

## Grammy Winner Layzie Bone of Bone Thugs-N-Harmony to Star in Hip-Hop Drama *The Golden Microphone*.

GC Films assembles a powerhouse team around an original story drawn from the soul of West Coast hip-hop culture.



**Los Angeles, California May 2, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](http://www.IssueWire.com))** - There is a moment early in *The Golden Microphone* when a teenage rapper named Keenan pulls a tarnished microphone out of his uncle's trash and holds it in his hands, certain it's the key to changing his life. He has no idea yet what that microphone has witnessed — or what it cost the man who once held it. That moment, small and loaded with everything the film is about, is precisely why GC Films went looking for someone like Layzie Bone to bring it to life.

GC Films announced today that Layzie Bone — founding member of the legendary Bone Thugs-N-Harmony and one of the most enduring figures in American hip-hop — is attached to star in *The Golden Microphone*, an original feature film now in active development. Joining him in the lead role of Keenan is SeeFour, a rising Boston-based recording artist whose raw talent and authentic hunger for the craft make him a compelling screen counterpart to Layzie's decades of lived experience.

### Layzie Bone as Erik Lane

The character Layzie will play — Erik Lane — is a fallen hip-hop legend, a man who once stood at the

top of the industry before a predatory record label tore it all away from him. He has spent years trying to disappear from the world that made and then discarded him. What he doesn't count on is his nephew Keenan finding his old microphone in the trash and entering it into the very competition run by the label that destroyed him. The role asks for someone who understands, at a cellular level, what it means to build something real in this industry — and what it feels like when that something is taken.

Few people are more qualified. Steven Howse — Layzie Bone — has spent more than thirty years at the center of American hip-hop, beginning with the now-legendary moment when he and his crew boarded a Greyhound bus from Cleveland to Los Angeles, auditioned for Eazy-E in his dressing room, and signed with Ruthless/Relativity Records. What followed was a career that helped define the sound and spirit of an era. Bone Thugs-n-Harmony became one of the genre's most beloved and distinctive groups, and Layzie remained one of its driving forces — releasing a prolific body of solo work including *Thug By Nature* and *It's Not A Game*, founding the independent label Harmony Howse Entertainment, and continuing to record and collaborate across decades when many of his contemporaries had long since stepped away.

His reach has never been limited to music alone. His 2015 single *Cleveland Is the City* was adopted by Fox News as the Cleveland Cavaliers' theme song during the NBA Finals, and he is the uncle of acclaimed independent rapper Dizzy Wright, whose own career speaks to Layzie's enduring influence on the next generation. All of that — the history, the resilience, the complexity of a man who has seen the industry from every angle — is exactly what Erik Lane requires.

## SeeFour as Keenan

If Layzie represents what hip-hop costs over a lifetime, SeeFour embodies what it looks like at the very beginning — all hunger, instinct, and something to prove. That is Keenan: a 17-year-old who believes with everything he has that this competition, and this microphone, are his way out.

SeeFour is a professional recording and performance artist from Boston, Massachusetts, widely regarded as one of the greatest live performers New England has produced — and an artist whose talent has already been validated on one of the biggest stages in contemporary hip-hop. As a contestant on the second season of Netflix's *Rhythm + Flow* — the hit hip-hop reality competition series that has introduced some of the genre's most compelling new voices to a global audience — SeeFour brought his artistry to a national platform and demonstrated, in front of millions of viewers, exactly what makes him impossible to ignore. It was a moment that confirmed what those in the New England music scene had known for years.

He began his career at 14, writing, producing, singing, and rapping his own material, earning his reputation the old-fashioned way — competing against artists years his senior and winning, then showing up to school the next morning. Now 22, he has performed on more than 200 stages across the United States, opened for Reason, D Smoke, Tyga, and Jay Rock, and recently released his album *Spirit of a Warrior* via Boston-based independent label PUTINWORK Records. His sound — a fluid, instinctive blend of Hip-Hop, R&B, and Jazz — carries the same kind of earned authenticity that the story of Keenan demands.

Together, SeeFour and Layzie Bone anchor a film about what connects two generations of artists separated by time, pride, and a secret neither of them was prepared to face. It is a dynamic that Executive Producer Bryant T. Scott sees as central not just to the film, but to the conversation the culture needs to be having. "Having Layzie Bone involved alongside someone like SeeFour creates a real bridge between generations," Scott said. "You've got someone who's experienced the industry at

the highest level, and then someone who's still chasing that moment — and that's exactly what this story is about." It is also a dynamic that Executive Producer Marquette Hawkins sees as central to the culture at large. "The Golden Microphone isn't just a moment — it's a movement," he said. "Bringing SeeFour and Layzie Bone into the same space captures something rare in hip-hop: a seamless connection between legacy and what's next. It's a generational bridge — where the sound, the story, and the spirit of the culture continue to evolve without losing their roots."

## **The Team Behind the Film**

At the origin of *The Golden Microphone* is its story — and the man whose life made it possible. DJ Cli-N-Tel (Marquette Hawkins) is a Compton native, a key architect of early West Coast hip-hop, and a man whose fingerprints are on the genre's origin story in ways that have not always been fully acknowledged. As an original member of the World Class Wreckin' Cru from 1983 to 1985, Hawkins worked alongside Dr. Dre, mentored early N.W.A members, and helped pioneer electro-rap before transitioning into education, filmmaking, and authorship. *The Golden Microphone* is, in many ways, a film only he could have originated — drawn from decades of watching the culture he helped build from the inside.

Joining Hawkins as Executive Producer is Bryant T. Scott, founder of Flavortown Entertainment Group and a Los Angeles-based entertainment entrepreneur whose focus on authentic, music-driven storytelling makes him a natural partner for this project. Scott brings with him a background in artist development and a track record of shepherding original projects from early development through production. His involvement reflects a conviction he articulates plainly: "This film speaks to believing in yourself when the odds aren't in your favor. That's a universal theme, but it's especially important right now — people are looking for something real, something they can connect to. That's what we're aiming to deliver."

At the helm of *The Golden Microphone* as writer-director is Clayton Guiltner, the filmmaker who first recognized this story's potential and assembled the team to bring it to life. An award-winning producer and director with close to thirty years of experience across theatre and film, Guiltner is a lifetime member of the Director's Unit at the historic Actors Studio, founder of GC Films Hollywood, and holds a Master of Fine Arts in Directing. His most recent features, *Hope's Hollywood Christmas* and *Pillow Armor*, both secured international distribution — a track record that reflects his ability to shepherd original projects from vision to screen.

*"We wanted to create something that felt true to that world — the grind, the struggle, the culture — but also something the culture doesn't always get to see: a redemptive story. One about grit. About believing in yourself when nobody else does. About second chances across generations. That's the heartbeat of this film — and we believe the world is ready to hear it,"* Guiltner said.

Rounding out the team is producer Traci Fantroy, whose twenty-five years of project management experience and proven partnership with Guiltner make her an essential anchor for the project. What this team has built around *The Golden Microphone* is more than a film in development — it's a statement about what hip-hop storytelling can look like when the people who lived the culture are the ones telling the story.

## **About *The Golden Microphone***

*The Golden Microphone* is an original feature film in development with GC Films. Further casting, financing, and production announcements are expected in the coming months.

For media inquiries, please contact GC Films publicist Jeffree Davis at: [jeffree@99seatproduction.com](mailto:jeffree@99seatproduction.com)



## Media Contact

GC Films LLC

\*\*\*\*\*@guiltnercreative.com

<http://www.guiltnercreative.com>

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