

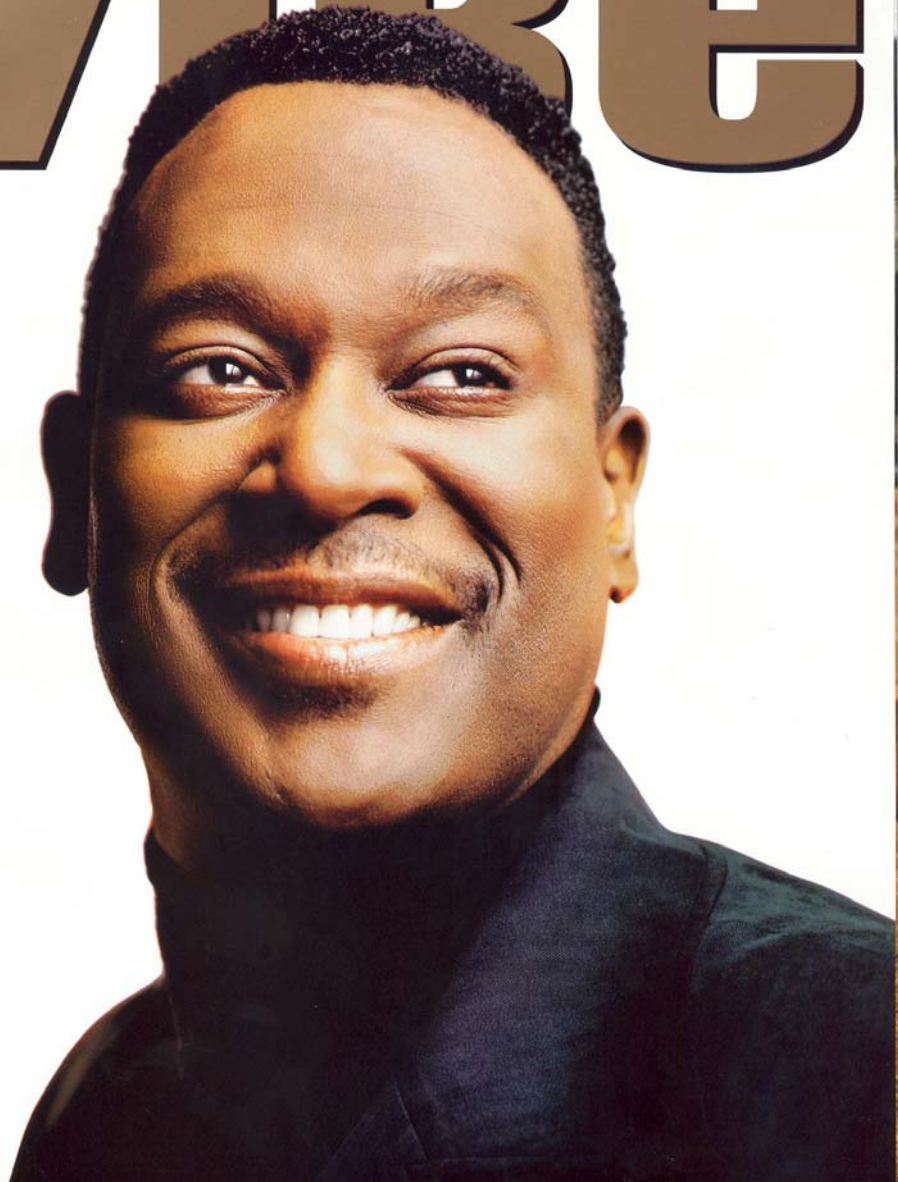


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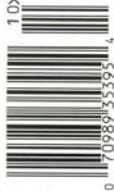
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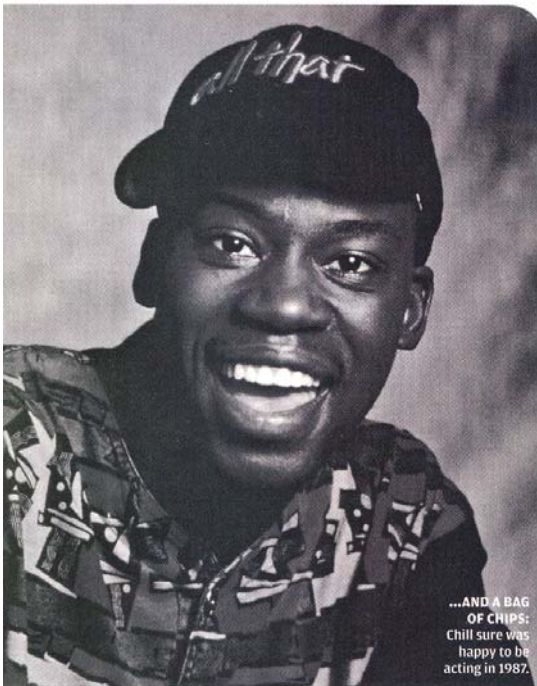
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GROOVE THEORY

Rappin' actor **DARYL "CHILL" MITCHELL** introduced Hollywood to the 'hood.



...AND A BAG OF CHIPS: Chill sure was happy to be acting in 1987.

Long Island rapper Daryl "Chill" Mitchell, of the group Groove B. Chill, was down with SAG—the Screen Actors Guild—before most rappers were even sagging their jeans. Chill parlayed his group's poppy, Pete Rock and Prince Paul-produced debut, *Starting From Zero*, and its hit, "Ain't Nothin' Like Hip Hop Music," into numerous supporting comedy roles in TV and film, such as 1990's *House Party* and the '93 NBC sitcom *The John Larroquette Show*.

Unfortunately, a 2001 accident paralyzed Chill from the waist down, but he began working as a spokesman for the Christopher & Dana Reeves Paralysis Resource Center. Currently developing a yet-to-be-titled Paramount TV series, Mitchell still believes there ain't nothing like hip hop music.

I was one of the first rap artists on television. When I did *The Cosby Show*, they were scared to bring me on. They thought I was going to wild out just because I was a rapper. So I had to prove them wrong. People were like, "Yo, you get one shot. If you screw it up, you ain't coming back." I did my thing, and they gave me another shot. It was always job to job. I've gained a lot of respect because of my behavior and the fact that people like working with me. And once I broke down the wall, along with the other pioneers like Kid 'N Play, the Will Smiths were able to really show Hollywood that there's money to be made with these kids.

House Party was brilliant because it was something that every young black man and black lady could relate to. This was a movie that I could watch with my moms and pops and laugh, and that's why it was such a successful springboard for rappers in Hollywood. There aren't many projects like that anymore, which is too bad.

I loved "Hip Hop Music" because we made a statement with that song. Hip hop is not a culture. Hip hop is not black. It's a vehicle of expression that will invite any culture that will embrace and accept it. We were just rappers in the 'hood who caught on, and that vehicle allowed us to move around. I'll forever feel blessed by where that vehicle took me.

Joseph Wilkes



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