Real Rap Stories

ALL ARTS to air new mini-series hosted hip hop historian James “Kraze” Billings, exploring the origin stories of early pioneers like Audio Two, Stetsasonic, Super Lover Cee & Casanova Rud, Stezo and Rakim

Premieres Wednesday, July 15 at 8 p.m. on the ALL ARTS broadcast channel (check local listings), free streaming app and allarts.org

Synopsis

Real Rap Stories premieres Wednesday, July 15 at 8 p.m. on the ALL ARTS broadcast channel, free streaming app and allarts.org, with weekly premieres each Wednesday through July 29. Through intimate interviews with the artists, producers and friends who were there, hip hop historian James “Kraze” Billings shines a necessary spotlight on the early pioneers of the genre, including Audio Two, Stetsasonic, Super Lover Cee & Casanova Rud, Stezo and Rakim. Their influence left a lasting impact still seen in rap today through music samples, style, sound and business.

Short Listing:
Real Rap Stories delves into the stories of some of hip-hop's most influential characters.

Long Listing:
Hosted by James Billings, Real Rap Stories is a five-part mini-series delving into the origin stories of some of hip-hop's most influential characters. Follow along as these hip-hop pioneers, family and friends discuss how they obtained success in a music genre that was still in its infancy. From the lyricist to the dancer, this series shows how each artist contributed to the hip-hop genre.

Episode Premiere Dates:
1. Real Rap Stories: Audio Two – Wednesday, July 15 at 8 p.m.
2. Real Rap Stories: Stetsasonic – Wednesday, July 15 at 8:15 p.m.
3. Real Rap Stories: Super Lover Cee & Casanova Rud – Wednesday, July 22 at 8 p.m.
4. Real Rap Stories: Stezo – Wednesday, July 22 at 8:15 p.m.
5. Real Rap Stories: Rakim – Wednesday, July 29 at 8 p.m.

Episode Run Times: 15 minutes each

Series Interviewees
Real Rap Stories: Audio Two
April Walker – Audio Two Stylist & Fashion Designer
Big V – Former Bodyguard
Milk Dee – Producer of Audio Two
Guy Routte – Childhood Friend & Artist
Daddy-O – Producer of Stetsasonic

**Real Rap Stories: Stetsasonic**
Daddy-O – Member & Producer of Stetsasonic
MC Delite – Member & Producer of Stetsasonic
Bobby Simmons – Member of Stetsasonic
Tyrone “Fly Ty” Williams – Founder of Cold Chillin Records
Wise – Member of Stetsasonic
Monica Lynch – Former President of Tommy Boy Records
Cut Master Cool V – Music Producer & Biz Markie DJ

**Real Rap Stories: Super Lover Cee & Casanova Rud**
Super Lover Cee – Member of Super Lover Cee & Casanova Rud
Stezo – Rap Artist
Cut Master Cool V – Music Producer & Biz Markie DJ
Daddy-O – Member & Producer of Stetsasonic

**Real Rap Stories: Stezo**
Stezo – Artist, Dancer & Producer
Dooley O – Emcee & Stezo’s Cousin
Chris Lowe – Producer & Stezo’s DJ
Super Lover Cee – Member of Super Lover Cee & Casanova Rud

**Real Rap Stories: Rakim**
DJ Maniak – Music Producer & Rakim’s Friend
Nate Tinsley – Producer & Rakim’s Friend
DJ Belal – Member of Groove B. Chill & Rakim’s Friend

**Embeddable Trailer:** allarts.org/programs/real-rap-stories/real-rap-stories-preview-rlpxem/
**Program Page:** allarts.org/real-rap-stories
Press Kit with Hi-Res Images: allarts.org/pressroom/real-rap-stories

**Production Credits**
*Real Rap Stories* is a production of King of Content Productions.


For ALL ARTS, Kristy Geslain is Senior Producer. Joe Harrell is Senior Director. Diane Masciale and Neal Shapiro are Executives in Charge.

**New York-Area TV Channel Listings**
Digital Antenna: 21.4
Comcast: 958/1156
Optimum: 144
Spectrum: 1276
Verizon Fios: SD 497/HD 498

**About ALL ARTS**
ALL ARTS is breaking new ground as the premier destination for inspiration, creativity and art of all forms. This New York Emmy-nominated arts and culture hub is created by WNET, the parent company of New York's PBS stations. With the aim of being accessible to viewers everywhere, ALL ARTS's Webby-nominated programming – from digital shorts to feature films – is available online nationwide through allarts.org, the free ALL ARTS app on all major streaming platforms, and @AllArtsTV on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. New York area TV viewers can also watch the 24/7 broadcast channel. For all the ways to watch, visit allarts.org/everywhere.

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About WNET
WNET is America’s flagship PBS station: parent company of New York's THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and operator of NJTV, the statewide public media network in New Jersey. Through its new ALL ARTS multi-platform initiative, its broadcast channels, three cable services (THIRTEEN PBSKids, Create, and World), and online streaming sites, WNET brings quality arts, education, and public affairs programming to more than five million viewers each month. WNET produces and presents a wide range of acclaimed PBS series, including Nature, Great Performances, American Masters, PBS NewsHour Weekend, and the nightly interview program Amanpour and Company. In addition, WNET produces numerous documentaries, children’s programs, and local news and cultural offerings, as well as multi-platform initiatives addressing poverty and climate. Through THIRTEEN Passport and WLIW Passport, station members can stream new and archival THIRTEEN, WLIW, and PBS programming anytime, anywhere.

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