

Hip-Hop Dar es Salaam

A documentary featurette shot in Tanzania in 2024/25. The film has screened, followed by Q&As and panel discussions, at events and academic seminars in 2025.

Paul Mulraney

Research Theme - Practice: Research and Impact

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Project details

Hip-Hop Dar es Salaam (2025)

Dir: O-Key | 45mins |

Documentary | Tanzania

- Staff research contribution: Paul Mulraney: Associate Producer and Graphic Designer.
- The film premiered at Watershed Bristol followed by screenings and seminars at Oxford University.
- Funding: Arts & Humanities Research Council, DFG.
- Partners: AfOx (Africa Oxford Initiative), Bristol University, Imetoka Productions, University of Johannesburg.
- R&I Program Alignment: S/ICL, Screen & Identity.





300-word supporting statement

As rapper and record producer Doug E. Fresh said:

“Hip-hop is supposed to uplift and create, to educate people on a larger level and to make a change.”

Hip Hop Dar es Salaam captures the history of hip-hop in Tanzania which has yet to be fully or widely told. In making the documentary we adopted new equitable methods of collaboration with hip hop practitioners in which their knowledge of both Tanzanian hip hop history and creative practice are central.

For the hip hop practitioner with whom we were working hip hop was not only something they knew about but the practice of making hip hop had enabled them to gain knowledge and skills which they could bring to documentary film making.

The film draws on hip-hop approaches to cultural industry and works through theories of knowledge flows and musical (and musicians’) migrations. SoFT’s Senior Lecturer Paul Mulraney was brought on board as Associate Producer at the start of the project, advising

throughout the project from development to distribution, with input into story development, pre-production organisation, editorial feedback, distribution strategy, graphics and branding.

Working with a distributed team of filmmakers and musicians in Dar es Salaam (Imetoka Collectives O-Key and Hashim), academics and musicologists from the University of Johannesburg (David Kerr, Research Lead, Africa/Oxford Initiative) and the University of Bristol (Professor Justin Williams) the project premiered at a screening and Q&A at the Bristol Watershed, followed by a screening, seminar and discussions at Oxford St Johns.

A further round of post-production work will follow based on the audience feedback gathered at these sessions, leading to the film’s distribution via international film music festivals.



Research Output

Hip-hop Dar es Salaam can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjDEKda34KE>

Premiere event & Q&A, Watershed, Bristol

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hip-hop-in-tanzania-documentary-screening-and-discussion-tickets-1745434805489>

Oxford St Johns Screening and Seminar

<https://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/discover/events/hip-hop-in-tanzania-documentary-screening-and-discussion/>

Hip-hop Knowledge research hub:

<https://hiphopknowledge.blogs.bristol.ac.uk/project-outputs/#PRJ4>



Premiere at Watershed Bristol, courtesy University of Bristol:

Paul Mulraney (FU), Justin Williams (UoB), Enrico Figueiredo (Music Producer & Subject), David Kerr (UoJ/ AfOx), Hashim Rubanza (Imetoka, Producer)



Dissemination



Dissemination (cont.)

Hip-hop Dar es Salaam has screened in UK academic and public contexts:

- Screening and Seminar, Oxford St Johns, 24/10/25

<https://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/discover/events/hip-hop-in-tanzania-documentary-screening-and-discussion/>

- Premiere event & Q&A, Watershed, Bristol, 30/10/25

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hip-hop-in-tanzania-documentary-screening-and-discussion-tickets-1745434805489>

- Hip-hop Knowledge research hub:

<https://hiphopknowledge.blogs.bristol.ac.uk/project-outputs/#PRJ4>

| UK Dissemination | Community Dissemination | International Dissemination |

Contextual Evidence

”Since February 2023 I have been collaborating with Paul Mulraney as an Associate Producer and Script Consultant on the Hip Hop Dar es Salaam: Music of a New Generation documentary. Paul has played an important role in supporting me and the team in Dar es Salaam to develop our primary characters and core story points. He has helped to shape the outline of the story and the beats by providing guidance and commentary on drafts. His support in thinking through how to translate the story we were seeking to tell into a documentary has been invaluable and has been instrumental is the storyboard that has been developed for the documentary.”

Dr David Kerr, Head of Programmes, AfOx,
University of Oxford

Dr David Kerr
Research Associate
Faculty of Humanities
University of Johannesburg
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11.03.2024

Dear School of Film & Television Team at the University of Falmouth,

It is with great pleasure that I write with information about the ongoing collaboration with Paul Mulraney. I am the Head of Programmes at the [Africa Oxford Initiative](#), University of Oxford, a Research Associate at the University of Johannesburg, [Faculty of Humanities](#) (where I was a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow between 2016-2019) and an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Bristol.

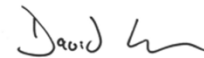
Over the past twelve months Paul Mulraney and I have been collaborating on a documentary film entitled Hip Hop Dar es Salaam: Music of a New Generation. The film is one of the outputs of the *Hip-Hop's Fifth Element: Knowledge, Pedagogy, And Artist-Scholar Collaboration* research project led by Professor Justin Williams at the University of Bristol. The documentary exploring the early history of Hip Hop production in Tanzania and has been developed with the cultural partner the [Inetoka](#) Collective in Dar es Salaam. The team working on the film in Dar es Salaam include Tanzanian film maker O-Key (Octavian Sanze) and researcher Hashim Rubanza. A rough cut of the film will be shown in Dar es Salaam in July 2024 and a final version shown in Bristol in October 2024.

Since February 2023 I have been collaborating with Paul Mulraney as an Associate Producer and Script Consultant on the Hip Hop Dar es Salaam: Music of a New Generation documentary. Paul has played an important role in supporting me and the team in Dar es Salaam to develop our primary characters and core story points. He has helped to shape the outline of the story and the beats by providing guidance and commentary on drafts. His support in thinking through how to translate the story we were seeking to tell into a documentary has been invaluable and has been instrumental in the storyboard that has been developed for the documentary.

There are clear synergies in our interest in working with marginalised communities to enable them to tell their stories and have already begun to explore opportunities for further collaboration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Kind regards,



Dr David Kerr
University of Johannesburg