

CONSPIRACY NATION

EPISODE I: The Mystery of the 7 Cities

Corruption... Robbery... Murder... and Music.

A decorated police officer and his young son shot dead in the streets...

A young DJ accused of the vicious crime...

A crime lord's revenge...

And a noble partnership, destroyed by guilt and fear.

Did this gifted young musician kill these two people?

This is the Mystery of the 7 Cities... on Conspiracy Nation.

There are 7 cities that make up the area known as Hampton Roads, the southeast region of the state of Virginia; Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hampton, Newport News and Portsmouth. It is primarily known for its rich military history and being home to the largest Naval Base the world has ever known. But during the mid and late nineties, a musical revolution was brewing. At the heart of this revolution there was a young DJ and producer named Eric "Hip Hop" Foster.

At just 23 years old, Eric was known throughout the 7 cities as the hottest, up and coming producer to come out of Virginia. With heavy hitters like Timbaland, The Neptunez, Knottz and many others, Virginia had already earned a reputation as a breeding ground for fresh, young talent. But no one could rock a party like Hip Hop.

Born and raised in Portsmouth, Virginia, Eric was musically inclined from a very early age. His father, Frank Foster was a back up, bass guitar player for several bands throughout the sixties and seventies.

Eric received his first lessons in Hip Hop from his uncle and cousin. The year was 1988. Eric was 13 years old. While most kids his age were on the basketball courts trying to be "like Mike", Eric was learning how to be "Raw."

Focusing more on his music and a whole lot less on high school, studying and homework, Eric invested all of his time, energy and money into equipment. The shift in attention caused Eric to finish out his high school days, 2 years late and through an alternative school. It was there that he was introduced to "alternative" means of income. Eric was caught selling marijuana to an undercover narcotics agent. Since this was his first offense, Eric was sentenced to three years of probation. He tried to stay on the right track after that.

While making and selling mix tapes and producing beats throughout the nineties, Eric tried to launch his own independent record label. Small and simple, and signing locally bred artists out of his mother's garage, "Home Bass Entertainment" looked promising. Unfortunately, Eric soon realized that record labels aren't ran on talent alone. Cash flow and business savvy were in short supply. So Eric went back to doing what he did best.