



courtesy of Quannam Projects

Latyrx, Blackalicious, Lifesavas and Supergroup all bring their messages to the WOW Hall on Sunday night.

# Hip-hop tour tears into town

Blackalicious and Portland's award-winning Lifesavas will be among the acts on the West World Tour

By Sara Jarrett  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's a hip-hop "West World Tour" and our own Emerald City made the list of stopping places. Presented by Darkside Productions, the soulful, music groups Blackalicious and Latyrx, who along with DJ Shadow make up the independent recording label Quannam Projects, will perform at the WOW Hall on Nov. 14.

Debuting the same night will be Supergroup, composed of Cool Nutz, Vursatyl and Karim Panni — who also owns Darkside Productions. The three are independent freelancers with very differ-

ent styles and interests, Panni said in a phone interview.

While running the company remains Panni's focus, he said he currently manages to find time to work on Supergroup's first single, which will soon be released. Under his direction, Darkside Productions has successfully put on "every single hip-hop performance in the area for the last three years," Panni said. The group also presents major and underground gigs in Portland.

"There at least five to six hundred people at every show," he said.

Also performing on Sunday will be Portland's Lifesavas, made up of Vursatyl and Jumbo the Garbage Man. The group was recently voted best hip-hop group in Portland. In Panni's opinion, though, it surpasses every group in every category.

"Lifesavas has conscious lyrics and some of the best beats anywhere," he said. "They're not gansta rap — far from it."

After the WOW Hall show, the Lifesavas will join Blackalicious and Latyrx for the European leg of their tour. Panni predicts Lifesavas is going to "blow up" after the stint.

For this show, Blackalicious will present a "well-rehearsed, very eclectic set. We're very tight and very comprehensive with a lot of positive energy," Gift of Gab, one half of the duo that makes up Blackalicious, said in a phone interview. Turn to **Hip Hop**, Page 7B

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