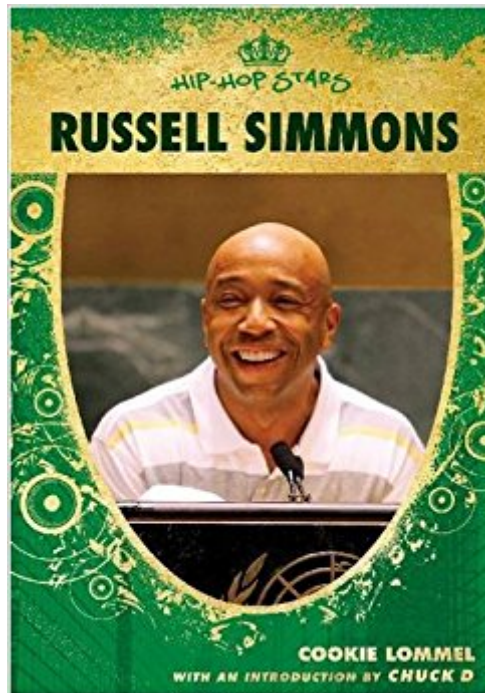




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Russell Simmons (Hip-Hop Stars (Hardcover))



Synopsis

Known by many as the godfather of hip-hop, Russell Simmons first took notice of the burgeoning movement as a college student in New York City. After making a name for himself promoting shows and managing artists, Simmons co-founded Def Jam Recordings and began producing some of the most prominent names in hip-hop. This biography traces his life.

Book Information

Series: Hip-Hop Stars (Hardcover)

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

A substantive introduction by legendary rapper and commentator Chuck D opens this photo-packed title in the Hip-Hop Stars series, which weaves a concise history of hip-hop music and culture into a solid biography of one of its originators, Def Jam Records founder Russell Simmons. A first chapter focusing on Simmons's extensive philanthropic outreach programs leads into later chapters that trace the growth of Simmons's career, from a grassroots impresario to international mogul. Readers will appreciate the well-integrated cultural history, especially the numerous profiles of Simmons's hip-hop contemporaries, and Lommel frequently emphasizes Simmons's wide-reaching mission: to make hip-hop a catalyst for improved education and social justice. A discography, time line, glossary, and suggestions for further reading conclude this inspiring title that's sure to find wide circulation among hip-hop fans. Grades 7-10. --Gillian

Series introduction author Chuck D redefined rap music and hip-hop culture as leader and cofounder of legendary rap group Public Enemy. His music addressed weighty issues about race, rage, and inequality with a jolting combination of intelligence and eloquence rarely heard before. A musician, writer, radio host, television personality, college lecturer, and activist, Chuck D is also the creator of Rapstation.com, a multiformat online resource for the global hip-hop community. Chuck D, one of the pioneers of Rap music, is the founder and lead rapper for Public Enemy, which has a fan base of over twenty million people. Aside from his work with the "Rock the Vote" campaign, for which he was honored with the Patrick Lippert Humanitarian Award, he recently signed on as a reporter for the Fox News Channel. He also acted in his first film, "An Alan Smithee Film--Burn, Hollywood, Burn." A new Public Enemy album was released in late 1997. Yusuf Jah is the author of Uprising: Crips and Bloods Tell the Story of America's Youth in Crossfire. He has also written two other books relating to the Black community and has lectured in colleges across the country.

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