



Brown Sugar
(USA, 108 Minutes)
Director: Rick Famuyiwa
Study Guide

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

Study Questions

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

Discussion Questions

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