Juice, Tupac Shakur and Hip Hop’s Gangsta Turn

Hank Williams
Hunter College, CUNY
AFPRL 290: Hip Hop History and Culture
Juice (1992) production

• Ernest Dickerson: First film as director
  • Krush Groove (cinematographer)

• Musical score by Hank Shocklee and The Bomb Squad
  • (Public Enemy’s production crew)
Film elements

• Turn to focus on gangster elements and in culture
• Steel represents “old school” hip hop
• Bishop (Tupac) represents emerging hip hop tendency
• Bomb Squad (of PE fame) production of soundtrack
Hip Hop film Context

- *Tougher Than Leather* (1988). Run DMC
- *Colors* (1988) Ice T
  - Mario Van Peebles (dir.). Ice T, Queen Latifah, 2 Live Crew
  - John Singleton (dir.). Ice Cube
  - Hughes brothers (dir.).
  - (Tupac and N.W.A.’s MC Ren originally cast in film)
Album Tracks:

- **Naughty By Nature**: “Uptown Anthem”.
- **Eric B. and Rakim**: “Juice (Know the Ledge)”
- **MC Pooh**: “Sex, Money, and Murder”
- **Big Daddy Kane**: “’Nuff Respect”
- **Too $hort**: “So You Want to be a Gangster”
- **EPMD**: “It’s Going Down”
- **Salt N’ Pepa**: “He’s Gamin’ on Ya”
- **Cypress Hill**: “Shoot ‘Em Up”
- **Son of Bazerk**: “What Could Be Better Bitch”

- Release Date: December, 1991. MCA Records
- #17, *Billboard* 200
- #3, *Billboard* Top R&B albums
- Certified Gold
- **Hit Songs**: “Uptown Anthem”, “Juice”
Album Tracks:

- “Young Black Male”.
- “Trapped”
- “If My Homie Calls”
- “Brenda’s Got a Baby”

- Release Date: November, 1991. Interscope
- #64, Billboard 200
- #13, Billboard Top R&B albums
- Certified Gold
- **Hit Songs**: “Brenda’s Got a Baby”, #23, Hot R&B/ Rap Singles; #3 Hot Rap singles
Revised April, 2014
Some rights reserved

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/
or send a letter to Creative Commons, 444 Castro Street, Suite 900, Mountain View, California, 94041, USA.