



FLYBOY 2

The Greg Tate Reader

GREG TATE

Since launching his career at the *Village Voice* in the early 1980s Greg Tate has been one of the premiere critical voices on contemporary Black music, art, literature, film, and politics. *Flyboy 2* provides a panoramic view of the last thirty years of Tate's influential work. Whether interviewing Miles Davis or Ice Cube, reviewing an Azealia Banks mixtape or Suzan Lori Parks' *Topdog/Underdog*, discussing visual artist Kara Walker or writer Clarence Major, or analyzing the ties between Afro-futurism, Black feminism, and social movements, Tate's resounding critical insights illustrate how race, gender, and class become manifest in American popular culture. Above all, Tate demonstrates through his signature mix of vernacular poetics and cultural theory and criticism why visionary Black artists, intellectuals, aesthetics, philosophies, and politics matter to twenty-first-century America.

"Gathered here we have a body of work a generation in the making that will certainly shape our thinking, listening and seeing for generations to come. Greg Tate is the standard bearer; his critical sensibilities are only matched by his ability to render them in stunning prose. The power and charisma of his intellect emanate from the page. In the tradition of Ellison and Baraka, but unlike them, shaped by the best of Black Feminism, Tate forges his own brilliant path."— **Farah Jasmine Griffin**

"The premier hip hop writer of his generation, a stunning prose stylist, and the inventor of a whole new approach to music and cultural criticism, Greg Tate has been to hip hop what Albert Murray is to jazz: the standard-setter for a generation of intellectuals who care deeply about race, art, and the future."— **Ann Powers**



Greg Tate is a music and popular culture critic and journalist whose work has appeared in many publications, including the *Village Voice*, *Vibe*, *Spin*, *the Wire*, and *Downbeat*. He is the author of *Flyboy in the Buttermilk: Essays on Contemporary America* and *Midnight Lightning: Jimi Hendrix and the Black Experience*, and the editor of *Everything But the Burden: What White People Are Taking from Black Culture*. Tate, via guitar and baton, also leads the Conducted Improvisation ensemble Burnt Sugar The Arkestra Chamber who tour internationally.

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