

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

DIGABLE PLANETS

Intercommunal Sound Service
BLOWOUT COMB



digable planets

If Blowout Comb, the sophomore Pendulum/EMI release from Digable Planets, sounds different from their gold plus debut *Rechin'* (a new refutation of time and space), then do not adjust your dial-Blowout

Comb is different.

Blowout Comb continues the revolutionary artistic process begun on *Rechin'* and lays the groundwork for the future. In '94, the stakes are higher, the beats a

little harder and the vision more searing, elevating Digable Planets' message to the next logical level. "People have been telling us that Blowout Comb sounds subdued or maybe even more se-

rious, and there's definitely a reason for that," explains Doodlebug. "It's because the issues that we are confronting are more serious and because we're more serious this time. The purest art has got to be a reflection of the artist."

That reflection and that purity is what you hear as soon as the needle drops. Serious, soulful smokey, righteously angry, triumphant, celebratory, playful, sexy, and revolutionary. Sum it up? "It's all our life experiences, just like the first album was, but this time, we feel more confident of what we say and how we choose to say it," offers Butterfly. In other words, Blowout Comb is a total Hip Hop experience, written, arranged and produced by one of its brightest lights.

Rechin' made Digable Planets a major presence on MTV, The Box and BET. Their single "Rebirth of slick (Cool Like Dat)" catapulted them into the spotlight and emerged as the number two rap single of 1993 according to Billboard, and a world tour capped off the year. Digable Planets received a truckload of accolades, including NAACP Image Award nominations, a Billboard Music Video Award, a Soul Train Music Award nomination for best rap album of the year and a groundswell of critical and fan support. The trio also snagged the 1993 Grammy for Best Rap Performance by a Duo or a Group. "Winning the Grammy was a double edged sword," admits Doodlebug, "but like everything else, it helped define the music we're capable of making in 1994."

Recorded in NYC over a period of three months, Blowout Comb defines how Digable Planets are living and the world they are living in-and they've brought in some friends to help them get the job done right.

Zimbabwe Music Fest This Weekend

The Zimbabwe Music Festival takes place Friday through Sunday at Portland State University.

The festival celebrates the music and dance of the Shona people of Zimbabwe. It includes three nights of African dance music, with concerts by marimba, mbira and electric guitar bands from Seattle, Portland, the Bay Area and beyond. Also included are daytime hands-on workshops and lectures.

Concerts take place in the PSU Smith Center ballroom, 1825 S.W. Broadway beginning Friday at 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. The groups expected are Shumba, Coeur D'Alene Marimba Band, Kudana and Boka Marimba.

Saturday night performances begin at 7 p.m. and the cost is \$8. The groups will include Mahonyera, Anzanga, Mutupo, Lora and Sukutai, Village Spirit, Russell Landers, Musasa and Musango.

Sunday night events are held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and the cost is \$5. The performers include MLC Marimba Band, Dancing Trees, Tropical Montana, Paul Prince and Zanga Zanga and Panjea.

Tickets are available at the door and at the PSU Box Office. You can call 725-3307. Children ages 6 to 12 can get in for half price; children age 5 and under are free.

The workshops include beginning, intermediate and advanced in-

struction in marimba, mbira, hosho (ground shakers), drumming, mbira singing, dance and instrument making, tuning and repair and music theory. Cost is \$10 per hour and \$5 for children age 12 and under. The workshops take place in various rooms of Lincoln Hall, 1620 S.W. Park. They run Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The festival is co-sponsored by the PSU Association of African students, Students for Unity, Black Cultural Affairs Board, Popular Music Board the PSU Music Department's urban music program.

Donna Summer Releases "Christmas Spirit"

Mercury recording artist Donna Summer has released a Christmas album, entitled *Christmas Spirit*. The album includes some of the most popular Christmas music of all time, arranged with lush contemporary production. *Christmas Spirit* also features three new Christmas songs written by Donna Summer: "Christmas Is Here", "Behold The Lamb Of God" and the title track.

Besides being known as the pre-eminent diva of the disco era, Donna Summer has gained a reputation as a world-class vocalist. Donna's love for the holiday season has inspired

her to record her favorite songs.

The album was produced by Michael Omartian, who is best known for his work with Rod Stewart, Christopher Cross and Donna Summer, and was recorded in Nashville.

Christmas Spirit is in stores today.

On November 8th, Mercury Records will release a new Donna Summer greatest hits single CD package entitled *Endless Summer*. The collection will include new music by Summer, as well as some of her most popular recordings.

M.A.N.T.I.S.



Carl Lumbly as Dr. Miles Hawkins (above) and as the Mantis (below).

M.A.N.T.I.S., FOX's popular science fiction drama series airing Fridays (8:00-9:00 PM ET/PT) and starring acclaimed actor Carl Lumbly, is something rare and unusual on television. Lumbly plays Dr. Miles Hawkins, a brilliant biophysicist who is paraplegic as a result of a random shooting during recent riots in his city. Hawkins goes on to develop cutting-edge technology which enables him to walk again and, for brief periods of time, turns him into a superhero -- the Mantis.

The Mantis imparts a nonviolent message to the young people and citizens of the fictional town of Port Columbia. The Mantis himself uses paralyzing darts against his enemies rather than guns or weapons. The Mantis is a positive role model for inner-city youth everywhere and is TV's first black superhero.

FOX Broadcasting has recently ordered an additional nine episodes of M.A.N.T.I.S. increasing the season order to a full 22 episodes.



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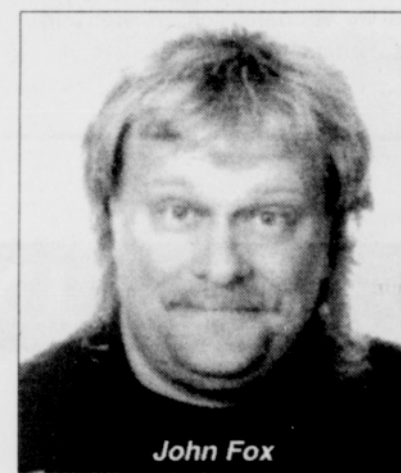
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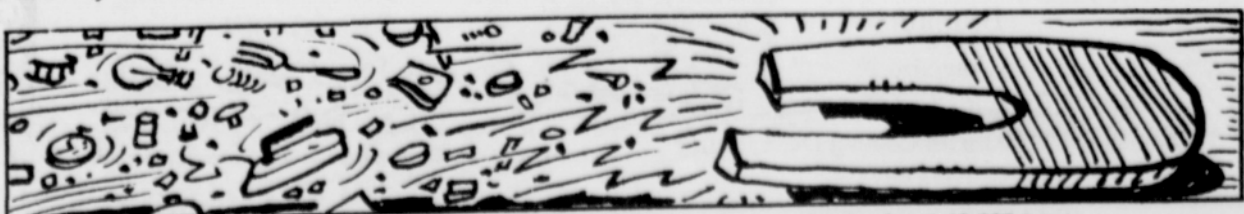
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