



BABA BRINKMAN – FULL BIO

Baba Brinkman is a Canadian rap artist, award-winning playwright, and former tree-planter who has personally planted more than one million trees. Raised in British Columbia, Baba completed a Masters in Comparative Literature in 2003, his thesis exploring parallels between hip-hop music and medieval poetry.

After graduating, Baba developed his thesis into a one-man hip-hop theatre production, *Rap Canterbury Tales*, which went on to international touring success. The show received rave reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe, and from 2004 to 2008 Baba performed for tens of thousands of people on a series of college campus and arts festival tours across the UK, USA, Canada, and Australia. Baba was hired by Cambridge University in the UK to tour British schools as a “literary ambassador”, bringing young people a new appreciation of traditional literature. *The Rap Canterbury Tales* was published as a book of poetry by Talon Books in 2006.

In 2009, Baba premiered his first science-communication show, *Rap Guide to Evolution*, at the Cambridge Darwin Festival, performing for luminaries in the field of Evolutionary Biology including Richard Dawkins, Dan Dennett, David Attenborough, and Jurassic Park palaeontologist Jack Horner. *Rap Guide to Evolution* went on to win a Scotsman

Fringe First Award for Outstanding New Writing at the Edinburgh Fringe, and transferred to New York for an off-Broadway run in 2011, where it was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Solo Performance. Baba went on to tour *Evolution* around the world, including a sold-out week at the Sydney Opera House, a performance on US national TV on MSNBC's *The Rachel Maddow Show*, and a spot opening for Stephen Hawking at the Seattle Science Festival. Baba is also a recipient of the National Center for Science Education (NCSE) "Friend of Darwin Award" for his efforts to improve the public understanding of evolutionary biology.

Following *Rap Guide to Evolution*, Baba went on to create a whole series of science-themed "Rap Guides". *Rap Guide to Human Nature* received rave reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe and was nominated for an OBA (off-Broadway Alliance) Award in 2013, and *Rap Guide to Wilderness* premiered at the World Parks Congress in Sydney in 2014 for an audience of 5,000 delegates from 65 countries. Baba's *Rap Guide to Medicine* was released in 2015 and premiered at the International Society for Evolution, Medicine, and Public Health conference at ASU, and his *Rap Guide to Religion* enjoyed a seven month off-Broadway run and was nominated for a 2015 Drama Desk Award, Baba's second nomination, this time for "Unique Theatrical Experience".

Baba premiered *Rap Guide to Climate Chaos* off-Broadway in 2016, where it played for six months and received rave reviews, and the album version features a cameo from Bill Nye the Science Guy making his rap debut. In March 2018, Baba opened his latest production, *Rap Guide to Consciousness*, which explores the neuroscience of human experience. *Consciousness* completed its eight-month off-Broadway run in October, 2018. Baba recently performed excerpts from the show on *Star Talk* with Neil deGrasse Tyson, and has welcomed a series of high profile guests for Q&As with his audience, including Deepak Chopra, David Chalmers, and Jonathan Haidt.

When he is not on tour, Baba Brinkman resides in New York with his wife, neuroscientist and TV host Dr. Heather Berlin, and their two children.