



Ice-T

Breakthrough

The 1986 single 6 in the Mornin' is widely treated as a defining early Los Angeles gangsta-rap record. Instead of a distant news report, Ice-T used compressed scenes, slang, movement, and consequence, letting listeners inhabit a morning raid and the choices around it. The record helped show that a local street story could become both documentary and dramatic monologue.

Rhyme Pays followed in 1987 and became one of the first major-label albums identified with gangsta rap. Ice-T's cool, controlled delivery separated him from louder caricature: the danger was often in the observation. His breakthrough expanded the vocabulary of West Coast records while creating a template later artists could complicate, imitate, or resist.