

Lyricist. Artist. Professor. Witch. Curator. Advocate. Mom.

40-Year-Old Women Shouldn't Rap. Yeah Right.

A fan once described HollyHood as a “cross between Missy Elliott and Cardi B,” creating songs that evoke modern hip hop with an old school sensibility, a genre that could be labeled “adult contemporary hip hop.” Writing her first song in sixth grade detention, Holly’s lyrics depict life experiences, express extreme emotions, and create musical stories that can best be described as hardcore and gritty but also light-hearted and whimsical. Audiences find her intriguing but at the same time relatable, drawing her fans close to her in a way that can be considered endearing. Having earned five college degrees, including two doctorates, Holly is often referred to as Dr. Hood. Her longevity and reputation as one of the most well-known and respected women MCs in the city has also earned her the title “mom of Pittsburgh hip hop.”

Dr. Hood has performed at more events and venues than you can count, both in and outside of Pittsburgh, including the CDBaby Music Conference, Three Rivers Arts Festival, and Deutschtown Music Festival, to which she was invited back in 2019. On numerous occasions, she has been requested to be an opening act for artists such as KRS-One, Rakim, GZA, Scarface, Warren G, Ja Rule, and SugarHill Gang. Her most recent album, *YellowJacket*, can be found on all streaming platforms.

Holly enjoys providing opportunities for artists to receive recognition for their hard work and commitment to their craft. Therefore, in addition to writing and recording, Holly has also produced a number of Pittsburgh's underground hip hop events such as the Proud To Be Local series, Battle for the Buck, Super Generic Showcase, Where's the Beef Compliment Battle ILL (I Love Lyrics) Showcase and Hip Hop Open Mic, and PMS (Promoting My Sisters), a showcase designed to highlight the talents of women artists of all genres. For three years, she also served as co-founder and executive producer of the Pittsburgh Underground Music Awards (PUMAs). Additionally, in 2015, as a member of Pittsburgh Artists for Social Change (PASC), Holly helped produce two unity concerts which benefited the Afro-American Music Institute and Hosanna House, both located in Pittsburgh. Dedicated to helping those in need, she has tried to find ways to use her talents and experience to give back to the community. In 2014, Dr. Hood founded LOCAL 412, an organization that produces and sponsors a number of hip hop events in the city, creating opportunities for education and engagement in order to promote the fact that hip hop is an art! She is also co-owner of Arts & Crafts: Botanica & Occult Shop.

What makes Dr. Hood so unique are her eclectic interests which have helped her to expand her network and become involved in multiple arts and music scenes that are typically not associated with hip hop. Besides having her hands in many aspects of Pittsburgh's hip hop community, HollyHood has earned five college degrees, including two master's degrees, and two doctorates. The emphasis of her degrees include computer information systems, business administration, communications, usability studies, and higher education administration. Furthermore, Dr. Hood has been teaching at the college level for a number of years.

Holly brings to the table her ability to communicate and build and maintain relationships with a diverse audience in a variety of contexts. Also, her divergent musical interests combined with her ear for excellence allow her to offer insight based on a much wider perspective. She looks forward to continuing to bridge gaps, using her knowledge and talents to help artists expand their networks, develop their talents, and take their careers to the next level. Her ability to bridge these gaps is extremely fitting for such a viable female force in the city of bridges.

Notable Achievements

- 2019 - Conference on College Composition and Communication Presenter: *“Power to the People, No Delay: The Transformative Force of Hip Hop as Social Justice Catalyst”*
- 2018 Pittsburgh Magazine 40 Under 40 Award
- 2017-2019 WYEP Hip Hop Spot Guest Host

- 2015 Pittsburgh Filmmakers/ Pittsburgh Center for the Arts Flight School Fellowship (professional development program for artists)
- 2014 Most Wanted Fine Art Resident Artist
- 2013 New Pittsburgh Courier Fab 40 Award