

HARLEM WORLD

How Hip Hop's Super Showdown Changed Music Forever | by Jonathan Mael

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A THRILLING NARRATIVE HISTORY OF HOW A SINGLE RAP BATTLE TRANSFORMED HIP HOP CULTURE FOREVER.

One group took home the prize money, but the real winners were hip hop fans all over the globe.

WHY THIS BOOK?

- Examines the pivotal 1981 rap battle between the Cold Crush Brothers and the Fantastic Romantic Five at the Harlem World Club in New York City
- Connects hip hop's formative years to its massive role in society today by showcasing how Harlem ignited a musical revolution
- The first book to focus on 1979 through 1983 and the legendary battles at Harlem World Club
- Features new and exclusive interviews with members of the Cold Crush Brothers and the Fantastic Romantic Five, including Grandmaster Cas, DJ Grand Wizzard Theodore, and DJ Baby D
- Contains a treasure trove of unpublished archival material to document one of the most important stories in hip hop history

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jon Mael is a former reporter for *The Boston Globe*, *Boston Herald*, and ESPN. He holds a master's in education and now serves as a high school US history and English teacher. He was nominated for Massachusetts Teacher of the Year in 2019, in part because of his commitment to make history and literature relevant to today's kids through the use of pop culture in the classroom.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Journalist Mael chronicles hip-hop's emergence in late 1970s and '80s New York City in his rollicking debut. . . . Readers curious about the genre's roots will want to take it for a spin." —*Publishers Weekly*

"In an engaging and conversational style, Mael and the artists featured in this book provide valuable insights into why hip hop began, how it spread, and why it remains so important to American culture. Hip hop aficionados and general readers would love to have this book on their shelves." —Kenneth Lee Johnson II, College of Charleston

"*Harlem World* is a timely and powerful record of mixtape history. Mael masterfully weaves soulful stories into a cinematic narrative, delivering a remarkable collection of mixtape memories. Arriving on hip hop's golden anniversary, this classic is a love letter to the genre, our hip hop heroes, community collections and archives, Harlem, and the cassette." —Regan Sommer McCoy, The Mixtape Museum