

# Versus Hip Hop On Trial Debate

[youtube]r3-7Y0xG89Q[/youtube]

A cast of thinkers, rappers, poets and academics assembled in London on June 26th at the Barbican for the Intelligence Squared and Google+ debate titled, 'Hip-Hop on Trial: Hip-Hop Doesn't Enhance Society, It Degrades it.' The debate was streamed live and moderated by Jemima Khan who took questions from online posters. The problem with all of these 'Hip-Hop is bad, dead or going to the dogs' debates is that they are always centered around a very slim segment of corporatized hip-hop. So what happens is that people are debating the merits of hip-hop based on a small section of music instead of "Is The Corporation Promoting A Certain Kind Of Hip-Hop And Why." It is especially shameful that Versus would promote this kind of discourse in 2012 when we live in a digital age where people are grabbing all kinds of music from everywhere. And this kind of focus keeps hip-hop in a subjugated place when it is still empowering people all around the world. How can the most popular art form of the past 30 years not function at all as folk music because of the music business establishment? These type of "intellectual" notions are the reason why Ice-T just released *Something From Nothing: The Art Of Rap*. No matter how ridiculous Lil' Wayne may look hip-hop still saved his life and is doing the same for several kids around the globe who will never reach his commercial status. It is also important for hip-hop fans to understand that hip-hop is the only popular art form that Blacks still dominate hence the singularity of Eminem. So to say that the music is "dead" destructive" etc. is tantamount to racism because you are blaming people of color creatives for society's problems. The nasty things that some rappers say may not be pleasant to hear but it's important that society hear their outsider status

because it tells us what needs to improve. These kind of propaganda attacks disguised as “debates” totally ignore the fact people on this very panel like Q-Tip, KRS-One and The Roots defy all of these static ideas about hip-hop.

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## Media Questions Of The Week

[youtube]5MCyBHZkwJY[/youtube]

1. Have you heard the Robert Glasper *Black Radio* album yet?

[youtube]HcDWRLzSJJ0[/youtube]

2. Are hip-hop fans supposed to forgive Too Short’s 30 years of willful ignorance that made him a millionaire because he said the record companies conspired against conscious rap?

[youtube]c00n-9uXWYU[/youtube]

3. Isn’t it funny that Estelle says that R&B is taken more seriously in the United States than her UK homeland when American R&B artists feel the same way about the US?

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## Estelle-Fall In Love Feat. John Legend and Nas

[wshh]e/16711680/wshheKr5I4I51D49A07l[/wshh]

[wshh]e/16711680/wshhK8FGt09q6mncSWo2[/wshh]

Estelle has two videos for this song off of her new album *All Of Me* due sometime this year. This is obvious test marketing and I do wonder which video is more popular.

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## **SESAC Music Awards Gala w/ Russell Simmons, Angela Simmons, Estelle, “Swizz Beatz” and Nate “Danja” Hills**



Songwriter of the Year, Nate “Danja” Hills & Swizz Beatz at The 2010 SESAC Awards

Since establishing himself as one of music’s most in-demand songwriters/producers, Hills has become one of music’s most prolific and profound creative talents. Propelled by his songwriting and production work on Justin Timberlake’s groundbreaking *FutureSex/LoveSounds* album, Hills soon scored with his songwriting/production work on Nelly Furtado’s *Loose* project and the CD’s smash, “Say It Right”, Madonna’s *Hard Candy* project and Britney Spears on her *Blackout* CD. Hills shared Songwriter of the Year honors in 2007 with Bryan-Michael Cox and again took home the top honors at the 2008 SESAC New York Music Awards for Songwriter and Song for Nelly Furtado’s “Say It Right”.

Hills has also chalked up massive hits with Timbaland’s “The Way I Are” and “Give It To Me”, 50 Cent’s “Ayo Technology” and Justin Timberlake’s hit parade of “What Goes Around...Comes Around,” “Summer Love,” “Until The End Of Time” and

"LoveStoned." Hills won a "Best Dance Recording" GRAMMY Award in 2008 for his production/songwriting work on Timberlake's "LoveStoned/I Think She Knows".

The 2010 awards celebration drew more than 400 songwriters, publishers and industry professionals. There were more than 40 songwriter and publisher award recipients in the categories of Pop, R&B/Hip-Hop, and Rock.

Billboard Magazine and SPIN Magazine were the event's primary sponsors. Attendees were treated to signature "On The Hudson" Maker's Martini cocktails courtesy of Maker's Mark.

Established in 1930, SESAC is a service organization created to assist both the creators of music and music users through timely, efficient royalty collection and music licensing. SESAC maintains a diversified repertory that includes virtually all genres of music. Headquartered in Nashville, the company also has offices in New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Miami and London ([www.sesac.com](http://www.sesac.com)).

#### A COMPLETE LIST OF SESAC AWARD RECIPIENTS FOLLOWS:

Songwriter of the Year:

Nate "Danja" Hills

Song of the Year:

"Knock You Down"

Recorded by Keri Hilson featuring Kanye West & Ne-Yo

Written by: Nate "Danja" Hills

Publisher: Danjahandz Muzik

SESAC Publisher of the Year:

Danjahandz Muzik

"Knock You Down"

Artist: Keri Hilson featuring Kanye West & Ne-Yo

Songwriter: Nate "Danja" Hills

Publisher: Danjahandz Muzik

"Sober"

Artist: Pink  
Songwriter: Nate "Danja" Hills  
Publisher: Danjahandz Muzik  
WBM Music Corp.

"Sweet Dreams"  
Artist: Beyonce  
Songwriter: Rico Love  
Publisher: Rico Love Is Still A Rapper  
EMI Foray Music Inc.

"Beautiful"  
Artist: Akon featuring Colby Adonis  
Songwriter: Jaylien Wesley  
Publisher: Jada Loves Daddy's Music  
360 Music  
Music Societe Regime

"Empire State Of Mind"  
Artist: Jay-Z featuring Alicia Keys  
Songwriter: Angela Hunte  
Publisher: Masani El Shabazz  
EMI Foray Music

"Last Chance"  
Artist: Ginuwine  
Songwriter: Bryan-Michael Cox  
Publisher: Babyboys Little Pub. Co.

"Boyfriend #2"  
Artist: Pleasure P  
Songwriter(s): Earl Hood, Eric Goudy II, Rico Love  
Publisher: E Hood 66 Music  
Grandma's Boy  
Rico Love Is Still A Rapper  
EMI Foray Music

"Put It On Ya"  
Artist: Plies featuring Chris J

Songwriter: Miykal Snoddy  
Publisher: Makithot Music Publishing

“Check My Brain”

Artist: Alice In Chains  
Songwriter: Jerry Cantrell  
Publisher: Buttnugget Publishing

“Kids”

Artist: MGMT  
Songwriter(s): Andrew VanWyngarden, Ben Goldwasser  
Publisher: Old Man Future  
Sadguitarious Music

“Magnificent”

Artist: Rick Ross featuring John Legend  
Songwriter: Devo Springsteen  
Publisher: Sounds of TVT

“I Can Transform Ya”

Artist: Chris Brown featuring Lil Wayne  
Songwriter: Swizz Beatz  
Publisher: Monza Ronza  
Universal Tunes

“Never Ever”

Artist: Ciara featuring Young Jeezy  
Songwriter: Swizz Beatz  
Publisher: Universal Tunes

“Goodbye”

Artist: Kristinia DeBarge  
Songwriter: Adonis Shropshire  
Publisher: Jaylen Adonis Music  
EMI Foray Music Inc.  
Christian Combs Music

“It Kills Me”

Artist: Melanie Fiona  
Songwriter: Jay Fenix  
Publisher: UfeelJ Publishing

"You Can Get It All"

Artist: Bow Wow featuring Johnta Austin

Songwriter(s): Bow Wow, Omarion

Publisher: Shago Music Inc.

Mr. Grandberry Os Music

Notting Hill Songs USA

"Million Dollar Bill"

Artist: Whitney Houston

Songwriter: Swizz Beatz

Publisher: Monza Ronza

Universal Tunes

"Beyond Here Lies Nothin'"

Artist: Bob Dylan

Songwriter: Bob Dylan

Publisher: Special Rider Music

"I and Love and You"

Artist: The Avett Brothers

Songwriter(s): Scott Avett, Seth Avett, Bob Crawford

Publisher: Nemoivmusic

First Big Show Publishing

Truth Comes True Publishing

Ramseur Family Fold Music

"Womanizer"

Artist: Britney Spears

Songwriter: Nikeshia "K. Briscoe" Briscoe

Publisher: Outsyder Music Entertainment Publishing

"The Time Of My Life"

Artist: David Cook

Songwriter: Regie Hamm

Publishing: 19 Music Publishing