

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

Bo Diddley, Bio 94



Dr. Dre, Concrete Roots Anthology

DR. DRE--CONCRETE ROOTS

Album Documents Musical History Of Dr. Dre; Features Tracks by Dre's Wreckin' Cru and NWA; Controversy Over Dre and World Class Wreckin' Cru Responded To.

The Concrete Roots album is the musical chronology of Doctor Dre. The Roots of the Chronic were planted when the seeds were sown on the West Coast, as Doctor Dre first toked up and served his trademark musical sound, molding and shaping projects in the recording studio.

Doctor Dre (AKA Andrew Young) remains one of the few recording artists to be truly respected as a record producer as well. He has, almost single-handedly,

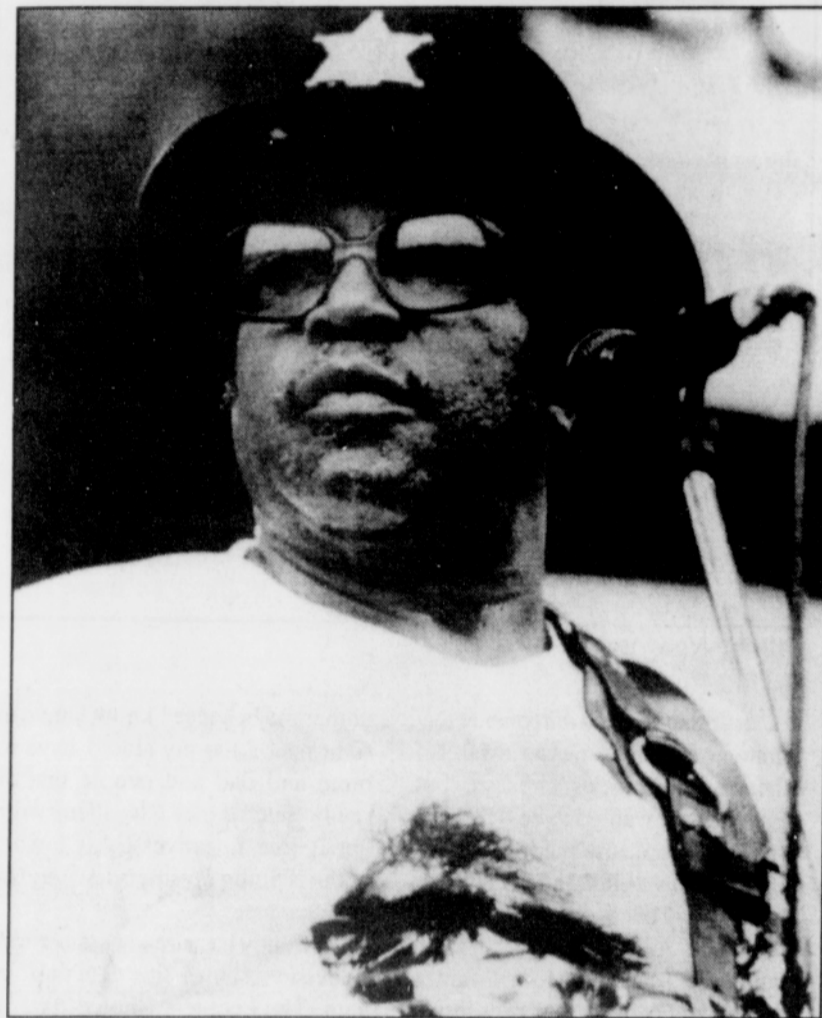
changed the production style of the West Coast rap scene, just as the legendary record producer Phil Spector created a "wall of sound" changing the ways in which albums are produced. Always an innovator, it is Doctor Dre, who is the producer most often identified with "that West Coast sound," and singled out for his innovative style of so-called "gangsta" flavor.

In the early days of West Coast rap, many people simply stated, slept, who shouldn't have. Despite this fact, there is a rich history and knowledge of the West Coast rap scene which circulated around Dre, whose creative musical mind single-handedly changed the face of West Coast music scene. This album helps document and preserve that rich musical

history. It also may, for some, for some bring back memories of the old school.

At the time Dre started recording his projects in the studio and performing in the clubs, basically the major record companies also slept. Rap music, they hoped, was a just fad that was going to go away...and the quicker the better. Still, on the West Coast, DJ's worked hard to perfect their art.

In 1981 and in the early to mid '80's, certain rap groups got their start by being put out by the now-defunct Macola Records--with artists who included, just to name a few, The World Class Wreckin' Cru, Too Short, Hammer, Ice-T, 2 Live Crew and Sir Mix-A-Lot.



Bo Diddley

It's common knowledge that Bo Diddley is among a handful of artists who laid the foundation upon which Rock'n'Roll was built. The Rock'n'Roll Hall of Famer (Bo was inducted early-on in 1987) developed his own unique rhythmic style back in the mid-Fifties. His Chess Records output from that period includes such undeniable classics as "I'm a Man," "Bo Diddley," "Who Do You Love," and "Mona." These songs have been covered by succeeding generations of blues rockers and are considered classics of early rock. His early-Sixties hit "Say Man" was a forerunner to rap, and many of his talk-sing favorites, propelled by street jive and rhythmic intensity, point directly to the rap music of today.

Bo has never stopped recording and touring, and in the Seventies, many of his hits were given new life via the famous London Sessions recordings, which placed Bo alongside musicians such as Bill Wyman and Ronnie Wood. His alliance with

Wood led to an Eighties' tour and recording, both met with overwhelming response.

Along with a variety of film roles and his renowned Nike advertisements, the Nineties saw Bo begin releasing his new recordings on independent label Triple X. Two experimental rock/pop/R&B discs, Breakin' Through the B.S. and This Should Not Be were followed by the lengthy improvisational exploration that comprised the simply-titled Live.

Bo's newest work is a pleasant surprise--an EP that stylistically recalls his early successes while technologically pointing towards the future. Promises features Bo on all instruments and vocals, with occasional guests dropping in a solo here and there. Bo has enthusiastically kept up with emerging musical styles and new technology, and refers to himself as a "musical scientist." His newest offering reflects his up-to-date listening habits as well as his grasp of the latest techniques and sounds. In "I'm Gonna Get Your Girlfriend," Bo re-invents the infamous Bo Diddley beat with a wildly treated piano. For those who have been waiting for a fervent collection of brand new Bo, this is it.

WB Television Production Has Surprise Performance By Coolio

Rap star Coolio launched the taping of The WB's first production ever when he surprised cast and audience members with an impromptu rap song created to commemorate production of "The parent 'Hood" in which he guest stars in the debut episode.

"The parent 'Hood" features Robert Townsend as a college professor trying to cope with the rigors of contemporary fatherhood.

Before taping began, Coolio appeared before the audience and performed the specially-created, "Channel Live," which included the rap.

*"On your mark get ready but it ain't to do the jerk
It's the roll call y'all
For the Warner Bros. Network.
That's kinda long so let me see
For the time being we'll call it WB.*

*But this ain't channel jive
It's more like channel live.
And the Parents From The Hood is waiting right outside.
If you lookin' for some answers you better take some chances.*

*Go grab yourself some Kool Aid and drop the Harlequin Romances
it's the brothers I ain't talkin' 'bout the Smothers
here come the Wayans, know what I'm sayin'?*

*It's time to flip the page to the next chapter
As we all live in laughter happily ever after.*

*Let's make another move
But I ain't talking about the hustle.
I know you got some brains but do you have some muscle.
Now lets flip the lid
Look what they did. They even got cartoons. For the kids.*

So Wednesday, January 11, 1995 turn your TV dial to channel live

"Cause the Warner Bros. Network is in the house."

"The Parent 'Hood" will air Wednesday nights at 8:30 p.m. when The WB premieres on January 11, 1995.

Andrew Nicholls and Darrell Vickers serve as executive producers for this Warner Bros. Television production.

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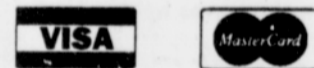
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