hip hop genre.

Will Smith, Boyz II Men, and Beanie Sigel, among many others, showcased the diversity and depth of Philadelphia's musical landscape, drawing inspiration from the city's rich history while adding their own unique flair. Their contributions to hip hop continue to be celebrated, and their influence can still be felt today.

In a world where hip hop continues to evolve, the legacy of these artists reminds us of the power and resilience that can be found in the streets and communities that shape our lives.



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The Ruffhouse Records founder tells how he overcame poverty, abuse, and addiction to start a label that launched some of music's biggest stars:

“Gripping.”—Philadelphia Magazine

As a struggling musician trying to catch a break in 1980s Philadelphia, Chris Schwartz navigated the crime-infested, morally bankrupt music industry to found and build one of the most successful hip-hop record labels in the world. That label was Ruffhouse, which launched the careers of Nas, The Fugees, Cypress Hill, and others, dominating the charts and generating global revenues of over a billion dollars.

Schwartz and his partner, Joe Nicolo, built Ruffhouse from one desk and a phone to one of hip-hop's most revered record companies while simultaneously struggling with drug addiction and alcoholism. A story of money, greed, envy, betrayal, violence, addiction, loss, and redemption, not to mention a whole lot of music, Ruffhouse reveals the inside story of the record companies, recording studios, tour buses, private jets, mansions, radio stations, and concert halls at the height of hip-hop's 1990s heyday while also uncovering the darker side of the business, from police stations to rehab clinics, courtrooms to prisons. Told in Schwartz's own candid, searing prose, Ruffhouse is a portrayal of hip-hop culture at its tipping point, as it transitioned from urban curiosity to global phenomenon.

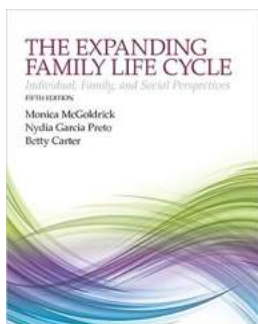
“[A] story of adversity and perseverance...Fans of these artists will love the insider information on the recording process and the trials and tribulations of getting this music out into the world.”—Library Journal

“All respect to Chris Schwartz. He is a great visionary.”—Nas



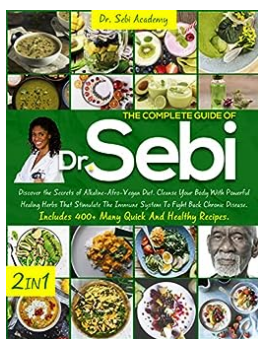
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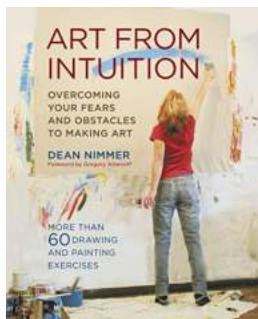
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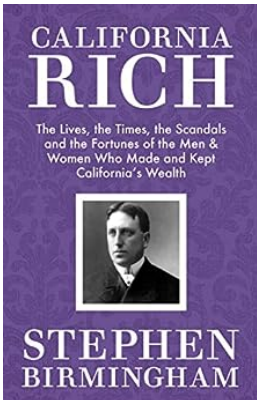
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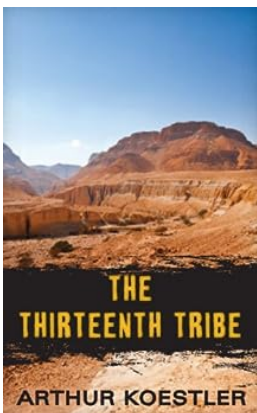
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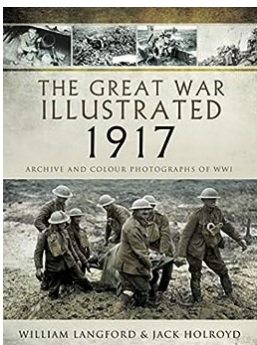
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