

Rampage

Contribution: Producer, using recordings by war artist and filmmaker George Gittoes.

Evidence:


<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/arts/radioeye/stories/s1434294.htm>

Description:

This work follows on from the previous feature, *Soundtrack To War*, also produced in collaboration with Australian war artist George Gittoes. In this feature, Gittoes travels to Miami with Eliot Lovett, one of the young rappers featured in his previous work, and his two younger brothers, aspiring rappers Mark and Denzel. Lovett lives in the "Brown Subs" of Miami, a neighbourhood he describes as being more dangerous than Baghdad. This is borne out during filming, when Mark Lovett is shot and killed by local gangsters. The program also follows Denzel's ultimately unrealistic dream of breaking out of poverty through a career as a rapper.

Significance:

This program reveals the story of one American soldier and his family and the violent conditions endemic in many Afro American communities in the US, like that of Miami's "Brown Subs". The young African American men and women who live in this neighbourhood have few options, and many dream of escape. The ideal of the gansta rapper is set against the real life stories of Eliot and his brothers, including thirteen year old Denzel. Denzel at first appears to have the talent to escape his upbringing, but recording company executives ask him to tone down his lyrics, despite promoting older gansta rappers. This program brings to light many contradictions, including the myth and reality of gangster life, the very limited options for young Afro American men and women and the brutality and poverty of a neighbourhood just miles away from the glamour of the Miami strip. The program continued the successful collaboration between the producer and Gittoes in presenting material across film and radio.



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Saturday at 2pm repeated Wednesday at 1pm

with [Brent Clough](#)
Saturday 03/09/2005

Rampage

Over the last few years Australian war artist George Gittoes has been documenting the war in Iraq through the music of the conflict – the sounds being listened to and made by US troops in Iraq. Now he's travelled home with the soldiers and found himself in a whole new war zone – America.

Gittoes follows the Lovett boys, a family of talented young rappers from the "Brown Subs" of Miami. It's a poor and violent neighbourhood, where the only way out is to take drugs, join the army - or make music. Oldest brother Elliot returns from horrors of Baghdad to be reunited with his brothers Marc and Denzel. Their whole life is set to a soundtrack of rap beats and freestyling rhymes they perform to each other and their friends as a way of escaping the boredom and economic reality of their lives. They're also hoping to live the rap dream – to get famous, get rich and get out of the cycle of poverty that surrounds them. But their hopes are violently shattered when Marc

is gunned down by a rival teenage gang at a party. And when 14-year-old Denzel tries to rap about his brother's life and death, the record executives who praise his talents say no one wants to listen to the reality of life in the Subs.

Rampage tells the story of the violence and unpredictability of life for young Afro-Americans.

Presenter:
Brent Clough

Producer:
Cath Dwyer from recordings by George Gittoes.


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