

Spotlight: Kendrick Lamar

Written by Chelsea Lenora White
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Kendrick Lamar seems to be one of hip-hop's latest saviors. The critical acclaim and fan praise still continues to pour in over his sophomore studio album, *Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City*, and is showing no signs of slowing down. His ability to illustrate the story of his life growing up in Compton so that the listener can visualize everything that he describes is just one of the reasons that Lamar has become a breath of fresh air for the world of hip-hop.

For his effort, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) presented Lamar with its Vanguard Award on June 26th. Paul Williams, ASCAP's President and Chairman had this to say about Lamar:

"Kendrick Lamar's smart, structured story-telling and genre-bending sound make him stand out amongst his peers. He pushes boundaries with his creativity, perfectly illustrating everything that the ASCAP Vanguard Award recognizes."

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with a focus on the artist's early influences and the role of his grandmother, Nani, in his life. The article also discusses his debut album, *Doggystyle*, and his subsequent work with the group *Black Hippy*.