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NAS: TIME IS ILLMATIC

A FILM BY ONE9 & ERIK PARKER

Twenty years after the release of Nas's groundbreaking debut album 'Illmatic,' NAS: TIME IS ILLMATIC takes us into the heart of his creative process. Returning to his childhood home in Queensbridge, Nas shares stories of his upbringing, his influences — from the music of his jazz musician father Olu Dara to the burgeoning hip-hop scene in New York City — and the obstacles he faced before his major label signing at age 20. Featuring interviews with his 'Illmatic' producers (Large Professor, Pete Rock, Q-Tip, L.E.S., and DJ Premier) and musical peers (including Pharrell Williams and Alicia Keys), NAS: TIME IS ILLMATIC is a thrilling account of Nas's evolution from a young street poet to a visionary MC. (2014, 74 min, United States, English)

WORLD PREMIERE, TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL, 2014 CANDESCENT AWARD, 2014



ONE9 | DIRECTOR | PRODUCER

One9 is an award winning multimedia artist, director, producer and editor. His clients have included Google, PBS, Viacom, Sony Music, Smithsonian Institution and several non-profit organizations. As an artist One9 was selected by the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York to create an original series of artwork presented to their selected music talent in 2013-2014. NAS: TIME IS ILLMATIC is One9's feature length directorial debut. One9 was born in Washington DC and lives in Brooklyn, New York.

ERIK PARKER | WRITER | PRODUCER

Erik Parker has worked as a music journalist for over fifteen years. He served as music editor for The Source and VIBE magazines. Parker is a graduate of the Columbia School of Journalism and has written for XXL, Rolling Stone, The Village Voice and other notable outlets. Aside from his work as a print journalist, Parker produced MTV Jams' The Parker Report, a TV show that gathered hip-hop's leading voices to discuss issues surrounding music, culture and politics. He is always on the lookout for a good story to tell.

"Brisk, stylish and extremely heartfelt portrait of Nas' rise from the housing projects of Queensbridge to the heights of hip-hop royalty... marked by an admirable focus on the man and his music rather than hype and hagiography."

Scott Foundas, Variety

"Superstar MC Nas remembers his humble roots in One9's NAS: TIME IS ILLMATIC, an evocative appreciation of his debut album on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. The doc offers a strong sense of the neighborhood -- New York City's Queensbridge Houses, the largest public-housing project in the U.S. -- that served as both a rallying cry for musicians who grew up there and a constant threat to their lives."

John DeFore, The Hollywood Reporter

"NAS: TIME IS ILLMATIC is a look back on the now-cherished and seminal hip-hop record, but also focuses deeply on of the environment that created it... it leaves no bits of history unchecked, looking at Nas' adolescence, parents, the way he was raised, his milieu, and the friends and formidable experiences that produced this talented young artist."

Rodrigo Perez, The Playlist, IndieWire

"Excellent and engrossing... Like the album, the movie is a time capsule to a very specific place and time: Nas' notorious Queensbridge projects in the '80s and early '90s pre-Giuliani "bad old days," where a vibrant new sound, hip-hop, was somehow blossoming amid rampant crime, desperate inner-city poverty, and the new crack epidemic. NAS: TIME IS ILLMATIC touches on subjects way bigger than them: racial segregation, educational inequality, public housing, and the prison system."

Alex Gale, Billboard

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