

# Seven Deadly Albums

HIP-HOP Literacy campaign founder Raoul Juneja (aka DJ Ra) is a leading light in the music industry in Canada. The musical visionary and hip-hop genius has done everything from introducing new artists to launching movements to educate through music. He chooses his seven favourite albums:

■ **Run-DMC** by Jam Master Jay (1984): Run-DMC's self-titled debut. Their late DJ Jam Master Jay deserves credit for creating East Coast beats that set the music industry's standard for the next 20 years. *Run-DMC* is not only rap's first album, it also gave us the first video single on MTV.

■ **2Pacalypse Now** by Tupac Amaru Shakur (1991): Tupac was hip-hop's most controversial and best-selling artist a mere five years after his debut album. *2Pacalypse Now* also demonstrated the real-life consequences of rap after landing Tupac in court to face US government charges that his political lyrics were inciting minorities to violent activism.

■ **Jamaican Funk** by Michie Mee (1991): Michie Mee, known as the Queen of Hip-Hop, not only broke down barriers for fellow Canadian divas like Nelly Furtado and Jully Black with her debut album, but also gave the music industry its first taste of Jamaican Funk.

■ **Return of the Boom-Bap** by KRS-One (1993): The Teacher's solo debut can best be described as doing for political rap on the East Coast what Ice-T did for it in the West. It also taught minority youth that an updated civil rights movement was the only option to improving inner-city life.

■ **36 Chambers** by Wu-Tang Clan (1993): The next generation of East Coast MCs, including producers RZA and GZA, though influenced by *Malcolm X*-related issues, modelled themselves in the image of Bruce Lee. They used everything from Chinese boxing names to Hong Kong movie samples so rap could move forward with a global perspective.

■ **Beware** by Panjabi MC (2003) and **A Little Deeper** by Ms Dynamite (2003): UK DJs say Panjabi MC and Ms Dynamite are mainstream in Britain. North American DJs and fans would be thrilled if we could hear them all the time.

All you South Asian UK rap and R'n'B artists, hit me up in Canada at [LyricalKnockout.com](http://LyricalKnockout.com) and let's bridge the gap.

