

Throwback: Freestyle Fellowship-Park Bench People

Freestyle Fellowship came together in 1991 with rappers Self Jupiter, P.E.A.C.E., Myka Nyne, Aceyalone and producer J Sumbi. The band originally consisted of fifty members who would take turns rapping at the Good Life cafe in Los Angeles that was recently immortalized in the film [“This Is The Life”](#) Their jazzy scat style that can break up into a jerky cadence distinguished them from most rappers. *To Whom It May Concern* was their first album that was released in 1991 to critical acclaim. *Innercity Griots* was the '93 follow-up and the place where “Park Bench People” was recorded with Mikah 9’s vocals on lead. Both albums are underground classics that helped to establish California’s leftfield hip-hop legacy. The group broke-up after Griots and Aceyalone started a solo career with a debut album *All Balls Don’t Bounce* in '95. A reunion of the band produced *Temptations* in '98 but the album wouldn’t be available to the public until 2001 and it was criticized for being too lyrical. That same year remixes of *To Whom It May Concern* came out and the retrospective spirit continued with instrumental versions of *Inner City Griots* in 2002. Shockadoom from '02 was their last album. Aceyalone’s retro-vibe [The Lonely Ones](#) came out earlier this year on the Deconstruction label.