

Riot Grrrl Presentation



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Who is Riot GRRRL

The appearance of Riot Grrl movements began in the early 1990s. A group of women in Washington held a meeting to discuss sexism and other feminist issues. Seeing as how they were paid little to no attention the women decided to start a “girl riot” to express themselves and how they feel. It began as an underground feminist punk movement in Washington state.. The new movement of women expressing their anger and celebrating their sexuality began to gain movement. Band groups associated with the right girl movement talked about eating disorders and incest along with others for example bands like Bikini Kill., Bratmobile, and Heavens to Betsy. As time went on they became more mainstream and got more media attention toward their movement.

Bands from the Riot Grrrl movement

- Bikini Kill: an American punk rock band formed in October 1990 in Olympia, Washington. The members of the band were Kathleen Hanna, Billy Karen, Kathi Wilcox and Toni Vail. The band is considered one of the pioneers in the riot grrl movement for their radical movement. Some of their songs include; Rebel Girl, Feels blind, and Blood One.
- Bratmobile: an American punk band that also originated in Olympia, Washington. The members of the band were Alison Wolfe, Molly Neuman, and Erin Smith. They were influenced by elements of pop, garage rock, and surf. They were also a first generation riot grrl band.
- Other bands include Heavens to Betsy, L7, 7 year B*tch, Babes in Toyland and many more.

Lyrics from Bratmobile

You know it's just a piece of *ss

When girls are dying

It's all hype and selling news

When boys are lying

Close your mouth and shut your face

To keep from crying

Ask if it's a girl thing yeah

Cause girls are dying

Yeah another girl's gone missing

Sure don't know what you're missing

- Song title: Shut your face

Lyrics from Bikini Kill

That girl thinks she's the queen of the neighborhood

She's got the hottest trike in town

That girl, she holds her head up so high

I think I wanna be her best friend, yeah

Rebel girl, rebel girl

Rebel girl you are the queen of my world

Rebel girl, rebel girl

I think I wanna take you home

I wanna try on your clothes, uh

- Song title: RebelGirl

Questions for discussion

1. How influential do you think riot grrl was in the femaninism movement ?
2. Do you think they were successful in getting their message across through music at time ?
3. Do you think in 2020 you would listen to songs that the bands of the riot grrl movement made in the 1990's today ?