

ESTTA Tracking number: **ESTTA545377**

Filing date: **06/26/2013**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Notice of Opposition

Notice is hereby given that the following party opposes registration of the indicated application.

Opposer Information

Name	Notorious Entertainment LLC
Granted to Date of previous extension	06/26/2013
Address	1710 Broadway New York, NY 10019 UNITED STATES

Attorney information	Lynne E. Graybeal and Julianne A. Henley Perkins Coie LLP 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4900 Seattle, WA 98101-3099 UNITED STATES pctrademarks@perkinscoie.com, lgraybeal@perkinscoie.com, jhenley@perkinscoie.com, bbarrera@perkinscoie.com Phone:206 359 8000
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Applicant Information

Application No	78745656	Publication date	02/26/2013
Opposition Filing Date	06/26/2013	Opposition Period Ends	06/26/2013
Applicant	VIACOM INTERNATIONAL INC. 1515 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10036 UNITED STATES		

Goods/Services Affected by Opposition

Class 041. All goods and services in the class are opposed, namely: ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES, NAMELY TELEVISION PROGRAMS FEATURING LIVE ACTION, COMEDY AND DRAMA; PROVIDING ONLINE INFORMATION IN THE FIELD OF ENTERTAINMENT CONCERNING TELEVISION PROGRAMS
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Grounds for Opposition

Priority and likelihood of confusion	Trademark Act section 2(d)
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Marks Cited by Opposer as Basis for Opposition

U.S. Registration No.	2142990	Application Date	12/27/1994
Registration Date	03/10/1998	Foreign Priority Date	NONE

Word Mark	NOTORIOUS
Design Mark	
Description of Mark	NONE
Goods/Services	Class 016. First use: First Use: 1997/10/01 First Use In Commerce: 1997/10/01 magazines containing news and features on social and cultural issues and profiles of individuals

U.S. Registration No.	3804970	Application Date	07/18/2003
Registration Date	06/15/2010	Foreign Priority Date	NONE
Word Mark	NOTORIOUS		
Design Mark			
Description of Mark	NONE		
Goods/Services	Class 041. First use: First Use: 2005/00/00 First Use In Commerce: 2005/00/00 providing online information in the fields of music, social and cultural entertainment events and biological profiles of celebrities and other individuals in the music and entertainment field via an Internet website		

U.S. Application/Registration No.	NONE	Application Date	NONE
Registration Date	NONE		
Word Mark	NOTORIOUS		
Goods/Services	On information and belief, Opposer is an entertainment and media company that promotes a variety of entertainment focused goods and services in connection with the NOTORIOUS trademark, including entertainment offerings that exceed the scope of Opposer's Class 16 Registration and Opposer's Class 41 Registration, including but not limited to film offerings.		

Attachments	SO NOTORIOUS Notice of Opposition 06-26-13.pdf(19381 bytes) SO NOTORIOUS Opposition Exhibit A.pdf(37013 bytes) SO NOTORIOUS Opposition Exhibit B.pdf(36528 bytes) SO NOTORIOUS Opposition Exhibit C Part 1.pdf(3191223 bytes) SO NOTORIOUS Opposition Exhibit C Part 2.pdf(4291261 bytes)
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Certificate of Service

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of this paper has been served upon all parties, at their address record by First Class Mail on this date.

Signature	/Julianne A. Henley/
Name	Lynne E. Graybeal and Julianne A. Henley
Date	06/26/2013

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Notorious Entertainment LLC,

Opposer,

v.

Viacom International Inc.

Applicant.

Opposition No.:

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION

Mark: SO NOTORIOUS
Serial No.: 78/745,656
Filing Date: November 2, 2005

Notorious Entertainment LLC ("Opposer") believes that it will be damaged by registration of the SO NOTORIOUS trademark ("Applicant's Mark"), in International Class 41, for use in connection with those services identified in Application Serial No. 78/745,656 ("Application"), and hereby opposes the Application. As grounds for its opposition, Opposer alleges as follows:

I. PARTIES

1. Opposer is a Delaware limited liability company, having a place of business in New York, New York.
2. On information and belief, Applicant Viacom International Inc. ("Applicant") is a Delaware corporation.

II. OPPOSER'S MARK

3. Opposer is an entertainment and media company that promotes a variety of entertainment-focused goods and services (collectively, "Opposer's Offerings").
4. Opposer is the owner of the NOTORIOUS trademark ("Opposer's Mark"), used in connection with Opposer's Offerings since at least as early as 1996.
5. On information and belief, Opposer acquired Opposer's Mark in 1998.

6. Opposer owns federal Registration No. 2,142,990 ("Opposer's Class 16 Registration") for Opposer's Mark in connection with "magazines containing news and features on social and cultural issues and profiles of individuals" in Class 16. A soft copy of this registration, in the form of a printout from the Trademark Office's on-line website, is attached as **Exhibit A** hereto.
7. Opposer's Class 16 Registration was filed on December 27, 1994 and has been registered since 1998.
8. Opposer owns federal Registration No. 3,804,970 ("Opposer's Class 41 Registration") for Opposer's Mark in connection with "providing online information in the fields of music, social and cultural entertainment events and biological profiles of celebrities and other individuals in the music and entertainment field via an Internet website" in Class 41. A soft copy of this registration, in the form of a printout from the Trademark Office's on-line website, is attached as **Exhibit B** hereto.
9. Opposer's Class 41 Registration was filed on July 18, 2003 and has been registered since 2010.
10. Opposer also owns common law rights in Opposer's Mark dating back to at least as early as 1996.
11. Opposer's Offerings have received widespread recognition during this seventeen (17) year period.
12. Opposer's Mark and Opposer's Offerings are closely associated with two famous entertainers: (a) Christopher Wallace, also known as, Biggie Smalls, and most commonly known as the Notorious B.I.G., a talented musician who was murdered in 1997, and (b) Sean Combs, a close associate of Mr. Wallace prior to his death. Some background information regarding Mr. Wallace, Mr. Combs, and Opposer's Offerings are attached as **Exhibit C** hereto.
13. On information and belief, Opposer is an affiliate entity of Mr. Combs.

14. Opposer's Offerings include the prominent use of Opposer's Mark as the title for the 2009 movie about Mr. Wallace's life and death, "NOTORIOUS," which grossed \$36,845,254 domestically and \$40,485,999 worldwide. *See Id.*
15. Opposer's Mark and Opposer's Offerings are widely known and recognized. As a result, Opposer has developed substantial goodwill in Opposer's Mark, which is well known in the entertainment field.

III. APPLICANT'S MARK AND APPLICATION

16. The Application was filed on November 2, 2005 ("Filing Date"), based on Applicant's intent to use Applicant's Mark in the United States.
17. Applicant's Services ("Applicant's Services"), as listed in the application, are:

Entertainment services, namely television programs featuring live action, comedy and drama; providing online information in the field of entertainment concerning television programs

18. No Statement of Use or Amendment to Allege Use has been filed in connection with the Application, which remains pending on an intent-to-use basis.
19. The Application was published in the United States Patent and Trademark Office's *Official Gazette* on February 26, 2013.
20. This Notice of Opposition is timely because Opposer was granted an extension of time to oppose the Application on or before June 26, 2013.

IV. CLAIMS

A. PRIORITY AND LIKELIHOOD OF CONFUSION

21. Opposer's Mark is distinctive for Opposer's Offerings.
22. Opposer owns Opposer's Class 16 Registration and Opposer's Class 41 Registration for Opposer's Mark.

23. Opposer and/or its predecessors has/have used and/or owned Opposer's Mark in connection with Opposer's Offerings and/or Opposer's Class 16 Registration and Opposer's Class 41 Registration since prior to the Filing Date.
24. Opposer has not abandoned Opposer's Mark in connection with Opposer's Offerings.
25. As a result of its extensive use and promotion of Opposer's Mark, Opposer's Mark has developed substantial goodwill and is a strong mark.
26. Opposer's Mark and Applicant's Mark are highly similar, differing only by the addition of the term "SO" in Applicant's SO NOTORIOUS Mark.
27. Opposer's Offerings and Applicant's Services overlap and are related, because Applicant's Services are comprised of "entertainment services," just like Opposer's Offerings. Moreover, Applicant's Services have no limitations on trade channels or consumers, other than to note that Applicant's Services are provided or available via television, as is common among entertainment offerings.
28. In view of the similarity between Applicant's Mark and Opposer's Mark and the overlapping nature of the parties' respective offerings, Applicant's Mark so resembles Opposer's Mark as to be likely to cause confusion, or to cause mistake, or to deceive as to the origin, sponsorship, and/or approval of Applicant's Services, and is likely to suggest an affiliation, connection, or association of Applicant and Applicant's Services with Opposer and Opposer's Offerings, with consequent injury to Opposer, the trade, and to the public.
29. The registration of Applicant's Mark with Applicant's Services would prevent Opposer from exercising exclusive control over the goodwill and reputation associated with Opposer's Mark. Therefore, the registration of Applicant's Mark with Applicant's Services would damage and injure Opposer.
30. Opposer will also be damaged by the registration of Applicant's Mark with Applicant's Services because such registration will support statutory rights for Applicant in violation and derogation of Opposer's prior, superior, and exclusive rights in Opposer's Mark.

V. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Opposer respectfully requests that its opposition be sustained and that the Application be denied and refused registration. This Notice of Opposition is filed according to the rules governing electronic submissions to the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, including payment of the requisite \$300 fee (i.e., \$300 per class).

DATED: June 26, 2013.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that this NOTICE OF OPPOSITION is being deposited with the United Parcel Service with sufficient postage on June 26, 2013, in an envelope addressed to Kiersten Skog, Viacom International Inc. c/o Anthony Ortiz, 1515 Broadway 51st Floor, New York, New York 10036.

Signature: /Sachiko Crowder/
Sachiko Crowder

Respectfully submitted,

PERKINS COIE LLP

By: /Lynne E. Graybeal/
Lynne E. Graybeal
Attorney for Opposer
1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3099

Exhibit A



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Word Mark	NOTORIOUS
Goods and Services	IC 016. US 002 005 022 023 029 037 038 050. G & S: magazines containing news and features on social and cultural issues and profiles of individuals. FIRST USE: 19971001. FIRST USE IN COMMERCE: 19971001
Mark Drawing Code	(1) TYPED DRAWING
Serial Number	74615760
Filing Date	December 27, 1994
Current Basis	1A
Original Filing Basis	1B
Published for Opposition	September 26, 1995
Registration Number	2142990
Registration Date	March 10, 1998
Owner	(REGISTRANT) Notorious Partners L.P. composed of O.D.A. Inc., a Delaware Corporation LIMITED PARTNERSHIP DELAWARE Suite 906, 37 East 28th Street New York NEW YORK 10016 (LAST LISTED OWNER) NOTORIOUS ENTERTAINMENT LLC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY DELAWARE 1710 Broadway, 4th Floor New York NEW YORK 10019
Assignment Recorded	ASSIGNMENT RECORDED
Attorney of Record	Richard Ross
Type of Mark	TRADEMARK
Register	PRINCIPAL
Affidavit Text	SECT 8 (6-YR). SECTION 8(10-YR) 20080913.
Renewal	1ST RENEWAL 20080913
Live/Dead	LIVE

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[| HOME](#) [| SITE INDEX](#) [| SEARCH](#) [| eBUSINESS](#) [| HELP](#) [| PRIVACY POLICY](#)

Exhibit B



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Typed Drawing

Word Mark	NOTORIOUS
Goods and Services	IC 041. US 100 101 107. G & S: providing online information in the fields of music, social and cultural entertainment events and biological profiles of celebrities and other individuals in the music and entertainment field via an Internet website. FIRST USE: 20050000. FIRST USE IN COMMERCE: 20050000
Mark Drawing Code	(1) TYPED DRAWING
Serial Number	78977746
Filing Date	July 18, 2003
Current Basis	1A
Original Filing Basis	1B
Published for Opposition	January 23, 2007
Registration Number	3804970
Registration Date	June 15, 2010
Owner	(REGISTRANT) Notorious Entertainment LLC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY DELAWARE 1710 Broadway, 4th Floor New York NEW YORK 10019
Attorney of Record	Richard Ross
Prior Registrations	2154015
Type of Mark	SERVICE MARK
Register	PRINCIPAL
Live/Dead Indicator	LIVE

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[HOME](#) | [SITE INDEX](#) | [SEARCH](#) | [eBUSINESS](#) | [HELP](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#)

Exhibit C



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Main page
Contents
Featured content
Current events
Random article
Donate to Wikipedia
Wikimedia Shop

▼ Interaction
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About Wikipedia
Community portal
Recent changes
Contact Wikipedia

► Toolbox
► Print/export

▼ Languages

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Bosanski
Català
Česky
Dansk
Deutsch
Eesti
Ελληνικά
Español
فارسی
Français
Frysk
Gaeilge
Galego
한국어
Hrvatski
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עברית
ქართული
Kiswahili
Latina
Latviešu
Magyar
Nederlands
日本語
Norsk bokmål
Polski
Português
Română
Русский
Simple English
Slovenčina
Slovenshina
Soomaaliga
Srpskohrvatski / српскохрватски
Suomi
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The Notorious B.I.G.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from The Notorious B.I.G.)

"*Biggy*" and "*Biggie*" redirect here. For other uses, see *Biggy (disambiguation)* and *Biggie (disambiguation)*.

Christopher George Latore Wallace (May 21, 1972 – March 9, 1997), best known as **The Notorious B.I.G.** or **Biggie Smalls**,^[2] was an American rapper.

Wallace was raised in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. When he released his debut album *Ready to Die* in 1994, he became a central figure in the East Coast hip hop scene and increased New York's visibility in the genre at a time when West Coast hip hop was dominant in the mainstream.^[3] The following year, Wallace led his childhood friends to chart success through his protégé group, Junior M.A.F.I.A. While recording his second album, Wallace was heavily involved in the growing East Coast/West Coast hip hop feud.

On March 9, 1997, Wallace was killed by an unknown assailant in a drive-by shooting in Los Angeles. His double-disc set *Life After Death*, released 16 days later, rose to No. 1 on the U.S. album charts and was certified Diamond in 2000, one of the few hip hop albums to receive this certification.^[4] Wallace was noted for his "loose, easy flow",^[5] dark semi-autobiographical lyrics and storytelling abilities. Two more albums have been released since his death. He has certified sales of 17 million units in the United States.^[6]

Contents

- Life and career
 - 1.1 1972-94: Early life, arrests, career beginnings and first child
 - 1.2 1994: *Ready to Die* and marriage
 - 1.3 1995: Junior M.A.F.I.A., *Conspiracy* and coastal feud
 - 1.4 1996: More arrests, Tupac Shakur's death and second child
 - 1.5 1997: *Life After Death* and car accident
- Death
 - 2.1 March 1997 shooting
 - 2.2 Murder case
 - 2.3 Lawsuits
 - 2.3.1 Wrongful death claim
 - 2.3.2 Defamation
- Posthumous career
- Legacy
 - 4.1 Style
 - 4.2 Themes and lyrical content
 - 4.3 Biopic
- Discography
- Awards and nominations
 - 6.1 Billboard Music Awards
 - 6.2 Grammy Awards
 - 6.3 MTV Video Music Awards
 - 6.4 Soul Train Music Awards
 - 6.5 The Source Awards
- References
- Further reading
- External links

Life and career

1972-94: Early life, arrests, career beginnings and first child

Born in St. Mary's Hospital on May 21, 1972, Wallace grew up in the Clinton Hill section of Brooklyn, New York City on 226 St. James Place^[7] near the border of Bedford-Stuyvesant.^[8] He was the only child of Voletta Wallace, a Jamaican preschool teacher, and George Latore, a welder and small-time Jamaican politician.^[9] His father left the family when Wallace was two years old, and his mother worked two jobs while raising him. At the Queen of All Saints Middle School, Wallace excelled in class, winning several awards as an English student. He was nicknamed "Big" because of his overweight size by age 10.^[10] At the age of 12, he began selling illegal drugs. His mother, often away at work, did not know of her son's drug sales until Wallace was an adult.^[11]

At his request, Wallace transferred out of the Roman Catholic Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School to attend the state-funded George Westinghouse Career and Technical Education High School, which future rappers Jay-Z and Busta Rhymes also attended at the time. According to his mother, Wallace was still a good student, but he developed a "smart-ass" attitude at the new school.^[5] At seventeen, Wallace dropped out of school and became further involved in crime. In 1989, he was arrested on weapons charges in Brooklyn and sentenced to five years' probation. In 1990, he was arrested on a violation of his probation.^[12] A year later, Wallace was arrested in North Carolina for dealing crack cocaine. He spent nine months in jail before making bail.^[11]

Wallace began rapping when he was a teenager. He entertained people on the streets as well as performed with local groups, the Old Gold Brothers and the Techniques.^[13] After being released from jail, Wallace made a demo tape under the name Biggie Smalls, a reference to a character in the 1975 film *Let's Do It Again* as well as his stature; he stood at 6 feet 3 inches (1.91 m) and weighed as much as 300 to 380 pounds (140–170 kg) according to differing accounts.^[14] The tape was reportedly made with no serious intent of getting a recording deal, but was promoted by New York-based DJ Mister Cee, who had previously worked with Big Daddy Kane, and was heard by the editor of *The Source*.^[12]

In March 1992, Wallace was featured in *The Source*'s Unsigned Hype column, dedicated to aspiring rappers, and was invited to produce a recording with other unsigned artists in a move that was reportedly uncommon at the time^[not in citation given]^[14] The demo tape was heard by Uptown Records A&R and record producer, Sean Combs, who arranged for a meeting with Wallace. He was signed to Uptown immediately and made an appearance on label mates, Heavy D & the Boyz' "A Buncha Niggas" (from the album *Blue Funk*)^[3]^[15] Soon after signing his recording contract, Combs was fired from Uptown and started a new label.^[16] Wallace followed and in mid-1992, signed to Combs' new imprint label, Bad Boy Records. On August 8, 1993, Wallace's longtime girlfriend gave birth to his first child, Tyanna.^[17] He continued selling drugs after the birth to support his daughter financially. Once Combs discovered this, he forced Wallace to quit.^[3]

Later in the year, Wallace gained exposure on a remix to Mary J. Blige's single "Real Love", under the pseudonym The Notorious B.I.G. He recorded under this name for the remainder of his career, after finding the original moniker "Biggie Smalls" was already in use.^[18] "Real Love" peaked at No. 7 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart and was followed by a remix of Blige's "What's the 411?". He continued this success, to a lesser extent, on remixes with Neneh Chery ("Buddy X") and reggae artist Super Cat ("Dolly My Baby", also featuring Combs) in 1993. In April 1993, his solo track, "Party and Bullshit", appeared on the *Who's the Man?* soundtrack.^[19] In July 1994, he appeared alongside LL Cool J and Busta Rhymes on a remix to label mate Craig Mack's "Flava in Ya Ear", reaching No. 9 on the Hot 100.^[20]

1994: *Ready to Die* and marriage

On August 4, 1994, Wallace married R&B singer Faith Evans after they met at a Bad Boy photoshoot.^[21] Four days later, Wallace had his first pop chart success as a solo artist with double A-side, "Juicy/Unbelievable", which reached No. 27 as the lead single to his debut album.^[22]

Ready to Die was released on September 13, 1994, and reached No. 13 on the *Billboard* 200 chart,^[23] eventually being certified four times Platinum.^[24] The album, released at a time when West Coast hip hop was prominent in the U.S. charts, according to *Rolling Stone*, "almost single-handedly... shifted the focus back to East Coast rap".^[25] It immediately gained strong reviews and has received much praise in retrospect.^[25]^[26] In addition to "Juicy", the record produced two hit singles; the Platinum-selling "Big Poppa", which reached No. 1 on the U.S. rap chart,^[3] and "One More Chance" featuring Faith Evans, a loosely related remix of an album track and its best selling single.

1995: Junior M.A.F.I.A., *Conspiracy* and coastal feud

In August 1995, Wallace's protégé group, Junior M.A.F.I.A. ("Junior Masters At Finding Intelligent Attitudes"), released their debut album *Conspiracy*. The group consisted of his friends from childhood and included rappers such as Lil' Kim and Lil' Cease, who went on to have solo careers.^[27] The record went Gold and its singles, "Player's Anthem" and "Get Money" both featuring Wallace, went Gold and Platinum. Wallace continued to work with R&B artists, collaborating with R&B groups 112 (on "Only You") and Total (on "Can't You See"), with both reaching the top 20 of the Hot 100. By the end of the year, Wallace was the top-selling male solo artist and rapper on the U.S. pop and R&B charts.^[3] In July 1995, he appeared on the cover of *The Source* with the caption "The King of New York Takes Over", a reference to his Frank White alias from the 1990 film *King of New York*. At the *Source* Awards in August 1995, he was named Best New Artist (Solo), Lyricist of the Year, Live Performer of the Year, and his debut Album of the Year.^[28] At the *Billboard* Awards, he was Rap Artist of the Year.^[12]

In his year of success, Wallace became involved in a rivalry between the East and West Coast hip hop scenes with Tupac Shakur, his former associate. In an interview with *Vibe* in April 1995, while serving time in Clinton Correctional Facility, Shakur accused Uptown Records' founder Andre Harrell, Sean Combs, and Wallace of having prior knowledge of a robbery that resulted in him being shot repeatedly and losing thousands of dollars worth of jewelry on the night of November 30, 1994. Though Wallace and his entourage were in the same Manhattan-based recording studio at the time of the shooting, they denied the accusation.^[event citation needed]^[29] Wallace said: "It just happened to be a coincidence that he [Shakur] was in the studio. He just, he couldn't really say who really had something to do with it at the time. So he just kinda' leaned the blame on me."^[30] In 2012, a man named Dexter Isaac, serving a life sentence for unrelated crimes, claimed that he shot Shakur that night and that the robbery was orchestrated by James Rosemond aka Jimmy Henchman.^[31]

Following release from prison, Shakur signed to Death Row Records on October 15, 1995. Bad Boy Records and Death Row, now business rivals, became involved in an intense quarrel.^[32]

1996: More arrests, Tupac Shakur's death and second child

Wallace began recording his second studio album in September 1995. The album, recorded in New York, Trinidad and Los Angeles, was interrupted during its 18 months of creation by injury, legal wranglings and the highly publicized hip hop dispute in which he was involved.^[33] During this time, he also worked with R&B/pop singer Michael Jackson for the *HIStory* album.^[34]

On March 23, 1996, Wallace was arrested outside a Manhattan nightclub for chasing and threatening to kill two autograph seekers, smashing the windows of their taxicab and then pulling one of the fans out and punching them.^[12] He pleaded guilty to second-degree harassment and was sentenced to 100 hours of community service. In mid-1996, he was arrested at his home in Teaneck, New Jersey, for drug and weapons possession charges.^[12]

In June 1996, Shakur released "Hit 'Em Up", a diss song in which he claimed to have had sex with Wallace's wife (at the time estranged) and that Wallace copied his style and image. Wallace referred to the first claim about his wife's pregnancy on Jay-Z's "Brooklyn's Finest" where he raps: "If Faye (Faith Evans, his wife at the time) have twins, she'd probably have two 'Pacs. Geddit? 2Pac's?". However, Wallace did not directly respond to the record during his lifetime, stating in a 1997 radio interview that it was "not [his] style" to respond.^[30]

Shakur was shot multiple times in a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas, Nevada, on September 7, 1996, and died six days later of complications from the gunshot wounds. Rumors of Wallace's involvement with Shakur's murder were reported almost immediately. A two-part series Chuck Phillips wrote for the LA Times in 2002 called "Who Killed Tupac Shakur?" claimed that "the shooting was carried out by a Compton gang called the Southside Crips to avenge the beating of one of its members by Shakur a few hours earlier" and that Wallace provided the gun.^[35]^[36] His family publicly denied the claim.^[37] Crime writer Cathy Scott, who wrote the book *The Murder of Biggie Smalls*, agreed with the family, telling the *Las Vegas Review Journal*, "It's easy to point a finger at a dead guy. The dead can't sue."^[38]

On October 29, 1996, Faith Evans gave birth to Wallace's son, Christopher "C.J." Wallace, Jr.^[17] The following month, Junior M.A.F.I.A. member Lil' Kim released her debut album, *Hard Core*, under Wallace's direction while the two were having a "love affair".^[3]

1997: *Life After Death* and car accident

The Notorious B.I.G.	
 <div>Background information</div>	
Birth name	Christopher George Latore Wallace
Also known as	Biggie Smalls, ^[1] Biggie, B.I.G., Big Poppa, Frank White
Born	May 21, 1972 <div>New York City, New York, U.S.</div>
Died	March 9, 1997 (aged 24) <div>Los Angeles, California, U.S.</div>
Genres	Hip hop, East Coast hip hop, hardcore hip hop, gangsta rap
Occupations	Rapper
Years active	1992–1997
Labels	Uptown Records Bad Boy
Associated acts	Sean Combs, Junior M.A.F.I.A., Lil Kim, Total, 112, The Commission, Faith Evans, Jay-Z, 2Pac, Busta Rhymes
Website	www.myspace.com/notoriousbig ↗

During the recording sessions for his second album, tentatively named "Life After Death... 'Til Death Do Us Part", later shortened to *Life After Death*, Wallace was involved in a car accident that shattered his left leg and temporarily confined him to a wheelchair.^[3] The injury forced him to use a cane.^[29]

In January 1997, Wallace was ordered to pay US\$41,000 in damages following an incident involving a friend of a concert promoter who claimed Wallace and his entourage beat him up following a dispute in May 1995.^[30] He faced **criminal assault** charges for the incident which remains unresolved, but all robbery charges were dropped.^[12] Following the events of the previous year, Wallace spoke of a desire to focus on his "peace of mind". "My mom... my son... my daughter... my family... my friends are what matters to me now".^[40]

Death

March 1997 shooting

Wallace traveled to California in February 1997, to promote his upcoming second studio album and film a **music video** for its lead single, "Hypnotize". On March 5, 1997, he gave a radio interview with **The Dog House** on **KYLD** in **San Francisco**. In the interview he stated that he had hired security since he feared for his safety, not just because of the ongoing East Coast–West Coast feud, but because of his role as a high profile celebrity in general.^[41] *Life After Death* was scheduled for release on March 25, 1997. On March 8, 1997, he presented an award to **Toni Braxton** at the 11th Annual **Soul Train Music Awards** in **Los Angeles** and was booed by some of the audience.^[28] After the ceremony, Wallace attended an after party hosted by *Vibe* magazine and **Qwest Records** at the **Petersen Automotive Museum** in **Los Angeles**.^[29] Other guests included **Faith Evans**, **Aaliyah**, **Sean Combs**, and members of the **Bloods** and **Crips** gangs.^[10]

On March 9, 1997, at around 12:30 a.m., Wallace left with his entourage in two **GMC Suburbans** to return to his hotel after the Fire Department closed the party early because of overcrowding.^[42] Wallace traveled in the front passenger seat alongside his associates, **Damion "D-Roc" Butler**, Junior M.A.F.I.A. member **Li'l Cease** and driver, Gregory "G-Money" Young. Combs traveled in the other vehicle with three bodyguards. The two trucks were trailed by a **Chevrolet Blazer** carrying **Bad Boy's** director of security.^[10]

By 12:45 a.m., the streets were crowded with people leaving the event. Wallace's truck stopped at a red light 50 yards (46 m) from the museum. A black **Chevrolet Impala SS** pulled up alongside Wallace's truck. The driver of the Impala, an **African American** male dressed in a blue suit and bow tie, rolled down his window, drew a 9 mm blue-stel pistol and fired at the GMC Suburban, four bullets hit Wallace.^[10] Wallace's entourage rushed him to **Cedars-Sinai Medical Center**, where doctors performed an emergency **thoracotomy**, but he was pronounced dead at 1:15 a.m.

His autopsy was released to the public over a decade after his death in December 2012. According to the report, three of the four shots were not fatal. The first bullet hit in his left forearm and traveled down to his wrist; the second hit him in the back, missing all vital organs, and exited through his left shoulder, and the third hit his outer left thigh and left through his inner thigh. The report says that the third bullet "strikes the left side of the scrotum, causing a very shallow, 3⁄8 inch linear laceration." The fourth bullet was fatal, entering through his right hip and striking several vital organs, before stopping in his left shoulder area. That bullet struck his colon, liver, heart and upper lobe of his left lung.^[43]

Murder case

Wallace's murder remains unsolved and there are many theories regarding the identities and motives of the murderers. Immediately after the shooting, reports surfaced linking the **Shakur** and **Wallace** murders, because of the similarities in the drive-by shootings.^[44]

In 2002, **Randall Sullivan** released *LABYRINTH*, a book compiling information regarding the murders of Wallace and **Shakur** based on evidence provided by retired **LAPD** detective, **Russell Poole**.^{[10][45]} Sullivan accused **Marion "Suge" Knight**, co-founder of **Death Row Records** and an alleged **Bloods** affiliate, of conspiring with **David Mack**, a **LAPD** officer and alleged **Death Row** security employee, to kill Wallace and make **Shakur** and his death appear the result of a fictitious bi-coastal rap rivalry.^{[40][47]} Sullivan believed that one of Mack's associates, **Amir Muhammad** (also known as **Harry Billups**), was the hitman based on evidence provided by an informant, and due to his close resemblance to the **factual composite**.^{[40][47]} Filmmaker **Nick Broomfield** released an investigative documentary, *Biggie & Tupac*, based mainly on the evidence used in the book.^[48]

An article published in *Rolling Stone* by Sullivan in December 2005 accused the **LAPD** of not fully investigating links with **Death Row Records** based on Poole's evidence. Sullivan claimed that **Sean Combs** "failed to fully cooperate with the investigation" and according to Poole, encouraged **Bad Boy** staff to do the same.^[10] The accuracy of the article was later refuted in a letter by the Assistant Managing Editor of the *LA Times* accusing Sullivan of using "shoddy tactics." Sullivan, in response, quoted the lead attorney of the Wallace estate calling the newspaper "a co-conspirator in the cover-up."^[48]

The criminal investigation was re-opened in July 2006 in the hopes that new evidence might help the City defend the civil lawsuits brought by the Wallace family.^{[49][50]}

In January 2011, the case was reinvigorated as a result of new information reported by **Anderson Cooper's AC360** "Cold Case" show and blog^[51] that it was being re-investigated by a law enforcement task force composed of the **LAPD**, the **L.A. County District Attorney's Office**, and the **FBI**.^[52] In April, the **FBI** released redacted documents about their investigation into the shooting, revealing that the bullets were 9mm Geco ammunition manufactured in *Germany* and rarely found in the US. The documents reported that **LAPD** officers monitoring the party Wallace was attending were also employed as security personnel for **Knight**, and speculated that the **Genovese crime family** was withholding evidence about Wallace's death.^[53]

Retired **LAPD** detective **Greg Kading**, who worked on the **Biggie Smalls** murder case for three years, alleges that the rapper was shot by **Wardell Fouse** (a.k.a **Darnell Bolton** and "Poochie"), an associate of **Suge Knight**, who was later killed in July 2003 after being shot in the back while riding his motorcycle. **Kading** believes **Knight** hired **Poochie** via his girlfriend "Theresa Swann" to kill **Biggie** to avenge the death of **Tupac**.^[54] whom **Kading** alleges was killed under the orders of **Sean Combs**.^[55]

In December 2012, the **LAPD** released the autopsy conducted on **Biggie**, hoping it would uncover more leads. This move was criticized by the long-time lawyer of his estate, **Perry Sanders Jr.**.^[56] Following this, the **LAPD** apologized to the family of **Biggie** for the "premature release of the documents due to an administrative error."^[57]

Lawsuits

Wrongful death claim

In March 2005, the relatives of Wallace filed a **wrongful death claim** against the city of **Los Angeles** based on the evidence championed by **Russell Poole**.^[47] They claimed the **LAPD** had sufficient evidence to arrest the assailant, but failed to use it. **David Mack** and **Amir Muhammad** (a.k.a. **Harry Billups**) were originally named as defendants in the **civil suit**, but were dropped shortly before the trial began after the **LAPD** and **FBI** dismissed them as suspects.^[47]

The case came for trial before a **jury** on June 21, 2005. Several days into the trial, the plaintiffs' attorney disclosed to the Court and opposing counsel that he had received a telephone call from someone claiming to be a **LAPD** officer and provided detailed information about the existence of evidence concerning the Wallace murder. The court directed the city to conduct a thorough investigation, which uncovered previously undisclosed evidence, much of which was in the desk or cabinet of Det. Steven Katz, the lead detective in the Wallace murder investigation. The documents centered around interviews by numerous police officers of an incarcerated informant, who had been **Rafael Perez's** cellmate for some extended period of time. He reported that **Perez** had told him about his and **Mack's** involvement with **Death Row Records** and their activities at the **Peterson Automotive Museum** the night of Wallace's murder. As a result of the newly discovered evidence, the judge declared a **mistrial** and awarded the Wallace family its attorneys' fees.^[58]

On April 16, 2007, relatives of Wallace filed a second wrongful death lawsuit against the city of **Los Angeles**. The suit also named two **LAPD** officers in the center of the investigation into the **Rampart scandal**, **Rafael Perez** and **Nino Durden**. According to the claim, **Perez**, an alleged affiliate of **Death Row Records**, admitted to **LAPD** officials that he and **Mack** (who was not named in the lawsuit) "conspired to murder, and participated in the murder of Christopher Wallace". The Wallace family said the **LAPD** "consciously concealed **Rafael Perez's** involvement in the murder of ... Wallace".^[59]

United States District Judge Florence-Marie Cooper granted summary judgment to the city of **Los Angeles** on December 17, 2007, finding that the Wallace family had not complied with a California law that required the family to give notice of its claim to the State within six months of Wallace's death.^[60] The Wallace family refiled the suit, dropping the state law claims on May 27, 2008.^[61] The city never answered the amended complaint, and with the agreement of both sides, the suit was voluntarily dismissed on April 5, 2010 without prejudice.^[62]

Defamation

On January 19, 2007, **Tyruss Himes** (better known as **Big Syke**), a friend of **Shakur** who was implicated in the murder by television channel **KTTV** and **XXL** magazine in 2005, had a **defamation** lawsuit regarding the accusations thrown out of court.^[63]

Posthumous career

Sixteen days after his death, Wallace's double-disc second album was released as planned with the shortened title of *Life After Death* and hit No. 1 on the **Billboard 200** charts, after making a premature appearance at No. 176 due to street-dance violations. The record album featured a much wider range of guests and producers than its predecessor.^[64] It gained strong reviews and in 2000 was certified **Diamond**, the highest **RIAA** certification awarded to a solo hip hop album.

Its lead single, "Hypnotize", was the last music video recording in which Wallace would participate. His biggest chart success was with its follow-up "Mo Money Mo Problems", featuring **Sean Combs** (under the rap alias "Puff Daddy") and **Mase**. Both singles reached No. 1 in the **Hot 100**, making Wallace the first artist to achieve this feat posthumously.^[3] The third single, "Sky's The Limit", featuring the band **112**, was noted for its use of children in the music video, directed by **Spike Jonze**, who were used to portray Wallace and his contemporaries, including **Sean Combs**, **Li'l Kim**, and **Busta Rhymes**. Wallace was named **Artist of the Year** and "Hypnotize" **Single of the Year** by *Spin* magazine in December 1997.^[65]

In mid-1997, **Combs** released his debut album, *No Way Out*, which featured Wallace on five songs, notably on the third single "Victory". The most prominent single from the record album was "I'll Be Missing You", featuring **Combs**, **Faith Evans** and **112**, which was dedicated to Wallace's memory. At the 1998 **Grammy Awards**, *Life After Death* and its first two singles received nominations in the rap category. The album award was won by **Combs' No Way Out** and "I'll Be Missing You" won the award in the category of **Best Rap Performance By A Duo Or Group** in which "Mo Money Mo Problems" was nominated.^[66]

Wallace had founded a hip hop supergroup called **The Commission**, which consisted of **Jay-Z**, **Li'l Cease**, **Combs**, **Charli Baltimore** and himself. The Commission was mentioned by Wallace in the lyrics of "What's Beef" on *Life After Death* and "Victory" from *No Way Out* but never completed an album. A song on *Duets: The Final Chapter* titled "Whatchu Want (The Commission)" featuring **Jay-Z** was based on the group.

In December 1999, **Bad Boy** released *Born Again*. The album consisted of previously unreleased material mixed with guest appearances including many artists Wallace had never collaborated with in his lifetime. It gained some positive reviews but received criticism for its unlikely pairings; *The Source* describing it as "compiling some of the most awkward collaborations of his career".^[67] Nevertheless, the album sold 3 million copies. Wallace appeared on **Michael Jackson's** 2001 album, *Invincible*. Over the course of time, his vocals were heard on hit songs such as "Foolish" by **Ashanti** and "Realest Niggas" in 2002, and the song "Runnin' (Dying to Live)" with **Shakur** the following year. In 2005, *Duets: The Final Chapter* continued the pattern started on *Born Again*, criticized for the lack of significant vocals by Wallace on some of its songs.^{[68][69]} Its lead single "Nasty Girl" became Wallace's first **UK No. 1** single. **Combs** and **Voletta Wallace** have stated the album will be the last release primarily featuring new material.^[70]

Legacy

Considered one of the best artists in rap music, Wallace was described by **Allmusic** as "the savior of East Coast hip-hop".^[3] *The Source* named Wallace the greatest rapper of all time in 2001.^[71] In 2003, when **XXL** magazine asked several hip hop artists to list their five favorite **MCs**, Wallace's name appeared on more rappers' lists than anyone else. In 2006, **MTV** ranked him at No. 3 on their list of *The Greatest MCs of All Time*, calling him possibly "the most skillful ever on the mic".^[72] **Editors of About.com** ranked him No. 5 on their list of the *Top 50 MCs of Our Time (1987–2007)*.^[73] In 2012, *The Source* ranked him No. 3 on their list of the *Top 50 Greatest MCs of All Time*.^[citation needed]

Since his death, Wallace's lyrics have been sampled and quoted by a variety of hip hop, **R&B** and pop artists including **Jay-Z**, **50 Cent**, **Alicia Keys**, **Fat Joe**, **Nelly**, **Ja Rule**, **Eminem**, **Lil Wayne**, **Game**, **Clinton Sparks**, **Michael Jackson** and **Usher**. On August 28, 2005, at the 2005 **MTV Video Music Awards**, **Sean Combs** (then using the rap alias "P. Diddy") and **Snoop Dogg** paid tribute to Wallace: an orchestra played while the vocals from "Juicy" and "Warning" played on the arena speakers.^[74] In September 2005, **VH1** held its second annual "Hip Hop Honors", with a tribute to Wallace headlining the show.^[75]

Wallace had begun to promote a clothing line called **Brooklyn Mint**, which was to produce plus-sized clothing but fell dormant after he died. In 2004, his managers, **Mark Pitts** and **Wayne Barrow**, launched the clothing line, with help from **Jay-Z**, selling T-shirts with images of Wallace on them. A portion of the proceeds go to the **Christopher Wallace Foundation** and to **Jay-Z's** **Shawn Carter Scholarship Foundation**.^[76] In 2005, **Voletta Wallace** hired branding and licensing agency **Wicked Cow Entertainment** to guide the estate's licensing efforts.^[77] Wallace-branded products on the market include action figures, blankets, and cell phone content.^[78]

The **Christopher Wallace Memorial Foundation** holds an annual black-tie dinner ("B.I.G. Night Out") to raise funds for children's school equipment and supplies and to honor the memory of the late rapper. For this particular event, because it is a children's schools' charity, "B.I.G." is also said to stand for "Books Instead of Guns".^[79]

The **Notorious B.I.G.'s** children **C.J** and **Ty'anna** are set to star in an animated series called "House of Wallace".^[80]

Style

Wallace mostly rapped on his song in a deep tone described by *Rolling Stone* as a "thick, jaunty grumble",^[81] which went deeper on *Life After Death*.^[82] He was often accompanied on songs with ad libs from **Sean "Puffy" Combs**. On *The Source's* **Unsigned Hype**, his style was described as "cool, nasal, and filtered, to bless his own material".^[83]

Allmusic describe Wallace as having "a talent for piling multiple rhymes on top of one another in quick succession".^[5] *Time* magazine wrote Wallace rapped with an ability to "make multi-syllabic rhymes sound... smooth",^[2] while **Krims** describes Wallace's rhythmic style as "effusive".^[84] Before starting a verse, Wallace sometimes used **onomatopoeic** vocables to "warm up" (for example "uhhh" at the beginning of "Hypnotize" and "Big Poppa" and "whaat" after certain rhymes in songs such as "My Downfall").^[85]



Composite sketch of the suspect in the shooting.



- The Notorious B.I.G. 📄 at MTV
- The Notorious B.I.G. 📄 collected news and commentary at *The New York Times*
- The Notorious B.I.G. 📄 at the Internet Movie Database
- The Notorious B.I.G. 📄 at *Find a Grave*

V · T · E [show]

V · T · E [show]

Rampart scandal [hide]				
Notable accused officers	Victims	Coverup and investigation	Gang involvement	Other elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nino Durden Kevin Gaines Brian Liddy David Mack Rafael Pérez 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frank Lyga Javier Ovando The Notorious B.I.G. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian S. Bentley Bernard Parks Russell Poole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18th Street gang Bloods Death Row Records Suge Knight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums Los Angeles Police Department LAPD Rampart Division

Categories: Rampart scandal | 1972 births | 1997 deaths | 1997 murders in the United States | African-American rappers | American drug traffickers | American rappers of Jamaican descent | Atlantic Records artists | Bad Boy Records artists | Deaths by firearm in California | East Coast hip hop musicians | Murdered African-American people | Murdered rappers | People from Brooklyn | People from Teaneck, New Jersey | People murdered in California | Pseudonymous rappers | Rappers from New York City | Unsolved murders in the United States

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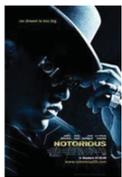
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Notorious (2009) (R)

Biopic (Musical) - Jan 16, 2009

122 minutes

Opening Weekend: \$20,497,424 | Total Domestic Gross: \$36,845,254 |
Worldwide Gross: \$40,485,999 | Total Budget: \$37,000,000

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DAILY DOM. GROSS	DATE	DAILY GROSS
	Mar 12, 2009	\$1,336
	Mar 11, 2009	\$1,405
	Mar 10, 2009	\$1,275
	Mar 09, 2009	\$1,345
	Mar 08, 2009	\$3,009
	Mar 07, 2009	\$4,784
	Mar 06, 2009	\$3,557
	Mar 05, 2009	\$2,800
	Mar 04, 2009	\$2,391
	Mar 03, 2009	\$2,664

< Previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 Next >

DIRECTOR

[George Tillman Jr.](#)

WRITERS

[Cheo Hodari Coker](#)

[Reggie Rock Bythewood](#)

PRODUCERS

[Robert Teitel](#)

[George Paaswell](#)

[Trish Hofmann](#)

[Mark Pitts](#)

[Voletta Wallace](#)

[Wayne Barrow](#)

[Edward Bates](#)

[Sean 'P. Diddy' Combs](#)

PRINCIPAL CAST

[Derek Luke](#)

[Jamal Woolard](#)

[Mohamed Dione](#)

[Dennis L.A. White](#)

[Marc John Jefferies](#)

[Menyone DeVeaux](#)

[Ginger Kroll](#)

[Ricky Smith](#)

[Christopher Jordan Wallace](#)

[Amanda Christopher](#)



TRAILERS



NOTORIOUS - 01:09



NOTORIOUS (SPANISH) - 01:52



NOTORIOUS (ITALIAN) - 01:43

Available in **HD** for playback on Kindle Fire HD, Xbox 360, PS3, Roku or other HD compatible devices**NOTORIOUS**Notorious **R** **CC**

★★★★☆ (60 customer reviews)

Notorious is the story of Christopher Wallace who, through raw talent and sheer determination, transforms himself from a Brooklyn street hustler to become the greatest rapper of all time, The Notorious B.I.G. This story charts his meteoric rise to fame and his refusal to succumb to expectation.

Starring: Jamal Woolard, Mohamed Dione**Directed by:** George Tillman Jr.**Runtime:** 2 hours 3 minutes**Release year:** 2009**Studio:** 20th Century Fox

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Product Details

Synopsis: Notorious is the story of Christopher Wallace who, through raw talent and sheer determination, transforms himself from a Brooklyn street hustler to become the greatest rapper of all time, The Notorious B.I.G. This story charts his meteoric rise to fame and his refusal to succumb to expectation.

Starring: Jamal Woolard, Mohamed Dione**Supporting actors:** Derek Luke, Dennis L.A. White, Marc John Jefferies, Myovone DeVeaux, Gingar Kroll, Ricky Smith, Christopher Jordan Wallace, Amanda Christopher, Angela Bassett, Jasper Briggs, Cyrus Farmer, David Costabile, Julia Pace Mitchell, Jermaine Denny, Naqun "Nino Brown" Jackson, Naturi Naughton, Aunjanue Ellis, Jason Crossdale, Valence Thomas, Edwin Freeman**Directed by:** George Tillman Jr.**Genre:** Biography, Drama, Music**Runtime:** 2 hours 3 minutes**Captions and Subtitles:** English Details**Release year:** 2009**Studio:** 20th Century Fox**MPAA Rating:** Rated R for pervasive language, some strong sexuality including dialogue, nudity, and for drug content**ASIN:** B002AKFFVM**Amazon Best Sellers Rank:**

#74 in Movies & TV > Amazon Instant Video > Musicals

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Theatrical Release Information

US Theatrical Release Date: January 16, 2009**MPAA:** Rated R for pervasive language, some strong sexuality including dialogue, nudity, and for drug content**Production Company:** Fox Searchlight Pictures, Voletta Wallace Films, Bystorm Films, State Street Pictures, Bad Boy Worldwide Entertainment Group**Also Known As** Untitled Notorious B.I.G. Project

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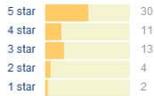
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Customer Reviews

★★★★☆ (60)
4.0 out of 5 stars



See all 60 customer reviews

“Great acting, I really like the music, and enjoyed the movie, to bad he dyed, he had alot to offer.”
Frank Contreras | 7 reviewers made a similar statement

“Never really knew what actually happened, now I'm more informed.”
George L Storer | 6 reviewers made a similar statement

“The DVD was in exccelct condition and I will continue to purchase from this company.”
D. Amos | 4 reviewers made a similar statement

Most Helpful Customer Reviews

18 of 20 people found the following review helpful

★★★★★ Great Music Biopic For the Hip Hop Genre March 15, 2009

By T Boz

Format: Blu-ray | Amazon Verified Purchase

Saw this when it was in theaters, and was pleasantly surprised it did not disappoint. What put this film over the top was the excellent casting; the characters of Biggie, Faith Evans, Lil Kim, and even Tupac and Voletta Wallace (played by Angela Bassett) made this a believable account of what happened between these intersecting lives that left such a mark on musical history, and ultimately, a tragedy. You really felt for young Christopher as he grew up in the 80's admiring the rising hip hop stars of the day, and perfecting his rhyming skills on the street, while trying to avoid the perils of drugs and crime. What I liked most about this film was the humanity they brought to his character, making him seem like more of a real person than a musical icon. He wasn't perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but he was trying to be a good person, no matter what obstacles life threw in his way. Ultimately this is a tale of a flawed individual, as we all are, who was lucky enough to raise himself out of the conditions he found himself in, and tried to make his mark on history, which ultimately, he did.

Comment | Was this review helpful to you? Yes No

17 of 22 people found the following review helpful

★★★★★ Well-cast, beautiful cinematography, very slick editing and simply an amazing release on Blu-ray! April 24, 2009

By Dennis A. Amth (kndy) TOP 100 REVIEWER VINE™ VOICE

Format: Blu-ray

The death of Christopher "Notorious B.I.G." Wallace in 1997 was a big shock to hip hop fans around the world.

The events preceding his death was well-known, well-documented in the media in regards to the major rift with the East Coast vs. West Coast hip hop feud.

Considered as one of the greatest hip hop artists ever, "Notorious" is a biopic that documents the life of Christopher "Notorious B.I.G." Wallace and grossing over \$43 million worldwide.

The film was directed by George Tillman, Jr. ("Soul Food" and "Men of Honor") and a screenplay co-written by Reggie Rock Bythewood and Cheo Hodari Coker (the author of "Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G.") which showcases and celebrates the rapper's life.

VIDEO & AUDIO:

The NOTORIOUS Unrated Director's Cut Collector's Edition Blu-ray Disc is presented in widescreen format (2.55:1 ration) with English 5.1 DTS HD Master Audio and Spanish 5.1 Audio with French and Spanish subtitles. English subtitles will also be available for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Picture quality for "Notorious" looked amazing as you can see the skin pores quite clearly on high definition but what is most amazing is how New York was captured on film. From the beauty of the city to its gritty side, the level of vibrancy in the colors, beautiful cinematography and wonderful editing really made this biopic come alive.

As for the audio, audio is presented in English 5.1 DTS HD Master Audio. Audio is crystal clear during the dialogue department but its even more exciting during the musical segments as your speakers really showcase the drum and bass, giving your subwoofers a workout. From the performance of "Party & Bulls" to the overall atmosphere with the crowd going wild, the soundtrack is well done!

SPECIAL FEATURES:

The "Notorious" Blu-ray Disc is jam-packed with special features. The 2-Disc Blu-ray version includes a digital copy and also the unrated director's cut and theatrical version of the film. Special features included are:

- * Commentary with Director George Tillman, Jr., Co-Screenwriter Reggie Rock Bythewood, Co-Screenwriter Cheo Hodari Coker and Editor Dirk Westervelt - This commentary features the filmmaking side of "Notorious". Really well-done and there is a picture-in-picture segment featuring the screenplay and interviews with the talent.
- * Commentary with Producer/Biggie's Mom Voletta Wallace, Producer/Biggie's Co-Manager Wayne Barrow and Producer/Biggie's Co-Manager Mark Pitts - This is a very unique commentary. For one, Ms. Wallace was very instrumental for the film but what I enjoyed about this commentary and hearing his co-managers talk is them actually chiming in what was different in terms of the real Chris Wallace and the version portrayed on the film. Small situations such as when Chris goes to prison for the first time, his first and only call is to his mother and for Chris, panicking he cusses. His mother was clear that her son knew better than to cuss around her and never did. So, that was quite interesting to hear.
- * Behind the Scenes: "Making of Notorious" Featrette - (27:22) Interviews with Voletta Wallace, Director Frank Tillman, Jr., Christopher Wallace's friends and the talent. Learning on how the casting director's searched for the right talent to play the certain roles for the film. Behind-the-scenes footage of the planning for the film from casting auditions to how authentic the crew wanted to make this film and making sure New York during that time was captured correctly. Interviews with the actual people close to Biggie and the people portraying them.
- * I Got a Story to Tell: The Lyrics of Biggie Smalls - (9:28) How Notorious B.I.G. was an icon. Interviews with radio DJ's, magazine interviewers, friends and family of Biggie explaining to the viewer how great a guy he was and how humorous he is.
- * NOTORIOUS Thugs: Casting the Film - (9:05) Interviews with the casting directors Twinkle Byrd and Pamela Frazier and how and why they made their final decision in casting the main characters for the film.
- * Biggie Boot Camp - (6:48) Interview with Director Frank Tillman, Jr. and how the characters had to go through a boot camp in order to prepare for their roles and make the film as authentic as possible. From acting coach to the live performances.
- * Anatomy of a B.I.G. Performance - (5:15) Interview with Director Frank Tillman, Jr. & Little Cease about getting the details right for Notorious B.I.G. shows. And basing the live footage of the film from the actual recorded live performances. How there was no lip syncing and how the talent had to make the crowd move.
- * Party & Bulls™ (never-before-seen footage of the real B.I.G.) - (3:42) Oldschool never-seen-before live footage of Party & Bulls™.
- * The B.I.G. Three-Sixty - A segment featuring the filming of the murder of Notorious B.I.G. near Wilshire Blvd. and Fairfax Ave. A 360 segment which the viewer can go left and right and each section has a video of certain segments that deal with the shooting of the murder scene.

o The Petersen - (1:13) Going behind the scenes of the Petersen Museum for the party that Biggie attended, hours before he was murdered. Interview with producer Trish Hoffman, Wayne Barrow, co-writer Cheo Hodari Coker and Director Frank Tillman, Jr.

o Directing the Last Moments - (2:10) Director Frank Tillman, Jr. discussing how difficult the scene was to shoot.

o It Happened Right Here - (1:23) Interview with Producer/Biggie's Co-Manager Wayne Barrow discussing the spot where Biggie was killed.

o The Petersen Exit - (2:15) Interviews with crew and talent in regards to the scene when Biggie and his friends leave the Petersen Exit minutes before he is killed at the stoplight.

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★★★★★ The best

What a great movie it is the best R.I.P to Biggie the best rapper that has ever lived no comparison!!!!!!!

Published 5 days ago by Mr.Daniel H.

★★★★☆ KEeP it Gangsta!
Felt like keeping it real so I purchased this movie. It's aight! D Made me want to listen to all of B.I.G's songs!

Published 1 month ago by roxana martinez

★★★★★ Loved this movie!!!

"Notorious" was a powerful film with rich character development and strong acting. It really gave a different perspective from how Biggie was portrayed in the media.

Published 1 month ago by D. Lewis

★★★★★ REST IN PEACE Biggie

What can I say about this DVD... I am a 44 year old white man and I Listen to Biggie all the time, and Tupac and Eminem as well as other types of music, but when I heard about this...

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Published 2 months ago by Daimlerbenz

★★★★★ Great Story

Enjoyed the music, story & the babes. Never really knew what actually happened, now I'm more informed. Shows how decisions in our life's affected our future & others around us. [Read more](#)

Published 3 months ago by George L. Storer

★★★★☆ Watch it if you're into Biggie Smalls, but don't expect it to feel...

It was an entertaining movie. I think I was just expecting a lot, and it doesn't compare to the real Biggie footage. [Read more](#)

Published 3 months ago by SD

★★☆☆☆ bad

Love the movie but amazon has a bad habit of sending me broken DVD cases or messed up boxes. Im picky about the condition

Published 3 months ago by perK

★★★★☆ Music Docu/Drama

Even though I am NOT a Hip-Hop/Rap fan, I was intrigued with the authenticity of the history of this artist. [Read more](#)

Published 4 months ago by MR B J CLARK

★★★★★ Brooklyn For Life

To get characters that really could pass for the real person, wonderful. A legend cut down way before his time. [Read more](#)

Published 4 months ago by Liz Gee

★★★★★ Notorious Review

This is a great movie. I didn't know that he only was in the lime light for roughly 5 years. Very informative.

Published 5 months ago by John Childress

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o The Shooting - (4:12) Interview with Director Frank Tillman, Jr., Cheo Hodari Coker and Reggie Rock Bythewood (co-writers) and Producer/Biggie's Co-Manager Wayne Barrow and producer Robert Teitel discussing how difficult it was to shoot the heartwrenching scene and shooting in the actual corner of where it all happened.

o The Impala - (1:12) Interview with Producer/Biggie's Co-Manager Wayne Barrow discussing the Chevy Impala that the killer drove.

o The Unfortunate Violent Act - (1:09) Interview with Reggie Rock Bythewood (co-writer) on how they shot the scene because the investigation to Biggie's death is still ongoing.

o The Window - (1:30) Interview with FX Technician Larz Anderson on how they made the broken glass window affect without firing a bullet.

* Deleted Scenes - (12:13) A total of nine deleted scenes and an extended scene with a brief text introduction to each scene.

o Assassin assembles his gun

o Taking care of business

o Big on his own

o Finding inspiration

o The assassin watches

o In the hotel pool

o East Coast in the house

o After the accident

o The assassin backs up

o Extended Concert: Primo Street Rap

* BD-Live Feature - The Music: get even closer with the music of B.I.G. with this interactive trivia track and tag and track your favorite songs throughout the movie.

* BonusVIEW - Life After Death: Making NOTORIOUS

"NOTORIOUS" was an absolutely, wonderful film and the Blu-ray Disc was magnificent!

What I loved about the film is how much was put into making the film look authentic when it came to the kind of clothes, the type of haircut, the type of vehicles, the live performances and of course, the talents.

The crew's determination to achieve authenticity was just amazing. James Woolard as Christopher Wallace was well-acted and his mannerisms was well-captured. I also thought that it was so touching for Biggie's son, Christopher Jordan Wallace playing his father at a young age. The young man did a great job portraying his father.

Angela Bassett really showcased Voletta Wallace's strength and caring for her son as a single mother and portrayed her quite well with emotion of happiness, sadness, anger, etc. Bassett definitely gave a powerful performance especially capturing the moment when Voletta realized how important her son's music was to his fans.

Derek Luke also portrayed Sean "Puffy" Combs quite well and capturing his mannerisms, especially onstage and doing Puffy's dance moves.

You also have give credit to Biggie's entourage as Dennis L.A. White did a great job as Damon "D-Roc" Butler, capturing the time they were hustling on the streets and then afterward as a friend and being there when he died. Marc John Jeffries as Lil Cease as Biggie's small friend but with a big heart and always there for him. Also, Kevin Phillips as Biggie's manager Mark, did a good job showing his concern and for his sake, as well as his mother's sake, taking care of him.

The ladies in Biggie's life was well played by Antonique Smith as Faith Evans, Amanda Christopher as Keisha and Naturi Naughton as Lil Kim. Antonique having an impressive voice and having grown up listening and singing Faith Evans songs, definitely brought her beauty to the film. Naturi Naughton as Lil Kim was well-cast, especially for the actress showcasing the actual talent's sexiness and how she became the sex-driven hip hop artist. That was quite interesting to know.

Well-cast and again, kudos to the crew for making sure these talents got down the mannerisms of their real counterparts.

Another major positive for the film is the cinematography and editing. ... [Read more >](#)

Comment | Was this review helpful to you? Yes No

13 of 17 people found the following review helpful

★☆☆☆☆ **A disappointing portrayal of an amazing talent.** December 28, 2009

By F. Greer

Format: DVD

When this movie first came out, I was so excited to see a biography of such a talented artist. Boy, was I disappointed.

The movie was quite obviously engineered and manipulated by Puffy and Bad Boy Records. Throughout the film, Puffy was portrayed as a virtual saint--always "saving the day" with his words of wisdom and innocence. He was never shown doing drugs (despite nearly everyone else smoking blunts throughout the whole movie), participating in the sex-filled music scene, or doing anything that would shed even a hint of a shadow upon him. It was quite sickening how saintly he is portrayed, especially when we all know better.

Tupac's portrayal was also hard to believe. His character made odd appearances throughout the film, always appearing as a paranoid, hyper-acting, shallow punk. As a huge Tupac fan, I was quite offended by the way he is portrayed.

The east/west feud was knocked down to a simple misunderstanding fueled by Tupac's baseless paranoia and the media. Biggie was portrayed as a victim of the feud. He just couldn't understand why Tupac would suddenly turn on him, since they had always been friends. (Poor little B.I.G.) All responsibility for fighting and fueling the feud was put on the media and Tupac. None was put onto Biggie or the saintly Puffy. They were helpless victims in the whole thing.

Biggie and Faith Evan's relationship was poorly developed. The movie seemed to focus more on Big and Kim's relationship than his and Faith's marriage. It was quite confusing.

Big's first child with his high school girlfriend was ill-developed and just plain confusing. His girlfriend was not even introduced until she showed up to tell him she was pregnant. Then, she was virtually dropped, making minor appearances from then on. The best way I can describe it is just plain weird.

Throughout the movie, song lyrics were dropped in as dialogue, such as "mo money, mo problems" and "to change the world, you have to change yourself." It seemed fake and engineered--a real eye-roller.

Though the movie was quite long, it was difficult to understand. Characters were abruptly introduced and had sudden major roles, but I couldn't figure out who they were. I actually had to review Biggie's biography while watching the movie to figure out exactly what was going on.

The film did have some positive notes. Some of the casting was wonderful. Lil' Kim and Biggie were both spot-on believable--the way they spoke, their mannerisms and their rapping. And the music was, of course, fantastic.

Maybe Shug will now produce a rival, west-coast rendition of Tupac's life. :-P
I'm sure if he does, it will have the nerve and gumption that Notorious does not.

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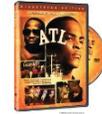
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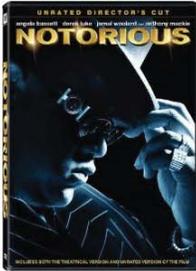
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Notorious (Single-Disc Edition) (2009)

Jamal Woolard (Actor), Anthony Mackie (Actor), George Tillman Jr. (Director) | Rated: R | Format: DVD

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Product Details

Actors: [Jamal Woolard](#), [Anthony Mackie](#), [Derek Luke](#), [Mohamed Dione](#), [Dennis L.A. White](#)

Directors: [George Tillman Jr.](#)

Writers: [Cheo Hodari Coker](#), [Reggie Rock Bythewood](#)

Producers: [George Paaswell](#), [Mark Pitts](#), [Robert Teitel](#), [Sean Combs](#), [Trish Hofmann](#)

Format: Color, Dolby, NTSC, Subtitled, Widescreen

Language: English (Dolby Surround)

Subtitles: English, French, Spanish

Region: Region 1 (U.S. and Canada only. [Read more about DVD formats.](#))

Aspect Ratio: 2.40:1

Number of discs: 1

Rated: 

Studio: Twentieth Century Fox

DVD Release Date: April 21, 2009

Run Time: 122 minutes

Average Customer Review: [★★★★☆](#) (60 customer reviews)

ASIN: B001TUZGPO

Amazon Best Sellers Rank: #17,774 in Movies & TV ([See Top 100 in Movies & TV](#))

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Special Features

None.

Editorial Reviews

Amazon.com

In music terms, Brooklyn's Christopher "Biggie Smalls" Wallace was a hip-hop superstar to rival Oakland's Tupac Shakur. In movie terms, however, 2Pac has long overshadowed B.I.G., with the films he made as an actor and the documentaries that followed in the wake of his similarly-unsolved murder. George Tillman Jr. (*Soul Food*, *Men of Honor*) aims to correct that imbalance with *Notorious*, the authorized biography of the larger-than-life New York rapper. Produced by his mother, Voletta Wallace (played by Angela Bassett), and record producer Sean "Puffy" Combs (Derek Luke), Tillman presents Biggie as a bright child who grew up to be a drug dealer before finding his true calling on stage, only to be cut down in the prime of life. In his feature-film debut, Jamal "Gravy" Woolard captures Biggie's complexity--the loyalty to his crew, the disloyalty to his ladies (including Lil' Kim and Faith Evans)--but struggles to make him as sympathetic as the figure that emerges in Nick Broomfield's *Biggie & Tupac*, simply because the script relies too heavily on the usual musical-bio clichés. Fortunately, several bright spots elevate the scenario, such as Anthony Mackie as Pac, Christopher Wallace Jr. as young Biggie, and Woolard's rapping, which segues seamlessly into B.I.G.'s (the soundtrack mixes original tracks with remakes). If *Notorious* isn't a failure, it isn't a triumph either, but Tillman has crafted it with love and respect, and only a stone could remain unmoved by the real-life funeral footage at the end. --*Kathleen C. Fennessy*

Stills from *Notorious* (Click for larger image)

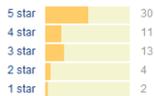


Product Description

Notorious is the story of Christopher Wallace who, through raw talent and sheer determination, transforms himself from a Brooklyn street hustler to one of the greatest rapper of all time, The Notorious B.I.G. This story charts his meteoric rise to fame and his refusal to succumb to expectation. Produced by Voletta Wallace (BIG's mother), Wayne Barrowman and Mark Pitts (BIG's managers), Notorious challenges us all to redefine our notion of what "The American Dream" really is.

Customer Reviews

★★★★☆ (60)
4.0 out of 5 stars



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"Great acting, I really like the music, and enjoyed the movie, to bad he dyed, he had alot to offer."
Frank Contreras | 6 reviewers made a similar statement

"Never really knew what actually happened, now I'm more informed."
George L. Storer | 6 reviewers made a similar statement

"The DVD was in excellect condition and I will continue to purchase from this company."
D. Amos | 4 reviewers made a similar statement

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18 of 20 people found the following review helpful

★★★★★ **Great Music Biopic For the Hip Hop Genre** March 15, 2009

By T Boz

Format: Blu-ray | Amazon Verified Purchase

Saw this when it was in theaters, and was pleasantly surprised it did not disappoint. What put this film over the top was the excellent casting, the characters of Biggie, Faith Evans, Lil Kim, and even Tupac and Voletta Wallace (played by Angela Basset) made this a believable account of what happened between these intersecting lives that left such a mark on musical history, and ultimately, a tragedy. You really felt for young Christopher as he grew up in the 80's admiring the rising hip hop stars of the day, and perfecting his rhyming skills on the street, while trying to avoid the perils of drugs and crime. What I liked most about this film was the humanity they brought to his character, making him seem like more of a real person than a musical icon. He wasn't perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but he was trying to be a good person, no matter what obstacles life threw in his way. Ultimately this is a tale of a flawed individual, as we all are, who was lucky enough to raise himself out of the conditions he found himself in, and tried to make his mark on history, which ultimately, he did.

Comment | Was this review helpful to you?

17 of 22 people found the following review helpful

★★★★★ **Well-cast, beautiful cinematography, very slick editing and simply an amazing release on Blu-ray!** April 24, 2009

By Dennis A. Amith (kndy) **TOP 100 REVIEWER** **VINE™ VOICE**

Format: Blu-ray

The death of Christopher "Notorious B.I.G." Wallace in 1997 was a big shock to hip hop fans around the world.

The events preceding his death was well-known, well-documented in the media in regards to the major riff with the East Coast vs. West Coast hip hop feud.

Considered as one of the greatest hip hop artists ever, "Notorious" is a biopic that documents the life of Christopher "Notorious B.I.G." Wallace and grossing over \$43 million worldwide.

The film was directed by George Tillman, Jr. ("Soul Food" and "Men of Honor") and a screenplay co-written by Reggie Rock Bythewood and Cheo Hodari Coker (the author of "Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G.") which showcases and celebrates the rapper's life.

VIDEO & AUDIO:

The NOTORIOUS Unrated Director's Cut Collector's Edition Blu-ray Disc is presented in widescreen format (2.55:1 ration) with English 5.1 DTS HD Master Audio and Spanish 5.1 Audio with French and Spanish subtitles. English subtitles will also be available for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Picture quality for "Notorious" looked amazing as you can see the skin pores quite clearly on high definition but what is most amazing is how New York was captured on film. From the beauty of the city to its gritty side, the level of vibrancy in the colors, beautiful cinematography and wonderful editing really made this biopic come alive.

As for the audio, audio is presented in English 5.1 DTS HD Master Audio. Audio is crystal clear during the dialogue department but its even more exciting during the musical segments as your speakers really showcase the drum and bass, giving your subwoofers a workout. From the performance of "Party & Bull****" to the overall atmosphere with the crowd going wild, the soundtrack is well done!

SPECIAL FEATURES:

The "Notorious" Blu-ray Disc is jam-packed with special features. The 2-Disc Blu-ray version includes a digital copy and also the unrated director's cut and theatrical version of the film. Special features included are:

- * Commentary with Director George Tillman, Jr., Co-Screenwriter Reggie Rock Bythewood, Co-Screenwriter Cheo Hodari Coker and Editor Dirk Westervelt - This commentary features the filmmaking side of "Notorious". Really well-done and there is a picture-in-picture segment featuring the screenplay and interviews with the talent.
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- * I Got a Story to Tell: The Lyrics of Biggie Smalls - (9:28) How Notorious B.I.G. was an icon. Interviews with radio DJ's, magazine interviewers, friends and family of Biggie explaining to the viewer how great a guy he was and how humorous he is.
- * NOTORIOUS Thugs: Casting the Film - (9:05) Interviews with the casting directors Twinkie Byrd and Pamela Frazier and how and why they made their final decision in casting the main characters for the film.
- * Biggie Boot Camp - (6:48) Interview with Director Frank Tillman, Jr. and how the characters had to go through a boot camp in order to prepare for their roles and make the film as authentic as possible. From acting coach to the live performances.
- * Anatomy of a B.I.G. Performance - (5:15) Interview with Director Frank Tillman, Jr. & Little Cease about getting the details right for Notorious B.I.G. shows. And basing the live footage of the film from the actual recorded live performances. How there was no lip syncing and how the talent had to make the crowd move.
- * Party & Bull**** (Scene before scene feature of the real B.I.G.) - (3:43) Distorted scene scene before live footage of Party & Bull****

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★★★★★ **The best**
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Published 5 days ago by Mr.Daniel H.

★★★★☆ **KEE P it Gangsta!**
Felt like keeping it real so I purchased this movie. It's aight! D Made me want to listen to all of B.I.G.'s songs!
Published 1 month ago by roxana martinez

★★★★★ **Loved this movie!!!**
"Notorious" was a powerful film with rich character development and strong acting. It really gave a different perspective from how Biggie was portrayed in the media.
Published 1 month ago by D. Lewis

★★★★★ **REST IN PEACE Biggie**
What can I say about this DVD... I am a 44 year old white man and I Listen to Biggie all the time, and Tupac and Eminem as well as other types of music but when I heard about this...
[Read more](#)
Published 2 months ago by Daimlerbenz

★★★★★ **Great Story**
Enjoyed the music, story & the babes. Never really knew what actually happened, now I'm more informed. Shows how decisions in our life's affect our future & others around us. [Read more](#)
Published 3 months ago by George L. Storer

★★★★☆ **Watch it if you're into Biggie Smalls, but don't expect it to feel...**
It was an entertaining movie. I think I was just expecting a lot, and it doesn't compare to the real Biggie footage. [Read more](#)
Published 3 months ago by SD

☆☆☆☆ **bad**
Love the movie but amazon has a bad habit of sending me broken DVD cases or messed up boxes. Im picky about the condition
Published 3 months ago by park

★★★★☆ **Music Doco/Drama**
Even though I am NOT a Hip-Hop/Rap fan, I was

Fairy & Luis - (1:11) Behind-the-scenes footage of the real B.I.G. - (3:42) Musical behind-the-scenes live footage of Fairy & Luis - 1

* The B.I.G. Three-Sixty - A segment featuring the filming of the murder of Notorious B.I.G. near Wilshire Blvd. and Fairfax Ave. A 360 segment which the viewer can go left and right and each section has a video of certain segments that deal with the shooting of the murder scene.

o The Petersen - (1:13) Going behind the scenes of the Petersen Museum for the party that Biggie attended, hours before he was murdered. Interview with producer Trish Hoffman, Wayne Barrow, co-writer Cheo Hodari Coker and Director Frank Tillman, Jr.

o Directing the Last Moments - (2:10) Director Frank Tillman, Jr. discussing how difficult the scene was to shoot.

o It Happened Right Here - (1:23) Interview with Producer/Biggie's Co-Manager Wayne Barrow discussing the spot where Biggie was killed.

o The Petersen Exit - (2:15) Interviews with crew and talent in regards to the scene when Biggie and his friends leave the Petersen Exit minutes before he is killed at the stoplight.

o The Shooting - (4:12) Interview with Director Frank Tillman, Jr., Cheo Hodari Coker and Reggie Rock Bythewood (co-writers) and Producer/Biggie's Co-Manager Wayne Barrow and producer Robert Teitel discussing how difficult it was to shoot the heartwrenching scene and shooting in the actual corner of where it all happened.

o The Impala - (1:12) Interview with Producer/Biggie's Co-Manager Wayne Barrow discussing the Chevy Impala that the killer drove.

o The Unfortunate Violent Act - (1:09) Interview with Reggie Rock Bythewood (co-writer) on how they shot the scene because the investigation to Biggie's death is still ongoing.

o The Window - (1:30) Interview with FX Technician Larz Anderson on how they made the broken glass window affect without firing a bullet.

* Deleted Scenes - (12:13) A total of nine deleted scenes and an extended scene with a brief text introduction to each scene.

o Assassin assembles his gun

o Taking care of business

o Big on his own

o Finding inspiration

o The assassin watches

o In the hotel pool

o East Coast in the house

o After the accident

o The assassin backs up

o Extended Concert: Primo Street Rap

* BD-Live Feature - The Music: get even closer with the music of B.I.G. with this interactive trivia track and tag and track your favorite songs throughout the movie.

* BonusVIEW - Life After Death: Making NOTORIOUS

"NOTORIOUS" was an absolutely, wonderful film and the Blu-ray Disc was magnificent!

What I loved about the film is how much was put into making the film look authentic when it came to the kind of clothes, the type of haircut, the type of vehicles, the live performances and of course, the talents.

The crew's determination to achieve authenticity was just amazing. James Woolard as Christopher Wallace was well-acted and his mannerisms were well-captured. I also thought that it was so touching for Biggie's son, Christopher Jordan Wallace playing his father at a young age. The young man did a great job portraying his father.

Angela Bassett really showcased Voletta Wallace's strength and caring for her son as a single mother and portrayed her quite well with emotion of happiness, sadness, anger, etc. Bassett definitely gave a powerful performance especially capturing the moment when Voletta realized how important her son's music was to his fans.

Derek Luke also portrayed Sean "Puffy" Combs quite well and capturing his mannerisms, especially onstage and doing Puffy's dance moves.

You also have give credit to Biggie's entourage as Dennis L.A. White did a great job as Damon "D-Roc" Butler, capturing the time they were hustling on the streets and then afterward as a friend and being there when he died. Marc John Jeffries as Lil Cease as Biggie's small friend but with a big heart and always there for him. Also, Kevin Phillips as Biggie's manager Mark, did a good job showing his concern and for his sake, as well as his mother's sake, taking care of him.

The ladies in Biggie's life was well played by Antonique Smith as Faith Evans, Amanda Christopher as Keisha and Naturi Naughton as Lil Kim. Antonique having an impressive voice and having grown up listening and singing Faith Evans songs, definitely brought her beauty to the film. Naturi Naughton as Lil Kim was well-cast, especially for the actress showcasing the actual talent's sexiness and how she became the sex-driven hip hop artist. That was quite interesting to know.

Well-cast and again, kudos to the crew for making sure these talents got down the mannerisms of their real counterparts.

Another major positive for the film is the cinematography and editing.... [Read more >](#)

Comment | Was this review helpful to you? Yes No

13 of 17 people found the following review helpful

☆☆☆☆☆ **A disappointing portrayal of an amazing talent.** December 28, 2009

By F. Greer

Format: DVD

When this movie first came out, I was so excited to see a biography of such a talented artist. Boy, was I disappointed.

The movie was quite obviously engineered and manipulated by Puffy and Bad Boy Records. Throughout the film, Puffy was portrayed as a virtual saint--always "saving the day" with his words of wisdom and innocence. He was never shown doing drugs (despite nearly everyone else smoking blunts throughout the whole movie), participating in the sex-filled music scene, or doing anything that would shed even a hint of a shadow upon him. It was quite sickening how saintly he is portrayed, especially when we all know better.

Tupac's portrayal was also hard to believe. His character made odd appearances throughout the film, always appearing as a paranoid, hyper-acting, shallow punk. As a huge Tupac fan, I was quite offended by the way he is portrayed.

The east/west feud was knocked down to a simple misunderstanding fueled by Tupac's baseless paranoia and the media. Biggie was portrayed as a victim of the feud. He just couldn't understand why Tupac would suddenly turn on him, since they had always been friends. (Poor little B.I.G.) All responsibility for fighting and fueling the feud was put on the media and Tupac. None was put onto Biggie or the saintly Puffy. They were helpless victims in the whole thing.

Biggie and Faith Evan's relationship was poorly developed. The movie seemed to focus more on Big and Kim's relationship than his and Faith's marriage. It was quite confusing.

Big's first child with his high school girlfriend was ill-developed and just plain confusing. His girlfriend was not even introduced until she showed up to tell him she was pregnant. Then, she was virtually dropped, making minor appearances from then on. The best way I can describe it is just plain weird.

Throughout the movie, song lyrics were dropped in as dialogue, such as "mo money, mo problems" and "to change the world, you have to change yourself." It seemed fake and engineered--a real eye-roller.

Though the movie was quite long, it was difficult to understand. Characters were abruptly introduced and had sudden major roles, but I couldn't figure out who they were. I actually had to review Biggie's biography while watching the movie to figure out exactly what was going on.

The film did have some positive notes. Some of the casting was wonderful. Lil' Kim and Biggie were both spot-on believable--the way they spoke, their mannerisms and their rapping. And the music was, of course, fantastic.

Maybe Shug will now produce a rival, west-coast rendition of Tupac's life. :-P
I'm sure if he does, it will have the nerve and gumption that Notorious does not.

intrigued with the authenticity of the history of this artist [Read more](#)

Published 4 months ago by MR B J CLARK

☆☆☆☆☆ **Brooklyn For Life**

To get characters that really could pass for the real person, wonderful. A legend cut down way before his time. [Read more](#)

Published 4 months ago by Liz Gee

☆☆☆☆☆ **Notorious Review**

This is a great movie. I didn't know that he only was in the lime light for roughly 5 years. Very informative.

Published 5 months ago by John Childress

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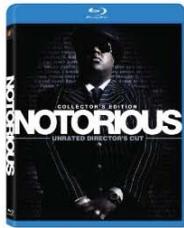
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Notorious [Blu-ray] (2009)

Jamal Woolard (Actor), Anthony Mackie (Actor), George Tillman Jr. (Director) | Rated: R | Format: Blu-ray
 ★★★★★ (60 customer reviews)

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 ★★★★★ (49)
 \$8.99


 Notorious [Blu-ray] ~ Claude Rains Blu-ray
 ★★★★★ (229)
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Product Details

Actors: [Jamal Woolard](#), [Anthony Mackie](#), [Derek Luke](#), [Mohamed Dione](#), [Dennis L.A. White](#)**Directors:** [George Tillman Jr.](#)**Writers:** [Cheo Hodari Coker](#), [Reggie Rock Bythewood](#)**Producers:** [George Paaswell](#), [Mark Pitts](#), [Robert Teitel](#), [Sean Combs](#), [Trish Hofmann](#)**Format:** AC-3, Blu-ray, Collector's Edition, Color, Dolby, DTS Surround Sound, NTSC, Subtitled, Widescreen**Language:** English (DTS 5.1), French (Dolby Surround), Spanish (Dolby Surround)**Subtitles:** English, French, Spanish**Region:** Region A/1 ([Read more about DVD/Blu-ray formats.](#))**Aspect Ratio:** 2.40:1**Number of discs:** 2**Rated:** **Studio:** Twentieth Century Fox**DVD Release Date:** April 21, 2009**Run Time:** 122 minutes**Average Customer Review:** ★★★★★ (60 customer reviews)**ASIN:** B001TUZI20**Amazon Best Sellers Rank:** #20,978 in Movies & TV ([See Top 100 in Movies & TV](#))Did we miss any relevant features for this product? [Tell us what we missed.](#)Would you like to [update product info](#), [give feedback on images](#), or [tell us about a lower price?](#)Learn more about "[Notorious \[Blu-ray\]](#)" on [IMDb](#)

Special Features

None.

Editorial Reviews

Amazon.com

In music terms, Brooklyn's Christopher "Biggie Smalls" Wallace was a hip-hop superstar to rival Oakland's Tupac Shakur. In movie terms, however, 2Pac has long overshadowed B.I.G. with the films he made as an actor and the documentaries that followed in the wake of his similarly-unsolved murder. George Tillman Jr. (*Soul Food*, *Men of Honor*) aims to correct that imbalance with *Notorious*, the authorized biography of the larger-than-life New York rapper. Produced by his mother, Voletta Wallace (played by Angela Bassett), and record producer Sean "Puffy" Combs (Derek Luke), Tillman presents Biggie as a bright child who grew up to be a drug dealer before finding his true calling on stage, only to be cut down in the prime of life. In his feature-film debut, Jamal "Gravy" Woolard captures Biggie's complexity--the loyalty to his crew, the disloyalty to his ladies (including Lil' Kim and Faith Evans)--but struggles to make him as sympathetic as the figure that emerges in Nick Broomfield's *Biggie & Tupac*, simply because the script relies too heavily on the usual musical-bio clichés. Fortunately, several bright spots elevate the scenario, such as Anthony Mackie as Pac, Christopher Wallace Jr. as young Biggie, and Woolard's rapping, which segues seamlessly into B.I.G.'s (the soundtrack mixes original tracks with remakes). If *Notorious* isn't a failure, it isn't a triumph either, but Tillman has crafted it with love and respect, and only a stone could remain unmoved by the real-life funeral footage at the end. --*Kathleen C. Fennessy*

Stills from *Notorious* (Click for larger image)




Product Description

Notorious is the story of Christopher Wallace who, through raw talent and sheer determination, transforms himself from a Brooklyn street hustler to one of the greatest rapper of all time, The Notorious B.I.G. This story charts his meteoric rise to fame and his refusal to succumb to expectation. Produced by Voletta Wallace (BIG's mother), Wayne Barrowman and Mark Pitts (BIG's managers), Notorious challenges us all to redefine our notion of what "The American Dream" really is.

Customer Reviews

★★★★☆ (60)
4.0 out of 5 stars



See all 60 customer reviews

"Never really knew what actually happened, now I'm more informed."

George L. Storer | 7 reviewers made a similar statement

"Great acting, I really like the music, and enjoyed the movie, to bad he dyed, he had alot to offer."

Frank Contreras | 7 reviewers made a similar statement

"The DVD was in excellent condition and I will continue to purchase from this company."

D. Amos | 4 reviewers made a similar statement

Most Helpful Customer Reviews

18 of 20 people found the following review helpful

★★★★★ **Great Music Biopic For the Hip Hop Genre** March 15, 2009

By T Boz

Format: Blu-ray | [Amazon Verified Purchase](#)

Saw this when it was in theaters, and was pleasantly surprised it did not disappoint. What put this film over the top was the excellent casting; the characters of Biggie, Faith Evans, Lil Kim, and even Tupac and Voletta Wallace (played by Angela Bassett) made this a believable account of what happened between these intersecting lives that left such a mark on musical history, and ultimately, a tragedy. You really felt for young Christopher as he grew up in the 80's admiring the rising hip hop stars of the day, and perfecting his rhyming skills on the street, while trying to avoid the perils of drugs and crime. What I liked most about this film was the humanity they brought to his character, making him seem like more of a real person than a musical icon. He wasn't perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but he was trying to be a good person, no matter what obstacles life threw in his way. Ultimately this is a tale of a flawed individual, as we all are, who was lucky enough to raise himself out of the conditions he found himself in, and tried to make his mark on history, which ultimately, he did.

Comment | Was this review helpful to you? Yes No

17 of 22 people found the following review helpful

★★★★★ **Well-cast, beautiful cinematography, very slick editing and simply an amazing release on Blu-ray!** April 24, 2009

By Dennis A. Amith (kndy) [TOP 100 REVIEWER](#) [VINE™ VOICE](#)

Format: Blu-ray

The death of Christopher "Notorious B.I.G." Wallace in 1997 was a big shock to hip hop fans around the world.

The events preceding his death was well-known, well-documented in the media in regards to the major rift with the East Coast vs. West Coast hip hop feud.

Considered as one of the greatest hip hop artists ever, "Notorious" is a biopic that documents the life of Christopher "Notorious B.I.G." Wallace and grossing over \$43 million worldwide.

The film was directed by George Tillman, Jr. ("Soul Food" and "Men of Honor") and a screenplay co-written by Reggie Rock Bythewood and Cheo Hodari Coker (the author of "Unbelievable: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G.") which showcases and celebrates the rapper's life.

VIDEO & AUDIO:

The NOTORIOUS Unrated Director's Cut Collector's Edition Blu-ray Disc is presented in widescreen format (2.55:1 ration) with English 5.1 DTS HD Master Audio and Spanish 5.1 Audio with French and Spanish subtitles. English subtitles will also be available for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Picture quality for "Notorious" looked amazing as you can see the skin pores quite clearly on high definition but what is most amazing is how New York was captured on film. From the beauty of the city to its gritty side, the level of vibrancy in the colors, beautiful cinematography and wonderful editing really made this biopic come alive.

As for the audio, audio is presented in English 5.1 DTS HD Master Audio. Audio is crystal clear during the dialogue department but its even more exciting during the musical segments as your speakers really showcase the drum and bass, giving your subwoofers a workout. From the performance of "Party & Bulls" to the overall atmosphere with the crowd going wild, the soundtrack is well done!

SPECIAL FEATURES:

The "Notorious" Blu-ray Disc is jam-packed with special features. The 2-Disc Blu-ray version includes a digital copy and also the unrated director's cut and theatrical version of the film. Special features included are:

- * Commentary with Director George Tillman, Jr., Co-Screenwriter Reggie Rock Bythewood, Co-Screenwriter Cheo Hodari Coker and Editor Dirk Westervelt - This commentary features the filmmaking side of "Notorious" Really well-done and there is a picture-in-picture segment featuring the screenplay and interviews with the talent.
- * Commentary with Producer/Biggie's Mom Voletta Wallace, Producer/Biggie's Co-Manager Wayne Barrow and Producer/Biggie's Co-Manager Mark Pitts - This is a very unique commentary. For one, Ms. Wallace was very instrumental for the film but what I enjoyed about this commentary and hearing his co-managers talk is them actually chiming in what was different in terms of the real Chris Wallace and the version portrayed on the film. Small situations such as when Chris goes to prison for the first time, his first and only call is to his mother and for Chris, panicking he cusses. His mother was clear that her son knew better than to cuss around her and never did. So, that was quite interesting to hear.
- * Behind the Scenes: "Making of Notorious" Featurette - (27:22) Interviews with Voletta Wallace, Director Frank Tillman, Jr., Christopher Wallace's friends and the talent. Learning on how the casting director's searched for the right talent to play the certain roles for the film. Behind-the-scenes footage of the planning for the film from casting auditions to how authentic the crew wanted to make this film and making sure New York during that time was captured correctly. Interviews with the actual people close to Biggie and the people portraying them.
- * I Got a Story to Tell: The Lyrics of Biggie Smalls - (9:28) How Notorious B.I.G. was an icon. Interviews with radio DJ's, magazine interviewers, friends and family of Biggie explaining to the viewer how great a guy he was and how humorous he is.
- * NOTORIOUS Thugs: Casting the Film - (9:05) Interviews with the casting directors Twinkie Byrd and Pamela Frazier and how and why they made their final decision in casting the main characters for the film.
- * Biggie Boot Camp - (6:48) Interview with Director Frank Tillman, Jr. and how the characters had to go through a boot camp in order to prepare for their roles and make the film as authentic as possible. From acting coach to the live performances.
- * Anatomy of a B.I.G. Performance - (5:15) Interview with Director Frank Tillman, Jr. & Little Cease about getting the details right for Notorious B.I.G. shows. And basing the live footage of the film from the actual recorded live performances. How there was no lip syncing and how the talent had to make the crowd move.
- * Party & Bulls (never-before-seen footage of the real B.I.G.) - (3:42) Oldschool never-seen-before live footage of Party & Bulls**.
- * The B.I.G. Three-Sixty - A segment featuring the filming of the murder of Notorious B.I.G. near Wilshire Blvd. and Fairfax Ave. A 360 segment which the viewer can go left and right and each section has a video of certain segments that deal with the shooting of the murder scene.

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★★★★★ **The best**

What a great movie it is the best R.I.P to Biggie the best rapper that has ever lived no comparison!!!!!!!

Published 5 days ago by Mr.Daniel H.

★★★★☆ **KEeP it Gangsta!**

Felt like keeping it real so I purchased this movie. It's alright! D Made me want to listen to all of B.I.G.'s songs!

Published 1 month ago by roxana martinez

★★★★★ **Loved this movie!!!**

"Notorious" was a powerful film with rich character development and strong acting. It really gave a different perspective from how Biggie was portrayed in the media.

Published 1 month ago by D. Lewis

★★★★★ **REST IN PEACE Biggie**

What can I say about this DVD...I am a 44 year old white man and I Listen to Biggie all the time, and Tupac and Eminem as well as other types of music but when I heard about this...

[Read more](#)

Published 2 months ago by Daimlerbenz

★★★★★ **Great Story**

Enjoyed the music, story & the babes. Never really knew what actually happened, now I'm more informed. Shows how decisions in our life's affect our future & others around us. [Read more](#)

Published 3 months ago by George L. Storer

★★★★☆ **Watch it if you're into Biggie Smalls, but don't expect it to feel...**

It was an entertaining movie. I think I was just expecting a lot, and it doesn't compare to the real Biggie footage. [Read more](#)

Published 3 months ago by SD

★★★★☆ **bad**

Love the movie but amazon has a bad habit of sending me broken DVD cases or messed up boxes. Im picky about the condition

Published 3 months ago by park

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Even though I am NOT a Hip-Hop/Rap fan, I was intrigued with the authenticity of the history of this artist. [Read more](#)

Published 4 months ago by MR B J CLARK

★★★★★ **Brooklyn For Life**

To get characters that really could pass for the

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- o Taking care of business
- o Big on his own
- o Finding inspiration
- o The assassin watches
- o In the hotel pool
- o East Coast in the house
- o After the accident
- o The assassin backs up
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The crew's determination to achieve authenticity was just amazing. James Woolard as Christopher Wallace was well-acted and his mannerisms was well-captured. I also thought that it was so touching for Biggie's son, Christopher Jordan Wallace playing his father at a young age. The young man did a great job portraying his father.

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Well-cast and again, kudos to the crew for making sure these talents got down the mannerisms of their real counterparts.

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Comment | Was this review helpful to you?

13 of 17 people found the following review helpful

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By F. Greer
Format: DVD

When this movie first came out, I was so excited to see a biography of such a talented artist. Boy, was I disappointed.

The movie was quite obviously engineered and manipulated by Puffy and Bad Boy Records. Throughout the film, Puffy was portrayed as a virtual saint--always "saving the day" with his words of wisdom and innocence. He was never shown doing drugs (despite nearly everyone else smoking blunts throughout the whole movie), participating in the sex-filled music scene, or doing anything that would shed even a hint of a shadow upon him. It was quite sickening how saintly he is portrayed, especially when we all know better.

Tupac's portrayal was also hard to believe. His character made odd appearances throughout the film, always appearing as a paranoid, hyper-acting, shallow punk. As a huge Tupac fan, I was quite offended by the way he is portrayed.

The east/west feud was knocked down to a simple misunderstanding fueled by Tupac's baseless paranoia and the media. Biggie was portrayed as a victim of the feud. He just couldn't understand why Tupac would suddenly turn on him, since they had always been friends. (Poor little B.I.G.) All responsibility for fighting and fueling the feud was put on the media and Tupac. None was put onto Biggie or the saintly Puffy. They were helpless victims in the whole thing.

Biggie and Faith Evan's relationship was poorly developed. The movie seemed to focus more on Big and Kim's relationship than his and Faith's marriage. It was quite confusing.

Big's first child with his high school girlfriend was ill-developed and just plain confusing. His girlfriend was not even introduced until she showed up to tell him she was pregnant. Then, she was virtually dropped, making minor appearances from then on. The best way I can describe it is just plain weird.

Throughout the movie, song lyrics were dropped in as dialogue, such as "no money, no problems" and "to change the world, you have to change yourself." It seemed fake and engineered--a real eye-roller.

Though the movie was quite long, it was difficult to understand. Characters were abruptly introduced and had sudden major roles, but I couldn't figure out who they were. I actually had to review Biggie's biography while watching the movie to figure out exactly what was going on.

The film did have some positive notes. Some of the casting was wonderful. Lil' Kim and Biggie were both spot-on believable--the way they spoke, their mannerisms and their rapping. And the music was, of course, fantastic.

Maybe Shug will now produce a rival, west-coast rendition of Tupac's life. :-P
I'm sure if he does, it will have the nerve and gumption that Notorious does not.

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real person, wonderful. A legend cut down way before his time. [Read more](#)
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☆☆☆☆☆ **Notorious Review**

This is a great movie. I didn't know that he only was in the lime light for roughly 5 years. Very informative.

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Notorious B.I.G.'s Life Celebrated On 15th Anniversary Of His Death

Hip-hop icon was fatally gunned down 15 years ago today at age 24.

By Rob Markman (@RobMarkman)



Notorious B.I.G. Photo: Getty Images

March 9, 1997: There was absolutely nothing that could have prepared hip-hop fans for the tragic event that took place on that grim day. Then again, there was not much warning when the **Notorious B.I.G.** entered the hip-hop world either. Sure, there were key cameos on records with **Mary J. Blige** and reggae star Super Cat, but when all was said and done and B.I.G. was gunned down 15 years ago today, it became clear that rap had lost one of the great ones — perhaps the greatest one of all time.

In the beginning, Biggie Smalls wasn't even the most prominent star on his label. That position was occupied by rapper Craig Mack, whose 1994 hit single "Flava in Ya Ear" initially set the mark of Sean "Diddy" Combs' newly minted Bad Boy Records. B.I.G. was a respected lyricist, a raw rapper who at first seemed unlikely to make a mark on radio. In fact, one of his earliest singles, "Just Playing (Dreams)," poked fun at some of music's biggest hitmakers like Mariah Carey and Patti LaBelle. Then, on September 13, 1994, *things done changed*.

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- ▶ Notorious B.I.G. "Big Poppa" Posted 12/5/94



On his debut album, *Ready to Die*, Biggie would find an exceptional balance between the unapologetic street rhymes for which he was heralded and a newfound sense of the type of pop sensibility that radio programmers love. On "Gimme the Loot," he threatened to rob a pregnant woman for her jewelry and then managed to sweet-talk the ladies on "Big Poppa." On his "One More Chance" remix, Big described himself as "black and ugly as ever," and though he didn't possess the physique of an LL Cool J, Biggie's charm made him an unlikely sex symbol.

Ready to Die would go on to be certified platinum four times over by the RIAA, but between the bootleg copies and albums sold in largely unaccounted for mom-and-pop shops, its impact was much greater. Rappers like Jay-Z, Nas and Eminem readily admit the influence that Big's opus had on their own art.

Before dropping his second album, Biggie would branch out and start his own label with partner Lance "Un" Rivera and release an album from his group Junior M.A.F.I.A. in 1995. His sexy protégé Lil' Kim would go on to be a star in her own right.

B.I.G. had graduated. Once a street poet, the Notorious One transformed himself into a rap don. He "went from ashy to classy," he would later rap. But as B.I.G.'s celebrity grew, so did the resentment of his rival rappers. Biggie would become entangled in a lyrical tit-for-tat with onetime friend Tupac Shakur and his Cali crew over at Death Row Records. It was dubbed an East Coast/ West Coast beef. Rumors would then surface that it was the Biggie and 'Pac beef that led to the shooting and eventual death of Shakur in September 1996. Although those rumors continue to persist in certain circles, there is no evidence that Tupac's feud with Biggie led to his death.

With the hip-hop community picking up the pieces after 'Pac's death, B.I.G. continued to prepare his sophomore LP, *Life After Death*. On the double-disc CD (24 tracks in total), the Brooklyn don would exhibit even more musical growth. The underground spitter who at first never seemed to have a chance at radio was easily making hits with the best of them. *L.A.D.*'s first single, "Hypnotize," hit #1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart and Big's sophomore album would go on to be certified diamond by the RIAA, selling more than 10 million copies.

Sadly, the Notorious B.I.G. didn't get to see how the world truly embraced his final album. On March 9, 1997, Christopher Wallace, the Notorious B.I.G., was gunned down at age 24 in a drive-by shooting in Los Angeles after leaving a Soul Train Awards afterparty at the Petersen Automotive Museum. *Life After Death* was released in stores 16 days later, on March 25, 1997. His murder remains unsolved.

Join MTV News as we celebrate the Notorious B.I.G.'s life on the 15th anniversary of his death. From March 9 through March 25, we will be rolling out exclusive and commemorative content from Biggie's closest friends, collaborators and his biggest fans. To join the conversation on Twitter, hit @MTVRapFix using the hashtag #biggie15.



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Notorious B.I.G.

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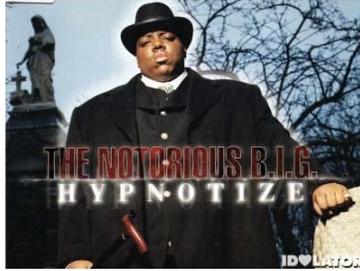
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The Notorious B.I.G.'s "Hypnotize": Still Hypnotic 15 Years After His Death

X. Alexander March 9th, 2012 // 2 Comments

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Today marks the 15-year anniversary of The Notorious B.I.G.'s untimely death, and a decade and a half later his music continues to hypnotize. (Even Britney Spears referenced him on last year's 'Drop Dead Beautiful'.) On March 9, 1997, at age 24, Biggie (real name: Christopher George Latore Wallace) was gunned down in Los Angeles in a drive-by shooting, his killer never apprehended. But the Grammy-nominated "Hypnotize" surged in popularity and hit #1 on the charts, as did his appropriately-titled posthumous album *Life After Death*. Recall one of the greatest hip hop singles of all time by watching the action-packed video (featuring helicopters, mermaids, and a car chase) below.



The Notorious B.I.G. — "Hypnotize"



"Hypnotize" posthumously became The Notorious B.I.G.'s first #1 hit, staying at the peak position for three weeks. In addition to that iconic track, Biggie gave us "Mo Money Mo Problems," "Going Back To Cali," "Big Poppa," and his feature on Puff Daddy's "Been Around The World."

Does "Hypnotize" continue to hypnotize you? Let us know on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or in the comments.

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Caseyid

BIGGIE is the Greatest rapper ever! Man I loved his poetry and rhymes, they were groundbreaking and just... CLEVER! Because of him, I now love (the positive, non vulgar part of) rap. His music and his ability to rhyme was unsurpassed and he was a true trailblazer. Just way ahead of

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