

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer



Friday the 15th

Linda Hornbuckle Band: Blues with an R&B vocalist, Friday, November 15, 9:30 p.m., Key Largo, 31 NW 1st Ave., 223-9919.

Cal Scott Trio: Widely heralded jazz group performs, Friday, November 15, 8:30 p.m., Heathman Hotel, 241-4100.

Robbie Laws and the Urban All Stars: Portland favorites, Friday and Saturday, November 15 and 16, 8:30 p.m., Flanders Street Brew pub and Eatery, 1339 NW Flanders St., 22-3414.

Midnight Blue: Friday and Saturday, November 15 and 16, 9:30 p.m., Candlelight Cafe, 2032 SW 5th Ave., 221-0556.

Saturday the 16th

Andy Stokes: Dress to impress at The Ultimate Penthouse jam with two funky DJs, Saturday, November 16, 9:30 p.m., Crown Ballroom, 918 SW Yamhill St., 870-1117.

Dana Bryant & Ronny Jordan: Check them out, Saturday, November 16, 9 p.m., at Berbaty's Pan, 231 SW Ankeny St., \$8 in advance from TicketMaster.

Jon Koonce and the Gas Hogs: Pedal-to-the-metal rock and blues, Saturday, November 16, Key Largo, 31 NW 1st Ave., 9:30 p.m., 223-9919.

Richard PUNCHES: Mixing rock, pop and folk, Saturday, November 16, 4 p.m., Music Millennium, 801 NW 23rd Ave., 231-8943.

Bazuka Jazz: Creative jazz with a kick, Saturday, November 16, 1201 Lounge and Cafe, 1201 SW 12th Ave., 255-1201.

Sunday the 17th

John Fresk: Pianist, Sunday, November 17, 7:30 p.m., Heathman Hotel, 241-4100.

Big Head Todd & the Monsters: The Monsters named themselves in the blues tradition, following the lead by such legends as Eddie "Cleanhead" Vincent and Willie "Big Eyes" Smith. See these guys lay it down, Sunday, November 17, 7 p.m., at the Roseland Theater, 8 NW 6th Ave., \$19 in advance from Fastixx.

Tuskegee Airmen

African Heritage Movie Network (AHN-Prime) hosted by Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee presents - A Special Prime Time presentation of *The Tuskegee Airmen*, a Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving holiday presentation. *The Tuskegee Airmen* features an all-star cast (L to R:) Malcolm-Jamal Warner, Cuba Gooding, Jr., Laurence Fishburne (bottom center), Allen Payne and Courtney Vance. *The Tuskegee Airmen* airs November 1, 1996 - December 14, 1996 on AHN Prime.

The African Heritage Movie Network Prime-time presentations (AHN-Prime), hosted by legendary film stars Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, celebrates Veteran's Day and the Thanksgiving holiday with the broadcast premier of *The Tuskegee Airmen*. Starring Laurence Fishburne (Just Cause), the 1993 Best Actor Oscar nomination for *What's Love Got to Do with It*, the *Tuskegee Airmen* airs on KWBP, 12/7/96 at 8 p.m.



"You know I'm a veteran of World War II, yet it wasn't until it was over that I found out about the Tuskegee Airmen. And, if it weren't for the NAACP taking on the case of one man discriminated against by the Air Force, they might not have been organized in the first place," said Ossie Davis. "And, if it weren't for the encouragement of Eleanor Roosevelt, they might never have seen combat," replied Rudy Dee. "But they did see

combat and they fought bravely - and remarkably," commented Ossie Davis.

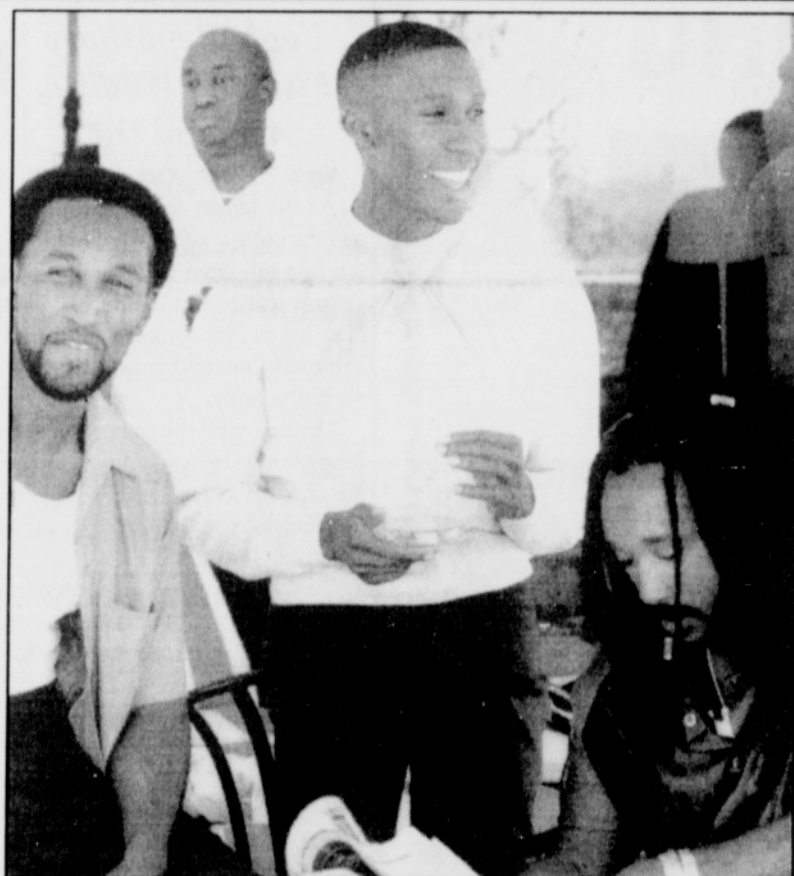
The *Tuskegee Airmen* is a recurrence version based on the real World War II story of the "Fighting 99th," who were the first African-American combat fighter pilots of the U.S. Army Air Corps. These men were not only forced to battle the daunting prejudice at home, but also the Axis powers in Europe.

Tony Toni Tone

"We named our album the House of Music after a popular old record store in East Oakland, CA, where everybody used to buy their music at," says Raphael Saddiq of Tony Toni Tone. "We felt this album was packed with good music, too." "We grew up in a house of music," adds D'Wayne Wiggins, Raphael's brother. "Our father was a blues guitarist, and the title just felt right. Music always brings people together."

"Tony Toni Tone is a real band with real instruments, who have succeeded in bringing the art of R&B songwriting back to the future," states Time magazine. Called "Sexy, slamin' and totally hip!" by People magazine, the Bay Area-based trio, winner of the 1994 Rolling Stone Critic's Poll for "Best R&B Group," comprises Raphael Saddiq, D'Wayne Wiggins and their cousin Timothy Christian Riley.

House of Music, which mixes hip-hop and funk flavors with rock, jazz, blues and gospel, is a "guitar, bass and drums-driven record, with lots of keyboard and horns," explains Raphael. "But moving back and forth is what the Tonyies is about. We're



not just one thing."

"Their collective style seems to transcend all formats...it sets the Tonyies apart by introducing various styles, not just one sound, on the album," writes Billboard. "I'm hearing a lot of growth on this record," says Tim, who plays drums and keyboards. "This time was more raw. We used mostly live instruments, and you get more of a real vibe if you have somebody playing." D'Wayne, who plays guitar and sings, adds "People want musical, jazzy breaks in hip-hop, but they also want to

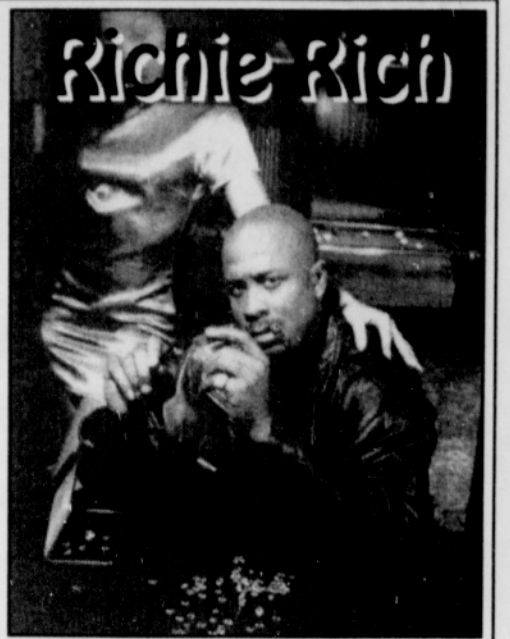
hear piano, they want to hear flutes, they want to hear orchestras. Music is not one dimensional. We try not to stay one dimensional."

The first single, "Let's Get Down," with hip-hop master DJ Quik is what D'Wayne calls "straight dance funk, bump in the back of your trunk" music. Raphael, who produced the track, says, "I respect Quik as a musician. I always knew he was kind of a P-funk head, like a funkster, so the collaboration was pretty much normal and natural."

"The reason I formed 213 with Warren G and Nate Dogg is because Richie Rich had a group called 415. I was lovin' his style and voice which I incorporated into my style when I first started rapping." -Snoop Doggy Dogg.

Snoop, arguably the most recognized personality in all of hip-hop, states that his first influence and rhyme style was derived from an underground rapper that the world has yet to be introduced to. The entire hip-hop audience is finally on the verge of becoming intimate with the Bay Area's best kept secret: the man known as RR (Double R). Richie Rich's national solo debut album, *Seasoned Veteran*, is a rather historic moment for both hip-hop Def Jam: this is Richie's first national debut after years of running Oakland, and the first Bay Area act ever to be signed to Def Jam Records.

The story of Richie Rich is both sad and Cinderella-ish at the same time. After *Too Short* became more than just a local hero on the mic, a small number of other area rappers released albums, but were unable to escape the shadow of the reigning rap king. In the winter of 1989, the streets of Oakland were surprised by a different sound of a hardcore gangsta rap group called 415 (named after the then Oakland area code). Group members D-Loc, DJ Darryl and JED were all celebrated, but it was the distinct raspy voice and dope game related lyrics of a young Richie Rich that really enthralled listeners. The group's album, *415*, was a Bay Area classic selling 147,000 units. Like all groups, fans have their favorite members, and with RR clearly being the most lauded member, he released a solo album entitled *Don't Do It*, to help increase his bank account and the group's sales.



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