

Who Really is Hip-Hop Notable Rap Artist DMX

Written by Robert ID2811

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"On Soul of Man, DMX, aka Earl Simmons, is more than a rapper, more than a hip-hop artist, more than a movie star - he's a human being, with tragic flaws, amazing charisma, undeniable talent, humor, love and street toughness," said Reginald Hudlin, BET President of Entertainment. "If you don't know who DMX is, this series shows you why he's a star. If you're a DMX fan, this series shows you a side of the man you've never seen."

That's what happens when a street-wise hip-hop rap star from Brooklyn turns in his ghetto pass for the wide open desert ranges of Arizona.

BET premieres the six-part reality series DMX: SOUL OF A MAN on Wednesday, July 12 at 9:30 p.m. (ET/PT). When a move from the tough, gritty streets of New York to peaceful Carefree, Arizona does not free hip-hop cultures rap artist Earl Simmons, aka DMX, of the demons he feels plague him, he realizes his life may warrant more than just a change in geography. Cameras take viewers into the heart and mind of one of today's most successful and notorious hardcore rap artists to find out what really tugs at his soul and inspires his thought-provoking lyrics.

DMX, the legendary hip-hop rap artist who's sold more than 20 million albums, made his acting debut co-starring with comrade rappers Method Man and Nas in "Belly." He later went on to star in major support roles in the cult classic "Romeo Must Die," as well as Steven Segal's #1 opening weekend blockbuster "Exit Wounds."

But in DMX: SOUL OF A MAN, BET unleashes to the world what lies beneath the rough exterior of the respected, yet controversial rapper and actor. This is the authentic DMX, and viewers discover the harsh realities of his past, the conflicting dualities of his present and his aspirations for the future as he struggles with the notion of leaving his rap persona behind, and whether Carefree is a place where he can actually lead a normal life free from rap battles or legal troubles. Though he feels like a fish out of water at times, here Simmons is known by the locals as "Earl" -- just one of the guys shooting pool and knocking back beers at the neighborhood saloon.

In this riveting half-hour series, DMX opens up about his parentless childhood, his legal issues, his experience with drugs and how he's trying to be the best father, husband and person he can be. A loving, devoted Dad, viewers watch "X" spending time with his kids, taking them to school

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and getting parenting advice from Buddy, his 53-year-old redneck friend and neighbor who Simmons considers "the "realest" person I know."

Then, we see the other side of "X" -- he's the renegade and up to his typical high jinks: packing a pistol, reckless driving, and other questionable activities which sometimes land him in the headlines of unflattering news coverage or the courtroom.

"If I wasn't built for this, I'd be dead by now," DMX declares in the opening sequence of the series premiere. "My music is my life." That may be the case, but it doesn't stop the gravelly-voiced lyricist from missing an important recording session for his new album while his producers call incessantly to check on his ETA.

Through his inner circle made up of his wife Tashera, his business associates such as road manager Ali and manager Randy, his homeboy Peezy, and Buddy, viewers will see the man behind the "X" in this series. In a unique setting, Simmons speaks candidly about his life. Cameras set at various angles catch his facial expressions and emotional swings as he shares what he's done, seen and been through. These unguarded moments give viewers an intimate, personal look into his current state of mind, his nature, inner struggles, and his profound faith in God.

"Many networks have wanted to do a show with "X," but he decided to go with us because we have been able to produce a show that exhibits who he really is," explains Tracey Edmonds, executive producer for Edmonds Entertainment. "One thing you'll notice immediately is how "X" lets you completely into his world in a way that most artists won't. There is no vanity with him, no pretense, no self-editing; which in turn makes for a very entertaining, water cooler show that the viewers will appreciate."

Viewers can catch encore episodes of DMX: SOUL OF A MAN on Wednesdays at 1:00 a.m. ET/PT and Fridays at 10:00 p.m. ET/PT.

Web site: <http://www.bet.com>