

**The Mean Machine is a Hip Hop group** of African American and Puerto Rican descent...born and raised in the Bronx, New York.

The group consist of DJ Julio (Steven Santiago), Jimmy Mac (James McLean) RIP, Mr. Nice (Jose Sempritt) and Mr Schick (Daniel Rivera).

They are the first Latin hip hop group and the **first bilingual rap group** in Hip Hop History.

Mr Schick was a graffiti artist, he and members of the group would listen to Hip Hop, Gospel, R&B and latin music growing up.

Mean Machine performed at Harlem World, Block Parties and different clubs around New York City.

They are well known for their english and Latin rap style....when they auditioned for SugarHill records, Sylvia Robinson loved them.

Their first hit single was "Disco Dream" which was a 12" single released in 1981 on SugarHill records.

They used Grace Jones hit "Pull up to the bumper" as the musical arrangement and jazzed it up a bit.

DJ Julio's lyrics used on the single were ghostwritten by Son of Sam from the Harlem World Crew.

**Mr. Schick's** verse was a rendition of Kool Moe Dee's verse on New Rap Language.

Hispanics all over the country went crazy over the group when they heard Spanish rap for the first time on a Hip Hop record.

Mean Machine's single opened doors for more Hispanics in Latin America to become Hip Hop artist.

During this time, you could hear the single being played all over the streets in Spanish Harlem and The South Bronx.

Cars would drive by neighborhoods blasting "Disco Dreams" on every radio station in New York.

Butch Kid (Roman Barksdale) and Cool Cliff (Clifford Santiago) RIP (Julio Son) joined the group after Disco Dream.

**Mean Machine** became an instant success with a huge following, their records were flying off the shelf.

The group was featured in Magazines, Newspapers and Radio Shows as they set the Hispanic world on fire.

If they came out during the social media era, they would surpass 100 million followers.

When a member of the group mentioned they were not getting paid from their record sales, while being interviewed

by Frankie Crocker on WBLS. Sylvia Robinson shut the group down and refused to record anymore single's with the group.

Mean Machine was also one of the first groups to have their own management, trademarks and copyrights to their brand.

This also did not sit well with the SugarHill label, since they were notorious for controlling all the above.

In 1986, the group moved on and recorded "at the Party" on Honey Hush records.

The single did not do as well as "Disco Dream" which hit in the top 40 of the music charts in 1981.

DJ Julio is now living in Florida, Butch Kid lives in Connecticut and Mr Schick is living in South Carolina.

The Man Machine is considered the first and best hispanic group in Hip Hop history.

**Written by Tony Tee aka Tony Paris**