



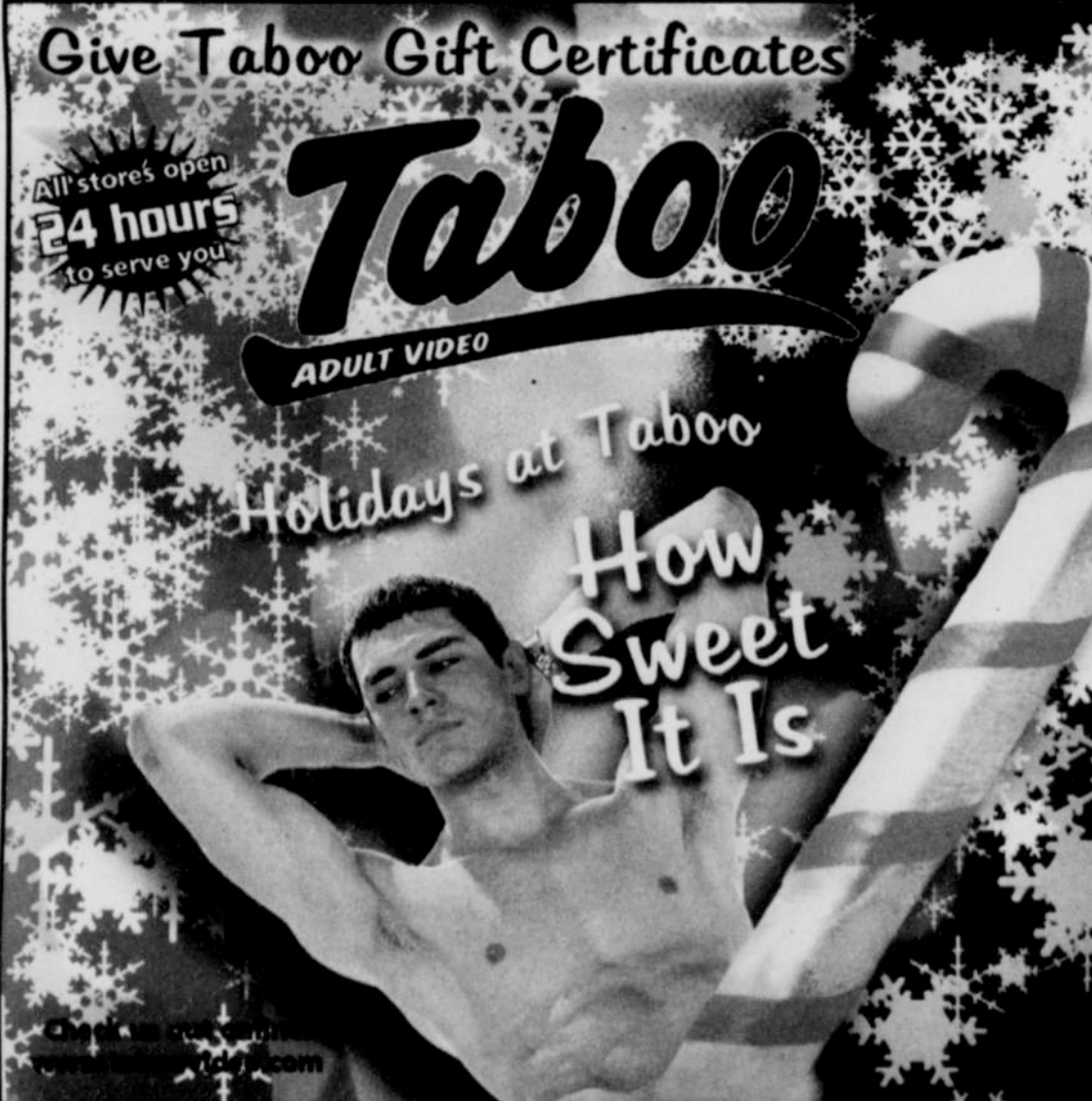
www.portlandsaturdaymarket.com
Sat. 10 ~ 5 • Sun. 11 ~ 4:30 • SW Ankeny + Naito Pkwy • 503.222.6072

Give Taboo Gift Certificates

All stores open 24 hours to serve you

Taboo
ADULT VIDEO

Holidays at Taboo
How Sweet It Is



MLK Blvd. Taboo 237 SE MLK Blvd. Portland (503) 239 1678	82nd Ave. Taboo 2330 SE 82nd Ave. Portland (503) 777 6033	Taboo Vancouver 4811 NE 94th Ave. Van./WA (360) 254 1126
---	--	---

HUGE DVD SELECTION • ADULT TOYS • FINGER • MAGAZINES • MULTICHANNEL ARCADE

He's Bringing EasyBack

Escape your troubles with Jim Brickman

Stress is the disease, and Jim Brickman is the cure.

The pianist, who received a Grammy nomination for Best Pop Instrumental Album in 2003, just released *Escape*, his 12th album in 12 years. I caught up with the busy composer in advance of two holiday concerts in Oregon.

Jim Radosta: Is it rough being away from home right before the holidays?

Jim Brickman: This is our 10th year of doing the holiday tour. It's something I'm actually more used to than being home. I'm not sure what I would do with myself if I were home. It's just like part of my world now.

JR: How would you describe your music to someone who's unfamiliar with you?

JB: Well, in essence it's very emotional and... tends to be thought of as romantic. Of course, it's all original, so it's all pretty honest, from the heart and soul. It's an emotional connection, sometimes melancholy, sometimes bright and spiritual and inspirational.

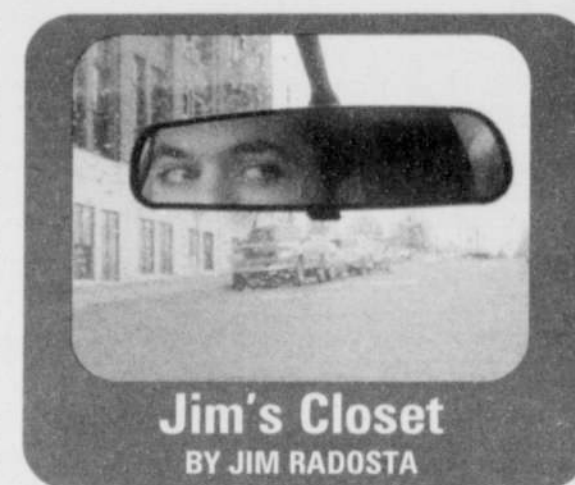
What inspired this particular album, *Escape*, was that people would come up to me after the show and say, "What I use the music for is to comfort my kids at night when they're going to bed" or "I'm an emergency room nurse, and I play the music to calm the surgeons down while we're in there" or "I lost somebody who was really meaningful to me in my life, and I use the music to remember them." What they're really saying is that it strikes an emotional chord and lets them be free to take it on whatever journey they want to take it when they hear it. It's just that with instrumental music it's a little bit easier because it doesn't tell you how to feel; you can interpret those feelings for whatever you happen to be going through at that particular time.

JR: Are you sometimes surprised by how much of an emotional impact your music has on your listeners?

JB: Constantly. What's great about...doing things like the meet-and-greets after the show or in-store appearances or reading fan mail is it really does remind you of why you're doing it in the first place—that it's not for any other achievement other than to move people or to share your art with people. I know that sometimes that sounds a little bit esoteric or schmaltzy, but it really is true.

JR: Do you mind the label "easy listening," or has the genre been given a bad rap?

JB: I've never really had a problem with labels, because I think labels exist to try to define a category, especially if you do something that's not as mainstream as "I'm a country singer" or "I'm a pop diva." When you're kind of alone in your



category, people don't know exactly what to do. If I'm in an easy listening category, then how do you describe duets with Sara Evans and Martina McBride or Gerald Levert or Herb Alpert or any of the collaborations I've had? What do you do with the guy? I don't blame people for trying to categorize me. I'd prefer there be a Jim Brickman section of the store, but there isn't. [Laughs]

JR: What was it like competing for a Grammy against Prince?

JB: I totally forgot about that! The Grammys are kind of funny, because it's like a popularity contest. If you're nominated you get one ticket, and then if you want to sit with someone, you have to pay them a ridiculous amount of money for that seat. Most award shows like that are sort of organized into the flavor of the month, you know? I must've been on the B level, though, because I was [sitting] with Ruben

Studdard. Well, Beyoncé was a couple of rows away from me, so maybe I wasn't. [Laughs]

JR: I also wanted to ask you a little bit about your personal life. Is it OK if I identify you as gay?

JB: No. Here's my take on all that, honestly. I've never been one of those artists where people cared more about what I was wearing, who I was dating, what scandal I was in than about my talent. What [people] usually connect with first and foremost is the music. I feel so lucky about that, because it's about what it's supposed to be about.

There's curiosity and there's rumors and everything like that. I just love that when I look out into the audience, there's black, white, gay, straight, little kids who are 5 years old who want to take piano lessons. That's what I'm doing it for. If I wanted to have it be about something else, it would be really easy for me to make a spectacle about it. 10

JIM BRICKMAN performs 7:30 p.m. Nov. 15 at Salem's Elsinore Theatre, 170 High St. S.E., and 8 p.m. Nov. 16 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 S.W. Broadway. Tickets are \$20-\$50 from TicketsWest (Salem) and \$38.50-\$48.50 from Ticketmaster (Portland).

Arts and Culture Editor JIM RADOSTA needs your feedback. Write to jim@justout.com.