

Roots of Hip-hop: Reggae



Kool DJ Herc

Kool DJ Herc



- Born Clive Campbell (1955-) in Jamaica raised in NY among Jamaicans w/ Jamaican music: Reggae and Ska
- Early pioneer of “block parties”, strengthening/clarifying black communities
- Originated “**break-beat DJ-ing**”: use of 2 records to create a perpetual beat.

Reggae and the Genesis of Hip-Hop

- **IN HIP-HOP: The DJ-MC collaboration = appropriating commercial music for new purposes**
 - › **Jamaica, 1970s:** “sound-system” shows require little resources, express rude-boy gang identity
 - › **Bronx, 1980s:** “boombox”/ “ghetto blaster” culture, block parties express neighborhood identity
 - › **Jamaica, 1970s:** *appropriated* background music sets stage/tone for political speech
 - › **Bronx, 1980s:** Afrika Bambaataa preaches African-American solidarity with “Zulu Nation in the Bronx”