

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

Max-A-Million



a triple-threat funk posse with astounding vocal finesse. Take Your Time is a visionary combination of R&B vocalizing, quicksilver Caribbean rapping and techno futurism.

To call Duran Estevez positive would be something of an understatement. The dynamic rapper and singer for the Chicago group Max-A-Million veritably begins and ends each sentence with 'Irie', the Jamaican term for "Alright."

Moreover, the sentiments Duran expresses are so endearingly affirmative they make the listener feel like joining the singer in his mission to inspire the masses through music.

That same irrepressible spirit vibrates through the songs on Take Your Time.

The Zoo Entertainment/S.O.S. Records debut album from Max-A-Million.

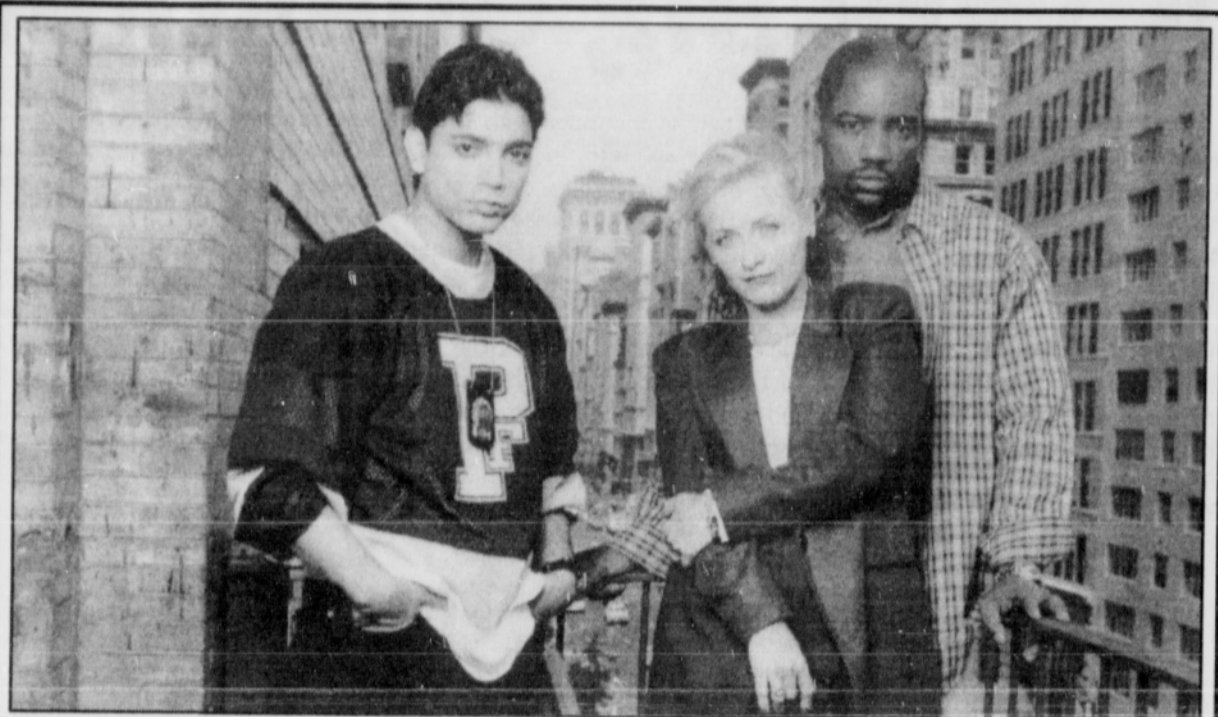
The disc showcases the Chicago vocal trio on 12 jams that ambitiously combine elements of R&B, Reggae, dancehall, Hip/Hop and Pop. Indeed, the album's first single "Fat

Boy" has already become a dance/club hit on the strength of its clattering techno rhythms, Reggae Rapping and Sexy Vocals.

The group consists of three singers so talented each could easily front their own group. But when Duran, A'Lisa B and Tommye joined forces to form Max-A-Million, they created

is produced by 20 Fingers, the phenomenal Chicago music team behind recent dance hits by Gillette ("Short Short Man") and Roula ("Lick It").

Take Your Time finds the renowned production crew applying their musical and engineering expertise to a collection of original songs and forceful interpretations.



New York Undercover (L-R): Michael DeLorenzo (Eddie Torres), Patti D'Arbanville-Quinn (Lt. Virginia Cooper) and Malik Yoba (J.C. Williams) struggle to rid the New York City Streets of criminals in the new one-hour drama New York Undercover premiering Thursday Sept. 8 (9:00-10:00 PM ET/PT) on Fox.

"Strictly Commercial": The Best Of Frank Zappa

When Rykodisc ambitiously rereleased en masse the definitive Frank Zappa-approved masters of all his albums in the Spring of 1995, the uninitiated were afforded the opportunity to explore the vast and diverse world of FZ-- composer, bandleader and virtuoso guitarist as well as humorist, satirist and outspoken social critic -- whose massive body of work was widely overlooked and misunderstood in his lifetime. However, neophytes trying to find a threshold into the Zappa zone are faced with a monumental if not overwhelming task; where to start? There's no better way to get a sampling of the prolific maestro's catalog than by delving into Strictly Commercial (RCD/RAC/RALP 40500), a "best of" collection of FZ's radio hits and tunes that would have been Top Ten if this were a perfect world. Packed with 19 highlights of his "mainstream" pop-rock career, this collection is a bona fide Zappa 101, a primer on his creative genius which was simultaneously at work and at play in even his most accessible numbers. It's also the first official Zappa retrospective since Verve released Mothermania in 1969.

One of rock's most prolific and iconoclastic artists, Frank Zappa

adventurously covered a universe of stylistic terrain, ranging from '50s



doo-wop to 20th century classical

music inspired by Varese, Stravinsky and Bartok. He punched out hardy rock on his surly guitar and served up "jazz from hell" experiments on his computerized Synclavier DMS keyboard (his instrument of choice in the latter years of his life when he was studio-bound). With a lifelong flair for creating genre-jumping, post-modernist music, Zappa released nearly 60 albums, many of which folded in several different styles of music, cross-referencing such seemingly disparate domains as classical with reggae and melodic R&B with dissonant avant-garde.

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