R.I.P. Hitman Howie Tee

×

Golden era hip-hop producer Hitman Howie Tee passed on August 2nd at the age of 61. Tee was responsible for some of the most remembered songs of the '80s and '90s. Special Ed's "I Got It Made," "The Magnificent," Chubb Rock (who is his first cousin)'s "Treat Em Right," and Color Me Badd's "I Wanna Sex You Up" are some of the songs from Tee's catalog. He was born in England but raised in Brooklyn. It was 1985 when he collaborated with the late Kangol Kid of UTFO to write and produce "(Nothing Serious) Just Buggin" for the R&B group Whistle. This connection to Select Records because of Whistle expanded, and Tee became the in-house producer for the label and went on to produce music for The Real Roxanne, Little Shawn, and E.S.P. Howie Tee's output went beyond Select, and he worked with Father MC, Kashif, Full Force, Heavy D, Patra, Maxi Priest, and Madonna. He was another creative architect known more for his sound than his name. Tee was also an innovative DJ who created the Joe Cooley scratch.

Throwback: Sir Mix-a-Lot-Baby Got Back



Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back" is the second single from his third album, *Mack Daddy*. The rapper and his friend, voice actress Amylia Dorsey, were inspired to make a song celebrating curvy women after watching a Budweiser commercial with very skinny women. Sir Mix-a-Lot thought about how hard so many women worked to look like the models in that beer ad

and wanted to let them know their figures did not need to change. He has also stated in other interviews how he was also tipped off by Parliament's *Motor Booty Affair* and how so many Black men like women with bigger than average butts.

Sir Mix-a-Lot and Rick Rubin produced "Baby Got Back" with heavy sampling of the Detroit techno classic, "Technicolor" by Channel One. The song made Sir Mix-a-Lot famous, as it shot to number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and was the second best-selling song of 1992. He also won a Grammy for Best Rap Solo Performance. MTV could only play the video after 9 PM because they received so many complaints. Some people saw the intention to uplift women with big butts as nothing more than objectification, which caused controversy.

Sir Mix-a-Lot revealed in interviews that lots of Black women approached him with gratitude because they felt finally seen. He and Dorsey saw the future because "Baby Got Back" put the spotlight on women reminiscent of Sarah Baartman 20 years before the BBL surgery went mainstream in America. Nicki Minaj sampled "Baby Got Back" for her hit "Anaconda," which also gave accolades to the derriere but as a tool of personal empowerment. "Baby Got Back" still entertains and has been sampled by artists across genres 33 years after its release. Sir Mix-a-Lot released his sixth album, Daddy's Home, in 2003. He still tours regularly and did some voice acting for the adult cartoon The Family Guy in 2025.

Media Questions Of The Week



Is A\$AP Rocky changing men's fashion with his Christian Louboutin-collaborated Mary Janes?

@mgkmagic

we need mgk to be in a vampire movie asap. ?: On July 31, 2025, mgk went on the Pat McAfee Show in Canton, Ohio. During this podcast interview, mgk said he didn't audition for the movie Sinners because of the N word. "Like Sinners, I was supposed to be in that," mgk said. "Which one?" Pat McAfee asked. "The vampire," mgk said. "They had me set up to do the auditions. It's the vampire, the one that's in the house, so he's the second vampire, the one that the guy comes in, like, he eats the family up. But in the audition, he has to say the N word, and I just wouldn't do it." "Appreciate that," Pat McAfee said. "That Jango and chain thing [Quentin Tarantino's Django Unchained] was pretty wild to watch." Sinners is a 2025 American horror film starring Michael B. Jordan and directed by Ryan Coogler. mgk once said in an old interview that he turned down a role that required using the N word because of his black daughter. FYI: mgk has a 16-year-old daughter named Casie. She's black. #mgk #machinegunkelly

<u>? original sound — mgkmagic</u>

Did Machine Gun Kelly really refuse to audition for *Sinners* because he would have to say the N-word?

ShunGu Recruits Fly Anakin, Goya Gumbani & Fatima For Talk To The Mass

×

Credit: Mackai Sharp

Producer ShunGu makes his video debut with "Talk To the Mass," featuring Fly Anakin, Goya Gumbani, and Fatima. Anakin and Gumbani flow with ShunGu's jazzy orchestral beat that gets a lift of R&B from Fatima. The single is from his forthcoming project that will be released on Lex Records in the fall. He made a statement about Mackai Sharp directing the video: "This was the first time I ever made a proper music video for one of my tracks, so it felt like a special moment for me, especially since I'm not at the beginning of my career. I fully trusted Mackai to bring the vision of this first single to life." ShunGu appears at the beginning and end of the video with his collaborators during a video shoot that seemed destined considering that Fatima and Gumbani were there in the studio unexpectedly. Watch the video for "Talk To The Mass," and stay tuned for ShunGu's fall release.