



MC Jin

MC Jin grew up in Miami working in his parents' Chinese restaurant. He liked to make rhymes but noticed that there were no Asian American rappers. He wanted to change that. To his parents' disappointment and worry, he decided not to go to college and instead moved to New York to pursue a rap career. MC Jin's big break came in 2002 when he participated in a BET program, *106 & Park*, freestyle battle. He won after seven rounds. Unlike other competitors, he included Cantonese verses and was signed to Ruff Ryders Entertainment, becoming the first solo Asian American rapper signed to a major record label in the United States. "Learn Chinese" (2004) was MC Jin's first single talking about Asian American stereotypes. It became an early symbol of the AZN Pride Movement seeking to highlight various Asian American identities. Ruff Ryders did not know how to market an Asian American rapper and eventually MC Jin left for an independent label where he released his first all-Cantonese language album *ABC* (2007). Between 2008-11, he gained some success in Hong Kong in the Canto-pop scene and eventually returned to the United States. When MC Jin started in Hong Kong and China, he had to learn and practice Cantonese and Mandarin to improve his Chinese. Since 2017, he has gained success in mainland China when he participated in "The Rap of China."

Note: Some songs listed might have explicit content; listener discretion advised.