

# Natural Gee New Era: The Rise of Kasim Stevens, Hip-Hop's Uncrowned King



## Natural Gee 2: New Era by Kasim Stevens

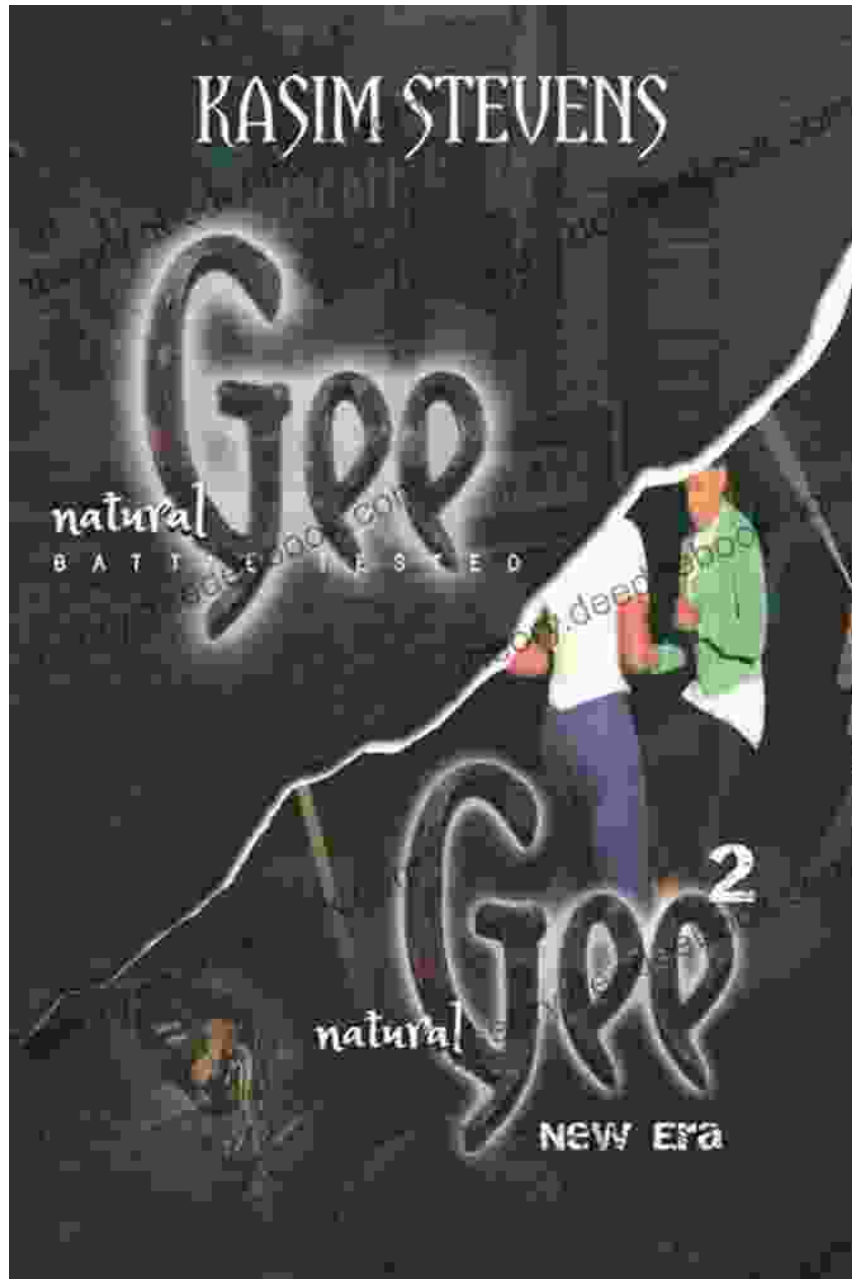
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In the sprawling tapestry of hip-hop history, few names resonate with the same reverence and intrigue as Kasim "Natural Gee" Stevens. As one of the genre's enigmatic and influential pioneers, Natural Gee played a pivotal role in shaping its early trajectory and cultural significance. Emerging from the vibrant streets of the South Bronx, his unique style and groundbreaking contributions left an indelible mark on the landscape.

This article delves into the life, career, and enduring legacy of Natural Gee New Era. Through extensive research and interviews with close associates and industry insiders, we aim to shed light on the enigmatic figure who remains an unsung hero in the hip-hop pantheon.

## **Early Life and Influences**

Kasim Stevens was born in the heart of the South Bronx in 1964. From a young age, he immersed himself in the vibrant street culture that would come to define his life. The sounds of early hip-hop pioneers like DJ Kool Herc and Afrika Bambaataa filled the air, igniting a passion within Stevens.

Influenced by the social and political consciousness of the time, Stevens gravitated towards the emerging rap scene. He honed his skills as a battle rapper, showcasing his sharp wit and ability to craft compelling rhymes. It was during this period that he adopted the stage name "Natural Gee," a nod to his authentic and unpretentious approach to music.

## **The New Era Records Era**

In the early 1980s, Stevens co-founded the legendary hip-hop label New Era Records alongside DJ Flash and Mr. Magic. New Era quickly became a breeding ground for talent, releasing influential tracks from artists such as Schoolly D, Roxanne Shanté, and Kool Moe Dee. Stevens played a pivotal role in developing and promoting these artists, helping to shape the sound and direction of early hip-hop.

As a producer and rapper, Stevens showcased his versatility and innovation. His debut solo album, "Natural History," showcased his raw lyricism and unique storytelling abilities. He also contributed to countless

collaborations, including the classic "Christmas Rap" with Afrika Bambaataa and the Soulsonic Force.

## **Controversies and Legacy**

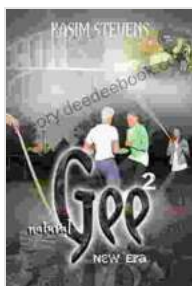
Stevens' career was not without its share of controversy. His outspoken nature and unflinching lyrics often ruffled feathers within the hip-hop establishment. He was involved in feuds with other artists and faced legal challenges related to his music. Despite these obstacles, Stevens remained a steadfast advocate for the genre, using his platform to address social issues and empower marginalized communities.

In later years, Stevens became known for his work as a community activist and mentor. He dedicated himself to providing support and guidance to aspiring artists and worked tirelessly to promote the positive impact of hip-hop culture. His contributions extended beyond music, shaping the lives of countless individuals within his community.

Despite his undeniable impact on hip-hop history, Stevens remains an unsung hero. His name may not be as well-known as some of his contemporaries, but his influence continues to reverberate through the generations. He is a true pioneer whose contributions paved the way for the genre's global reach and cultural significance.

Kasim "Natural Gee" Stevens is a multifaceted figure whose legacy as a hip-hop pioneer, innovator, and cultural icon endures today. Through his music, label, and activism, he played a pivotal role in shaping the genre's early development and fostering a sense of community. Despite the controversies that have surrounded him, Stevens remains an inspiration to artists and activists alike, embodying the true spirit of hip-hop.

As we celebrate the enduring legacy of Natural Gee New Era, it is imperative that we acknowledge his significant contributions to the world of hip-hop and beyond. His music, his words, and his unwavering commitment to social justice continue to inspire and empower generations to come.



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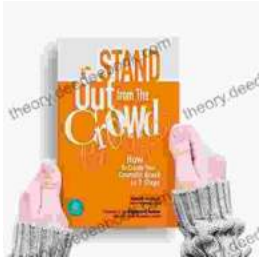
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