

Using Filipino Influence In Songs
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Apl.de.ap? What is it? A nonprofit organization or a human being? In fact, as many of you might already know, Apl.de.ap is the nickname of Allan Pineda Lindo, the hip Filipino singer of the Black Eyed Peas. But behind his energetic personality, he hides a tender heart. And for those of you who do not know anything about him beyond the video clips, here's your chance.

Apl.de.ap is the oldest of seven siblings. His mother, Christina Pineda, raised him when his father abandoned them after his birth. As a poor family, they lived in a barrio - a very poor neighborhood in which Apl helped out his family by farming corn, sweet potatoes, sugarcane, and rice.

At the age of 14, he moved to the United States; he had been sponsored by Joe Ben Hudgens through a dollar-a-day program, and was eventually adopted.

Hudgens became a new symbol of affection for Apl, a father, and ended up being pivotal in his future career. In fact, Hudgens introduced the little Apl to William James Adam, Jr., also known as will.i.am.

Apl attended John Marshall High School in Los Angeles, Calif., but also attended Curie High School in Chicago, Ill., where he lived for two years thereafter; it is a location that Apl holds in a special place in his heart. As he stated in an interview, it is where he started to love and get involved with music.

Music had always been part of Apl's life. His early influences included Stevie Wonder, The Beatles, the Eagles, and even the popular Filipino rock/folk group Asin. Music is just one of his loves, however. Apl also admits that he has an affinity for breakdancing. The Black Eyed Peas videos display this passion, which was born in his youth when Apl observed kids doing it. It was this talent that made him famous. He formed a crew called Tribal Nation which performed regularly at parties and events in California. They then changed the name of the crew to Atban Klann. ATBAN stands for "A Tribe Beyond a Nation." The tribe also created an album called Grass Roots, which was never released.

Apl has found ways to express himself and tell everyone more about his life. He does it through a song called "The Apl Song" (on the Black Eyed Peas' 2003 album Elephunk). The chorus of this song is in Filipino, showing us his desire to always hold onto his origins.

In an interview, he said his deepest goal was to support his family and garner better living conditions for them. Pursuing his dream was hard and time-consuming and caused him eventually to be separated from them. He also recalls some devastating things occurring in his absence, the worst being the suicide of his younger brother Arnel, which he recalls in his song. The video, No. 1 in the Philippines, is a tribute to Filipinos who fought for the United States in World War II.

In 2005, Apl appeared again with a new song in the BEP's album Monkey Business, titled "Bebot." The music video was filmed in July 2006 in various locations in Los Angeles and launched Aug. 4, 2006. The purpose of this video was to showcase

Filipinos, Filipino-Americans, and Asian-Americans of the L.A. area. Yet, it was not released in the United States, but did debut in the Philippines and in some Asian countries.

In the future, the Black Eyed Peas' Filipino singer plans to release a solo album in his own Filipino style.