

# Rap legends Run-DMC inducted in rock's hall

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*  
CLEVELAND — Run-DMC was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Saturday night, capping a star-studded ceremony that felt much more like a concert than an awards show.

For the first time, the show, back in Cleveland following a 12-year holdover in New York's Waldorf-Astoria ballroom, was open to the public.

Nearly 5,000 fans partied in the balconies inside renovated Public Auditorium as 1,200 VIPs dined below at tables costing as much \$50,000 each.

Many of them came to pay homage to the 2009 class that included rap pioneers Run-DMC, soul singer Bobby Womack and rhythm and blues vocal group Little Anthony and the Imperials.

With two turntables and a microphone, Run-DMC broke down the barriers between rock and rap. With sparse, stripped-down lyrics above pounding beats, the trio of Joseph "DJ Run" Simmons, Darryl "DMC" McDaniels and Jason "Jam Master Jay" Mizell changed rap in the 1980s by taking the realities of the streets to the suburbs.

"They broke away from the pack by being the pack," said rapper Eminem, looking like the band's lost member by sporting the group's trademark black fedora and black leather jacket. "They were the baddest of the bad and the coolest of the cool. Run-DMC changed my life."

"There's three of them and if you grew up with hip hop like I did, they were the Beatles."

Their remake and collaboration with Aerosmith on the rock band's "Walk This Way" changed modern music.

"We were young guys with a new music that people thought was a fad, but we knew the culture was a way of life and we just lived it," McDaniels said.

"The music that we made then didn't just impact friends, it impacted a generation. So I guess that's what rock and roll does."

Any chance of a Run reunion ended with Mizell's death in 2002, when he was shot to death outside his studio. His murder remains unsolved.

Mizell's mother, Connie, accepted the award on his behalf.

"My baby is still doing it for me," she said.

Simmons cited "so many smart people and so much help" several times during his speech. He also thanked Mrs. Mizell, who allowed the group to set up their equipment in her Hollis, Queens, living room.

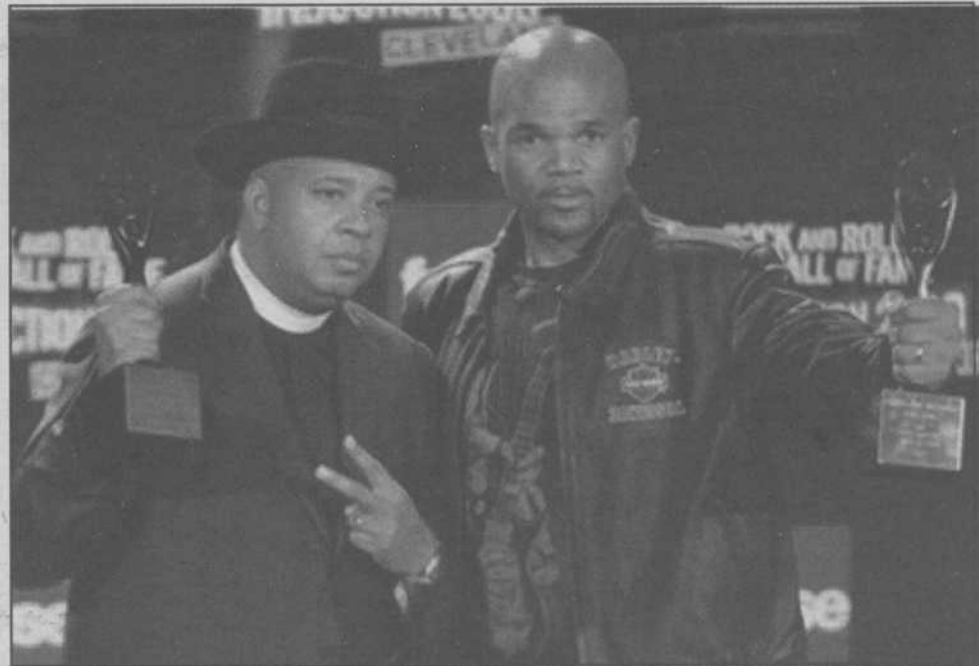
"She never told us to turn the music down once," Simmons said, turning to his late friend's mom. "I'd like to thank you for that."

Cleveland's Womack, the son of a steelworker, is best known for his soulful voice, but he had far greater musical range as a talented songwriter and guitarist.

He also branched into gospel, returning to the roots that got him his start with a family group, the Valentinos. He later played guitar for Sam Cooke.

Ron Wood of the Rolling Stones introduced Womack as "the voice that has always killed me. He brings me to tears." Wood then recalled a night in New York when he and Womack hid as some Hells Angels gang members were roughing up Wilson Pickett.

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Joseph 'Reverend Run' Simmons and Darryl 'DMC' McDaniels of Run-DMC pose backstage after Run-DMC was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame at the 2009 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Saturday in Cleveland.



Bobby Womack performs after being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame the 2009 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Ceremony on Saturday in Cleveland.

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