Written by Robert ID2717 Monday, 12 June 2006 05:57 -

With the birthday of one of Hip-Hop cultures most beloved icons approaching, it is good to remember the man Tupac Shakur (2Pac) and look at a few of the tributes that have been laid down for this iconic figure of hip-hop.

Tupac Shakur was more than a rap or a hip-hop musician. He was a poet, teacher, activist, movie star, and yes a great lyricist. Everyone today that is in hip-hop tries to imitate him; they all want the luv that everyone has for Tupac (2Pac).

Although there are many who try there will never be such a well loved iconic figure in hip-hop culture. Tupac was the reality of so many that we all could do nothing less but embrace him, because he was so much like many of us. Hip-hop culture could feel where he had been and where he was going. He was not only a hip-hop and rap figure, he was also a real person who had no fear with sharing his thoughts and emotions with us his fans.

Songs like 'Dear Momma' or 'Brenda's Got a Baby' are not made today. Most hip-hop artists are afraid of their 'street credibility'.

Tupac was not just a rapper who could express feelings of love and gratitude but he also could 'cut' an opponent to pieces in a diss song. Tracks that made people 'double take' or ask did he really just say that were a common occurrence with Tupac. His track where he attacks the Notorious Big and Bad Boy records, 'Hit Em Up' is still one of the best diss songs of all time.

Although many tributes to Tupac have been released the ones that mean the most are the ones that are released by those who knew him best.

Below are just two tributes to the late hip-hop icon, that were both produced by Tupac's business partner, producer and friend Johnny 'J'.

The first is with former Outlawz member and now retired rap artist Napoleon. Both the audio and the video are provided.

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The second is produced by Johnny "J" and features a young upcoming artist T-Jay; and artist signed to Johnny "J"'s Klock Work Entertainment.

With these 2 projects it can be seen that the mature artists in hip-hop and the new comers to the game both hold Tupac in great respect. And it is thru that respect that the Legacy of Tupac Shakur: The Man, will only grow stronger with time. Enjoy.

Napoleon and Johnny "J" feat/ Val Young – Never forget Audio

T-Jay and Johnny " J" – ' Still'

Video of Never Forget

Visit the MySpace of Johnny "J" and his Klock Work Entertainment HERE

And be sure to check <u>www.ThugLifeArmy.com</u> on Tupac's Birthday June 16<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the life of the hip-hop icon with a few special 'Exclusive' Tributes to the fallen solider of hip-hop culture – Tupac Shakur (2Pac).

Please visit and support the only 'Official' Tupac web sites on the net at

2PacLegacy - http://www.2paclegacy.com

TASF ----- http://tasf.org