

Quincy Jones' Connection to Tupac and Hip-Hop

1. Kidada Jones (Quincy Jones' daughter) and Tupac were a couple when he was killed.

Rashida Jones reflects on her 1993 argument with Tupac Shakur and how it 'resolved itself really nicely'. The actress wrote an open letter slamming the late rapper after he made disparaging comments about her father Quincy Jones



Rashida Jones



Tupac Shakur

[Rashida Jones](#) is reflecting on an argument she had with the late rapper [Tupac Shakur](#) — and how it eventually resolved itself before his [untimely death](#).

Rashida, 48, famously wrote a heated letter to the hip-hop magazine *The Source* in 1993 after Shakur took a crude dig at her Black father, the legendary music producer [Quincy Jones](#), in its pages for having children with white women.

The *Parks and Recreation* actress (whose mother, [actress Peggy Lipton](#), was white) was 17 at the time, and wrote that the rapper's comments represented "ignorance and lack of respect for his people." In a new interview with [The New Yorker](#), the star said she was "furious" and "so mad" at Shakur, and that his take was a "new perspective" to her.

“I kind of understand the nuance more now that I’m older. It just felt like a completely unwarranted attack,” she said. “My dad doesn’t work for the government. He’s a music producer. How he chooses to live his life and who he loves is just his own business, and I’ve always felt that way.”



Kidada Jones in 1997

Regardless, Rashida eventually found forgiveness when Shakur approached her older sister Kidada to apologize, thinking she was Rashida, and the two began a romance. “It resolved itself really nicely, because when I met him, he immediately apologized to me, immediately apologized to my dad,” she said. “We sat down and had a really good conversation about it, and then he was family.”

Rashida said the apologies from Shakur — [who died in 1996 at age 25](#) — spoke “so much to who he was,” and ultimately became a lifelong lesson for her. “I have been self-righteous in my life, and I really have worked hard to stop looking at things in a binary way,” she said. “We’re so flawed and complicated.” In the 2001 book *The Autobiography of Quincy Jones*, Kidada, 50, opened up about her romance with the late rapper, and called him “the love of my life.”

She wrote that his comments to *The Source* “made Daddy mad,” but that sparks flew when she and Shakur met at a club. “I met Tupac at a club after that and he said, ‘I want to apologize to you. I didn’t mean that about your dad or you. I didn’t see you as real human beings. Now that I see you...’ He was all game,” she wrote.

After that, Kidada said the two began dating, and recalled a moment in which they were out to dinner and dad Quincy showed up to meet him for the first time. The two (Quincy and Tupac) sat down together and “got real for a long time,” and eventually hugged it out. “He and I lived together for four months and then he was murdered in Las Vegas in 1996,” she wrote. “It was the most horrible thing that ever happened to me.”

2. Quincy Jones' 1995 Intervention in Hip-Hop's East Coast – West Coast War

In *Hip-Hop Is History*, Questlove portrays Quincy Jones as a concerned elder statesman of Black music and culture, someone who recognized the destructive path hip-hop was veering toward. He specifically addresses Quincy Jones' efforts to intervene in the East Coast–West Coast hip-hop war, particularly during the mid-1990s when tensions between artists like Tupac Shakur and The Notorious B.I.G. reached deadly levels.

Jones organized a secret summit in August 1995, gathering approximately 50 influential artists, executives, and respected Black leaders, including Colin Powell. The objective was to guide young hip-hop artists on business and life decisions and to address the burgeoning rivalries that threatened to tear the genre apart.

During the summit, Jones emphasized the real dangers the artists faced, stating, "They are not playing... I want to see you guys live to at least my age." His initiative was a proactive measure born out of his personal conviction and desire to foster unity and understanding within the hip-hop community.

3. "Q's Jook Joint" Album Release

Quincy Jones released *Q's Jook Joint* on November 7, 1995, a few months following the secret summit. This album is a genre-blending project that features collaborations with numerous prominent artists across R&B, jazz, pop, and hip-hop. Several notable attendees were:

- Colin Powell
- Suge Knight
- LL Cool J
- Biggie Smalls
- Queen Latifah
- Heavy D
- Sean "Puffy" Combs
- Dr. Dre
- Tone Lōc
- Coolio
- Melle Mel
- Yo-Yo
- Shaquille O'Neal
- **Tupac Shakur was absent due to incarceration at the time*

The *Q's Jook Joint* collaborations highlighted Quincy Jones's ability to bridge genres and generations to create the album's rich tapestry of musical styles. In *Hip-Hop Is History*, Questlove laments the fact that, following this collaboration, cooler heads did not emerge to prevent the deaths of Tupac (September, 1996) and Biggie (March, 1997).