



## Reservoir Announces Deal for the Catalog of Legendary Hip-Hop Producer Larry Smith

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NEW YORK, Feb. 24, 2022 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Reservoir Media, Inc. (NASDAQ: RSVR) ("Reservoir" or the "Company"), an award-winning independent music company, today announced a deal for a stake in the catalog of legendary hip-hop producer and songwriter Larry Smith. The deal includes the late Smith's collaborations with seminal rap group Whodini, 1984's *Escape* and 1986's *Back in Black*.

As one of the most influential producers in the early days of hip-hop, Smith helped propel the genre into the mainstream. From the late 70s through the mid 80s, his innovative work with Whodini, Run-D.M.C., and Kurtis Blow sold millions of records and was at the forefront of shaping the evolution of hip-hop.

Smith produced *Escape*, the 1984 sophomore album of rap group Whodini, which made history as the first hip-hop album to be certified Platinum and the first hip-hop album to break the Top 40 on the Billboard 200, landing at #35. The lead single, "Friends," was a big success, reaching #4 on Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart, with other singles "Freaks Come Out at Night" and "Five Minutes of Funk" also gaining wide popularity. Additionally, Smith co-wrote and produced Whodini's third album, *Back in Black*, which was released in 1986 and spawned the popular single "One Love." The Gold-certified album peaked at #35 on the Billboard 200 and #4 on the Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums, with "One Love" climbing to #10 on Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart.

In 1979, Smith got his start when he was recruited by Robert "Rocky" Ford to help produce, record, and co-write for Kurtis Blow, resulting in the groundbreaking Gold-certified single "The Breaks," which was one of the first hip-hop records to crack the Billboard Hot 100. Following this success, Smith went on to work with Blow's manager, Russell Simmons, and Run-D.M.C., eventually co-writing and co-producing the group's self-titled debut album in 1984. *Run-D.M.C.* climbed to #53 on the Billboard 200, became the first rap album certified Gold by the RIAA, and is included in *Rolling Stone's* list of "The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time." Smith also collaborated on the group's follow-up 1985 Platinum-selling album *King of Rock*.

Smith's lasting impact on hip-hop has been celebrated widely. He was praised by [The New York Times](#) in his obituary for how he helped the genre stand on its own by giving it "a sonic jolt, a sound that would give it escape velocity out of disco's orbit."

Faith Newman, Reservoir Executive Vice President of A&R and Catalog Development, commented, "Larry was a pioneer who consistently made hip-hop history, drove the soundscape of the genre forward, and broke through to the mainstream. It is a great honor to bring his catalog to Reservoir and build on our portfolio of renowned legacy music."

Smith's son, Lawrence Smith, Jr., added, "My family and I are excited to partner with Faith Newman and the Reservoir team. We know that our dad's catalog will be safe and receive great promotion with them. Faith's knowledge of hip-hop and her commitment to both cultivating the future of the genre and preserving its foundations make this feel like a full-circle moment. We look forward to collaborating on sharing his ongoing legacy and expanding opportunities for his iconic works."

### ABOUT RESERVOIR

Reservoir is an independent music company based in New York City and with offices in Los Angeles, Nashville, Toronto, London, and Abu Dhabi. Reservoir is the first U.S.-based publicly traded independent music company and the first female founded and led publicly traded music company in the U.S. Founded as a family-owned music publisher in 2007, Reservoir has grown to represent over 140,000 copyrights and 36,000 master recordings with titles dating as far back as 1900 and hundreds of #1 releases worldwide. Reservoir holds a regular Top 10 U.S. Market Share according to Billboard's Publishers Quarterly, was twice named Publisher of the Year by Music Business Worldwide's The A&R Awards, and won Independent Publisher of the Year at the 2020 Music Week Awards.

Reservoir also represents a multitude of recorded music through Chrysalis Records, Tommy Boy Records, and Philly Groove Records and manages artists through its ventures with Blue Raincoat Music and Big Life Management.

Source: Reservoir Media, Inc.

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