

BACK IN ACTION

Dev first burst onto the scene with 2010's "Bass Down Low," followed by club favorite "In The Dark." Both met with moderate success. It wasn't until Far East Movement's "Like A G6" turned a verse from her single "Booty Bounce" into its infamous chorus that Dev really started to get some attention.

Her 2012 debut *The Night The Sun Came Up* received a huge push from Universal Republic, who released singles or videos for 10 of the 12 tracks on the album, as well as a non-album single "Naked" featuring Enrique Iglesias. It seemed as if Dev was about to blow up.

Then followed nearly two years of silence punctuated by YouTube teasers, another single and promises of an album to come, finally resulting in Dev leaving Universal Republic.

In spring of 2014, the Manteca, California-based songstress began to embrace her newfound freedom. She's since self-released three EP's of new material, collaborated with electro duo NERVO, Bay Area DJ NanosauR and worked with Krayshawn on a video for her dreamy single "Honeydip." Seemingly recharged, Dev is back in action and ready to bring her electro-dance hip hop to the road.

Disco Lemonade joins Dev at 8 pm Wednesday, May 13, at Cozmic; \$11-\$13, \$73 VIP meet and greet. All ages. — *Joshua Isaac Finch*



SOUL FOR NOBODY

Willis Earl Beal sounds like your favorite vinyl: scratchy, with a cosmic understanding of the word "cool" and a distinct otherworldliness.

The bluesy lo-fi singer pairs smokey vocals reminiscent of Nat King Cole with an avant-garde sensibility that recalls Tom Waits. Beal is a singer in his early 30s, but his soulful sound remains both timeless and lonely. He draws from life experience ranging from reading poetry at open mics on the south side of Chicago to a battle with homelessness in New Mexico. But Beal has minimal "classical" music training.

"I know the sounds I want to make and I have faith that it's sincere," Beal tells *EW*. "I have faith that somebody will receive it."

In 2014, *Vogue* introduced Beal as the "already mythic bluesman" and he's racked up accolades from *Rolling Stone*, *The Guardian* and *Pitchfork*. Beal is also a visual artist and actor; his film *Memphis* screened at Sundance Film Festival last year.

If you ask Beal, however, he may just tell you that he's nobody. In fact, he tattooed the word "nobody" on his arm, using money he earned donating plasma while living between houses in Albuquerque.

"I'm still not famous," Beal says. "I'm still only worth what I've got in my pocket."

Briefly signed to major British label XL Recordings, Beal is once again making music free of a major label.

"The difference is the music itself," he notes. "It's lot more refined and intentional. My early stuff was not really intended for people to hear. And this stuff here is just the perfect example of how I've become my own favorite artist."

For his Eugene show, Beal says he plans to wear a mask (resembling the mask of Zorro) beneath a blue backlight, and without a spotlight. That way, he says, the audience will only see his silhouette and hear his voice.

His latest record *Nocturne* was produced in (and influenced by) the state of Washington. There he finally had the time, space and solitude to figure out what kind of soundscape he wanted to create. These days, Beal discusses vague plans to "settle down" in Portland.

"I find the geography of a place affects me far more than the people do," he says. "I had traveled out to the desert in New Mexico, and now at the trail end of all the crazy shit that's happened to me, I'm surrounded by trees."

One-man band **Skin Lies** joins Willis Earl Beal 9 pm Wednesday, May 13, at WOW Hall; \$10 adv., \$12 door. — *Bryan Kalbrosky*



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