

GRAFFITI
VERITE'

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By Stephanie Sunata, Writer

Indie Film Depot

Graffiti Verite': A Series

Hip-hop is a familiar phrase that can encompass a variety of meanings. For some it is a form of dance, for others it is a style of clothing. For director and producer Bob Bryan it is a culture that is misunderstood by many, including those involved in it. In response, Bryan created the **Graffiti Verite' Series** that dispels mainstream assumptions and reflects the creator's passion and love, not just for Hip-Hop, but people as well.

"My series is meant to engage people intellectually and otherwise."

Bryan said in an interview.

"...Hip-hop is much broader than big booties, gang-banging and bling-bling!"

Specifically looking at **GV9 SOULFUL WAYS: The DJ**, Bryan is able to reveal the technical skills required in a turntablist as well as the impact spinning has on the Hip-Hop movement. He interviews a variety of people from DJs to Emcees to painters and allows them to express their own opinions about the subject.

"I kept the narrative strictly from the mouth of those who were actually doing the actions," Bryan said. "I really wanted to be inside."

By creating a film fueled by the artists, Bryan is not just telling a story about spinning. He is telling a story about people, who create the sounds that the untrained ear mistakes for background noise.

He is telling a story about a culture that is not just limited to DJs or rappers or painters or dancers. It is a movement that includes all of the above.

Bryan started his series after moving from New York, where he grew up with a specific notion about graffiti art. He described trains as moving art galleries and was used to seeing these styles from his upbringing.

"When I came to LA, I realized the expression... is completely different from New York," Bryan said. "After being exposed to LA graffiti, I decided if I didn't know the true story of LA Graffiti Art, nobody did."

Bryan completed various production work for a number of major Motion Picture companies and gradually moved up the ranks and gained enough experience to start his own company. His first self-produced indie project was **GRAFFITI VERITE': Read the Writing on the Wall**.

Since the first film was released in 1995, the series has expanded to 11 films, which cover all facets of the Hip-Hop culture. The latest production, **GV11 DON'T BELIEVE DA NOIZE**, is the first

film in Bryan's two-part series that looks at the role of the Emcee and Hip-Hop as a whole.

It allows viewers both inside and outside of the culture, to see Hip-Hop in a way other than through the eyes of mainstream media. The film acknowledges the pioneers of the underground movement and the difficulty such artists can encounter with mainstream competition.

GV11 explores a world that Hollywood historically exaggerated or misconstrued. It brings to light deeper aspects about Hip-Hop and points out that this movement is unique in its applicability to so many different forms of self-expression.

*"Hip-Hop is a dialogue,
is an expression,
is a communication medium."*

Bryan said.

*"It's a multi-intelligence model...
Various people with various skill sets are
able to come to Hip-Hop
and express themselves.
It's not like any other art form
you've ever seen before."*

The series has gained critical acclaim from sources at Harvard University to the Los Angeles Times according to Bryan. He attributes this success to his desire to "turn people's lights on."

"I just want the dialogue," Bryan said. "I think very few people talk about things anymore. They've been silenced for whatever reason."

Bryan brings the dialogue. His series is fantastic in the way it exposes both the grime and glamour of Hip-Hop. The movement is not about

fame and fortune, though sometimes people assume it to be. The movement is about expression, and Bryan is doing his part in expressing himself.

He said everything reflects its creator, and for the **Graffiti Verité Series**, we can see the passion and love Bryan has for his work and his people. The realist in him comes out in the film's style, but his compassion comes out when you understand why he has created such films.

*"If you really look at my work,
it's literature."*

Bryan said.

*"Everything I do is about
positivity and love."*

The films need not be watched in numerical order, but they should be watched for anyone really interested in Hip-Hop. The **GV Series** gives an invaluable look at the culture through the eyes of those that are living it. It is certain to open your eyes, no matter if you are inside or outside the movement.

---Stephanie Sunata, writer for Indie Film Depot

For more info on director Bob Bryan
and **Graffiti Verité'**
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