

Arts ENTERTAINMENT

Morris Day & The Time

A Mega-Ego sized "M" monogrammed on every flashy jacket, and his cocky gimmickry earned talented vocalist Morris Day glaring spotlight -- in front of a gang of musical side-kicks dubbed The Time. Morris Day and his quirky accompanists have carved out a sizable cult following over the past two decades as purveyors of catchy, contagious, multilayered funk.

Under Morris' whimsical creative license the bunch quickly landed a recording contract with Warner Brothers Records, and cut their smash debut-album, *The Time* -- where jovial Morris showcased his worth as more than just an animated musician, also directing the album's production and performance output.

A marketer's dream -- Morris has demonstrated a longevity that wasn't necessarily intentional. Morris Day's rarefied musical style marked the 80's with trademark comical skits, trendsetting stage-gadgets, and dance and R&B



chartbusters like *The Walk*, 777-9311, *Oaktree*, and *Fishnet*.

A scene-stealing supporting role in lifelong pal Prince's Oscar-winning flick *Purple Rain*, further exhibited Morris' natural born inclination to act -- be it on stage or the big screen.

The 1991 reunion of Morris Day and The Time yielded *Pandemonium* -- further symbolizing the group's

enduring lure -- and so marked the next millennium's diagnosed supersized case of Morris-mania.

"We're back!", proclaims Morris. And, the if it's not broke don't fix it' adage seems to apply. The group resurrected in classic style, with Morris and three of The Time's original members in tow: Jerome "Mirror Man" Benton, Jelly Bean Johnson, and Monty Moir.

"Rhythms Of Spring" Taiko Show at the IFCC

Portland Taiko - Portland's own Asian American drum ensemble - presents "Rhythms of Spring", a special performance of heart-pounding taiko and humorous tales at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center Theater (5340 N. Interstate). The show will run on April 17, April 18, April 24 and April 25. The two-weekend run includes Friday and Saturday evening shows as well as Saturday afternoon matinees.

"Rhythms of Spring" is a lively performance ideal for all ages, employing taiko, humor, storytelling and rhythm to celebrate spring and the renewal of community. IFCC's intimate theater space gives Portland Taiko a unique opportunity to invite audiences to its "hearh" to share innovative compositions and arrangements, engaging legends and personal stories.

Established in 1994, Portland Taiko is a dynamic, multi-ethnic Asian American drumming group dedicated to preserving, sharing and creating culture through performance. Their sound echoes ancient Japanese tradition and expresses Asian American experience.

Milli Vanilli Star Pilatus Found Dead

Rob Pilatus, half of pop duo Milli Vanilli, has been found dead in a Frankfurt hotel room, Germany's *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper said Sunday, quoting the artist's ex-manager.

Pilatus was found dead on his hotel bed Friday evening with blood around his nose and mouth. Doctors at the scene diagnosed heart failure.

Police were unable to confirm the report. A spokesman said they would be informed of a death only if circumstances had been suspicious.

Milli Vanilli's former manager Frank Farian told *Bild am Sonntag* that Pilatus had just come out of drug rehabilitation.

Pilatus was born in New York, but grew up with adoptive parents in Munich, where he was expected to be buried.

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