

Speaking of Violence

New musical artillery helps The Roots expose ills of society

The Roots have always been known for their conscious and organic take on modern day hip hop. With bassist, drummer, guitarist, keyboardist, percussionist, MC and sousaphone player, the band channels funk, jazz, rock and soul to produce an eclectic mix of rhythmic maneuvering within their songs. But as popular music has reinvested an interest in heavier synth-laden sounds, so has the septet from Philly plugged into their own electronic experimentation with 2008's *Rising Down*.

The album title is based on William T. Vollmann's book *Rising Up and Rising Down: Some Thoughts On Violence, Freedom and Urgent Means*, which discusses the psychological nature



of violence in society, a prevalent theme within the album. The cover art, inspired by Norman Jennett's 1898 political cartoon "Vampire That Hovers Over North Carolina" or "Negro Rule," depicts a newly freed southern slave with pointed teeth, claws and

outstretched wings, dwarfing the tiny people who run in terror below. The image is dark, but so is the music behind it. In fact, it's the most intensely dark and political album The Roots have put out since the release of *Game Theory* in 2006. And it's not one

The Roots, Stephen Marley
7 pm Wednesday, June 4
Cuthbert Amphitheater • \$32
adv., \$37 door

without a message. "We just wanted to put out an album of bangers because we kind of knew we had to sort of offset the heavy message," said Questlove in a recent interview. "I guess if anything probably the hardest thing to do on this record was to put everything in first person perspective. Because normally whenever we did touch something political it was always from a very safe arm's length third person perspective."

Dense instrumentation drives *Rising Down*'s 15 tracks, bringing Black Thought's ideas on revolution, race, crime and political power to life. As usual, Questlove's presence is palpable as he engages in raw emphatic bouts with his drum kit. The soul influences aren't overlooked either, but they're coupled with the deep grind of bass filled synth loops and stutter-step samples. Although many times the album feels like a Roots-sponsored apocalypse, lighter tracks like "Rising Up" help to balance out the album's strong but creative content.

EW

Enter to win tickets to The Roots at www.eugeneweekly.com/contests



EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT
80'S NIGHT
THE LEGENDARY DANCE PARTY
NO COVER FOR LADIES BEFORE 11 PM

EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT
JOHN HENRY'S BROADWAY REVUE
REAL LIVE BURLESQUE
HALF PRICE ADMISSION FOR SERVICE INDUSTRY

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT
REGGAE VS HIP HOP
DJ KAL-EL VS DJ TEKNEEK
NO COVER FOR LADIES BEFORE 11 PM

FRIDAY 5/30 DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 PM:
HILLSTOMP WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
BAD MITTEN ORCHESTRE, MCDUGALL

FRIDAY 6/6 DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 PM:
THE 206 DEGREES AND RISING TOUR FEATURING
CANCER RISING, D. BLACK, NEEMA KUBLAKAI AND GARDEN ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY 6/7 DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 PM:
CLUB PYNK - FEATURING DJ JOHN SPINNING
FAVORITES FROM THE 80'S AND BEYOND
+ GO GO DANCERS, DANCE CONTESTS & MORE



EUGENE'S PLACE TO PARTY!

The CITY NIGHTCLUB

MYSPACE.COM/THCITYEUGENENIGHTCLUB
WWW.THECITYEUGENE.COM

The City!

DJ REDD FOX
EVERY TUES & SAT NIGHTS

DJ SIMY
EVERY THURS & FRI NIGHTS

2222 MLK IN THE KOWLOON BUILDING 343-4734



we like to party.

thirteenth and oak | downtown eugene
visit myspace.com/indigodistrict for more details.

THE LANDMARK

An Ocean view from every table
111 Hwy 101 in YACHATS • 541-547-5459
www.landmark-yachats.com



Live at the Coast



THURSDAY, MAY 29, 9PM • Landmark Debut!
High Ceiling
Grooves from Olympia, Washington, jam rock, grass and the Dead

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 9PM • Landmark Debut!
Mike Tracey Band
Northwest Harmonica Champion 2007

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 9PM
Jupiter Hollow
Jam rock, roots and fusion, healing the planet

Fresh Fish/Italian - Authentic Oregon since 1911
• Open Jam every Sunday 4:00pm •