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THE RADIO

ONCE UPON A TIME IN LOS ANGELES

A DOCUMENTARY SERIES DIRECTED BY
OLIVIER MEGATON

A DOCUMENTARY SERIES BASED ON **ICE-T & ALEX JORDANOV'S** STORY
WRITTEN BY PIERRE "SAMPIERO" BRUGERE & VIVIEN DESOUCHES
PRODUCERS : MARC ANDREANI, VIVIEN DESOUCHES & ALINE ANDRADE

52'
3x20'

SUMMARY

The Radio is the name of the first hip-hop nightclub in Los Angeles. This crazy, ephemeral adventure (1982-1984) started out with two teenagers, who were barely eighteen, Alex Jordanov (Super AJ), a young Frenchman, and an up-and-coming rapper named Tracy Lauren Marrow, (Ice-T). Less than two years later, this legendary club had become THE club if you were interested in underground culture, and the aftershows with Prince, Michael Jackson, Madonna... are still described today as legendary!



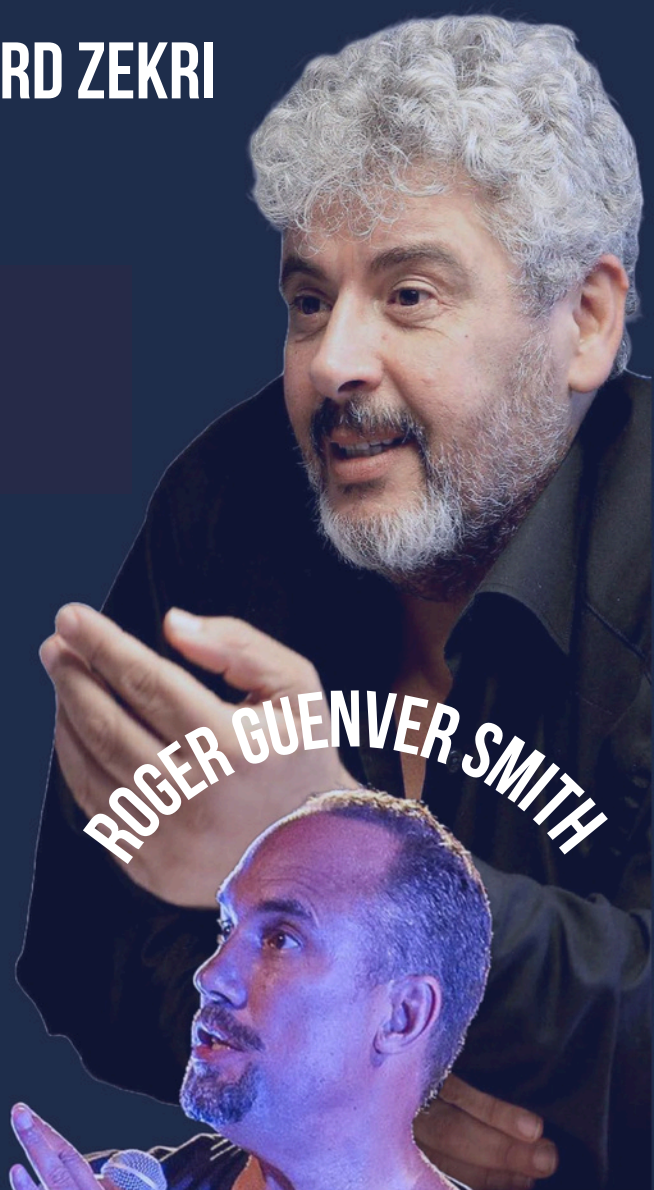
SYNOPSIS

In the cultural effervescence of the '80s, The Radio was a cultural testing ground where music, dance and urban art transcended social, racial and ethnic barriers. While hip-hop is often associated with the bad-boy image and a culture of rivalry, The Radio embodied a festive 'peace & love' kind of spirit. The documentary explores this exceptional and dazzling two-year period in the club's life using the dynamics of a buddy movie. The friendship between Alex Jordanov, a young French-Bulgarian man, and Tracy Marrow, aka Ice-T, a mixed-race young man from South Central, perfectly embodies the inclusive spirit of The Radio. Here is the story of a band of passionate young people, a group of friends who created a place where differences were erased in favor of collective energy. It was also a real melting pot of creativity, where DJs, MCs, beatmakers and dancers worked together to shape a budding cultural revolution. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of hip-hop, it is this glorious period that this documentary explores: a new look at hip-hop as a culture capable of transcending differences, building bridges between communities, and inspiring future generations.

THE PARTICIPANTS

CHRIS "THE GLOVE"
TAYLOR

BERNARD ZEKRI

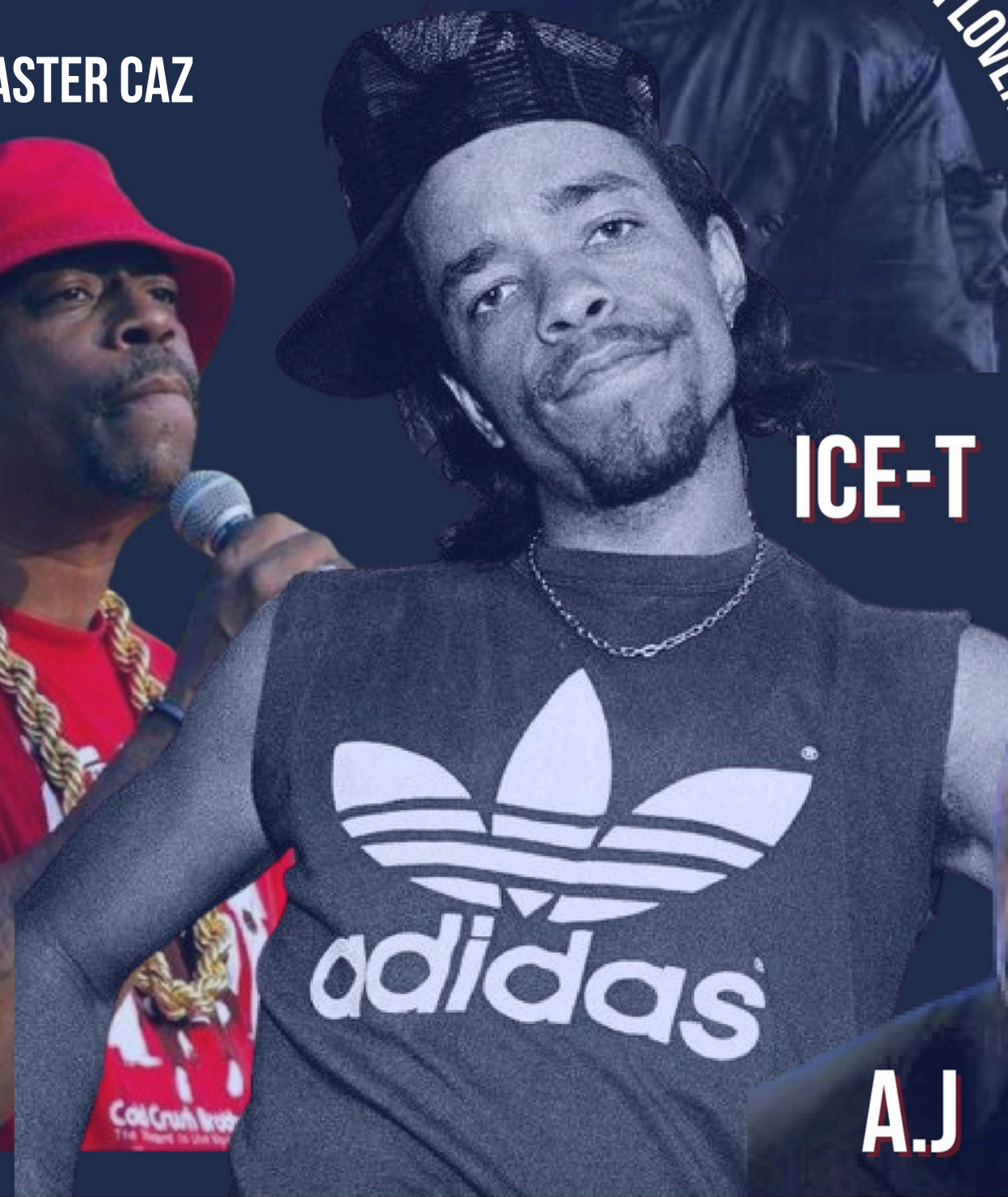
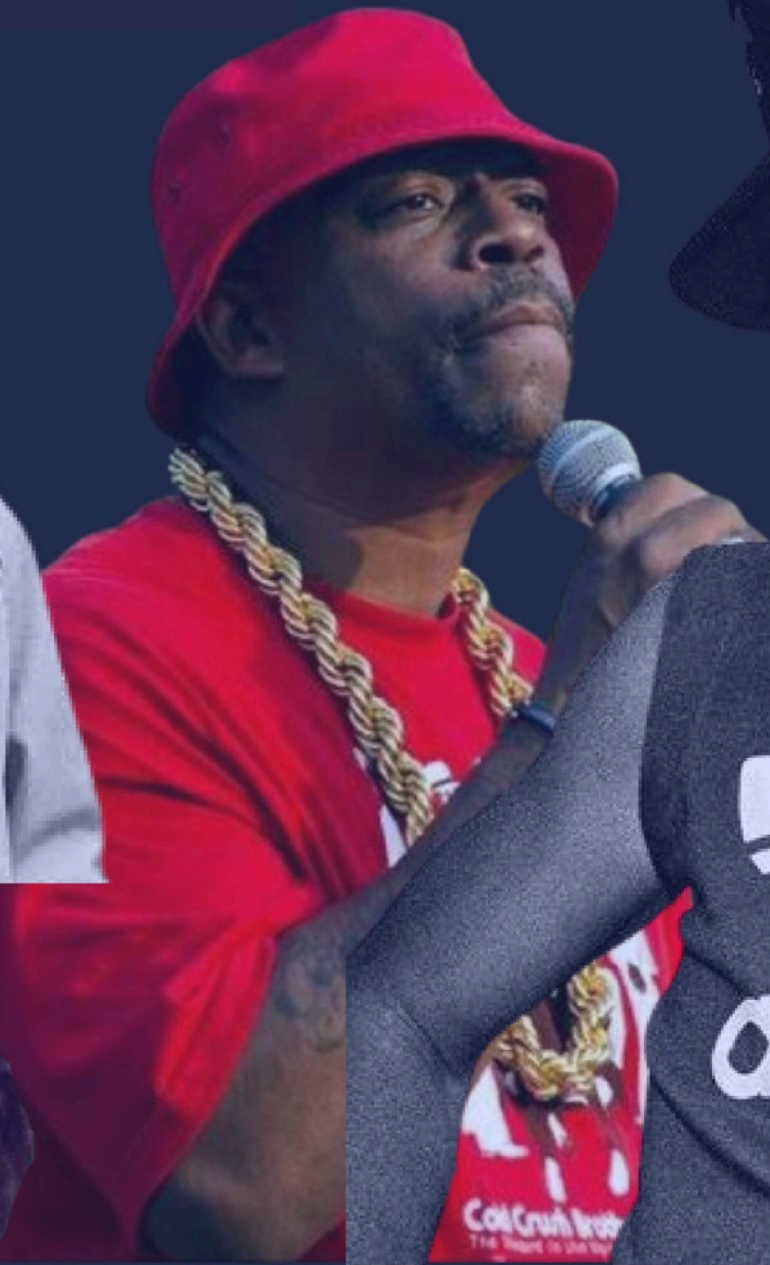


ROGER GUENVER SMITH



EGYPTIAN LOVER

GRAND MASTER CAZ



ICE-T



TOPPER CAREW

KK.BARRETT



KELLY JO MINTER



A.J





ICE-T / Tracy Marrow

One of The Radio's rapper and MC. He was the soul and artistic energy of the club. Today, he is known for being a famous rapper and actor.



KK BARETT / Keith Barrett

Another founding member of The Radio, he is the one who found the venue and was in charge of its artistic direction. He now works in Hollywood, as Sofia Coppola's chief set designer.



GRANDMASTER CAZ / Curtis Fisher

One of the first MCs on the East Coast. He used to spend every weekend at The Radio. Recognized by his peers as an iconic figure of hip-hop music, he now hosts his own radio show in New York.



ALEX JORDANOV / SUPER AJ

A Frenchman who had just arrived in Los Angeles in 1981, he is one of the club's founding members. He was in charge of the logistics and quickly became an important figure in Los Angeles at only 23 years old.



TOPPER CAREW

A filmmaker from Boston, he was fascinated by The Radio and its energy. In 1983 he made a documentary called *Breakin' N' Enterin'*, which was filmed in The Radio's facilities.



EGYPTIAN LOVER / Gregory James Broussard

An electro-funk DJ since the 1980s, he performed regularly at The Radio. It became his "laboratory" where funk and hip-hop music mixed together to create new sounds particular to his world and that of the West Coast.



KELLY JO MINTER

In 1982, as a young actress, she spent her weekends at The Radio with numerous celebrities, including her ex, Eazy E, a member of N.W.A.



THE GLOVE / Chris Taylor

Another great DJ of this era who performed at The Radio. He was a member of Death Row and worked on major rap albums, including Dr. Dre's internationally-acclaimed album called *The Chronic*.



EVIL E / Eric Garcia

A young DJ from Los Angeles, he is one of the many artists who performed at The Radio. He now works as a producer and DJ for Ice-T.



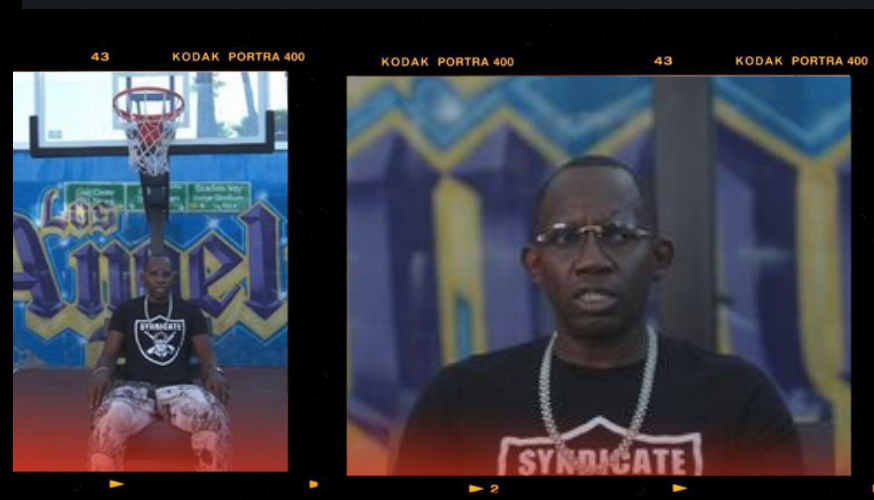
ROGER GUENVEUR SMITH

Then known by his stage name HollyWatts, he was one of the first to take the mic with Ice-T at The Radio. He later became one of Spike Lee's actors, and played in *Do the Right Thing* (1989).



BERNARD ZEKRI

A friend of AJ's, he was the one who brought hip-hop to the West Coast and then across the Atlantic by putting together the first tour with artists from the hip-hop culture in Europe. As a journalist and producer, he plays a central role in French cultural life.



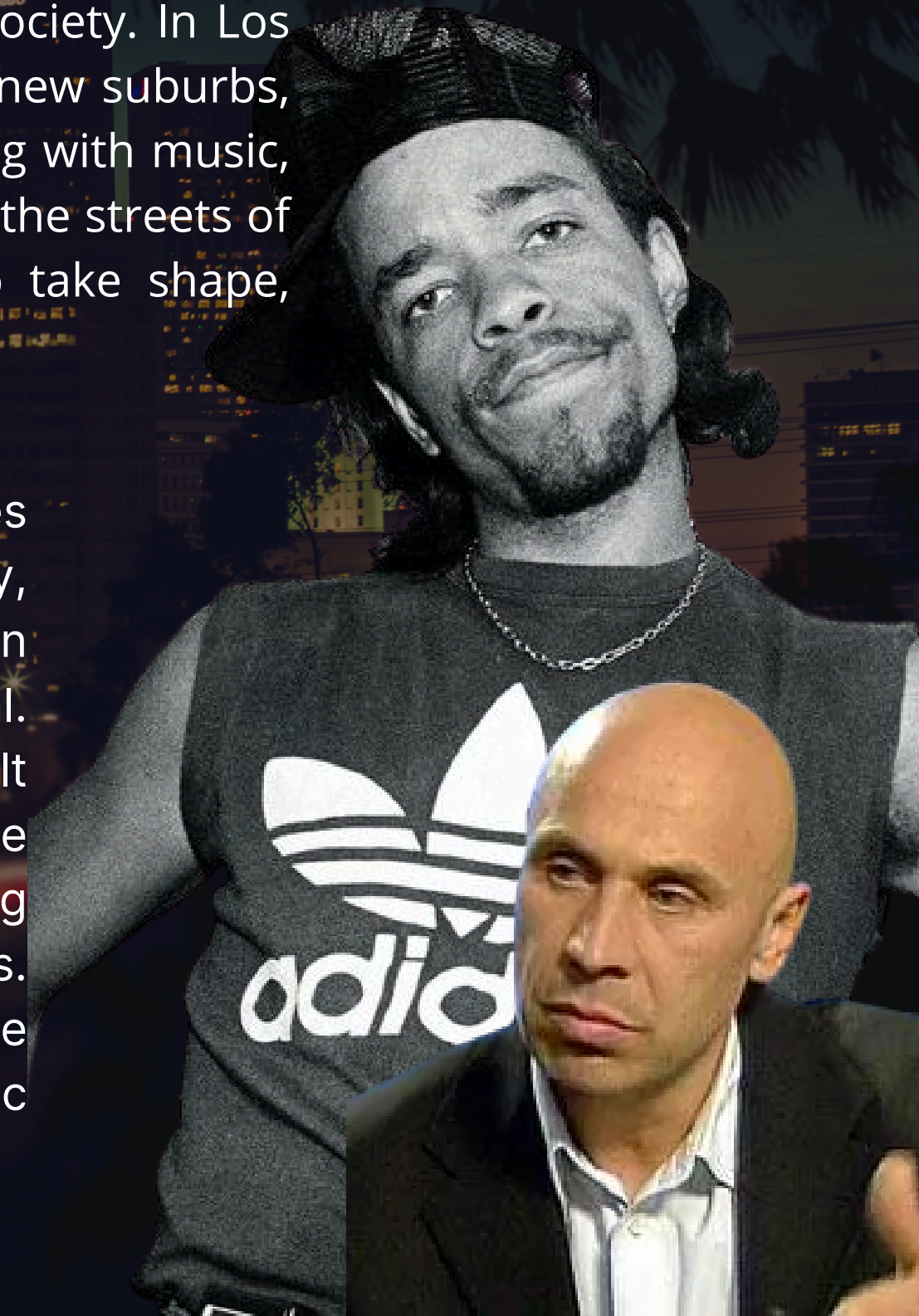
HEN GEE / Henry G. Garcia

As the brother of Evil-E, a prominent figure in Los Angeles and an iconic artist of The Radio, he naturally joined AJ, KK Barrett, and Ice-T's crew.

PART 1: "CALLING TRACY"

In the 1980s, the United States, under Ronald Reagan, underwent major transformations with policies of economic deregulation, tax cuts and reduced public spending, profoundly altering American society. In Los Angeles, the city experienced strong demographic growth, with a middle class expanding into new suburbs, but also growing crime and economic inequality. This was a time when Los Angeles was thriving with music, and the rise of punk rock and hip-hop culture, still emerging although it was already displayed in the streets of Los Angeles, through dancers and spray-painters. The underground music scene began to take shape, heralding a cultural revolution.

The story follows Alex Jordanov, a young French-Bulgarian man who came to Los Angeles looking for adventure. With a great capacity for adaptation, he quickly blended in with the city, using his talents to provide for himself. There, he met Tracy Marrow, aka Ice-T, a young man from New Jersey with a passion for hip-hop music, living in his aunt's garage in South Central. Together, they shared the dream of bringing hip-hop to Los Angeles. Despite Tracy's difficult past, which was marked by robberies and a difficult childhood, they decided to open a venue called "The Radio", where this new musical energy could be expressed. However, organizing their first party proved hard as they came across some logistical and financial challenges. Despite their best efforts, on the evening of the event, no one came. This illustrates the difficulty of their enterprise in the face of the uncertainties surrounding the emerging music scene.



PART 2: “LIVING THE LIFE”

After a bumpy start, The Radio quickly established itself as a key venue in Los Angeles. The first night, which was marked by an empty room at first, turned into a success thanks to the late arrival of the audience who came because they had heard people talking about it. The club attracted hip-hop enthusiasts and became a symbol of the emerging music scene. In this second episode, we explore the extraordinary rise of The Radio, when Alex ran the place, where Ice-T hosted parties, and where Chris “The Glove” Taylor DJed. Anthony Kiedis, future lead singer of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, used to sell tickets at the door.

The club became THE place for pop culture legends such as Prince, Michael Jackson, Madonna and many others. Matt Groening, who created The Simpsons, even created a column dedicated to the success of these parties. Alongside club life, the main characters, Ice-T and Alex, evolve. Ice-T worked hard to quit his criminal activities, while getting serious about his artistic career. Alex, meanwhile, became a host for many up-and-coming artists, organizing legendary aftershows.

However, this spectacular success was accompanied by many excesses: money, alcohol, drugs and uncontrollable partying. But reality soon caught up with the club's founding members, who faced tensions with the venue's owner and corrupt police. A former police officer revealed stories about the atmosphere at The Radio, highlighting the challenges faced by the club's young founding members.

PART 3: "THE RISE AND FALL"

In this final episode, The Radio was at its peak, becoming the emblem of hip-hop on the U.S. West Coast. The club attracted ever-growing crowds, who were eager to experience the unique combination of music, dance and urban art. The venue mirrored the creative energy of Los Angeles in the early '80s, capturing the media's attention with a documentary on this cultural revolution.

However, despite this success, internal and external tensions threatened the club's survival. Alex and Ice-T had to deal with a complex reality, where the local authorities kept pressuring them, asking them for their ID, searching their homes and making threats about closing down the club. The FBI was keeping a close eye on them, and they were aware they were living in an increasingly precarious situation. Maintaining the integrity of The Radio was becoming an everyday struggle for them.

Despite these growing difficulties, the club remained a place of pure creative magic, providing memorable performances. The parties were more impressive than ever, the excesses intensified and the money came pouring. But the downfall seemed inevitable. Alex and Ice-T, however, were determined to preserve their dream and what they had created, defying the odds. This final episode illustrates the greatness of the club in its prime, while at the same time showing how it was gradually being eaten away from the inside by the outside forces that opposed it, marking the end of an era.

ANIMATIONS



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Joséphine LETANG

**Head of International Distribution &
Marketing**

j-letang@arteFrance.fr



Alec HERRMANN

Head of Acquisitions

a-herrmann@arteFrance.fr



Audrey KAMGA

a-kamga@arteFrance.fr

Sales Manager

Canada, USA, South America,
Israel & MENA Region



Alexandra MARGUERITE

a-marguerite@arteFrance.fr

Sales Manager

UK, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Eastern
Europe, Asia, language versions

Africa: a-morel@arteFrance.fr



Franka SCHWABE

f-schwabe@arteFrance.fr

Sales Manager

**Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland,
Netherlands, Scandinavia, Iceland, Australia, New**

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