

# E LIVING & ARTS

INSPIRE ATLANTA CLUBS HELP TEEN GAIN CONFIDENCE, VOICE, E4

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'RAPPER'S DELIGHT'

## Decades later, it's still quite a 'Delight'

Sugarhill Gang gave rap a wider audience, and hit still has fans.

By Bo Emerson  
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It was 1979. Hip-hop was happening, in dance halls, at high school gyms and on street corners in Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx.

Rappers such as Melle Mel and Fab Five Freddy were spitting rhymes over scratching turntables; breakdancers performed with them, throwing down acrobatic moves, stylishly posing.

The movement grew from the ground up. Dancers, MCs, DJs, artists, clothing designers, each adding a new element to the mix.

But it took a Harlem-born record producer and singer — and a trio of neophytes — to bring rap to a mass audience with "Rapper's Delight."

Sylvia Robinson, who performed as Little Sylvia, had a 1957 hit with the tune "Love Is Strange" as one half of the duo Mickey & Sylvia. She went on to write and produce records for her labels, All Platinum Records and Sugar Hill Records, the latter named after a notable Harlem neighborhood.

Robinson recognized the rising tide of hip-hop, and found a way to capture the fast-talking street poetry on vinyl. In the fall of 1979, she drafted Michael Anthony "Wonder Mike" Wright, Guy "Master Gee" O'Brien and Henry "Big Bank Hank" Jackson to come to her studio

'Delight' continued on E6



The "Rapper's Delight" single was released in September 1979 — and music was changed forever. DISCOGS



Chef Matthew Raiford, a 2018 James Beard semifinalist for Best Chef in the Southeast, talks about sumac, one of the many useful and tasty wild-grown plants found on Gilliard Farms. CONTRIBUTED BY NINA MUKERJEE FURSTENAU

# Mind of a chef, heart of a farmer

**Noted culinarian gets hands dirty, embraces Gullah Geechee roots to build future on past.**

By Nina Mukerjee Furstenau  
For the AJC

**B**RUNSWICK — At Gilliard Farms, chef Matthew Raiford gets his hands in the soil to dig, and the grit on his boots proves it.

It's the surprise of hearing the words chef and farmer together that first gets interest, but Raiford offers more: food as part of natural patterns, soil knowledge, and flavors that mix both land and sea. His Gullah Geechee farming methods and chef's sensibility ensure that Raiford takes the long view when it comes to food.

But make no mistake, Raiford is not advocating old ways of farming or cooking exclusive of new

technology. While his cooking space includes an old wooden Pepsi crate, a red ice box reminiscent of earlier days outside the door, and ingredients from wild-grown plants flavoring foods from ancient times, he cooked lunch sous vide, and called over his shoulder, "Hey, Google. Timer: 10 minutes," to make sure biscuits baking in a cast-iron skillet were not overdone.

Raiford, 52, a 2018 James Beard semifinalist for Best Chef in the Southeast, is indeed an old-ways culinarian, and the rare chef who actually lives on the farm. His hands-in-the-dirt perspective adds to his place among chefs that are

Chef-farmer continued on E8

AJC PREVIEW BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE ATLANTA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

## Atlanta Jewish Film Festival marks 20th year with 18 days of movies

More than 50 films shine a light on culture that is identifiable, relatable to people around the globe.

By Kiersten Willis  
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The Atlanta Jewish Film Festival is not only the largest film festival in Atlanta, it's one of the largest Jewish film festivals in the world. Fewer than 2,000 people attended when it was established 20 years ago by the American Jewish Committee. But when the annual event returns Mon-

day-Feb. 27, roughly 40,000 people are expected to attend. Spanning 18 days, the festival will host screenings of 48 feature-length films and 16 shorts at seven venues across the city.

Executive director Kenny Blank attributes the festival's growth to "not straying from its origins and the ingredients responsible for its success."

Those origins include spotlight-

ing films that explore Jewish life through the lenses of filmmakers from around the globe making comedies, dramas, documentaries and shorts. Considering the diverse range of genres, viewers might wonder: What exactly makes a film Jewish?

Blank said that's something programmers "wrestle with constantly."

"We define Jewish cinema as broadly as possible because ultimately the stories, characters and

Jewish continued on E6



Tomer Capon stars in the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival world premiere short "Curl," a story of Haredi life. CONTRIBUTED



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Azzedine Alaïa, bustier dress with pins, summer 1988. Photo by Jean-Baptiste Mondino.