

BET Hip Hop Awards Recap Brenee' Coleman/ Staff Reporter

The BET Hip Hop Awards aired on October 9, hosted by the famous comedian and actor Mike Epps. With an opening performance by Wiz Khalifa's hot single "Work Hard Play Hard" featuring Young Jeezy and Juicy J, the awards show started off right. Host Mike Epps entertained the audience with his very own "Hip hopera" making references to rappers such as Big Sean, Chief Keef, Rick Ross, and more. To add, there were surprise performances by Meek Mill, Kirko Bangz, Kendrick Lamar, T.I., 2 Chainz, Future, French Montana and many more. Throughout the show BET introduced "The Cypher" with DJ Premiere on the turn tables. Rappers from different coasts were able to show their lyrical and creative skills while the audience watched from their seats. There were many awards and nominees throughout the show, but the most memorable and prestigious was the "I Am Hip Hop" award won by the legend and longtime lyricist Rakim. Rapper, CEO, record producer, screenwriter, author, and poet, are just a few of the things that describe Rakim. Best known for his album "Paid in Full", he has accomplished what many artists are dreaming of today, which makes him the perfect candidate for the "I Am Hip Hop" award.



American Music Awards Cam Lilly/ Copy Editor

The 40th Annual American Music Awards took place on Sunday, November 18. Dick Clark, famed American show host, created this awards show 40 years ago to compete with the Grammy's, and this year they celebrated that anniversary. Among the night's winners, some of pop culture's music heavy hitters took home the awards. Justin Bieber won three awards: Best Artist, Album and Pop artist, beating Drake and J. Cole. Though I felt like she had a lack luster performance, Carly Rae Jepsen took home the award for Best New Artist. Nicki Minaj swept throughout the hip hop category, winning everything. Among other winners were pop princess Katy Perry, R&B's bad girl Rihanna, and an all-time favorite, Beyonce. Among a night of music and pop culture's biggest stars, there were spectacular performances. When YouTube sensation Psy performed his instant hit "Gangnam Style", he brought out surprise guest MC Hammer for a rocking performance of a "Gangnam Style/ Too Legit to Quit" mash up that had everyone in the audience on their feet dancing. Pink also stole the show with a moving interpretive dance, using amazing acrobatics and gymnastics, to her song "Try". Dick Clark, Whitney Houston, and Michael Jackson were among those late celebrities to receive a tribute at this year's awards show. All in all, this show did have some predictable award winners but it definitely made up for that in performances and paying homage to music greats that have paved the way for those winners.

Are You *Kaleidoscope Dreaming?*

By Breanna McGhee, Fashion Editor

On September 25, R&B singer Miguel released his second studio album *Kaleidoscope Dream*. It starts off with the amazingly wonderful, classic love song "Adorn" which sets the mood of the entire album, setting the tone of adoration and love making. *Kaleidoscope Dream* is one of those albums that will not disappoint in the baby making department. Take a listen to "Arch in Point" in the lyrics, "When it feels this good then it just comes natural". The album consist of more affectionate songs like "Use Me", where he admits to being nervous about having sex with the lights on and the seemingly insecure song "P--- Is Mine" in which Miguel sings "Tell me that the p--- is mine, Cause I don't want to believe that anyone is just like me". Miguel's intermittent vocals have you feeling what he's singing about even if the lyrics are transparent.

No Apologies Necessary

By Shaunda Brooks, Editor-in-Chief

After 7 years in the both the Pop and R&B game, our neighborhood bad girl Rihanna has more than proved herself with her 7th studio album, *Unapologetic*. Unlike the last album *Talk That Talk*, this album isn't overwhelmed with bubble gum pop & techno sounds. Rihanna unleashes a part of her that we rarely see, with almost every song illustrating raw emotion & ballad-like vocals. The first single, "Diamonds" has a very passionate, UK-feel to it and adds a different approach unlike pop singles she's released in the past. Don't let this fool you into thinking she's gotten soft on us, for there's a handful of rocking club bangers on the album such as "Phresh off the Runway", "Jump", and "Right Now" with David Guetta, one of five collaborations on the album. She and Hip Hop artist/ auto-tune specialist Future, make a great team on the sweet, self-explanatory "Loveeeee Song". When it was announced that she and Chris Brown had made another single for this album, you knew that it couldn't come about

The highlight of the album is the ever so playful, "Do You" with lines like "Do you like drugs?" and "I'm going to do you like drugs tonight". It

showcases a seemingly happy and playful Miguel. There aren't much collaboration except for Wiz Khalifa on the "Adorn Remix" and some backup vocals from R&B singer Alicia Keys on the song "Where's the Fun in Forever".

Kaleidoscope Dream has the elements of a tasteful R&B album that could be worth a couple of Grammys. With his rare, unique voice and his lightly psychedelic production and professionalism, Miguel's *Kaleidoscope Dream* is a must have on everyone's iPod.

My Rating 4 out of 5 stars



without controversy.

The song ironically titled, "Nobody's Business" includes Brown and Rihanna singing the adlibs

from the end of Michael Jackson's "The Way You Make Me Feel" and is rather tasteful, despite people linking it to their relationship drama.

With so many great collaborations, one was bound to fail, surprisingly. Eminem falls short in his verse on "Numb", messing up a great song that Rihanna was better off doing by herself. That is one of very few misses on this album.

I think *Unapologetic* is Rihanna's greatest and it displays her versatility and amazing vocals that tend to progress every album. It really shows her authenticity as an artist that is greatly appreciated in the pop music world. Having heavy hitters such as The-Dream on her production team, I am not surprised that the album turned out so great. I give it 10 out of 10, 5 out of 5 stars, 2 thumbs up, etc.



Good kid m.A.A.D city by Dorian Williams, Business Liaison

Kendrick Lamar is a rapper from Compton, California and he will not hesitate to tell you on any of his songs. He's a rapper who is very proud of where he comes from and the background from which he has emerged. Rap wise, he is one of the best lyricists out right now, mainly because of his Nas-like storytelling. He paints an amazing picture with his rhymes and works. Prior to good kid, m.A.A.d city, Lamar has released one independent album, five mixtapes, one EP, and he is currently working on a collaboration album with Carolina rapper, J. Cole. Good kid, m.A.A.d city is his debut album into the mainstream world. There are two meanings to the acronym m.A.A.d, as Kendrick himself described in a radio interview recently. The first one means "My Angry Adolescence Divided". The standout meaning is My Angels on Angels Dust. Kendrick explains the meaning of the acronym many times throughout the album. The album is subtitled "a short film by Kendrick Lamar" which is exactly what it is. The whole album is structured to make you think you're listening to a movie. On the cover of the album is Kendrick's mother's purple Windstar minivan, which is where the majority of the stories explained throughout this album take place. It's not hard to tell this album has been truly thought out and that it wasn't simply thrown together in a few weeks. That's definitely what makes it stand out from the rest of the albums that came out this year.

Cloud FM

By Jelani Darling, Business Manager

1. Players Ball by Outkast
2. The World is Filled... by The Notorious B.I.G. w/ Puff Daddy & Too \$hort
3. Xplosive by Dr. Dre
4. Po Pimp by Do or Die w/ Twista
5. Sho'Nuff by 8Ball & MJG
6. Who You Wit II by Jay-Z
7. Skandalouz by 2Pac
8. Fundified by Da Brat
9. Crush On You by Lil Kim
10. Sugar Hill by AZ

The 90's Player's Ball



Take a time machine in an old school Cadillac with the new playlist "The 90's Player's Ball".
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