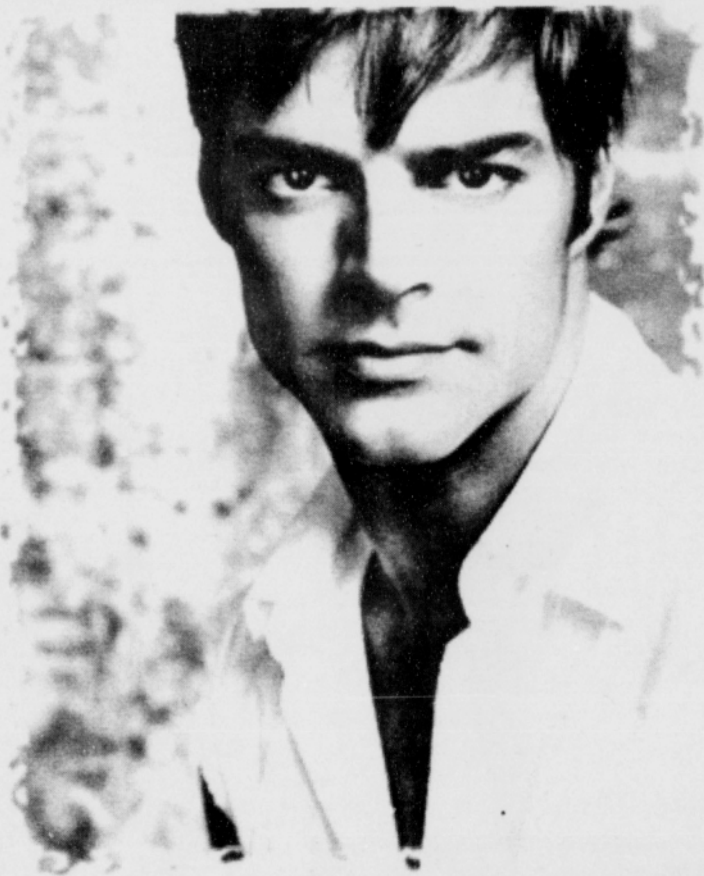


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1999 The Portland Observer

On Portland **Ricky Martin.. Again**

Ricky Martin, the tireless international superstar who detonated the Latin Pop Explosion, is back with "Sound Loaded," the eagerly-awaited follow-up to his phenomenal English language debut album, which has sold 20 million copies worldwide and has been certified seven times RIAA-platinum in the United States since its release in 1999. With "Sound Loaded," Ricky further charts his path of artistic growth, continuing to find new ways of blending *el ritmo* with elements of Pop, Rock, and Funk. Ricky's worldwide fanbase, which has grown exponentially with each of his releases, will not be disappointed with "Sound Loaded." While remaining true to his Latin music roots, Ricky extends the possibilities of his music with 15 brand-new tracks ranging from heart-stopping ballads to booty-stomping party anthems.

Born in Puerto Rico, Ricky Martin first came to the attention of American audiences for acting stints including the role of Marius in "Les Misérables" on Broadway.

For more than a decade, Ricky Martin watched his popularity escalate around the world, even as he remained under the radar of state-side audiences. And then...

More than a billion television viewers in 187 countries across the globe felt the full force of Rickymania when he performed "The Cup of Life" at the 41st Annual Grammy Awards ceremonies in February 1999. Ricky's single, "La Copa de la

Vida," was the official song of the World Cup France '98 and has been a #1 single in more than 30 countries. That same night, Ricky's full-length Latin recording "Vuelve" won the Grammy for Best Latin Pop Performance.

In April 1999, when the true first week's sales (280,000) were tallied on Ricky's "Livin' La Vida Loca," the blockbuster single shot to #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and became the single with the highest #1 sales figures in Columbia Records history and the highest single week's sales figures in 1999. Ricky Martin became the first solo Latin male artist of the SoundScan era to hit #1 on the Hot 100 and the first male artist to have the #1 single on the Hot 100 in more than a year. "Livin' La Vida Loca" had the highest single week's sales figures of any single released in 1999. "Livin' La Vida Loca" became the #1 single in five international markets including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, and Ireland.

Ricky Martin has kept extremely busy since the release of the album's English language debut. As his "Livin' La Vida Loca" became the party anthem of the new millennium (winning two MTV Video Music Awards — Best Dance Video & Best Pop Video in the process), Martin

embarked on one of the best-selling tours in modern concert history, selling out more than 250 concerts in some 25 countries.

When dates for Ricky Martin's anxiously-awaited American tour were announced, each of the venues sold-out within an hour (in some cases, within minutes!) of going on sale. Due to an unprecedented demand for tickets, 11 new dates were added to Ricky's SRO tour itinerary. By tour's end, Ricky Martin had performed to more than 500,000 people across the country and sold some \$22.6 million dollars worth of tickets. A Ricky Martin performance at London's Hyde Park drew more than 100,000 fans.

Throughout his career, Ricky

Martin has remained true to his Puerto Rican roots and the Hispanic/Latino fanbase that first made him a star.

A peerless musical ambassador (who's also fluent in five languages!), Ricky has introduced Latin Pop music to markets around the world including the United States, England, Japan, China, Germany, and many others. He continues to perform and record in Spanish and often visits his native Puerto Rico.

At his appearance at the first annual Latin Grammy Awards, Ricky acknowledged the enormous cultural and musical contributions of the legendary Tito Puente, the master of mambo who passed away this year.

**"CARNAVAL 2000"****with the Balé Folclórico da Bahia****Wednesday, December 6, 2000 at 7:30 pm***Oregon Symphony does not perform.*

Spice up your holidays with "Carnaval 2000," a non-stop extravaganza of Afro-Brazilian music, song and dance by the 32 member troupe Balé Folclórico da Bahia.

Tickets start at \$15*"Exuberant, indefatigable and virtuosic, the dancers, singers and drummers... exploded with the Afro-Brazilian rhythms that are its special heritage."*— *The New York Times**"...a medley of carnival songs spilled over across the floodlights and got the audience up and dancing in the aisles. It was a big, loud, sweaty and rambunctious finale...!"* — *The San Francisco Chronicle***Call 503-228-1353**

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