

Throwback: Awesome Dre And The Hardcore Committee-You Can't Hold Me Back



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Awesome Dre and The Hardcore Committee were the first Detroit rap group to sign to a major label. Their *Can't Hold Me Back* debut on the Priority label staked out Detroit's first real attempt at a national rap identity because no other rapper had gotten as far. Dre challenged New York's universal hip-hop authority by pulling a gun on Kool Moe Dee and LL Cool J on the album cover and in the video for "Can't Hold Me Back." It was 1989 and there was no such thing as a Midwest rapper as far as the media was concerned let alone one bold enough to

challenge a New York rapper. Esham came out at this time with his horrorcore/acid rap to become an indie underground legend but it was still a few years before the emergence of MC Breed. The video for ["Frankly Speaking"](#) is an artifact of a pre-gentrified Downtown Detroit and the premier Detroit rap video to appear on *Yo! MTV Raps*. *A.D.'s Revenge* was released in 1995 and then Awesome Dre disappeared from the music world. He never became a certified rap star but he paved the way for Detroit's emerging rap scene. In 2013 Awesome Dre toured with Public Enemy, X-Clan, Monie Love, Schoolly D, Wise Intelligent and Leaders of the New School on The Hip Hop Gods Tour.