

Music

Portland celebrates colossal summer concert calendar

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HOT!...HOT!...HOT!!!
Hip-hop heroes made it happen. Silky soul singers made us scream, generation x'ers glorified during the gospel and gentlemen were blowin' us over at jazz. Portland's summer of 2G has featured, music wise, more flava than a hot pot of gumbo. From rappin' at the Roseland, keepin' the praise with Kirk Franklin, boglin' with Beenie Man at the Paradigm, rockin' to Britney Spears at the Rose Garden (yeah that was me), or dancin' in boogie wonderland with Earth, Wind & Fire at Portland Meadows, Portland was on the map. From Puma sneaker jumps, to patend leather pumps, the fellas and females were high gearin' and high steppin to a summer that will go down, but not soon to be forgotten, as doin it, doin it, and doin' it well. So, at this time, I invite you to reflect and reminisce with me on just some of the many hot shows that put a dent in our pocketbooks this summer; and all in the name of rockin' to the break of dawn. From my one-on-one live interview with Common, Earth, Wind & Fire, Sole', Eve, The Roots, Black Eyed Peas, Snoop Dogg, Kurupt, Warren G, Cedric "The Entertainer" and E-40 are just to name a few of my concert reviews and backstage pass adventures, Overall summer of 2000 has definitely been, like whoa. Yet, out of all of these, that were concerts to remember, three performances far beyond deserve just the title of a concert. I will title them as "soulful treats" that will forever add spice & burn in my mind like a freshly lit nag champa incense. First, it was a treat to sit down with Common, a man who shined that the east-coast flavored "The Light" would be one the phenomena's of summer 2 triple 0. Second, Earth, Wind & Fire who explained the many reasons and ways of the world that they continue to play to the devotion of life long fans like myself. And, last but certainly not least, D'Angelo. Whew! The voodoo that he does and did musically put on



myself, as well as my front row bystander, Latina Spears (you go girl), delivered more soul than a family reunion. All three of these were intriguingly interesting whether I interview, shot photos or reviewed. But even for a semi-seasoned, yet ever changing journalist in my craft, I am proud to present, as well as represent that Portland was off the meter this summer. For many of us who have lived in other, or experienced other major cities where that town or local hot spot is always included on the tour circuit...you're probably like, huh?! What's the big deal? But for some of you out there who have lived here for more than a quarter of your life, then you have to give our Portland promoters their props in bringing Some of the best hip-hop, r&b, jazz

and blues sounds of summer to Portland stages. So as the summer comes to a close, I would like to dedicate this article to not only the promoters like Direct Productions, Double Tee, Monqui, as well as Jammin' 95.5 just to name a few, I will borrow and title this photo gallery "The Show, the Afterparty and well..ya know"...to NW fans who continuously get that front row, back seat or Standing room only seat or view by any means necessary. So whether you had to tell the landlord you're going to be \$50 late on the rent this month...or... had to buy the ticket anyway because Jammin' 95.5 said "You're the 94th caller..try again!" Damn...so much for speed dial!... this ones for you.

Clockwise from left as :
Common shines "The Light" from CD cover
Like Water for Chocolate (interview @ Roseland Theatre, as I danced front row to the d'lights of D'Angelo (interview @ Arlene Schnitzer), backstage interview with hip-hop trio Black Eyed Peas (Portland Meadows, Britney Spears bopped at the Rose Garden, Kirk Franklin gave the gospel, and my one-on-one interview with The Original Kings of Comedy movie Cedric "The Entertainer"

