

**ARTIST REVIEW**

# NF: Old School Rap Today

**FAISAL BIN IQBAL**

Over the past few years, the popularity of mumble rap as a subgenre of rap music has grown at an exponential rate. Introduced into the scene by artists like Cardi B, Lil Pump, Travis Scott, and many others, young aspiring artists seem to prefer this form of rap over the old school, lyrical rap style.

That being said, artists like Eminem are still very popular with the common crowd as well as with people who are passionate about music and are willing to give the genre a try. Once such soul is NF.

American rapper, singer and songwriter Nathan John Feuerstein or more popularly known by his stage name NF, entered the rap industry back in 2010. He was heavily influenced by the music and style of popular rapper, Eminem, which is often reflected in his own work.

Life for NF was never a bed of roses. After his parents got divorced, NF started living with his mother for a while but was later taken into custody by his father following incidents of abuse on him by his mother's boyfriend. Nathan's mother passed away from a drug overdose back in 2009. He dedicated his song "How Could You Leave Us" to his mother. This emotional song talks about his mother's addiction to drugs and expresses the pain and sorrow he had to go through due to all this.

If you take notice of the lyrics in his music, NF manages to take all the emotion he has ever felt and write it down on a piece of paper with the most amazing combination of words and rhymes. Mostly taken from

the events that have unfolded in his life, his rap can also trigger an uncontrollable flow of emotions inside our hearts. His music is something that many people of our generation can relate to. Often depressing and painful to fathom, his music can be the escape we seek from life itself.

Apart from being meaningful, NF's verses are also fast and have amazing beats that are soothing to the ear. If you are listening to NF's music for the first time, you might mistake him for Eminem. The two have a lot of similarities when it comes to their lyrical styles and flow.

If you are a fan of Eminem, you should definitely try out NF's music. You won't be disappointed. But just because they have similarities in their music doesn't mean that NF is the 'next Eminem.' He has his own thing going on and seeing how his music is evolving, it is almost certain that he will be a prodigy of his own and not 'the second or next Eminem.'

Among all his songs, some of the most popular ones are 'Let you down', 'How Could You Leave Us', 'Time', 'Lie', and 'Remember this'. If you are interested to listen to his music, these are the ones you should try out first.

Mumble rap will continue to grow in popularity, but NF's presence in this genre is highly needed to keep reminding us about the true essence and power of OG rap music.

*Faisal wants to be the very best, like no one ever was. To survive university is his real test, to graduate is his cause. Send him memes and motivation at abir.afc@gmail.com*



## Eat, Do the Right Thing, Sleep, Repeat

**ARAFA MOMEM AKA***Disclaimer: This article contains spoilers.*

I've never thought that I would get hooked to an anime where the whole plot revolved around a particular class of students that have been assigned to assassinate a teacher while the teacher simultaneously tries to teach the students of that class while avoiding the students' assassination attempts. But hey, I've binge-watched 47 episodes of that show in five days and here I am reviewing this beautiful masterpiece of an anime now.

Released in 2015 and made by studio Lerche, Assassination Classroom spans over 2 seasons and revolves around a peculiar giant, yellow octopus-like creature that can move at Mach 20 speed & is indestructible to standard weaponry, and class 3-E of Kunugigao-ka Junior High School. The creature is named "Koro" by his students, or better known as "Korosensei" (as a friend of mine repeatedly reminded me).

Koro is targeted by the Japanese government and other governments of the world, as the creature confesses to blowing up 70% of the moon's surface with his powers (turning it into a crescent shape). Koro also threatens to destroy the Earth.

Failing to kill Koro in every way possible, the government finally negotiates and accepts Koro's demand to teach the class of 3-E of Kunugigao-ka Junior High School for reasons untold. The government also puts a bounty on Koro's head of 10 billion yen to whomever manages to assassinate him. The students are allowed to try and assassinate their Korosensei, and Koro is not allowed to hurt the students in any way, or he will lose the privilege to teach them.

The students are given special weaponry by the government that is harmless to humans, but can kill their Korosensei. Even after innumerable at-

tempts of assassination by his students, Koro patiently starts growing a soft spot in his students' hearts with his quirky and unique methods of teaching, and his unyielding urge to teach the students of 3-E about self-dependence and survival.

It should be mentioned that the students of class 3-E are seen as the remnants of the bottom of the barrel at Kunugigao-ka Junior High School, and these students are looked down upon by the rest of the school. Through Korosensei's guidance, the students of 3-E start gaining the respect of the school and the school's chairman, Asano.

The lead character, other than Koro, is an impressive, pint-sized, blue-haired boy named Nagisa Shiota, who narrates the scenes in many of the episodes. Other than him, two more students will keep a hold of your attention: a tough-as-nails dude named Karma Akabane and a girl who remains a side-kick of Nagisa named Kaede Kayano. And among teachers, an older dude named Tadaemi Karasuma and an assassin by the name of Irina Jelavic.

What will keep you hooked is Koro and class 3-E trying to understand each other.

There is almost nothing to nit-pick about the anime's production. The animation is fantastic, the fight scenes are smooth, the comedy feels unforced, the drama is something I did not expect, there are plot twists everywhere, the sound effects are absolutely bang-on and the voice actors do a great job. The only complaint I have with the production is a lack of memorable music. Keep in mind, the anime is meant for a mature audience (aged 16 and above)

Definitely worth a watch, definitely worth a binge, and definitely a show worth going gaga over.

*Aka is a tiny bleep on the world's radar, and he finds peace in knowing it. Ruin his peace by poking him on akaaraf@hotmail.com*