



PUSSY MUSCLE HUSTLE
on black women, white feminism and hip hop

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*“Grab the mic, look into the crowd and see smiles
Cause they see a woman standing up on her own two
Sloppy slouching is something I won’t do
Some think that we can’t flow (can’t flow)
Stereotypes, they got to go (got to go)
I’m a mess around and flip the scene into reverse
(With what?) With a little touch of Ladies First”*
Queen Latifah & Monie Love – Ladies first

What’s it like to be a young black teenager in the mid 70s in the inner cities of America? The mixture of social, musical and political influences that led to the beginning of hip hop as a culture are diverse and complex. In the beginning hip hop didn’t started out as a political movement, for the kids that started it, it was a way to pass the time, finding a way to have fun, to express themselves as they grew up under the politics of abandonment. After the FBI’s suppression of the late 60s radical black groups and the gang wars that were taking place, a new generation of kids chose to express themselves through DJ’ing, MC’ing, break dancing and through graffiti instead of taking political action towards the situation as it was. These four elements showed the world that they took it beyond a musical and artistic movement. It was a whole culture.

As Macyliena Morgan a professor of African American studies and director of the hip hop archive at the Harvard University stated:

“Hip hoppers literally mapped on to the consciousness of the world, a place and an identity for themselves as the originators of an exciting new art form, they created value out of races and places that only seem to offer devastation.”

The courage to be yourself is the essence of hip hop. It was about having fun, saying what was on your mind, being unique, being different. A great deal

of hip hop was about giving your opinion, standing for something and teaching people. When you make music, you have to think of the responsibility of the message. Hip hop gave black women a chance to raise their voice, a way to tell their story. The personal is the political, and hip hop is the perfect approach for female MC’s to express their thoughts.

I believe that the female MC’s played a important part in black women empowerment. I am curious how feminism and hip hop is connected with each other in the current underground hip hop scene. I wonder: How did female MC’s express feminist values in the first decade of hip hop and how is feminism and hip hop connected within the current underground hip hop scene?

So, why do I write about black womanhood and black culture as a young “white” feminist? For too long feminism focused on white middle class women, in which they didn’t include the struggles of black women. Feminism should be for everyone, for every woman. In fact, feminism was and still is racist towards black women. Way too often white feminists still pretend the experiences of black women do not exist. Just because it doesn’t affect you, doesn’t mean, the struggle doesn’t exist. I heard so many times feminists say that the hip hop culture is misogynistic, to some extend that might be true. It’s the mainstream media and music-industry that shaped and created that certain image. An image,

which is only a small part of the story. Let’s not forget that the first decades of hip hop gave black women a voice, a chance to speak their mind while white feminism was ignoring the experiences of black women. We need to understand and acknowledge the importance of hip hop.

In the first chapter I will focus on racism within feminism and how is the relationship between black women and feminism, based on “Black women & feminism” by Bell Hooks.

In the second chapter I focus on the hip hop feminists. How does hip hop relate to feminism? Based on Hip Hop inheritance by Reiland Rabaka and video clips and lyrics.

In the last chapter I will focus on underground hip hop now a days and how they relate to feminism by using video clips and lyrics.



THE SILENCE OF THE OPPRESSED

I cannot imagine what it must be like to be a black woman. I cannot speak from my own experiences, as I have certain privileges like white privileges and class privileges, I do experience sexism, but I don't experience racism. In this first chapter of my thesis I try to understand the struggle of black women in society and within feminism. Reading more and more about racism in feminism made me wonder: Do I still want to be called a feminist? Do I still want to be associated with the feminist movement? I still believe that the strife to end sexist oppression is still very important, so now I found myself in a struggle of being or not being a feminist. I cannot bare the feeling of being part of a movement that has its foundation in racist oppression. How can we talk about women's equality, when we ignore the experiences of black women and women of colour?

What does it mean to be a black woman in American society during 19th century? I think it never has been easy to be a black woman in the world that we are living in. In the past and the present day. We live in a utopia where we believe that a lot of things have changed, things got better, but I don't know. Things got a little bit better, maybe. We have to thank the "black feminists" in their struggle to change their social status, because we "white feminists" didn't try to fully understand racial-sexist oppression. We didn't put much effort in order to change the social status of black women in society, which makes me angry and sad. It's the

power structure of the white supremacy that remains. You may ask me, why do I care as a white woman? It's not my problem, right? I do care as I consider myself as a feminist. I want equality for everyone, not just for myself. Women/Men. Black/White/Yellow. Gay/Straight/Transgender. Rich/Poor. This may sound very generalizing, but what I try to say is, that I hope that the day will come, where we can reach for equality in society. I hope for a society where all lives matter. #AllLivesMatter. As an artist I think we have the responsibility to understand the world and acknowledging our faults and mistakes to make changes for the future. But, somehow most of the feminists that went before me, refuse to acknowledge that they had privileges like white privilege and class privilege. Why do they don't to acknowledge their mistakes in the fight to end sexist oppression; to make it even worse they stated that racism is a part of white male patriarchy and they cannot be held responsible. 'How can they not be held responsible, I ask myself. Racism isn't gender based as they suggest, it's not that only white men are racist and white women aren't racist, that's basically not how it works. I like to argue that they are partly responsible and they should have taken responsibility. They should have taken a stand against racial oppression, they should have been outspoken about the poor position of black women, but this didn't happen. I mean it's not an issue

¹ Bell Hooks - black women and feminism p. 119



who's responsible for the racist attitude within society; the issue is that they are racist.

We need to try to understand the reality as it is and not how we wish it to be. We need to be critical towards feminism and confronting the reality.



While writing and reading about the relationship between black women and feminism and racism within feminism I came across an article by Sunny Bergman², a Dutch filmmaker that in her films focused on feminism, but also she made a film on racism. In this article she talks about white feminism.

² sunny berman& naomi wolf

She was attending an event in de Balie, which was called Feminism 4.0. In this event there was a conversation between several women, one of them was the feminist Naomi Wolf. On a certain point in the conversation they talk about how the feminist movement always have been focusing on white middle class women and how they didn't involve black women in their movement. Instead of acknowledging their faults and mistakes, she reacts very offended and very angry, when confronted with the critique that feminism didn't try to involve people of colour and how they have been mistreating black women. How can you see you seek for equality, when you only involve a small group of people? Especially when you leave out the ones that are most in need of equality.

Instead of create bonding between all women as a group in order to strive to end sexist-oppression against all women, to end white male patriarchy, to work towards a more social equal society. The relationship between white feminists and black women was characterized by hatred. White women activists felt so much hate towards black females, far more intense than towards black males, while black males were more accepted in reform groups than black females. I am not saying there should have been a war between women and men, that it should have been gender-based, but I think if these feminists were looking for equality we should stand in solidarity, trying to understand the sexist

oppression of all women, which should also include racial oppression. I think it finds its origin in the racist-sexist stereotyping of black women. Back then black women were often perceived and described as morally impure³; the stereotypical image of black women. White middle class women had the idea that black women would undermine their status as a white woman, it would make them less feminine. They didn't want to be associated with black women, because it wouldn't fit the image of their ideal beauty standards. Something we still see, whenever we watch television, films, and advertisements. All the time we see the same images, images of white women, with a pale skin, rather skinny and preferable blond hair. For a black woman it's not easy, maybe even almost impossible to identify with the images we perceive. Black women often get shamed on and patronized for showing their sexuality, when white women do basically the same thing; we pay less attention to this. White middle class didn't want to be associated with morally impure creatures. They didn't see black women as women, but as the "other".

By doing so, black women and white women never came to a point of creating a unity in order to end white patriarchy. Let's make clear, this is the fault of white feminists, as they supported white supremacy instead of showing support all women of all races and all colours. They could have build

³ Bell Hooks - Black Women and feminism p. 130

THE SILENCE OF THE OPPRESSED

bridges, but instead they got more and more separated. White feminists talked about 'sisterhood'.⁴The idea behind 'sisterhood' was solidarity between women of all races and classes. This never happened, it was nothing more than just words, just an idea, the gap between white and black women remained the same as history repeated itself. What's the value of a thing like sisterhood, without showing any effort. Words become meaningless. They were so blinded by their narcissism, too blind to admit that something like a collective experience doesn't exist, that a social status isn't gender based. The social status of white women cannot be compared with the social status of black women en men. As the women's movement started our in the end of the 60s, it was basically dominated by white middle class women. They felt it was "their" movement, unwilling to acknowledge that non-white women were part of women in American society. For their so-called "sisterhood" they asked non-white women to join their movement. As long you cannot acknowledge that not all women have the same experiences in society by not acknowledging the existences of black women, something like sisterhood will never happen. And you cannot talk about equality, when you don't involve all women, and when you don't talk about race.



LESS HUSTLE, MORE FLOW

So, when I explain that I write about hip hop and feminism or so-called hip hop feminism, people give me that look. Their faces come perplexed and their faces change into question marks. Why for God's sake would I write about such a misogynist and sexist subculture or form of expression? How can that be connected to feminism? Okay, I cannot deny that a part of hip hop is sexist, marginalizing women of color and black women, but that is not the part I want to focus on. Not because I think it's unimportant, but we all know that hip hop is perceived and portrayed as a sexist culture. Every time someone mentions hip hop, the first thing that comes to mind is usually is misogyny, I rather present hip hop culture as a form of women empowerment. I want to tell the other side of the story, because that's just as important.

In the first chapter I described the relationship between black women and feminism. Black women and women of color didn't embrace the label "feminist", which didn't mean they completely reject feminism. Anyhow, feminism was perceived as a white middle class women thing. College-educated women were more likely to be exposed to feminism, but poor or working class (black) women were less likely to attend college. They had to overcome so much struggles and obstacles to be able to attend college. That said, it's not that black women of the hip hop generation fully reject feminism as a whole, though they rejected that what

has been done and has not been done by feminism, 'all the faults and mistakes made by feminists. They could have done so many things, they could have pushed the social status of black women forward, which didn't happen. Anyhow, the label "feminism" had a bad reputation, which we still see today, so many women don't want to be labeled "feminist" and especially black women. I can fully understand the resistance towards feminism, as white feminists always have ignored them.

While feminism remained for college-educated women, in the white middle class academic-sphere, in hip hop culture something else happened. We can say that hip hop feminism critically engaged in music, film, fashion, fiction, poetry, spoken word, dance, theater and visual art.²By using popular culture and mass media they were able to speak to everyone, to the world, while, feminism remained in government, academic or male-dominated bureaucracies. Hip hop feminism continued where traditional feminism left off. We cannot deny that hip hop touched the lives of many black women, women of color and even white women. We have to acknowledge for a fact that hip hop reached more young black women and women of color than academic feminism ever did. Of course we shouldn't forget that there are misogynist aspects in hip hop for example in video clips of mainstream hip hop. Hip hop consists on

¹ Reiland Rabaka - *Hip hop inheritance* p. 160

² Reiland Rabaka - *hip hop inheritance* p. 163

contradictions as it imprisoning women and the same time emancipating women.

When we talk about how hip hop used mass media, for me an interesting part is how female MC's presented themselves. I want to focus on the female MC's that didn't objectify themselves but the ones that shaped their own image, their own identity in the case of their flow/skill, but also in their clothing, their fashion. They decided to choose how to present themselves. As a woman you could be skinny or less skinny, it didn't matter so much, you didn't have to undress yourself to be appreciated, which is empowering. One example of this could be Missy Elliot.³Her video clips were outstanding; she was just Missy and nothing else. She wore baggy clothes most of the time, and no she wasn't skinny, but she was not ashamed. For example in "The Rain" she appears in a sort of garbage bag or shiny raincoat, which starts to blow up. As an artist you should be yourself and be daring and that is what she did, she didn't conform to the social standards that was made by the music industry. She had love for her own body, just in the way it is. This is important to mention, because throughout history the bodies of black women often has been ridiculed and marginalized, treated as less.

³ Missy Elliot - *the rain*



LESS HUSTLE, MORE FLOW

Yo, listen up on the track here so I can feel if it rides

Freedom everytime for the sisters.. Check us, watch this”

To emphasize on the way that black women in hip hop touched upon “feminist” issues, I want to talk about “U.N.I.T.Y.”⁵ by Queen Latifah as the feminist anthem (for me). In this song, she touches upon several “feminist” issues that black women and women in general have to face such as name-calling, street harassment and domestic violence. It’s a critique on sexist attitude that women have to deal with in society, in their daily struggles, the way some men treat women. She sends out a very powerful message, she tells women to stick together; to be strong and to stand up against sexism.

“One day I was walking down the block

I had my cutoff shorts on right cause it was crazy hot

I walked past these dudes when they passed me

One of ‘em felt my booty, he was nasty

I turned around red, somebody was catching the wrath

Then the little one said (Yeah me bitch) and laughed

Since he was with his boys he tried to break fly

Huh, I punched him dead in his eye and said: Who you

calling a bitch?”

“I guess I fell so deep in love I grew dependency

I was too blind to see just how it was affecting me

All I knew was you, you was all the man I had

And I was scared to let you go,

even though you treated me bad

⁵ [Queen Latifah - U.N.I.T.Y.](#)

But I don’t want my kids to see me getting beat down

By daddy smacking mommy all around

You say I’m nothing without ya, but I’m nothing with ya

A man don’t really love you if he hits ya

Rap music was very much about speaking up to command acknowledgement and to take your space. One of the first women to do so was Roxanne Shante with “Roxanne’s revenge.”⁶ which was a reaction on the song “Roxanne Roxanne” by UTFO. This example is very much about “talking back” to the male dominance in society. In “Roxanne revenge” addresses the issues young females have to deal with, such as sexual harassment.

Talking about contradictions. The one-dimensional argument that all or almost-all male rappers are sexist and all or almost-all female rappers are anti-sexist is not true. There’s no such thing as a battle between the sexes, so to say. Of course, a lot of female rappers address the sexist attitude within hip hop culture. Though, it would be incorrect to say that the relationship between female and male rapper is based on complete opposition. To make it more complicated, we shouldn’t forget that some popular female rappers like Lil’ Kim, Foxy Brown, Trina, and Nicki Minaj embrace the hyper sexualized images and misogynists lyrics, by doing so they keep the image of hip hop as a sexist culture alive. Keep in mind that not all male rappers are sexist and not all female rappers are feminist or anti-sexist. Popular

⁶ [Roxanne Shante - Roxanne’s Revenge](#)



rappers like mentioned before: Lil’ Kim, Foxy Brown Trina and Nicki Minaj come across as defending misogyny, also lyrics-wise approving misogynistic hip hop, male supremacy and gender roles of men as protectors, providers, lovers, fathers and husbands.

At the same time female rappers like MC Lyte, Queen Latifah, Monie Love, Bahamadia, Medusa, Mystic, Jean Grae and others have critiqued misogynistic rap music and there also have been male rappers that produced pro-women songs that celebrate black womanhood, especially black

motherhood for example: Tupac’s “Dear Mommy”,⁷ Mos Def’s: “Umi Says”⁸. There are also examples that stood against rape and domestic violence like: A Tribe Called Quest “Date Rape”⁹, De La Soul’s “Millie Pulled A Pistol On Santa”¹⁰, And even several male rappers critiqued stripping, pimping and prostitution. Such as Common’s “A Film Called Pimp”¹¹ with MC Lyte, As I mentioned before, Hip hop is full of contradictions. It’s very complex and cannot be reduced

⁷ [Tupac - dear mama](#)

⁸ [Mos Def - Umi says](#)

⁹ [A tribe called quest - date rape](#)

¹⁰ [De La Soul - Millie pulled a pistol on santa](#)

¹¹ [Common - A film called pimp](#)

into simple stereotypes.

To come back to the issue why female rappers rejected the term “feminist” in order to shine a light on the complexity and contradiction in hip hop. As Tricia Rose wrote:” during my conversation with Salt, MC Lyte and Queen Latifah, it became clear that these women were uncomfortable with being labeled feminist and perceived feminism as a signifier for a movement that related specifically to white women.” She also explained further:” they also thought feminism involved adopting an anti-male position, and although they clearly express frustra-

As I was writing earlier on about how white feminists wanted to create a “sisterhood”, a unity between black and white women to end white patriarchy, though this idea of “sisterhood” never evolved further than just words, than just an idea. When I listen to “Freedom”⁴ a collaboration by Salt-N-Pepa, Queen Latifah, Lisa ‘Left Eye’ Lopes of TLC, Yo Yo, MC Lyte, Da 5 Footaz, Patra, and Me’Shell Ndegéocello, an all-women anthem, a soundtrack for the film “Panther” (A film that focused on the rise and decline on the Black Panther party). This song is ode to African culture, what it means to be a black woman, to be proud of being a black woman, but it’s also about sisterhood. When I listen to this song, I think that this is what sisterhood is supposed to be. As Yo-Yo puts it:

“And peace and love and all of the above

Sisters comin’ together representing one love

No disrespect, but we gotta get it together

No matter what’s the weather, sisters gotta stick together

And sisters be strong, don’t let ‘em steer you wrong, hold on

Cuz sisters got it goin’ on, yeah”

Or how Patra puts it:

“Now this is time for free your mind and your soul

Yo, half the story has never been told

Ladies, you got to demand what you want And what we want is respect, right?

⁴ [V/A - Freedom](#)

LESS HUSTLE, MORE FLOW

tions with men, they didn't want to be considered or want their work to be interpreted as anti-black male." Even the hip hop feminist Heather Numan stated: *"Although women's rights are undoubtedly important, a point of view that only considers gender can become very problematic, because it's mistakenly pits women against men instead of realizing that the system itself is flawed and encourages exploitation and oppression of large numbers of people."*¹²

KRS-ONE's "Heal yourself"¹³ is a good example that shows that women didn't want to be considered anti-black male. In fact we see male and female MC's sticking together, doing a song on social issues. We don't see naked bodies, but what we see is equality between male and female MC's. It's all about the message and as KRS-ONE says *"Teaching humanity is what we're doing."* In the part of Ms. Melodie she addresses the social issue of domestic violence by saying:

"Daddy's home everyday since he lost his job

His new line of work is now beating up mom

Mom is scared, she doesn't know what to do

Her beautiful skin is now black and blue

She used to cry, now she's back in the pen

A human war between women and men"

This is describing everyday life- struggles, without being anti-black male, presenting our social problems without pointing the finger to men as our

12 Reiland Rabaka - Hip Hop Inheritance p. 179

13 KRS-ONE - heal yourself

enemy. That's exactly the strength. While what we saw in traditional feminism was mainly creating a separation between gender, class and race, while we should create a unity against social injustice. That is what hip hop doing here, creating awareness.



Hip hop feminists use hip hop as a gateway to express social issues and the need for activism aimed at racism, sexism, capitalism and heterosexuality. They emphasize on several issues and feminism is one of them. Nowadays it's called "conscious" hip hop or "alternative" hip hop. Anyhow, "conscious" rappers question unjust social conventions, conservative politics and corporate capitalism for instance. Conscious hip hop is the hip hop as it was, before it got commercialized. It's the hip hop that raised our consciousness about social issues. Here also

lies the importance of hip hop, of what hip hop can do and can be. Hip hop feminists flipped the script as they used hip hop as a medium or a stage to raise awareness about women's life-world and their daily struggles.

When we talk about "conscious" hip hop, I definitely should mention Lauryn Hill, she was in that case very important. I would say one of the most important female MC's, when we talk about black feminism. "The miseducation of Lauryn Hill" engages on hip hop feminism and black feminism. What does it mean to be a black woman? She presents a honest and realistic view on black womanhood, as the body of black women has been manipulated and abused throughout history. She engages with love, faith and black motherhood, as she talks about her experiences in her past-relationships and her pregnancy for example. By embracing themes centered around black feminism. In "Lost Ones"¹⁴ she engages with the importance and realizing the self-worth, "To Zion"¹⁵ is about black women hood and in "the Final Hour"¹⁶ she touches upon spirituality within black feminism. She shows young brown and black girls, and us that they are beautiful.

14 Lauryn Hill - lost ones

15 Lauryn Hill - To zion

16 Lauryn Hill - the final hour



PUSSY GLORY

After talking about the relationship between black women and feminism, hip hop feminism. I am wondering what's happening in hip hop feminism today. In mainstream hip hop we barely see female MC's anymore, we got Nicky Minaj. The first thing that comes to mind, whenever we talk about her is "Anaconda" which we don't consider to be feminist, as it is marginalizing the bodies of black women and focuses on big butts. Who decides what can be considered as feminism and what cannot be considered as feminism. For example when Beyonce stood in front of a projection saying: "FEMINIST", she was openly shamed for this. She just couldn't be a feminist. The same counts for Nicki Minaj, she cannot be a feminist as she created this hyper sexualized image of herself. Although she made some songs that touched upon feminist issues like abortion in "All things go"¹ where she says:

*"My child with Aaron,
would've have been sixteen, any minute
So in some ways I feel like 'Caiah, is the both of them
It's like he's 'Caiah's little angel, looking over him"*

At the other hand, white mainstream artists that do the same such as Taylor Swift or Miley Cyrus and also claim to be feminists, get less criticized for it. Are white female artists more privileged to be feminists than black female artists?

Anyhow, I don't want to focus on mainstream artists, I prefer to put the emphasize on artists in underground hip hop. I want to know and to find out how female rappers within the underground hip hop engage on feminist social political issues. How do they deal with this? Is it still alive?

Angel haze, an american female rapper, that really engaged with "feminist" issues. In "Cleaning out my closet"² Angel Haze present us her life story in a honest and realistic way of storytelling. It tells the story of her experience of how she got raped by her own relatives and how it affected her personally. Rape is something we still not fully understand in society or do not want to understand or talk about, something we rather not talk about, but she does.

*"And I silently swear that this is the truth no falacy here
See I was young man... I was just a toddler a kid
And he wasn't the first to successfully try what he did
He took me to the basement and after the lights would be cut
He whipped it out in sight of my eyes and forced his cock
through my gut
See it was weird because I felt that I was losing my mind
And then it happened like it happened like millions of times
And I would swear that I would tell but then they'd think I
was lying"*

It's very touching and heartbreaking the way she puts her experiences as a women into words, into the art of music. That's the reason why she as an artist is so important.



Now I like to move on to something else. What does it mean to be a black queer woman? In the past black queer women felt left out as hip hop mainly talks about heterosexuality and other sexual preferences are often ignored. Dai Burger is one of these queer rappers. In "Souffle"³ she's celebrating the vagina, which she does in a funny loving way.

*"My pussy taste like berries & cherries, & everything nice.
Sugar & spice. Miami vice. You could hit it twice.
That's goodnight."*

The feminist website "feministing.com"⁴ made a list "best feminist video's of 2013 and Dai Burger's "Souffle" was one of them. As they stating on the website:

³ Dai Burger - Souffle
⁴ best feminist video's of 2013

"This is basically a love letter to queer femmes, and I am so here for it. In this video Dai Burger is busy having an assortment of femme parties I would really like to attend, talking about how awesome her pussy is and how she could keep coming all day (yes gurl, yesss), and looking super fly. What's not to love?"

What She Says: "A lot of people didn't get the whole Dai Burger brand at first, but it seems they're learning. I love saying things people wouldn't normally say and being out of the box – I've learned laughter is therapy for our soul," she says. "It really has been hard being different and standing by it for so long, but I'm still standing for my independence as a female artist, trying my best to steer clear of stereotypes, comparisons, and outright hatred at times. The goal is to make awesome music while looking fly as hell doing so!"⁵

⁵ Dai Burger

Another example is Junglepussy. A female rapper that promotes self-love in her lyrics. It's important we learn ourselves but also to learn young girls to love themselves, to be confident with their bodies and confident with themselves.

As she said herself in an interview:⁶
"t's important because if I hate myself, it's going to be hard to make great music. I think that comes first, in anything you choose to pursue. Nobody is going to love you the way you can. Nobody's going to dress you the way you want to be dressed. Nobody's going to cook that meal the way that you want it. If you want something, do it. Don't wait for someone to do it for you. That's self-love: putting yourself first."

⁶ Junglepussy

¹ nicki Minaj - All things go

² Angel Haze - Cleaning out my closet

PUSSY GLORY

And when asked about being a feminist, she stated: "Well, actually, I'm label-free, but a lot of my morals and values stem from feminism, black power, power to the people, all that in general. So, feminism is a big part of it, because I love being a girl, and I love women, and I love when we stick up for ourselves and don't take any shit. I love BUST mag. I love that you guys are doing this, having the whole female crew on the photo shoot. That's a beautiful thing, because that's how I work. All my videos and photo shoots, they all were by my [female] friends. It's just a label that I don't want to commit to. If I say I'm a feminist, [and] I do something that a group of feminists does not agree with, then they're going to try to bash me for being a feminist. I believe that feminism is just unapologetically being a female."

"It's a full time job fucking loving yourself."

"Fuck a petition, listen, let the revolution begin."

"What's a girl to do when the world is against you? Throw it in their face, let 'em know that you meant to."

That is how women empowerment in hip hop looks like, how it should be. Let's celebrate artists like Angel Haze, Dai Burger and Junglepussy (and many others though), that push things forward in hip hop.



I asked myself in the beginning if female MC's expressed feminist values and how feminism and hip hop is connected within the underground hip hop scene today. Female MC's expressed feminist values in the first decade of hip hop on several levels. By writing and presenting the truth, to tell stories throughout lyrics. As they touched upon themes like street harassment, domestic violence and addressing misogyny in the hip hop culture. Hip hop was a way to speak up about what it's like to be a black woman in society. But not only through lyrics, also in the way they presented themselves in videoclips was a way to make themselves visible, to raise awareness on their daily struggles, struggles that a lot of women can relate to, as it touches upon several issues that is affecting our lives. Hip hop gave black women a voice, a way to speak their mind, to create sisterhood for themselves, to unite. Hip hop gave everything to black women that mainstream feminism didn't give. While feminism ignored the experiences of black women and didn't treat black women as they should have done. The power of hip hop is still here, it's still empowering women. There are still a lot of female hip hop artists that celebrate womanhood, that send powerful messages, whether it's concerning self-love, creating awareness on social issues or celebrating our femaleness. As Junglepussy would say *Pussy Muscle Hustle*.

