

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

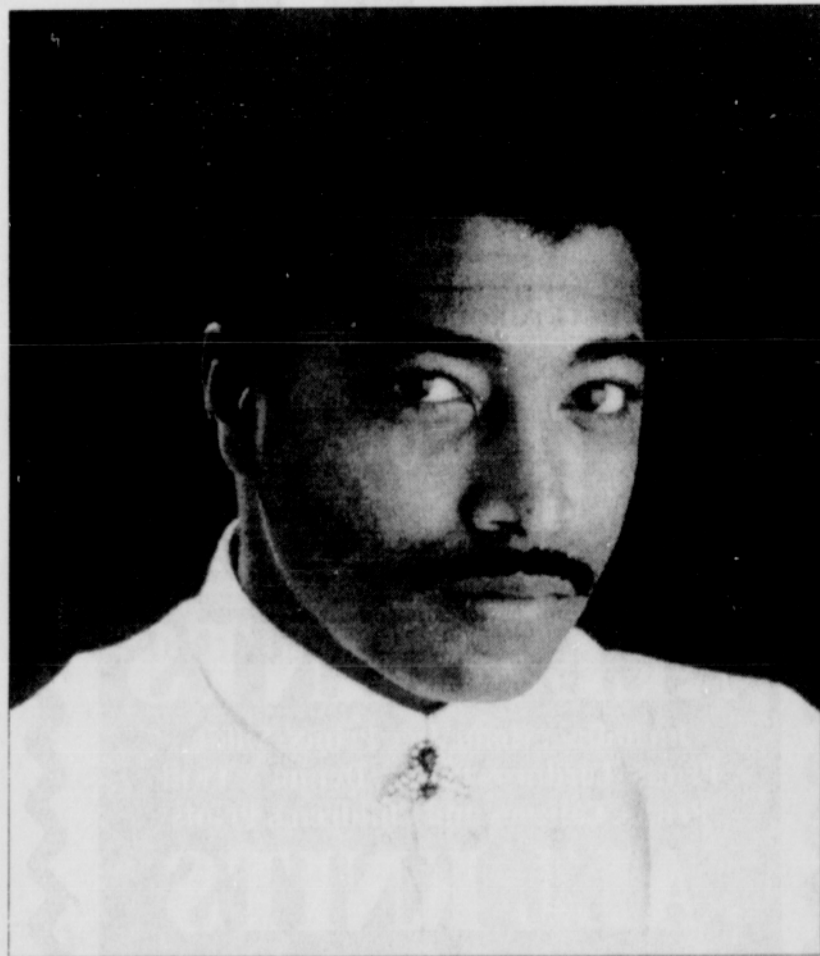
The Portland Observer

## Questionmark Asylum



There's really no secret behind the name, explains members of the Washington, D.C.-based rap group, Questionmark Asylum. The group delivers their own unique brand of hip hop, combining traditional rhymes with a somewhat different style of melodic vocal delivery. The group's debut album is on Kaper/RCA Records.

## Kirk Green



◀ In deed one of Portland's finest up and coming young artists dazzled a packed house this weekend at Shango's. Kirk Green's laid back easy listening and very danceable music set the mood for a great evening. You can catch him every Thursday for the next few weeks at Shango's, a new night spot on Park Ave. in down town Portland.

## DAVE MATTHEWS BAND



There was a time when every rock'n'roll movement sprung from the grass roots. While much has changed over the years, a band working entirely on its own -- outside the parameters of current trends -- can generate the kind of organic electricity that marketers spend a fortune trying to create. Case in point: Charlottesville, Virginia's Dave Matthews Band.

In the three years since Matthews put together the genre-blending quintet, its charged live performances have come to pack clubs, theaters and arenas across the country. "It's been a very natural, very low-key progression," says Matthews. "I don't feel like we've had this drastic, overnight success. It's basically been a matter of word-of-mouth -- people liking what they've seen and bringing some friends with them the next time

around."

Those die-hard fans have also snapped up copies of the band's self-released debut, *Remember Two Things* (over 130,000 copies since its fall 1993 release) -- a remarkable feat, considering the album was independently distributed. While the band notes that the first release may have hinted at their potential, they are satisfied that *Under The Table And Dreaming*, their RCA debut -- produced by Steve Lillywhite (U2, Talking Heads, Rolling Stones) -- captures the nuances of the intricate interplay that marks the band's complex live shows. The critics agree: *Rolling Stone* called it "one of the most ambitious releases of the year."

With singer/guitarist Matthews' vulnerable, expressive voice at the fore, the band (reedman LeRoi Moore, violinist Boyd Tinsley, bassist Stefan Lessard and drummer Cart-

er Beauford) weaves a mesh of sounds that *Details* described as "unpeggable and totally addictive." Each member showcases a highly individual approach, making the Dave Matthews Band a truly eclectic ensemble.

"The way I look at it, we have five lead voices in this band," Matthews says. "I may be the first thing people notice, since I do the singing, but there are times when LeRoi's sax is the voice, and times when Boyd's violin is at the front. And in Carter and Stefan, we have something that goes far beyond a simple rhythm section. There are very few times when the audience has just one thing to listen to."

One exposure to the twelve songs on *Under The Table And Dreaming* imparts the sense that this band is original enough to defy pigeonholing. *Evocative*

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