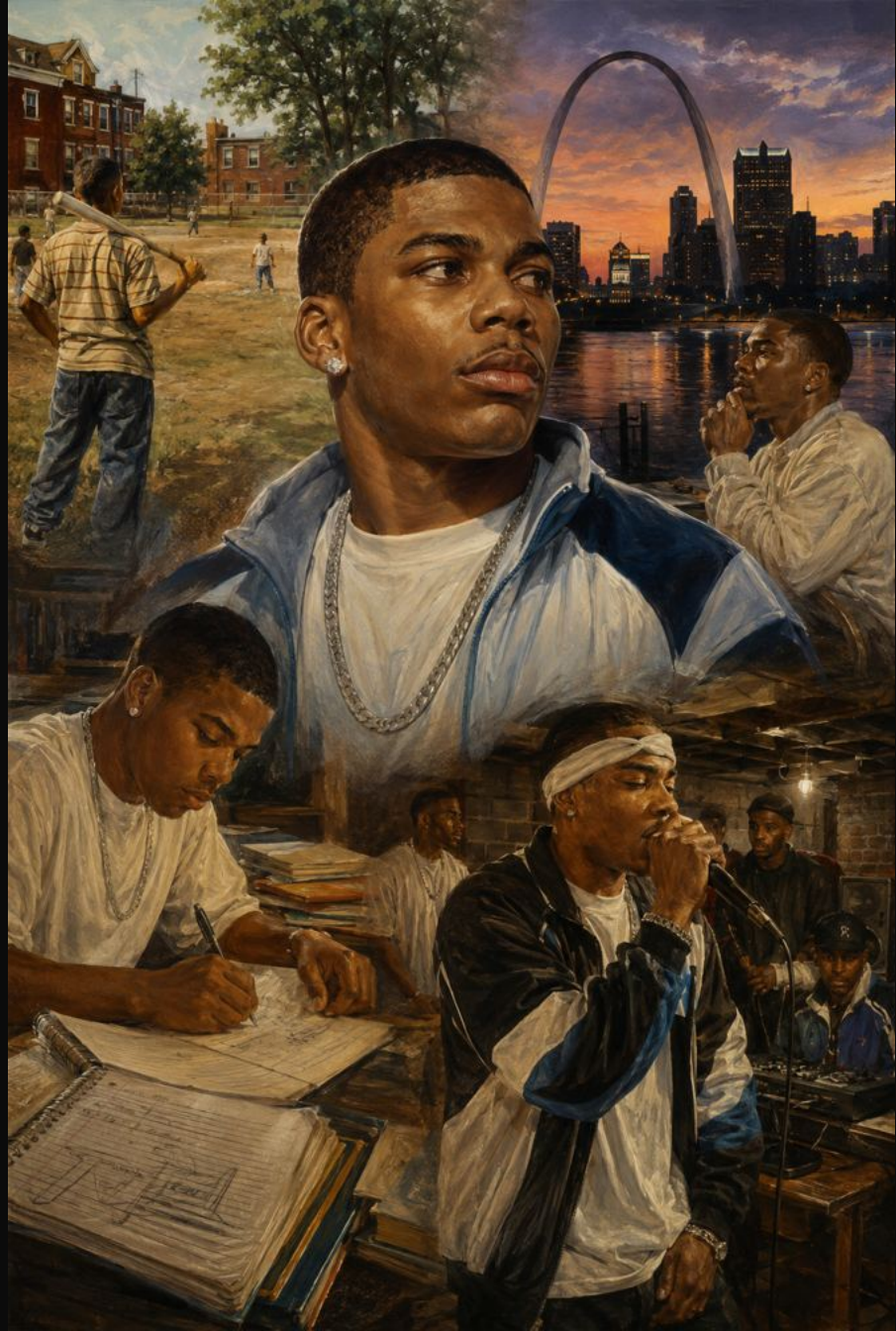




Nelly

Origins

Cornell Haynes was born in Texas and raised largely in the St. Louis area, including University City. In high school he formed the St. Lunatics with Ali, Murphy Lee, Kyjuan, City Spud, and Slo Down, building a local audience before national labels understood the market.

When a group deal did not arrive, the members supported Nelly pursuing a solo opportunity. That decision makes his origin a story of collective strategy: one member's breakthrough could open a door for the whole crew.