

Arts ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

One Thanksgiving evening, Nick Ashford, Valerie Simpson and Maya Angelou gathered around the piano as friends do. Their intent was not to create an album, but to express their feelings. Nick sang of a couple in love... "a little bit of this, a little bit of that..." Valerie hummed an unforgettable melody. Soon Maya's poetry began to flow and the first song "I Remember All" was born.

It felt so natural, that other words and melodies began to fill the room. At some moments, they were overwhelmed by the music and messages, so moving and emotional was their collaboration of talent and ideas.

Each participant pushed the other to new heights of creativity, and the music and poetry flowed as naturally as love and life itself.

"It was a wonderful, spontaneous moment in music, words and poetry," Nick Ashford recalls.

Maya remembers, "We felt the tingle of creation, and knew we had created something from the heart, something we had to share..."

"It's a totally new sound. Maybe the start of a new artform," says Valerie. "With Maya's poetry we created an album that is wonderful and different."

The music of Ashford and Simpson and the poetry of Maya Angelou have discovered each other to be a perfect match, much like the celebration of new love on the title track "Been Found". These gifted performers blend their crafts seamlessly in



Ashford & Simpson with Maya Angelou

the haunting refrains of "Where We Come From," and the joy of "Keeps on Getting Higher" and "Made for Me". While "What if," a song about love in doubt, will tug on heartstrings,

"I Remember All" is a composition of sensuous love.

Nick, Valerie and Maya took the magic of that Thanksgiving night, shaped it and gave it form. Created in

an atmosphere of love, friendship and sharing, the three collaborated on seven of the eleven that now make up an album that could only be titled *Be Found*.

Ad2 Portland holds Casino Night fundraiser

Ad2 Portland will hold the third annual Casino Night on Saturday, November 23 at Spirit Mountain Casino in Grand Ronde, Oregon. This will be a night of fun as those attending will board party busses for the 45-minute ride to Spirit Mountain. Tickets are \$23/members and \$28/non-members, with a \$5 discount if payment is received no later than Wednesday, November 13. Payment is by check or charge only. Tickets include the round-trip bus ride from Portland, beverages on the party bus, and food in the hospitality suite at Spirit Mountain. Gambling funds are provided by attendees. For more information and to reserve your tickets call the Ad2 Hotline at 233-1571 or mail your check before November 13 to Ad2 Casino Night, 708 NW 20th #203, Portland, Oregon, 97209.

Proceeds benefit Ad2 Portland including the annual public service ad campaign provided free to a local non-profit. This year's client is the I Have A Dream Foundation, Portland

chapter. Ad2 will provide print, TV, radio, public relations, and other marketing on a pro bono basis.

Ad2 Portland is a non-profit pro-

fessional organization for those aged 32 and under in advertising, public relations, marketing, graphic design, media and other communications

fields. Ad2 Portland is one of 18 Ad2 chapters nationally and is a member of the American Advertising Federation.

CHUCK D

The Autobiography of Mistachuck represents a journey of the soul; a journey through my anger over the way Black music is treated, and over how the music industry treats its public.

This album could be called "My Assassination Attempt on Big Willie."

The Rise of Big Willie, i.e., the mercenary entertainment industry hotshot, mack, hustler or player, is seen as a positive development by many. However, I say, think of Big Willie as an updated Stepin Fetchit, or Uncle Tom. Big checks have always been made out to Negroes for singing, dancing, rhyming, tellin' jokes, acting and playing ball. The irony is that it's the biggest, most high-profile Black people who get made into the most inoffensive, least controversial, safest and/or most clownish projections.

The Auto of Mistachuck lashes out at the co-opting of the Black music industry, under the guise of "growth," "expansion," or "crossover"; how those in charge of the industry should propel the culture forward, for the people, instead of merely flossing in front of it.

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Singing The Blues

Friday Night, November 8, 1996
 The Stars Are Stepping Out And They'll Be



Curtis Salgado, Lloyd Jones Struggle, Paulette & Power,
 The Leopardskin Revue And, Mike Lindberg?

Okay, so he's not a musician, but Mike's a star in his own right, he's leaving office and we're singing the blues on his behalf. Join us, one and all, for one big night with a spotlight on Portland's best blues artists and one heckuva fine city leader.

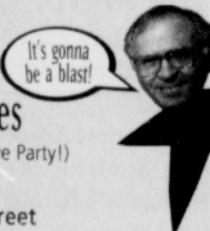
This is a party to say goodbye to Mike, who's made an incredible contribution to the City of Portland and the state, in areas such as human rights, the arts, parks, public utilities, water conservation, renewable energy, and urban design. Mike Lindberg has made a difference and this is our way to say thank you!

Singing The Blues

(Mike Lindberg's Goodbye Party!)

Montgomery Park
 2701 NW Vaughn Street
 7:30pm - 1:00am
 (Children welcome 'til 9:00pm)

Tickets \$7 at the door or through Ticketmaster.



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