

THE BIG E

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WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA

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ICE-T AT THE BIG E!

Grammy Award winning rapper and actor, Ice-T, will perform in the Big E's xfinity arena on Sept. 22 at 7:30pm. His musical journey started during high school. After moving to LA to live with his aunt, he took to writing songs to follow in the literary footsteps of his idol and inspiration, Robert Beck, aka "Iceberg Slim." It was, in part, due to this novelist that he penned the name "Ice-T" for future gigs.

Upon leaving the Army, he chose to focus on his music career and got his first break when asked to rap in the 1984 film, *Breakin'*. In 1987, the Rap artist signed with major record label, Sire Records, and released his debut album, *Rhyme Pays*, which eventually went gold.

With his public image rapidly rising, Ice-T continued to release more music through his own record label, Rhyme Syndicate Records. This included his 1991 album, *O.G. Original Gangster*, which was a pivotal component in the creation and evolution of Gangsta Rap, a genre invented by Ice-T.

By combining realistic struggles with fictional settings, Ice-T has maintained an unforgettably hard-hitting style, making him extremely influential in Rap and Hip-Hop communities. By incorporating inner-city life within a narrative style, his songs not only spoke to many up-and-coming rap artists of the 20th century, but paved the way for future generations as well.

In the past two decades, the Rap artist has lent his time and talents to television. Since 2000, he's starred in the hit NBC show, *Law and Order: Special Victim's Unit*, as Detective Odafin Tutuola. Being one of the longest-standing characters in the series, next to Mariska Hargitay as Olivia Benson, Ice-T has created an iconic television role in the past 20 seasons, garnering him even more commercial success.

With more music than ever this year, be sure to watch for additional concerts to be announced through the summer. Visit TheBigE.com to sign up for emails and connect on social media to be the first to get exclusive information. Join us at #BigEMoments.

What: Ice-T

When: Saturday, Sept. 22 – 7:30pm

Tickets: Free show. A limited number of premium reserved seats go on sale July 12 at 10am. Visit TheBigE.com or The Big E Box Office. Tickets are \$29 and include Big E admission.

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