



Brown Sugar

Film Study Guide

Director: Rick Famuyiwa

2002 | Fiction | 108 Minutes | USA | English | Unrated

Synopsis: Sidney and Dre can attribute their friendship and the launch of their careers to one single childhood instant: when they were introduced to hip-hop on a New York street corner. Now some 15 years later, she is a revered music critic and he is a successful, though unfulfilled, music executive. Both come to realize that their true love was found that day on the corner. *Brown Sugar* uses a love story to parallel the history and lost integrity of hip-hop music. Hip-hop artist Mos Def co-stars and provides music for the film.

Post-Screening Discussion Questions

1. What are the origins of hip-hop?
2. What is the difference between hip-hop and rap?
3. What evidence do you see of the commercialization of hip-hop?
4. How has the commercial success of hip-hop affected the quality of the music?
5. In your opinion, what does “integrity” mean in the context of music?

6. In what ways did Dre compromise his values to achieve success?
7. Did Sidney make compromises too? If so, what were they?
8. Why do you think Mos Def's character refused to sign with the record label Dre worked for?