

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Heads Up Super Band's Debut CD, Showcases Live Set at Berks Jazz Fest



Gerald Veasley * Kenny Blake * Joe McBride * Keith Carlock

While crowds throughout Europe have cheered Heads Up International recording artists Joe McBride, Kenny Blake and Gerald Veasley at special live performances of the Heads Up Super Band, the trio have rarely teamed for U.S. appearances.

However, stateside fans are in for a treat when the Seattle-based label releases the band's first international

recording—*Heads Up Super Band Live at Berks Jazz Fest*. Featuring pianist/vocalist McBride, saxophonist Blake, and bassist Veasley with drummer Keith Carlock, the disc will also be an enhanced CD featuring video footage from the 1998 concert in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

The Super Band brings together the top smooth jazz players from

Head's Up roster and highlights each artist and his work. "Though Kenny, Joe, and Gerald are all great solo artists with followings of their own, sometime we can't resist the temptation to create a monster show featuring all of them together," explains Dave Love, president of Heads Up International.

"Together, these guys are the ulti-

mate contemporary jazz band. they have sold out shows all across Europe, so we thought it was time to share their collaborations with audiences at home.

Following Berks, the Heads Up Super Band also performed at the Capital Jazz Festival, Syracuse Jazz Festival, Carolina Music Fest and Clifford Brown Jazz Festival."

Rock This! Chris Rock

"Chris Rock is probably the funniest and smartest comedian working today."

--Caryn James, New York Times
"Unlike so many comedians' books, this one isn't a wispy flight through the land of whimsy. It's closer to a hip sociology primer, with direct hits on such subjects as the difference between white skin-magazines and black ones."

—James Wolcott, Vanity Fair
"[Rock This] rolls along nicely, right over whites, blacks, men, women, and your mama, in fact...And somehow manages to come off as a nice young man you'd be proud to introduce to your parents...Cheaper than a cover charge and two drinks."

--Alexandra Jacobs, Entertainment Weekly

"With *Rock This!*, his new laugh-out-loud humor book..., rock shows that he's real, raw, and his already taken the throne, ripping into everything from crack to rap to racism, Rock doesn't just make you laugh; he makes you think."

--Nichole Christian, Vibe

You've seen him on his Emmy Award-nominated HBO special *Bring The Pain*, on HBO talk show *The Chris Rock Show*, in commercials for 1-800-COLLECT, and as the host of the 1997 MTV Video Music Awards. You've heard him as the voice of "Little Penny Hardaway" in Nike commercials and on his comedy album *Roll With The New*. Now you can read America's hottest stand-up comedian, Chris Rock, in *Rock This* (Hyperion; Mass Market Paperback; November 1, 1998; \$6.99) -- a hilarious, no-holds-barred look at everything from race to relation-



ships to politics.

A veteran of stand-up comedy for thirteen years, Rock has built a reputation on his daring, "deal-with-it humor" (Spin) and honest, intelligent analysis of society. In *Rock This!*, Rock gives more of the edgy, observational humor that has earned him two Emmy Award nominations, wide critical acclaim, and a legion of devoted fans. In chapters headed "Cash Flow," "I Said 'Shut Up!'" "Float On," and "Social Studies," Rock takes a hilarious look at such topics as the trouble with money, bad phone sex, a day in the life of a "Functional drug addict" and why we don't need a death penalty.

From stories of growing up a black boy in a nearly all-white school to his now famous bit, "Marion Barry, Crackhead," Rock tells it all -- just like it is:

Halle Berry To Star In HBO Pictures' Dorothy Dandridge

Halle Berry ("Bulworth," "Why Do Fools Fall in Love") will star in HBO Pictures' *Dorothy Dandridge*, it was announced by John Matoian, president, HBO Pictures and HBO NYC Productions. The cast also includes Obba Babatundé (HBO NYC's "Miss Evers' Boys"), Loretta Devine ("Waiting to Exhale"), La Tanya Richardson ("U.S. Marshals:;"), D.B. Sweeney ("Spawn"), Tamara Taylor (Party of Five), Cynda Williams ("The Wedding") and Brent Spiner (Star Trek: The Next Generation). Directed by Martha Coolidge (Out to Sea), the film begins production Sept. 29 in Los Angeles.

"HBO is fortunate to have an amazing ensemble cast headed by the Multi-talented Halle Berry, who will re-introduce the world to Dorothy Dandridge, a remarkable woman who fought to break the color barrier," said Matoian.

Robert Kayz executive produces with partner Mochtesuma Esparza for Esparza/Katz Productions ("Selena"). Halle Berry also serves as executive producer along with Vince Cirrincione and Joshua Maurer ("Dead Men Can't Dance"). Larry Albuher ("Three Wishes") is producer. The script is by Shonda Rhimes ("The Other

Women") and Scott Abbott (HBO's "Winchell"). Dorothy Dandridge is based on the book "Dorothy Dandridge," by Earl Mills. Gaye Hirsch is the HBO executive in charge of the film.

Dorothy Dandridge traces the true story of the legendary black actress (Berry) from her youth to her tragic early death. Dandridge achieved success in the title role of the 1954 film "Carmen Jones," making history by becoming the first black woman ever nominated for a Best Actress Academy Award. Along with her accomplishment came heartache and despair over two high-profile marriages, a love affair with Otto Preminger, the institutionalization of her only daughter and a drug dependency.

Halle Berry has starred in such feature films as the recent "Why Do Fools Fall in Love," as well as "Bulworth," "B.A.P.S.," "The Rich Man's Wife," "Executive Decision," "The Flintstones" and "Losing Isaiah," among others.

Her TV credits include the miniseries "The Wedding," executive produced by Oprah Winfrey, "Solomon and Sheba" and "Queen," for which Berry won an NAACP Image Award.



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