

Commemorating the Late Rap Icon Eazy-E

Written by Robert ID1703
Friday, 22 July 2005 06:22 -

On September 6, Capitol/Priority Records will commemorate the 41st anniversary of late west coast rap icon Eazy-E's September 7, 1964 birth and the tenth anniversary of the rap icon's 1995 death by releasing Eazy-E - "Eternal E: Gangsta Memorial Edition", a deluxe CD/DVD package. The expanded set includes 16 Eazy-E songs, seven music videos starring Eazy-E and the previously unreleased song "A Lil" Eazier Said" from Eazy-E's son, the 21 year old emerging rap artist, LIL" E. The DVD also includes three HIV/AIDS Public Service Announcements. At the age of 31, Eazy-E died on March 26, 1995 due to AIDS-related causes.

Eazy-E was born Eric Wright on September 7, 1964. He rocketed 'straight Outta Compton' to rap gangsta superstardom with Dr. Dre, Ice Cube, MC Ren and Yella in N.W.A

Eazy-E became one of rap's most important figures by paving the way for the rap businessman.

The Compton rapper-executive took the then-revolutionary step of launching his own Ruthless Records in the mid-1980s and helped to popularize gangster rap with his solo recordings and as a member of N.W.A, the controversial rap super group.

"He started the whole gangster rap era," says LIL" E, Eazy-E's son. LIL" E's "A Lil" Eazier Said," a previously unreleased update of Eazy-E's classic "Eazy-er Said Than Dunn" single, is included on Eazy-E - "Eternal E: Gangsta Memorial Edition".

"There wouldn't be nothing - not 2Pac, not Biggie, not 50 Cent, not Dr. Dre, not Eminem - if it wasn't for my father," LIL" E continues.

"He started it. He's the Godfather of gangster rap."

In addition to LIL" E's new track on the new "Eternal E" package, the set's DVD includes three Rap-It-Up Public Service Announcements, produced by the Kaiser Family Foundation and BET. The PSAs are designed to foster HIV/AIDS awareness through celebrating Eazy-E, a rap legend who fell victim to the epidemic.

In a March 2005 article paying tribute to Eazy-E and his musical legacy, the Los Angeles Times called Eazy-E's "Eazy-Duz-It" and N.W.A's 'straight Outta Compton' "landmark albums" and continued, "These albums established Eazy-E, from the then-little known suburb of Compton,

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as a major player in the rap industry." "straight Outta Compton" also earned the ranking of #144 on Rolling Stone magazine's 2003 list of the "500 Greatest Albums Of All Time" and was ranked #10 in Spin magazine's July 2005 tally of the "100 Greatest Albums 1985-2005."

Eazy-E - "Eternal E: Gangsta Memorial Edition" is the most complete tribute available for one of rap's most significant figures.

"This album keeps his legacy pushing and keeps his name out there," LIL" E says.

Tracklist for "Eternal E: Gangsta Memorial Edition":

CD

DVD

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Boyz-N-The Hood (remix) | 1. We Want Eazy |
| 2. 8 Ball (remix) | 2. Only If You Want It |
| 3. Eazy-Duz-It | 3. Eazy-er Said Than Dunn |
| 4. Eazy-er Said Than Dunn | 4. 100 Miles & Runnin" |
| 5. No More ?'s | 5. Neighborhood Sniper |
| 6. We Want Eazy | 6. Straight Outta Compton |

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N.W.A.:

"N.W.A. and The Posse" (1987)

'straight Outta Compton" (1988)

"Niggaz4life" (1991)

"100 Miles and Runnin" (1990)

"EFIL4ZAGGIN" (DVD, 1992)

Eazy-E:

"Eazy-Duz-It" (1988)

"Eternal E" (posthumous, 1995)

'str8 Off Tha Streetz of Muthaphukkin Compton" (posthumous, 1998)

"The Impact of a Legend" (posthumous EP/DVD, 2002)

Eternal E: "Gangsta Memorial Edition" (to be released September 6, 2005)

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