

Many within the music industry were only willing to embrace the nation's third largest city as the

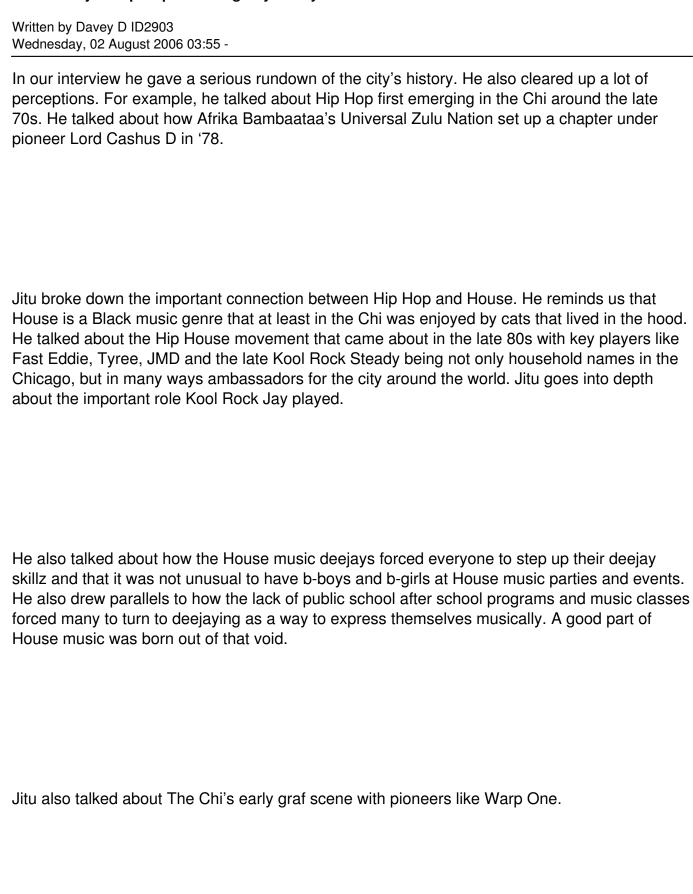
Written by Davey D ID2903 Wednesday, 02 August 2006 03:55 -

Mecca for House Music and somehow managed to disconnect that music form from Hip Hop when in many ways the two are intertwined, especially along the lines of deejay culture.

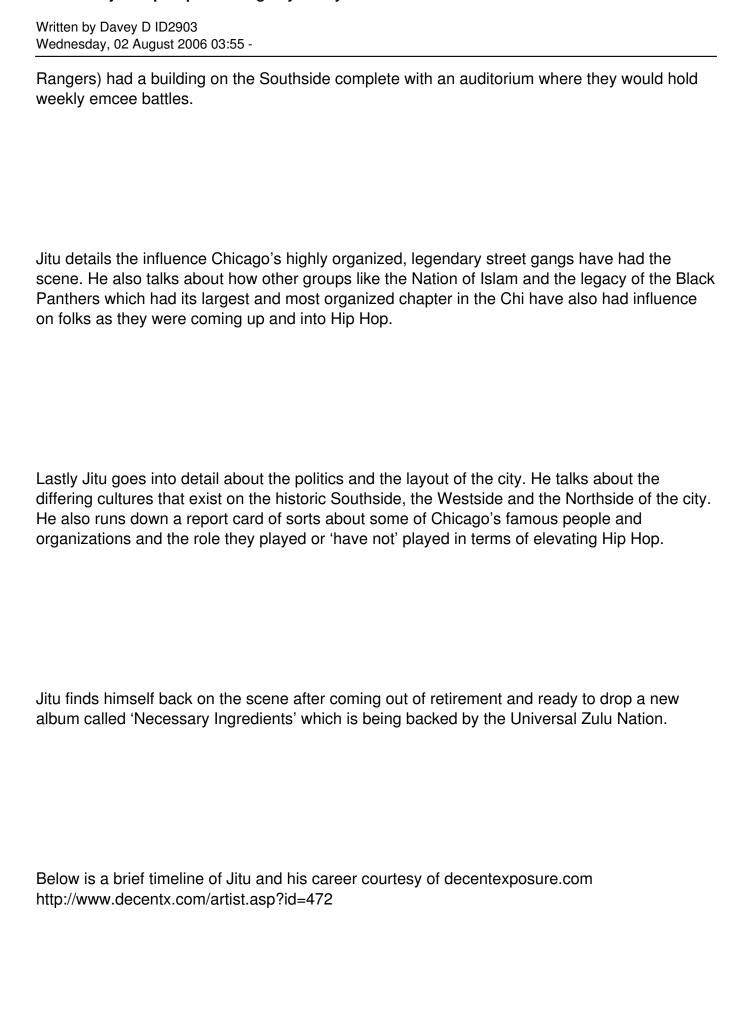
The battle to establish 'Tha Chi' within Hip Hop was about as brutal as its political landscape. Unsung heroes like Dr Groove, Lord Cashus D, DA Smart, Black Allies, Sugar Ray Dinky, George Daniels, World wide Posse, God Squad, The Chi Rock Nation, Ill State Assassins, and the late DJ Pink House all played crucial roles in organizing, pushing the envelop and seeing to it that the Windy City get its respect. They used to roll up on nightclubs, radio stations and even label executives demanding to be recognized. Many will forget that back in the late 80s there was a movement called the New World Order which brought many of Chicago's Hip Hop community together as they fought for change and respect.

Sadly despite those heroic efforts of the past, today, many local artists who are not signed to a major record label or coming out of Kanye or Common's camp find that many outlets like radio and even nightclubs are closed to them. This is now spurning up a new generation of Chi-Town Hip Hoppers to start organizing to bring about change.

During the recently held National Hip Hop Political Convention we sat down with one of Chicago's premier pioneering emcees, Jitu the Juggernaut of the group Ten Tray. For those who are unfamiliar ten Tray was the first group to be signed to major label. Back in 91, Jitu the lead rapper was and to this day remains an activist who saw the power of Hip Hop and decided to use his talents to spark political thought and hopefully change.



What really stood out in our conversation was Jitu talking about the early club and open mic scene. He talked about how the now defunct El Rukin street gang (formerly the Blackstone



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Jitu is an African name, given to him in 1995 meaning "A giant among men." Jitu is a youth program coordinator and community organizer on the south side of Chicago. He swarmed the game in 2002, entering battles and open mics. Leaving crowds in a state of disbelief, Jitu has humbled emcees all over the country, blending a once in a lifetime voice with an expansive vocabulary and ferocious delivery. On the underground, many call him the best they have ever heard! A short look at his accomplishments: • 1986-Winner of "Battle of Chicago Rappers" at El Rukn Fort

• 1989-2nd Place-"Battle of Chicago Rappers"

• 1989-Formed "New World Order" along with Cashus D of the Universal Zulu Nation, to organize rappers, dancers, singers and dj's in Chicago. Was the largest such organization in the country with over 200 members.

• 1989-Organized, with Dr. Groove (Source Magazine) and DA Smart, a massive hip-hop community protest of the opening of "Sarafina" at the Regal Theatre for refusing to recognize DA after he won a national talent competition with his rap, "Black People ain't Prejudiced, They Just Mad." They recognized DA as the winner of the contest.

• 1991-With group Ten Tray, signed to Smash Polygram records to become the first rap act in Chicago on a major label.

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Wednesday, 02 August 2006 03:55 -• 1992-Appeared on Rap City, The Box and Yo! MTV Raps. • 1992-Album, "Realm of Darkness" recognized as album of the month in Rapmasters magazine. • 1992-Song, "Ain't Nothin' Like a Sister" was number one song in Las Vegas region and other west coast markets for 4-9 weeks. • 2003-Winner-"Battle of the Iron Mic" • 2003-4 Time Champion-Emcee Battle @ Wild Hare • 2003-Winner-1st Annual Kool Mix Emcee Battle

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• 2003-3 Time Champion-Microphone War @ Subterranean
2004-Represented Chicago in national BRAINSTORM rap battle in Seattle (semi-finalist)
• 2004-2nd Place-Rhyme Spitters emcee battle and documentary (see enclosed DVDwe got shafted!)
Joined and helped develop veteran hip-hop alliance, "FIGHT CLUB"
• 2005-Begin work on album, "NECESSARY INGREDIENTS."
On this album, entitled NECESSARY INGREDIENTS, Jitu brings pure, unbridled passion and energy with ridiculous beats provided by the likes of Harvy Allbangers, Tony Baines, Joe Blaque, Ty Hill and Issues. Jitu blends real street cuts and bruises, consciousness, passion and skillz to deliver the gz-noods on this project. This album is a holy book for emcees, as Jitu blends subject matter, lyrics, delivery, flow, energy, breath control to give you what we believe,

