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Music

Common, De La Soul & Biz Markie at Spitkicker Tour

BY FELICIA L. SLIDER
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Call it karma. Call it a sixth sense...call it whatever you like. But for all of my *real* hip-hop heads out there, who follow my regular columns on the real and rawness of rap and the fusion of both hip-hop and the r&b industry, then, you know what I'm talking about.

If you got a chance to peep my CD review, (here's where the crystal ball comes into play)...that I did, explaining that from the day Common gave the streets birth to his current smash single

"The Light", that this east-coast flavored hit, would be one the phenomenon of summer 2 triple 0. And on June 29th, courtesy of another Direct Production promo, Commons "The Light" shined, De La Soul, Biz Markie, Pharoahe Monch, and Talib Kweli & DJ Hi-Tek stamped into Portland during the 1st annual *Spitkicker Tour*. So for those of you out there that missed the performance...have shame.

First of all, it's rare that a lot of hip-hop tours kick-off the first leg of their tour on the west coast. You might find a few here and there (mostly those strictly based from the west)... but for what I call a major tour, starting in the west is rare. And even if they do start somewhere near the mid-west, by the time the leg of the tour gets near Sea-Tac or the City of Roses, they've lost some of their steam.

But for the *Spitkicker Tour*, which started at Seattle's Paramount Theatre on June 28th, and winded it's way through Portland, San Francisco, San Diego, and Irvine where Jeru the Damaja guested, and

in LA, where Mos Def performed on the 4th of July at the House of Blues.

And more surprises and stunts are sure to come as it did during the Las Vegas show where NBA Laker Shaquille O'Neal came through the crowd, Peter Guns of Déjà Vu, Uptown Baby, Go Bronx made an appearance as well as the Liks while De La Soul ripped it onstage.

As Spitkicker.com awarded San Diego for "Most Hyped West-Coast Crowd", I'm sure that the tour will continue to craze and amaze each center they enter as they completed their mid-west stops on Albuquerque, Denver, Milwaukee, and two sold-out nights on July 13 & 14th Commons Chicago born & bred stompin' grounds.

Whether it's because New York Native, Biz Markie began his career in the early '80s, rapping at the likes of his native New York's Funhouse and Roxy, and Pharoahe Monch represents his track song "Queens" - a moving slice of life portrait of the daily struggles and tragedies that affect those residing in Monch's South Jamaica, Queens neighborhood, maybe the young- young Brooklyn-ite Talib Kweli, Posdnous (De La Soul)

roots in the mecca of hip hop—the boogie-down Bronx, as well as De La Souls pride in representin' their Long Island roots, you can be sure that this past subway stop in NYC Tue. Jul. 18 at New York's Roseland, was hot...hot...hot!!! So if you did miss my premonition that Commons "The Light" from *Like Water for Chocolate* would be the beat for your jeep or the track to pump in your hummer for the summer, as well 'fessed up to your delayed reaction to peep him at Direct's Roseland Spitkicker promotion, then please, don't sleep and cop the following.

The current mighty Monch's (Pharoahe of Organized Konfusion fame) first single, "Simon Says," from his inaugural solo album, *Internal Affairs*, on Rawkus

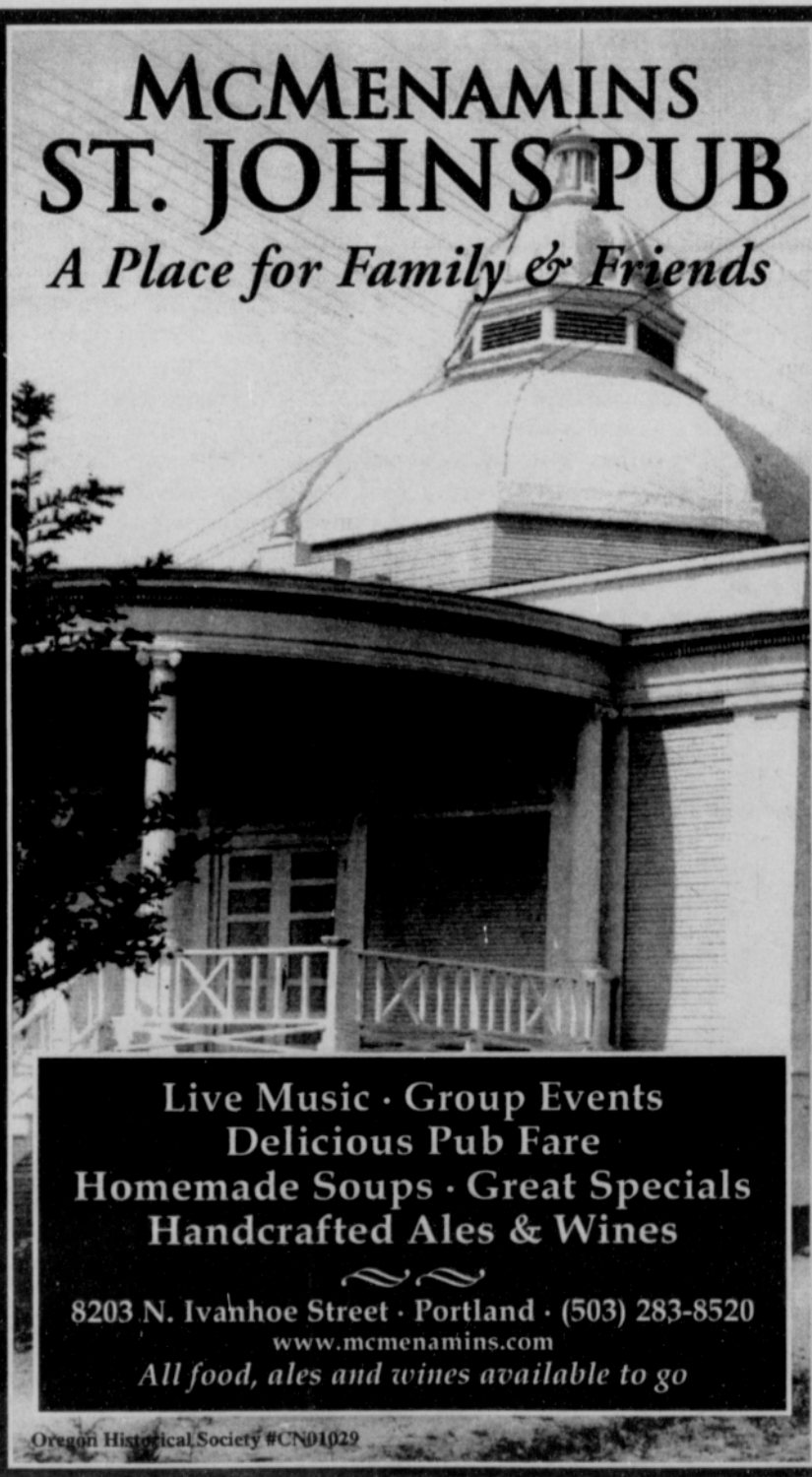
Records, Talib Kweli & DJ Hi-Tek's "Move Somethin'" on CD release *Train of Thought* dropping September 19th or the forthcoming *Art Official Intelligence* album, which is the first in a three volume trilogy marking the return of De La Soul with guest appearances from the Beastie Boys, Redman, Busta Rhymes, Chaka Khan, the Liks, Xzibit and many more.

From east to west, this collage of hip-hop crafters are doin it, doin it and doin it well.

If you plan on redeeming your recently purchased air-fare wars airline ticket anytime soon, and come anywhere close to where this Spitkicker tour is spinnin', be sure to grab a seat, and get ready for a bowl full of hip-hop at its best....a gamut of hip-hop gumbo.

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