



Ice-T

Origins

Born Tracy Lauren Marrow in Newark, Ice-T lost his mother and father before adulthood and eventually joined relatives in Los Angeles. In South Central he encountered a city of sharply divided neighborhoods, mobile DJ crews, roller-rink and club scenes, and young people inventing style from limited resources. He has said the crime writer Iceberg Slim influenced both his stage name and his attention to voice.

Before records, Ice-T served in the U.S. Army and learned to DJ. Early appearances in the films *Breakin'* and *Breakin' 2* captured his electro-era persona, years before the hard street reportage for which he became famous. The contrast matters: his story begins with dance floors and turntables, not with a fully formed genre label.