

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Soultry Vestimenta Ventures Forward

What's in a name -- style, flair, spirit, inspiration? Well, that's exactly what's contained in the name of Motown recording group Soultry, whose self-coined moniker -- a combination of the words soul and sultry -- literally means "Hot soul." And hot soul is exactly what the four-member group serves up on its debut album, titled Soultry. From funkified grooves to heartbreaking slow drags, the foursome -- comprising Baby, Kelly, K. J. and X -- embrace the gamut of rhythm & blues and deliver songs that lay a solid foundation for their musical arrival.

All in their early 20s, Baby, Kelly, K.J. and X met and formed Soultry during their stint in the U.S. Marine Corps. While stationed in El Toro, California, Baby and Kelly were working in a vocal group with two other singers prior to hooking up with K.J. and X.

"We went on an open call and were cast in the Coca-Cola 'Always' commercial -- the one where the four guys are sitting around on the couch singing," Kelly explains. "We started to receive a lot of interest from record companies after the commercial, but the other two group members weren't interested in pursuing a professional music career. We used to practice singing with K.J. and X,



Karrey "K.J." Johnson Jason "Baby" Hibbert Kelly "K-Born" Jackson Xavier "X" Preston

so we knew that we worked well together, and we asked them to join us."

Finding two other equally talented and ambitious singers was just half the battle for Soultry. The day-to-day demands and regulations of military life made pursuing a recording contract an extremely challenging task. "Because of our schedules, we were having a hard time pulling together the resources to put together a demo," X recalls.

It was at that point that one of the representatives from the talent agency that cast the Coca-Cola commercial introduced Soultry to Alex Avant, the group's manager. Though at the time Avant was not interested in managing a group, the agency representative, a personal friend of Avant, insisted that he at least listen to and meet Soultry. Avant took his advice and, after meeting with the group, immediately signed them to a management contract.

The Origins

Vestimenta originated in Matterello, Italy in the early 1960's where its headquarters, factories and manufacturing facilities still exist today. It was founded by Somma Spa, a wool production group specializing in the development of high quality textiles since 1865. At that time, Somma was looking to expand and felt the apparel market had great potential. Entering into that market would be a natural marriage for Somma due to its existing resources and relationships with fabric mills and textile houses. After decades of perfecting their trade, Vestimenta now prides itself on the excellent reputation it has earned by using the finest fabrics.

The '70s: Innovative Strategies

In the early 1970's, Vestimenta underwent significant changes to improve its strategic position and image within the market place. Vestimenta felt their consumers' lifestyles were changing and needed to design a collection that would complement these needs. Consumers were moving away from classic styles towards more directional silhouettes. In 1972, Giorgio Armani spearheaded the design team and re-vamped the menswear division.

Vestimenta wanted its collection to exude a strong image within the apparel industry; one with elegance and charm, and identifiable style. Armani instilled Vestimenta with his personal style -- thereby transforming it into a leading menswear company.

The '80s: Growth and International Development

With designer Giorgio Armani's influence, Vestimenta grew rapidly. Over the next ten years, Vestimenta continued to maintain a solid reputation and reaped the benefits of their established success. Other designers with similar design philosophies were consulted to develop the business, they included J.C. De Castelbajac, Romano Ridolfi, Dolce & Gabbana and Elia. During the mid-eighties, Vestimenta became world renowned and decided to expand internationally, leading them to open its U.S. branch, Vestimenta Inc.

The expansion proved to be a great triumph for Vestimenta and a great option for the American man.

The '90s: The Future

Vestimenta's future is dedicated to product development and international expansion. Two lines, originally from Europe, have been recently introduced to the American market, the sportswear line for men and the Women's complete collection.

Vestimenta intends to expand these lines to gain momentum like their predecessor, the tailored menswear collection.



Vestimenta Fall/Winter 1995: The woman is wearing a pin stripe pant suit with a short fitted jacket with covered placket and matching pleated pants. The man is wearing a Moldava suit with a band collar jacket in rayon and wool.

Vestimenta's overall business development will be achieved by penetrating different markets and continuously providing consumers with a quality product representative of the Vestimenta philosophy.

Earth, Wind & Fire



The elements are back on the road after 1994's sold-out U.S. concert tour which earned rave reviews from coast to coast. Earth, Wind & Fire's 50-city trek, dubbed "The Leg-

end Continues: Earth, Wind & Fire 1995 Summer Tour," is coming to Salem.

Known for their electrifying live performances and trend-setting the-

atrics, the twelve-piece outfit plus two dancers - featuring lead singer Philip Bailey, bassist Verdine White and their trademark horn section - are performing some of Earth, Wind & Fire's classic hits from their extraordinary twenty-plus year career.

Winners of six Grammy Awards, four American Music Awards and over 50 platinum and gold albums, EW&F sell-out concert halls worldwide, packed with enamored fans singing along with every tune.

Not content to rest on their many accomplishments, Earth, Wind & Fire are again charged for the future.

Their progressive blend of African and Latino rhythms, cool jazz arrangements, celestial harmonies, funk-flavored R&B and messages of universal love sounds unique and is an alternative to the sample-laden, rap-cluttered nineties.

New Cunningham & Sutinen Art Exhibit

The Gresham Art Committee is sponsoring an exhibit of "Dennis Cunningham and Paul Sutinen" from now through August 25 at Gresham City Hall, located at 1333 NW Eastman Parkway. Viewing hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Dennis Cunningham and Paul Sutinen have been commissioned to create the art, including three murals, for the new Gresham City Hall.

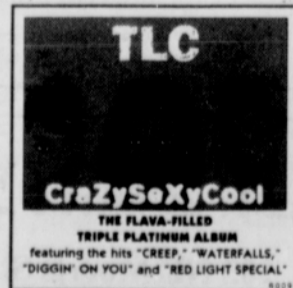
Call For Performers!

Opportunity for performers of all kinds to participate in Artquake's Artsplay Day Pageant. The pageant is Monday afternoon, Sept. 4, 1995 in Pioneer Courthouse Square. Rehearsals are Sunday, August 27 and Monday, September 4. Call 227-ARTS (2787) to be a part of this unique interactive performance! Artquake is Oregon's largest festival of the arts. The 19th annual Artquake opens Friday evening, September 1 and runs until 6 p.m. Monday, September 4.

Sisters Are Doing It For Themselves

TLC

Crazy Sexy Cool



Their debut album sold a cool 2.5 million copies. Now the group that took the street is coming back for more.

\$8.44 Cassette \$13.99 Compact Disc

Monica Miss Thang

Monica is a fourteen-year old singer blessed with a vocal ability most adult performers would envy. Already a veteran vocalist (she's been singing in church choirs since the age of four). Monica's debut shows the maturing of an artist twice her age



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Thurs. Aug. 24 - Sizzler Family Day

\$20 and a Sizzler Restaurant coupon buys two adult admissions (ages 13 & over), three child admissions (ages 6-12), plus 10 carnival ride tickets (each ticket worth one ride). A savings of \$19.00!

Sizzler

Fri. Aug. 25 - Children's Day

TWO FREE HOURS of carnival rides for everyone, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.



Mon. Aug. 28 - Les Schwab Day

With \$12.00 and a Les Schwab coupon you can ride all day until 6 p.m. and get 11 game tickets (some games require more than one ticket).

LES SCHWAB

Gale Webb Safety In Sports Show.

In-line skates, BMX bikes and skateboards unite to create a high-energy show set to a pulsating soundtrack. Presented by 1-800-COLLECT.

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Mon. Sept. 4 - Snapple Adult Two-For-One Day

Get two-for-one adult admission with a Snapple coupon available at all Oregon and southwest Washington Fred Meyer stores.

Not good with any other fair discount offer. In the event of an adult and child, the higher price must be paid.

Snapple

Just 45 Minutes South Of Portland

Take I-5 south to Salem, Exit 258 (Portland Road). Turn left at Lana Avenue, continue straight.

Admission

Adults (13 years and over) \$6.00
Children (6 - 12 years) \$1.00
Under Six Free
Group Rate (25 or more) \$4.50 ea.
Season Pass \$60.00
Parking Per Day \$3.00
Season Parking \$36.00

Hours

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sunday through Thursday.
10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Friday and Saturday.
For more information, call 1-800-833-0011.

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Adult Discount Admission Tickets exclusively available at all Washington Mutual Bank branches in Oregon August 1-23.

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