

**The following interview with
DARRYL McDANIELS
was conducted by the Library of Congress
on June 4, 2018**



Darryl McDaniels

Library of Congress: By the time, “Raising Hell” was released, Run-DMC had already put out two well-received albums. When you began work on this album (“Raising Hell”), did you approach it in a different way than you had your previous collections?

Darryl McDaniels: Yes, when we started recording “Raising Hell” we had to make the most fun powerful versatile records ever! There was a lot of competition breathing down our necks! We had been around a short while but we opened the flood gates for superb talent that followed us, helping elevate and evolve the culture. We couldn’t have any album filler songs!

LOC: How did you first come to work with Rick Rubin and what did Mr. Rubin bring to the mix of your already-existing dynamic?

DM: Rick was the producer and DJ for the punk rock group the Beastie Boys and we all recorded at Chung King House of Metal. So we met there.

They all were hip-hop heads and Rick began discussion with Russell to start a hip-hop label. Rick began to sit in on our sessions and give us direction on things we previously didn’t think of doing. So eventually we let him help us with production. He showed us how to record as a band i.e. live instruments, no samples, etc.

LOC: At this time, who (if anyone) were your major influences, musically and lyrically?

DM: At that time for me, personally, I was influenced by Public Enemy and The Legendary Cold Crush Brothers on the hip hop side, and by the Beatles, Stones, Zeppelin, Harry Chapin and Jim Croce on the rock side.

LOC: I know this is probably an impossible question to ask—like asking someone to name their favorite child—but do you have a favorite track from the “Raising Hell” album? If so, which one and why?

DM: “Walk This Way” is the one for me! “Walk This Way” was my initiation into becoming the rhyme rocking song making show stealing stage killing King Of Rock! It showed me I could do [a] rock song and not just have to do [a] rap song.

LOC: What do you think is “Raising Hell’s” place in this history of hip-hop? Why has it had such an enduring effect?

DM: It’s the first perfect complete Hip Hop LP and the one that started it all! We were the template to follow!