

HIP-HOP COLONY - The African Hip-Hop Explosion

"Kenya is not just about lions, giraffes and fast running men, it's also about studios and hip-hop!" (Tedd Josiah, Kenyan music producer)

HIP-HOP COLONY is an award-winning documentary film on Kenya's hip-hop scene, produced/directed by Michael Wanguhu and written by Russell Kenya. The film takes you through a journey into the heart of East Africa, Kenya, where hip-hop has firmly established its roots amongst the local citizens.

The specific history of Kenya is forever connected to the colonial rule by the British government. Hip-Hop Colony visits the newer connections that have come about through hip-hop, while highlighting the issues and politics that affect youth culture. Hip-hop in Kenya, manifested in music and clothing styles that initially started as a form of imitation or what's commonly known as "biting" what's seen in America.

At first Kenyan hip-hop was regarded as a passing fad, and hip-hop in general was eagerly dismissed by the media outlets and the general public during its shallow inception in the early nineties. In Kenya this music then developed into its own flavour that was no longer just hip-hop, but a hybrid skilled art form incorporating Kenya's native culture and traditional music and drawing major influence from America. This unique genre of hip-hop is what has come to be known as Genge Music which has now firmly gained its roots in Kenya.

Director Michael Wanguhu treats viewers to the beginning of a new rejuvenated hip-hop culture, that's quickly emerging in Kenya as a result of the raw hip-hop talent. The camera follows various hip-hop groups to their homes, from the ghettos to the suburban areas. We are introduced to subtle elements of Kenyan culture integrated through hip-hop. The audience gets to see various hip-hop acts on stage as the artists perform in front of thousands of devoted fans. Kenyan artists are starting to reap rewards as they are rapidly occupying slots on radio and TV – positions that were formerly preserved for U.S. artists like Jay-Z, Nelly, Tupac Shakur, 50 Cent, Ludacris, and Eminem among others.

Filming the documentary in Kenya, Wanguhu enjoyed collaborative efforts from top-notch Kenyan producers, and reigning hip-hop acts past and present, seeking to expose a culture they have whole-heartedly embraced and it is also punctuated by footage of engaging live concert events. HIP HOP COLONY richly ties key elements of hip-hop, flexibility and talent which continue to increase its dominance around the world one colony at a time.

Hip-hop artists are changing the World, one colony at a time. Like a moth to a flame hip-hop's grip on the world tightens because, it's not just music, it's a way of life and...

www.hiphopcolony.com

Duration: 97 mins
Language: English (some Swahili and Sheng – with English subtitles)
Kenya/ USA 2005
Produced/Directed by Michael Wanguhu
Written by Russell Kenya

Awards:

WINNER – H20 [Hip-Hop Odyssey] International Film Festival, New York
WINNER - Best Urban Documentary Award at the Houston Black Film Festival
NOMINEE - Best Urban Documentary Award at the San Francisco Black Film Festival

Film Festivals (official selection):

7th BFM International Film Festival, ICA, London (12 Sep 05) | Zanzibar International Film Festival | Oakland International Film Festival | Mill Valley International Film Festival | Vancouver International Hip-Hop Festival | Virgin Islands Film Festival | BFM International Film Festival UK | Leeds International Film Festival UK | Cape Town World Cinema Festival | African Diaspora Film Festival New York | US Virgin Islands Film Festival | Hutuz Film Festival, Rio de Janeiro | Pittsburgh Hip-Hop Film Festival | Black Soil Rotterdam Film Festival | Black Soil Amsterdam Film Festival | Hip-Hop Film Festival UCLA

For media enquiries about Hip Hop Colony please contact **Ilka Schlockermann**.

T: +44 (0)79 3206 6624

E: ilka@ilkamedia.com

W: www.ilkamedia.com