

## Time for Hip Hop to Grow Up-An Interview w CL Smooth

Written by Davey D ID2990

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Last week almost a thousand people waited patiently in the chilly weather over at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco for CL Smooth to take the stage and top off a day that featured 22 Emcees and 22 deejays. It was the anniversary of the KZSU's (Stanford University) Kevvy Kev. The day had seen everyone from Mr. Lif to J-Live to Z-Man wreck shop, but in spite of those stellar performances, all eyes were on CL.

Part of the attraction has to do with the fact that CL comes out of Hip Hop's Golden Era, when much of the music arguably had substance and purpose. CL's lyrics back in those days held what he called a righteous anger that was set to uplift the people. Almost 15 years later CL still drops gems with that same energy and depth.

His performance did not disappoint. His lyrics resonated with everyone as his presence simply reminded people what they have been truly missing in Hip Hop-Pure Excellence.

After his set we caught up with CL and talked about the state of Hip Hop, his new album, His relationship with his former partner Pete Rock and the meaning behind some of landmark songs like 'Straighten It Out' and 'Lots of Loving' as well as his new joint 'American Me'.

CL said that he's looking forward and trying not to dwell in the past. He also said that he feels compelled to address many of the pertinent issues impacting the hood including the current War in Iraq. He also noted it's important for Hip Hop to grow up and that he was determined to dispel any myth that says older artists are no longer relevant in the age of 'Laffy Taffy'. CL also noted that it's important for an artist to give back their community. CL explained that he's made it a point to come back to the hood and buy it up. "Ownership is key", he noted.

We salute CL for his accomplishments and we look forward to his new album.

Visit Davey D at <http://www.daveyd.com>

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