

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

Dorsey guest of honor at Live Jazz



Tia Dorsey of Portland is the special guest and N/Tough jams at Saturday's Live Jazz at Fernando's Hideaway, 824 S.W. First Ave. Dorsey graduated from Portland State University and Washington High School. She is the vice president of Human Resources for Blue Cross and Blue Shield and serves in several organizations, including the Urban League of Portland and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. (Photos by M. Washington)



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evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
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Few people have earned the right to be called a "living legend" and Patti LaBelle is one of them. For more than three decades, "The high priestess of good vibrations" as The New York Times calls her, has been at the trend-setting forefront of the music world, enjoying phenomenal success as a member of the legendary girl group, Patti LaBelle & the Bluebelles in the sixties, as leader of the flamboyant Labelle in the seventies, and as a Grammy-winning solo artist in the eighties and nineties.

Throughout her career, she has won admiration not only for her music, but also for her tireless charity work and devotion to her fans. Now, after a three year hiatus from recording during which Patti spent time gathering material for her new CD and writing her best-selling autobiography, the queen of rock and soul says: "I feel like I've dusted off my soul and now I can shine."

"Flame," Patti's first CD since she bared her heart and soul in her moving memoir, is filled with the same fire, the same passion, the same gut-wrenching emotion that put "Don't Block The Blessings" on every national best-seller list and earned it the NAACP Image Award for outstanding literary work. Produced by Patti and a number of top flight talents including Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, "Flame" features a host of five star musicians in a variety of roles (e.g., Ann Nesby and Lisa Fischer on background vocals; Najee on saxophone; Brenda Russell, who co-wrote the title song; and Gerald LeVert contributing to the producing, writing and arranging.)

Patti's unique ability to raise our spirits and our consciousness through song, the way she uses music to show us the way past pain, is on full display on "Flame." It was music that helped sustain Patti through the most difficult times of her life, including the deaths of all three of her sisters to cancer before their 44th birthday, and many of the songs on "Flame" reflect her hard won lessons about love and loss. On tunes like "If By Chance," "Flame" and "Don't Block the Blessings" (which was co-written by Patti's husband and manager, Armstead Edwards), Patti shares many of the insights that led her, at age 52, to a newfound sense of peace and purpose and a deep personal understanding of what's important in life and how it's always there for all of us—if we don't block the blessings.

The song "You Saved My Life" is particularly special to Patti because, as she puts it, "it's a love letter to my fans."

"There have been times in my life when I was hurting so bad that even my blues had blues," Patti explains. "No matter what I was going through, my fans were always there for me, showering me with love and appreciation. Even when I didn't have a hit record, they came out to see me anyway. Any artist will tell you, that's special. And I want my fans to know how much it means to me. 'You Saved My Life' is my way of saying thank you."



Patti La Belle

"I feel like I've dusted off my soul and now I can shine."

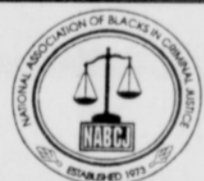
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