

Throwback: Lisa “Left Eye” Lopes-The Block Party



Lisa Lopes moved away from the hip-hop and R&B sound of her band TLC to explore a different palette on her 2001 single “The Block Party.” Driven by a sample of “Drum Song” by Earth, Wind & Fire, Lopes and producer Salaam Remi grabbed inspiration from electronic music and rap to propel her style into the future. Lopes’ experimental flow was given more relevance with the Hype Williams-directed video. The clip presaged the colorful look of the clip and Lopes unconventional cadence presaged the methods of many pop stars 20 years later. The songs of *Supernova* were redone and released after her death on the *Eye Legacy* album.

[youtube id="kl-gEopCI4U"]

Throwback: TLC-Creep



TLC’s “Creep” lead the way for their sophomore album *CrazySexyCool* to become one of the most commercially successful and influential albums of all time. Tionne “T-Boz” Watkins gave songwriter and producer Dallas Austin the idea for the song about a woman who cheats on her boyfriend to get his attention because he’s doing the same thing. TLC worked

against convention by singing about participating in infidelity and Austin was unusual for writing from a woman's perspective. The subject fit the group's image of being candid about sex which was first expressed on their first album when they sang about their sexual desire on "Ain't 2 Proud 2 Beg." Austin used funk, R&B, hip-hop samples and jazz to create the musical bed that was perfect for T-Boz's distinctive rasp as the featured vocalist. The video progressed TLC into a more grown-up sexiness looks-wise thanks to the famous flowing silk pajamas they wore. They picked director Matthew Rolston after seeing his work on Salt N Pepa's video for "None Of Your Business." The video for "Creep" was just as celebrated as the song itself which was TLC's first Billboard Hot 100 number one. "Creep" earned the group a Grammy for Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with vocals and became a beacon of pop culture. *CrazySexyCool* was the first album by a woman's group to reach diamond status and sold more than any other American girl band. The group is second to The Supremes in regards to Billboard's charts TLC became a duo after the death of Left Eye in 2002. They released their fifth self-titled album in 2017.

[youtube id="LlZydtG3xqI"]

Throwback: TLC-Get It Up



[vimeo id="98888045"] TLC recorded Prince's "Get It Up" for the *Poetic Justice* soundtrack. Prince wrote "Get It Up" under his Jamie Starr moniker for The Time's self-titled debut album. "Get It Up" was The Time's first single and it was released as a "7" with "After Hi School" on the B-side. Prince

wrote, arranged and performed “Get It Up” with synthesizers from Revolution band member Doctor Fink and Morris Day’s vocals. TLC’s version was one of three songs from the *Poetic Justice* soundtrack to chart. TLC would cover Prince again with “If I Was Your Girlfriend” from their second album.

Media Questions Of The Week

✖ How many more inaccuracies about Ben Carson’s past life such as the fictive West Point scholarship and a violent past will be revealed?

[vimeo id="144523728"]

Are people being prematurely dismissive of Spike Lee’s *Chi-raq* based on the first trailer?



When will TLC’s Kickstarter album come out?



Is [Complex](#) magazine right about Kendrick Lamar’s *To Pimp A Butterfly* being “overwhelmingly Black,” “having questionable sonic choices by using jazz and “not as enjoyable as hoped?”