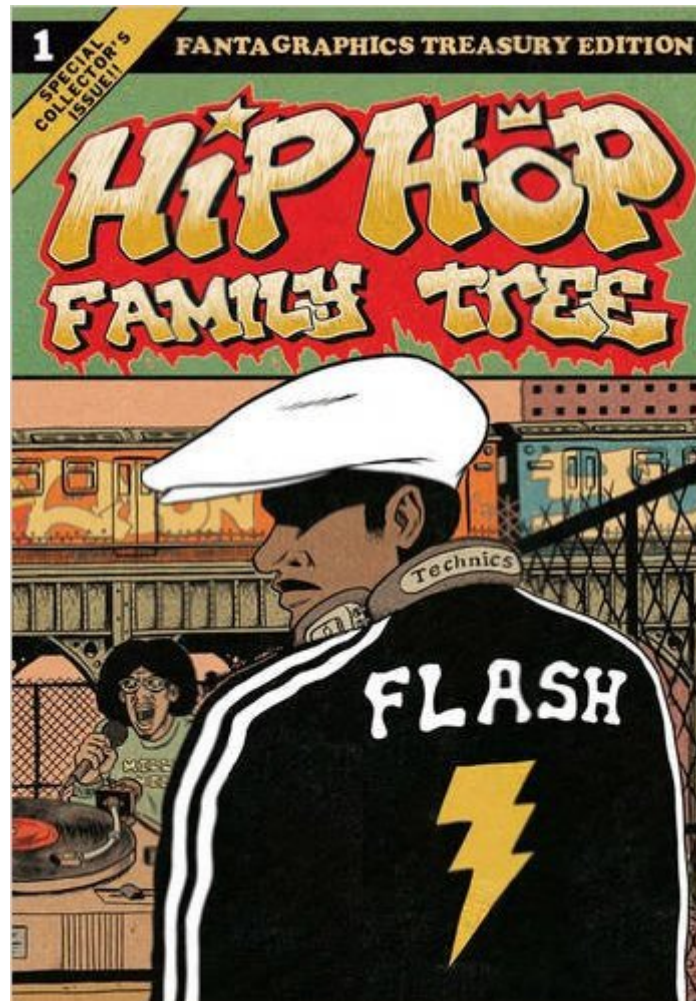


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# Hip Hop Family Tree Book 1: 1970s-1981 (Hip Hop Family Tree)



## Synopsis

This encyclopedic comics history of the formative years of hip hop captures the vivid personalities and magnetic performances of old-school pioneers and early stars like DJ Kool Herc, Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, plus the charismatic players behind the scenes like Russell Simmons; Debbie Harry, Keith Haring and other luminaries make cameos. The lore of the early days of hip hop has become the stuff of myth, so what better way to document this fascinating, epic true story than in another great American mythological medium • the comic book? From exciting young talent and self-proclaimed hip hop nerd Ed Piskor, acclaimed for his hacker graphic novel Wizzywig, comes this explosively entertaining, encyclopedic history of the formative years of the music genre that changed global culture. Originally serialized on the hugely popular website Boing Boing, The Hip Hop Family Tree is now collected in a single volume cleverly presented and packaged in a style mimicking the Marvel comics of the same era. Piskor's exuberant yet controlled cartooning takes you from the parks and rec rooms of the South Bronx to the night clubs, recording studios, and radio stations where the scene started to boom, capturing the flavor of late-1970s New York City in panels bursting with obsessively authentic detail. With a painstaking, vigorous and engaging Ken Burns meets- Stan Lee approach, the battles and rivalries, the technical innovations, the triumphs and failures are all thoroughly researched and lovingly depicted.Â plus the charismatic players behind the scenes like Russell Simmons, Sylvia Robinson and then-punker Rick Rubin. Piskor also traces graffiti master Fab 5 Freddy's rise in the art world, and Debbie Harry, Keith Haring, The Clash, and other luminaries make cameos as the music and culture begin to penetrate downtown Manhattan and the mainstream at large. Like the acclaimed hip hop documentaries Style Wars and Scratch, The Hip Hop Family Tree is an exciting and essential cultural chronicle and a must for hip hop fans, pop-culture addicts, and anyone who wants to know how it went down back in the day.

Full color

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #53,938 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Â Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Fantagraphics #41 in Â Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Educational & Nonfiction #63 in Â Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies & History Graphic Novels

## Customer Reviews

This thing is huge. Much bigger then I thought! Same size as them old comics that were like the larger ones. The pages of the whole thing on the inside feel like an old comic.. I don't know what paper that is, but it's some official old school paper, but durable, not thin. Even the paper has that "vintage" smell to it!!!! I guess if you want a vintage feel, actually use the same material as they used to!!! This is too ill.. I can't believe this..

Paving the way. An extremely important and confident work. Excels in every aspect down to the finest detail from concept to execution. Accomplished cartooning, obscure and informative for even those most well versed on the subject. Extremely high standard of production overall, kudos to Piskor and FB. I eagerly await all further volumes and heartily recommend Piskor's work to everyone.

In the world of comics right now, the most interesting stuff is nonfiction. And the art is way ahead of the writing. This book is no exception. It looks really coolâ "huge format and the color is muted on natural pages, like old-school comicsâ "and the subject matter is naturally intriguing. But the writing . . . it's such a barrage of names and this happened, then this happened, then this happened that it's hard to keep track of any of it, much less to know why it's important. The most interesting moments come when the pace slows enough to allow a story to develop, or when the author up some insightful commentary. Unfortunately, this doesn't happen a lot, so the book often feels more like an illustrated timeline than the story of hip-hop's birth and rise. I can't help but think that the book would be better if it tackled less, and developed it all more deeply (They had already planned a multi-volume approach, so why not make more volumes?). Maybe that's just me, though, trying to impose narrative on something that doesn't have narrative intentions. Maybe the intent is to pepper the reader with factfactfactfact, but if that's the case, then it feels like a missed opportunity to delve into the story-rich history of hip-hop.

The comic book format allows Piskor to nail the narrative rather than just string together interviews and old video clips: no documentary could do as good a job as this. But the graphic novel format also allows him to nail the look and personality of the era like a prose book couldn't. A great achievement. I didn't want it to end. Except he has future volumes coming, which is even better. Also great production values.

This is a perfect gift to yourself or anyone else who is a fan and can appreciate (re)learning the history of Hip Hop. The level of detail is just right for a comic and it stays interesting and informative from the beginning to the end. I personally enjoyed reading it from the beginning to the end. It left me wanting to read more. I look forward to the next one.

This is a great comic book that teaches Hip Hop origin and history in a light fare that stays true to the genre. Illustrations are great and if you are a true hip hop head you will be enlightened to how things came to be.

This is it! History/Herstory & Ourstory of hip hop culture's early first steps to become a universal culture. And it's in visual form that you can hold! Brilliant! Must have for anyone who calls themselves "hip hop"!

This book is really incredible, i've savored every page, a great history, great storytelling, fantastic art. I learned a ton.

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