

IT'S THE MID-1970S, IN THE DILAPIDATED SOUTH BRONX. IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR FUN, THE ONLY POSITIVE FORM OF RECREATION WOULD BE TO ATTEND ONE OF DJ KOOL HERC'S PARTIES, IN A REC ROOM LOCATED AT 1520 SEDGWICK AVE.



HERC IS ALREADY A LEGEND IN THE BOROUGH, BUT THIS DOESN'T STOP HIM FROM CONSTANTLY PRACTICING AND EXPERIMENTING TO MAKE HIS SHOWS AS ENJOYABLE AS POSSIBLE.



USING 2 COPIES OF THE SAME RECORD HE DISCOVERS THAT HE CAN LOOP THE INSTRUMENTAL "BREAKS" IN HIS FAVORITE MUSIC AD INFINITUM, IF HE CHOOSES SO. TINKERING IN HIS APARTMENT WITH THE WINDOW OPEN, HE REALIZES HE'S ON TO SOMETHING...



MIXING ONE BREAK INTO THE BREAK OF A DIFFERENT SONG, A TERM HE CALLS "MERRY-GO-ROUND," BECOMES A PART OF KOOL HERC'S ARSENAL. ADDING SUCH COMPLEXITY TO HIS PERFORMANCE, HE MAKES THE DECISION TO ENLIST A FRIEND TO EMCEE AND HANDLE DUTIES ON THE MICROPHONE.



BEING THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN, THESE PARTIES COMMAND HUGE CROWDS AND PROVIDE A WEALTH OF INSPIRATION TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE. A TALENTED CORE BEGINS TO BUILD UPON THE FOUNDATION THAT HERC DEVELOPS.

GRANDMASTER FLASH PERFECTS HERC'S MAJOR TECHNIQUES AND BEGINS INNOVATING NEW CONCEPTS AS HE GAINS POPULARITY PLAYING BLOCK PARTIES.



GRANDWIZARD THEODORE IS A YOUNG DJ\* WHO INVENTS THE IDEA OF "SCRATCHING" RECORDS BY ACCIDENT.

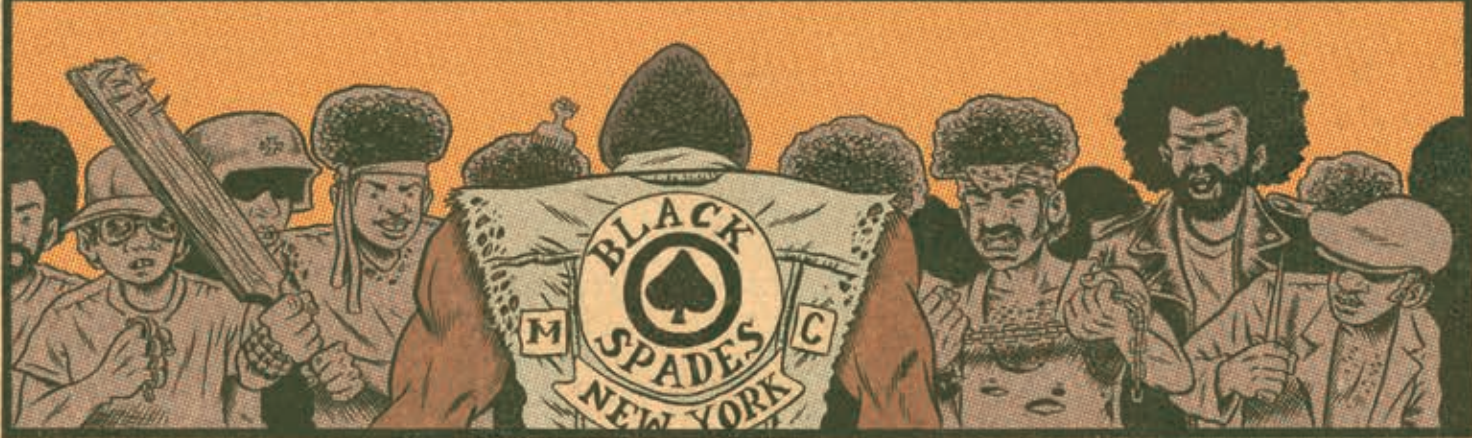


\* MORE SPECIFICALLY, HE IS GRANDMASTER FLASH'S PROTEGE.

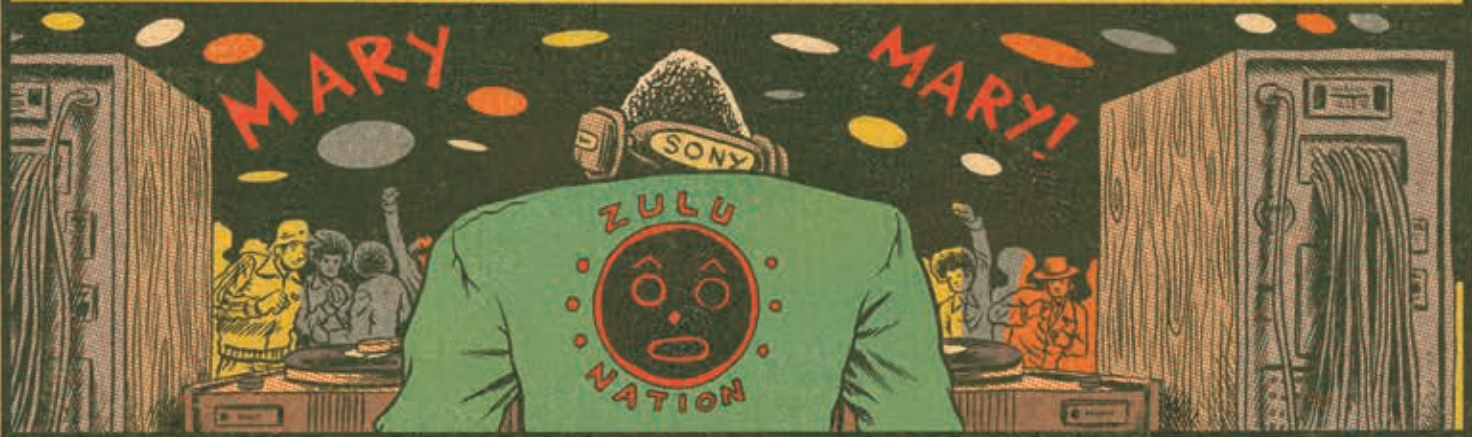
AFRIKA BAMBAATAA IS A PARTY DJ, TOO, KNOWN FOR BEING AN ADVENTUROUS "MASTER OF RECORDS," BY PLAYING THE WEIRDEST, MOST OBSCURE MUSIC. HIS INCREDIBLY LOUD SOUND SYSTEM IS SECOND TO NONE.



GANG CULTURE IS RAMPANT IN THE BRONX AT THIS TIME. BAMBAATAA, HIMSELF, IS THE FEARED LEADER OF THE BIGGEST GANG IN THE BOROUGH.



SEEING THE POSITIVE POTENTIAL IN THIS NEW "HIP HOP" SCENE (CONSISTING OF BREAKDANCE, MC'S, DJ'S, AND GRAFFITI ARTISTS), BAMBAATAA STARTS GUIDING HIS FOLLOWERS IN A LESS VIOLENT DIRECTION.



THIS INHERENT GANG VIBE MIGHT BE THE SOURCE OF WHY MOST OF THE CREATIVE PEOPLE DECIDE TO ESTABLISH GROUPS, RATHER THAN EXPRESS THEMSELVES ON THEIR OWN. THE "BATTLING" PHENOMENA, OF EACH HIP HOP DISCIPLINE IS CERTAINLY DERIVED FROM THE GANG MENTALITY.

THE TREACHEROUS THREE



THE COLD CRUSH BROTHERS



FUNKY FOUR PLUS ONE



THE FANTASTIC FIVE



AS THE MUSIC MAKES ITS WAY ACROSS TOWN, A QUEENS-BASED MC, **KURTIS BLOW**, IS A NOTABLE EXCEPTION TO THE GROUP/GANG PARADIGM. \*



\* BEING AN OPENING PERFORMER FOR **FLASH** DOES HIM GOOD.

HIS FRIEND/MANAGER, **RUSSELL "RUSH" SIMMONS** PLAYS A BIG PART IN BLOW'S SUCCESS.



\* **EDDIE CHEBA** IS ANOTHER SOLO MC, WITH **DJ HOLLYWOOD**.

**CHEBA = MARIJUANA = CHEAP BLOW = COCAINE = HIGH CLASS... PERCEPTION IS REALITY!!!**



IN P.T. BARNUM FASHION, **RUSH** HAS THE GENIUS IDEA TO UNITE HIS KID BROTHER, **DJ JOSEPH "RUN" SIMMONS**, AND **KURTIS BLOW** INTO A TANDEM ACT.



RUSSELL, MAN... I DON'T KNOW?

DON'T TRIP, KURTITH. THE KIDTH DEF!

THE DUO TAKES QUEENS BY STORM!



...LIKE A BULLET FROM A GUN. MY DISCO SON...

...COOL DJ RUN!

THEY SOON CATCH THE ATTENTION OF MORE PROFITABLE VENUES.



AW YOU THERIOTH? TALK TO ME WHEN YOU HAVE A REAL OFFAH.

A CAPITALIST FROM EARLY ON

THERE ARE WHISPERINGS THROUGHOUT **NEW YORK** ABOUT RECORDING HIP HOP MUSIC FOR MASS CONSUMPTION. THIS CAPTURES EVERYONE'S IMAGINATION, INCLUDING **YOUNG RUN**.



YO, RUSSELL! PUT ME ON REKKIDS, MAN!!

YEAH YEAH, GET A DEGREE FIRTH THO YOU HAVE THUM'THIN' TO FALL BACK ON.



CHEBA

**RUN** SPRINTS TO TELL HIS HOMEBODY **DARRYL "GRANDMASTER GET HIGH" McDANIELS** WHAT **RUSSELL** SAID. **McDANIELS** SHARES A BOOK OF RHYMES THAT HE'S BEEN CULTIVATING.



YOU KNOW I'M BRINGING YOU IN THE STUDIO WIF ME, RIGHT?

WORD.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE DJ HOLLYWOOD AS BEING A CO-CREATOR OF HIP HOP. EVEN BEFORE KOOL HERC THREW HIS FIRST PARTY, HOLLYWOOD WAS THE KING OF THE UPGRADE, DOWNTOWN CLUBS. HE GETS LESS CREDIT FOR CREATING THE CULTURE, THOUGH, BECAUSE MOST FUTURE PARTICIPANTS WERE PRECLUDED FROM GOING DOWNTOWN TO SEE HOLLYWOOD DUE TO EXPENSIVE COVER CHARGES, FANCY DRESS CODES, AND STRICT AGE REQUIREMENTS.



BEST GIVE RESPECT! I CAME UP WITH THE TERM "HIP HOP."

ONE OF MANY TO MAKE THIS CLAIM.

HOLLYWOOD IS NO STRANGER TO THE MICROPHONE, BUT HIS EMCEE, EDDIE CHEBA, IS A MASTER OF CROWD PARTICIPATION.



...I'M LIKE THE HOT BUTTER ON YA BREAKFAST TOAST!

HOLLYWOOD AND CHEBA KNOW ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PARKS AND IN THE REC ROOMS, BUT, THEY'RE MAKING TOO MUCH MONEY TO CARE. THEY DON'T SEE THE FEW, EXISTING, SOUTH BRONX DJ'S AS A THREAT.

THEY WOULDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHY THESE TWO KOOL HERC ACOLYTES, DJ DISCO WIZ AND CASANOVA FLY, WOULD DRAW POWER FROM A STREETLIGHT TO PLAY ON A BASKETBALL COURT FOR FREE.

WIZ AND CAZ ARE NOTORIOUS BATTLE DJ'S WHO HAVE THE INGENUITY TO PRESS THEIR OWN RECORD PLATE FULL OF CUSTOMIZED SOUND EFFECTS AND BREAKS.



SHOULD WE BUS' IT ON 'EM, WIZ?

BUS' IT!



IS Y'ALL READY FOR THE KNOCK-OUT PUNCH?!

THIS SECRET WEAPON ALMOST ALWAYS DESTROYS THEIR COMPETITION...

... TONIGHT, MORE THAN JUST THEIR RIVALS ARE TAKEN OUT.

**BU-BUMP SCREE  
BOMP BOMP  
BOOOOOOO...**



"UPROCKING"

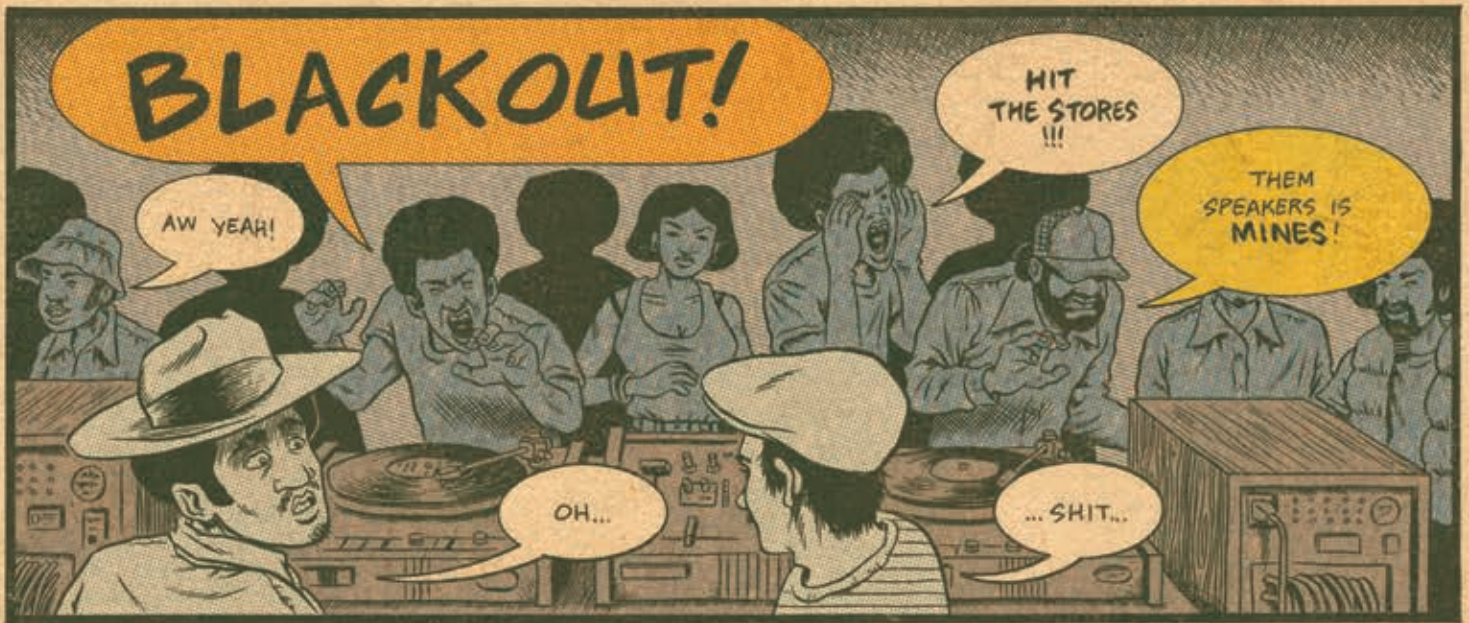
?

... THE HELL?!



DID WE DO THAT SHIT?

ALL THE STREETLIGHTS IS OUT.



SOUNDS OF GLASS SMASHING CASCADE THROUGHOUT THE SHOPPING DISTRICT. AS FAST AS GATES TO STOREFRONTS ARE CLOSED SHUT, THEY ARE RIPPED FROM THEIR HINGES BY THE MOBS WHO ARE LOOKING TO STOCK UP ON PROVISIONS AND LUXURY ITEMS.



YO, WIZ, MAN... EVERYONE'S ROBBIN' STORES ANYHOW. STAY WITH OUR EQUIPMENT. I'LL BE BACK SOON.



THE VERY NEXT DAY, NEW, ENTHUSIASTIC DJ CREWS BEGIN SPRINGING UP ON EVERY BLOCK IN THE BRONX... AND THEY ALL NOW HAVE EQUIPMENT COMPARABLE TO DJ HOLLYWOOD.