

# Back to Tape (5/7)

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16/02/2018 Music journalist Niko Hüls took a Porsche Panamera on a trip to the roots of hip-hop in Germany – and met up with the most formative influences, disciplines and personalities of this urban youth culture. The next stop on the tour is Berlin.

*Six cities, ten artists, a car and a good deal of rap: In a series of guest interviews on Porsche Newsroom, Niko Hüls, boss of the German hip-hop magazine Backspin, reports on his road trip across Germany. More impressions can be found on Instagram and Twitter using the hashtag #porschexbackspin as well as on the Backspin TV YouTube channel.*

Berlin is a hip-hop metropolis. Graffiti artists, rappers, DJs, breakdancers and beatboxers all have a place in the cultural mosaic that is Germany's capital city, and all have their meeting point: the Warschauer Brücke, the former Teufelsberg listening station on the hills of Charlottenburg, in the Gretchen nightclub in Kreuzberg, on a walk through the Osthafen docks or at the Urban Spree cultural centre. Rappers such as Sido, Bushido, Fler and Peter Fox have given Berlin a unique sound which has

been moulded over many years, while the city's streets are decorated with works of art from graffiti stars like Amok or 1UP.

## Berlin: The hip-hop capital city

The capital city has an almost magnetic effect on artists and producers, who head to Berlin to produce their albums on the banks of the river Spree. This includes, for example, Philip Böllhoff, Sipho Sililo, David Vogt and Hannes Büscher, better known as the successful Beatgees team of producers. Their Berlin premises include the recording studio used by Curse, aka Michael Kurth, who was putting the finishing touches to his new album "Die Farbe von Wasser" during our #porschexbackspin tour and granted me exclusive insights behind the scenes.

@nikobackspin is on his way to the roots of German hip hop – his next stop is Berlin where he meets @cursezeit. Watch @allesbackspin & @porsche_newsroom for more. #porschexbackspin #workdrivebalance #porsche #porschenews #porschenewsroom #hiphop #hiphoptour #cursezeit #allesbackspin #panamera #porschepanamera #porschepanameraturbo #panameraturbo #turbo #car #porschelife Panamera Turbo: Fuel consumption combined 9.4 – 9.3 l/100 km; CO2 emissions 214 – 212 g/km Model Range Panamera: Fuel consumption combined 9.5 – 6.7 l/100 km; CO2 emissions 217 – 171 g/km

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When I think of Curse, then the first thing that comes to mind is his song "10 Rap Gesetze", which appeared on the 2000 album "Feuerwasser". The song is still a classic even now, as well as an essential mantra of my own ethos – because when all is said and done, "you have to love hip-hop as if the money doesn't matter".

## You have to love hip-hop as if the money doesn't matter

Whether it is his faith in Buddhism, his work as a yoga teacher, the early collaboration with the pop band Silbermond on "Bis zum Schluss" or making political statements alongside Gentleman on "Widerstand" – his self-reflective, intelligent and always experimental nature shapes the Westphalia native and his career even today. And that is why it is not a chore to meet Curse late one evening in Berlin and speak about his two latest projects in addition to hip-hop: a meditation and coaching podcast, as well as his own book, a 2018 publication from Rowohlt Taschenbuch.

Curse has played a crucial role in the history of hip-hop in Germany. He has released six studio albums, collaborated on the national stage with major artists such as Kool Savas, Dendeman, Max Herre and Marius Müller-Westernhagen and has taken part in international projects with The Roots and Promoe, playing electronic beats, piano ballads and creaking hooks, all with a voice that the ear is drawn to. For

me, Michael Kurth is simply the hip-hop fan he sings about in his lyrics.

**Link Collection**

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