



Artwork: Dark Matter in Breathing Cyphers book cover

HIPHOP 50

A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR HIP HOP

Saturday, September 30, 2023
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
McCarthy Quad

Engage, collaborate, and co-create with L.A.-based dance artists **K’niin**, **Asia One** (No Easy Props), **Versa-Style** Legacy, and **UniverSOUL HipHop**, along with DJ **Adé**, in a living celebration of kinetic innovation and a heartfelt homage to Hip Hop.

For details and participant bios, visit visionsandvoices.usc.edu/hip-hop-50



Photo: Mika Väisänen

DJ Kool Herc with James Brown single

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the emergence of Hip Hop.
- The USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance is home to one of the nation's largest contingents of faculty in higher education with Hip Hop dance expertise.
- This event is part of a three-part series celebrating Hip Hop dance and Hip Hop dance scholarship.

HIP HOP 50

August 1973 is a critical moment in the emergence of Hip Hop, as innovated by Black and Brown youth in New York City. On August 11, 1973, Cindy Campbell threw a party in an apartment complex at 1520 Sedgwick Avenue in the Bronx, NYC. Her brother Clive, aka DJ Kool Herc, deejayed. He focused on breakbeats—percussive instrumental parts of a song—to create a nonstop loop of music on two turntables, keeping the dancing going and creating a moment that is now celebrated as the birth of Hip Hop.

HIP HOP DANCE

Hip Hop dance originated in 1970s New York and has developed in parallel with musical genres like funk, soul, and rock, which themselves eventually contributed to the evolution of Hip Hop music. Hip Hop dance is deeply influenced by its roots in Afro-diasporic social dance traditions, encompassing a range of dance styles such as African dance, salsa, jazz, tap, and well-known social dances within Black communities. Whether improvised or choreographed, Hip Hop dances are performed across various platforms—from street corners and public spaces to concert stages. They continue to thrive prominently in social gatherings, serving as mediums for artistic expression, spiritual upliftment, and community engagement. The dance forms are distinguished by their extensive array of movements, ranging from meticulous footwork to elaborate full-body polyrhythmic sequences, capable of demonstrating both intensely energetic and more nuanced performance qualities. Hip Hop dance manifests in a variety of styles, some of which have originated and evolved in specific regions throughout the United States.



Photo: Rose Eichenbaum

USC Kaufman Cypher Celebration 2022

LEIMERT PARK

Leimert Park is considered a heart of Black arts and culture in L.A. The neighborhood includes:

- KAOS Network**, a community arts center started by Ben Caldwell, where Project Blowed, the longest-running Hip Hop open mic in the world, was founded in 1994
- The World Stage**, which hosts music and poetry workshops and performances
- The Barbara Morrison Performing Arts Center**, a music venue focused on jazz and blues
- Vision Theatre**, a classic movie palace that is being renovated as a performing arts venue



Vision Theatre



Photo: Phatblackmama

Leimert Park signage located at Leimert Blvd., north of Vernon



Photo: Jackson Xia

A portion of the theatrical production *H.O.P.E.* will be featured in A Birthday Party for Hip Hop



Ephrat Asherie Dance: *UNDERScoreD*



The Upcycled Self: An Evening with Black Thought from The Roots

- **Art + Practice**, an art space and nonprofit that supports transition-age foster youth
- **Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center**, which provides arts instruction to youth
- **UTOPIA**, a House music and dance event started by DJ KG SUPERSTAR and DJ Ade during the Covid-19 pandemic, as a means of giving back to the community while aiming to contribute to its healing

Leimert Park was formerly home to legendary, now-closed cultural spaces including Brockman Gallery, a hub of the Black Arts Movement; Eso Won Books, an independent Black-owned bookstore; blues bar Babe's and Ricky's Inn; and coffeehouse/performance venue 5th Street Dick's, among others.

USC GLORIA KAUFMAN SCHOOL OF DANCE

The USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance was founded in 2012 by a gift from arts philanthropist Gloria Kaufman. USC Kaufman offers a new model of dance education, called "The New Movement"—a hybrid and collaborative approach expressed in studio practice, music, choreography, performance, new media, and scholarship, combining artistic education with industry access.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- What is the relationship between dance and music? How do they interrelate, influence, or shape one another?
- What distinguishes the different styles of Hip Hop dance?
- How do time, place, and the broader culture inform the development of dance forms?

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- Classes and performances at the USC School Gloria Kaufman School of Dance
kaufman.usc.edu
- DJ Scholarship and Musical Essays by DJ Lynnée Denise
djlynneedenise.com
- NPR's Hip-Hop 50: All Rap Is Local, a series of histories of Hip Hop in different cities
npr.org/2023/07/17/1187363952/hip-hop-all-rap-is-local
- Upcoming Visions and Voices Events
 - 10/4/23** [Hip Hop 50: Celebrating Collaboration & Community](#)
 - 10/19/23** [Ephrat Asherie Dance: *UNDERScoreD*](#)
 - 10/24/23** [Let's Talk about George Floyd: Systemic Racism in the United States Today](#)
 - 11/19/23** [The Met in HD: *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*](#)
 - 12/2/23** [The Upcycled Self: An Evening with Black Thought from The Roots](#)
 - 3/2/24** [Cypher Summit Block Party](#)



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- Online Visions and Voices Events

11/5/20 [USC Amplified: An Evening with Chuck D of Public Enemy](#)

2/16/21 [Ice-T in Conversation with Prof. Jody Armour](#)

9/9/22 [John Singleton: A Celebration - *Boyz n the Hood* Conversation](#)

9/30/22 [Liner Notes for Beyoncé by madison moore and Daphne A. Brooks](#)

DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

JAVIER GARIBAY of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about Hip Hop dance history. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

BOOKS

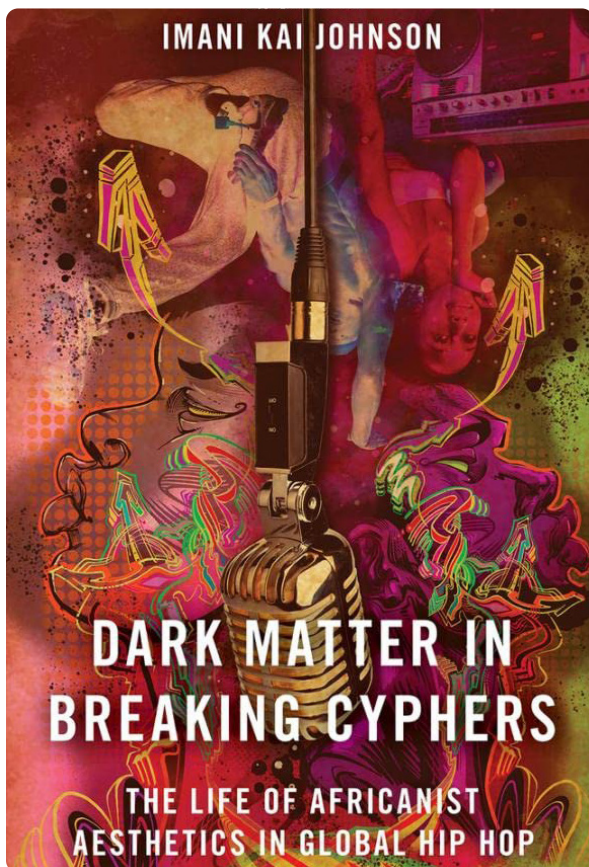
- E. Moncell Durden, [Beginning Hip-Hop Dance](#) (Champaign: Human Kinetics, 2019).
- Mary Fogarty and Imani Kai Johnson, eds., [The Oxford Handbook of Hip Hop Dance Studies](#) (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2022).
- Imani Kai Johnson, [Dark Matter in Breaking Cyphers: The Life of Africanist Aesthetics in Global Hip Hop](#) (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2022).

DATABASES

- [Dance Heritage Video Archive](#)
A collection of over 2,000 digitized videos of dance performances, rehearsals, and interviews that preserve culturally significant global and U.S. dance traditions.
- [Dance Online: Dance in Video](#)
Contains 500 dance productions and documentaries by the most influential performers and companies of the 20th century.

JOURNALS

- [Dance Magazine](#)
Focuses on the dance community and offers feature articles, interviews, and performance reviews.
- [Dance Research Journal](#)
Provides an international forum for the presentation and discussion of contemporary dance research. Includes articles with critical perspectives on dance and well-being.



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