

# Move Ya Body: The Birth of House

2025 | 92mins

Director: Elegance Bratton

*Move Ya Body: The Birth of House* is a biographic documentary about the origins of House music as a genre, directed by Elegance Bratton. House music's roots are traced to Chicago's night club scene, particularly within the black and queer communities. Founding House artist, Vince Lawrence, was a victim of a racist assault during 1979's Disco Demolition Night, an event aiming to destroy and erase black and queer music through the destruction of disco records and the riot that followed. Lawrence's lawsuit and eventual settlement of \$5000 funded his music career, as he purchased a synthesiser and formed the band that would go on to produce the first house record, 'On and On'.

*Move Ya Body* features interviews with Lawrence about his story and experiences alongside the development and impact of House within black and queer communities, as well as culture at large. Interviews are also held with alternative, prominent House musicians, such as Celeste Alexander and Lori Branch, who recall the parties, experiences and goals of House music as it seeks to find acceptance for black and queer people by fighting people's stigmas against their music and the people behind it. The film also sheds a spotlight on the misogyny of the early rap scene, contrasting it with scenes of House dances within a more inclusive environment of queer and feminine dancers.

House music's city of origin, Chicago, is a prominent character in the film, due to its complex environment as both the birthplace of House but also the hatred that pushed Lawrence into creating the first House song. An extensive list of executive producers, collaborators and actors encapsulates the appeal of House as a genre but also the desire for a documentary detailing it to be made. The large community of people behind the film reinforced the sense of community within the House scene, broadening the *Move Ya Body*'s scope into a full-on celebration of House music.

**'Little did they know that there would be Vince Lawrence, in that crowd, saving up for a synthesiser'**  
 - Indiewire

Excellent

Fair

Poor



What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

Please add any further comments here

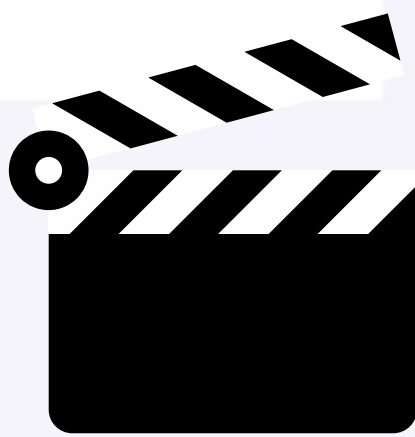
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Did You Know?

- Hillary Clinton, a fan of House music, is credited as an executive producer for this film, and was one of the people to put the idea of the film forward to producer Roger Ross Williams.
- Elegance Bratton once served in the US Marines.

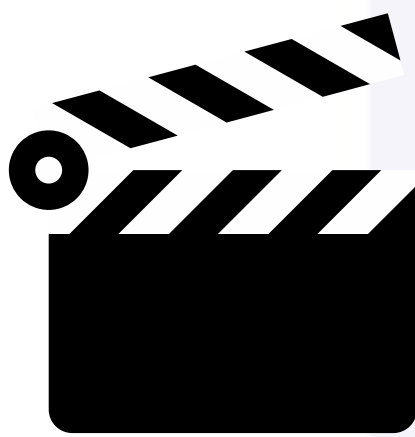
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