



In the mid-1980s, the streets of Compton, California, were some of the most dangerous in the country. When five young men translated their experiences growing up into brutally honest music that rebelled against abusive authority, they gave an explosive voice to a silenced generation. Following the meteoric rise and fall of N.W.A., *Straight Outta Compton* tells the astonishing story of how these young men revolutionized music and pop culture forever the moment they told the world the truth about life in the hood and ignited a cultural war.

Straight Outta Compton

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Hip hop fans get ready: this Friday marks the premiere of *Straight Outta Compton*, a biographical drama that focuses on the lives and music of notorious rap group N.W.A. and their politicized music that marked a generation. The film is expected to be a hit with young west coast hip hop lovers as well as older fans who grew up with N.W.A. and remember a time when the controversial music was banned from radio stations while simultaneously selling out in stores across the nation.

Rapper Ice Cube, who is helping produce the film and is portrayed by his own son, has expressed his

excitement about the film publicly. “We’re taking it to the nooks and crannies, I think deeper than any other article or documentary on the group,” he said. “These are the intimate conversations that helped forge N.W.A. To me, I think it’s interesting to anybody who loves that era and I don’t know any other movie where you can mix Gangster Rap, the F.B.I., L.A. riots, HIV, and feuding with each other. This movie has everything from Darryl Gates and the battering ram.”

The movie will bring audiences a closer glimpse of famous 80s era hip hop artists, including Tupac Shakur, Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, and Suge Knight,

among others.

“The movie shows the why, not just the where—when, but why did we do this kind of music,” Ice Cube shared in a public statement. “People gotta understand that where we come from forged N.W.A.” Now, 26 years after the original tensions between the Los Angeles riots and the original release of the group’s album *Straight Outta Compton*, the film comes in hopes of showing the humanity behind the music and allowing viewers to revisit how hip hop was created and what it means today.

Straight Outta Compton is set to hit theaters everywhere this Friday, Aug. 14.