

Focus

Run-DMC Top of Hip-Hop

Group helped take rap mainstream during the 80s

(AP) — The pioneering rap group Run-DMC tops VH1's list of the 50 greatest hip-hop acts, which includes Tupac Shakur, Nelly, Sean "P. Diddy" Combs and MC Hammer.

Run-DMC's Darryl McDaniels said he's humbled by the music channel's choice.

"What Run-DMC always

wanted to do," McDaniels said Wednesday, "was represent hip-hop the way it should be represented."

Rounding out the top 10 is Public Enemy, Shakur, the Notorious B.I.G., LL Cool J, Eminem, Dr. Dre, Grandmaster Flash, Salt-N-Pepa and Jay-Z.

McDaniels said if he were compiling the list, Public Enemy would be No. 1 because the politically charged group "said something with (rap). A lot of these cats now coming into the business, they are about show business."

He said he also would have

put fellow old-school rappers Slick Rick and Doug E. Fresh near the top, although they didn't make the list at all.

Run-DMC - McDaniels, Joseph "Run" Simmons and DJ Jam Master Jay, or Jason Mizell - helped take rap mainstream with multiplatinum records and hits including "It's Tricky," and "Walk This Way" with Aerosmith in the 1980s.

Mizell, 36, was shot to death in his Queens, N.Y., recording studio in October. His killing remains unsolved. McDaniels said: "We'll try to, in the remembrance of Jam Master Jay and everybody before us ... keep it real."

Other acts who made the list include The Roots, Lil' Kim, the Beastie Boys, Ja Rule, Afrika Bambaataa, De La Soul, Missy Elliott and Queen Latifah.

What Run-DMC always wanted to do was represent hip-hop the way it should be represented.

—Run-DMC's Darryl McDaniels



Hip-hop pioneers RUN-DMC create handprints in cement as they are inducted into Hollywood's RockWalk on Feb. 25, 2002, in Los Angeles. Jason "Jam Master Jay" Mizell, left, Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, center, and Joseph "DJ Run" Simmons produced the first rap album to go gold as well as the first rap act nominated for a Grammy. (AP photo)

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Braxton to star in Disney's 'Aida'

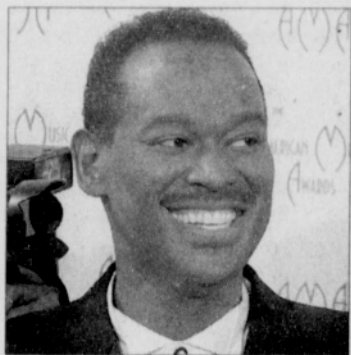
(AP) — Toni Braxton is graduating from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" to "Aida."

The sultry-voiced singer will join the cast of "Aida," the long-running, Disney-produced Broadway musical June 30 for a limited four-month engagement. Braxton, whose hits include "Breathe Again," "Un-Break My Heart" and "He Wasn't Man Enough," previously starred as Belle in the Broadway edition of "Beauty and the Beast" in 1998.

"Aida," which has a score by Elton John and Tim Rice, opened at Broadway's Palace Theatre in March 2000. Set in ancient Egypt, it tells the love story of the Nubian princess Aida, sold into slavery, and her love for a handsome soldier, Radames.



Singer Toni Braxton will take a role in the Disney-produced musical "Aida," which tells the ancient Egyptian story of a Nubian princess in love with a handsome soldier.



Singer Vandross Has Stroke

Singer Luther Vandross, seen backstage at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles, suffered a stroke last Wednesday. Vandross, who turned 52 on Sunday, suffered the stroke last Wednesday at his Manhattan home, said Lois Najarian, a spokeswoman at his record label, J Records. Najarian said the singer had been in good health and recently completed work on a new album. (AP Photo)

Flora Purim, Stan Bock Ensemble, Wayne Shorter

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

at the Portland Daycare next to Disjecta. The event is open to all ages. Tickets cost \$5 through \$7.

The Art of Thelma Johnson Street Through July 6
Out of viewing for almost 40 years, Johnson's art displays once more at the Portland Art Museum. Johnson, an African American artist who grew up in the Northwest focuses her art on the world's multiple cultures. The exhibit takes place at the Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park, on the third floor in the Northwest Artist Gallery area. For more information, call 503-226-2811

The Old Master Painter, Through May 3
A meld of dance and opera, the play visits a prodigy's attempt to create an art masterpiece. Dancing vegetables, bandits and prophetic elephants lend to the plays telling of the prodigy and his process. The Hand 2 Mouth Theatre production will take place at the Masonic Temple Ballroom, located at 6401 SE Foster Road at Holgate. Shows begin 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights beginning April 17 and ending May 3. Tickets are \$10 by calling 503-235-5284.

Handler, Through May 4
Snakes, cults and redemption comprise Robert Schenkkan's play centering on a snake-handling group of southerners. Shows at the Firehouse Theatre, 1436 S.W. Montgomery, begin Friday, April 18 at 8 p.m. The play also shows Thursday, April 24 through Sunday, April 27 and Thursday, May 1 through Sunday, May 4 with matinee shows on Sundays at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$18 for matinee performances and \$20 for general admission evening shows. Students and seniors receive \$2 off general admission and groups of 10 or more pay \$15. For more information or to purchase tickets in advance, call 503-274-1717.

Talisman Gallery's April Show, April 24-May 25
Painters Miriam Badyrka and Allen Schmetzler will be featured at the Talisman Gallery, 1476 NE Alberta St, April 24 through May 25. Badyrka's work incorporates artistic patterns of different cultures and periods from around the world. Schmetzler creates political art combining painting, caricaturing and expressionism for the purpose of bringing political art to the public. There will be a Last Thursday artists' reception on Thursday, April 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The gallery is open Thursdays and Fridays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Rob Scheps Big Band, April 27
Performing once a month beginning Sunday, April 27, this big band has multiple saxophone, trombone and trumpet players plus piano, tuba, bass and drums. Shows start at 9 p.m. and run to 12:30 a.m.

People of the Columbia River Basin, April 29-May 20
This four-film session narrows in on cultures and rights of minorities in the Columbia River Basin. Documentaries vary from a single black mother's attempt to improve a neighborhood to a movie about an Asian-Indian family torn between their new world and their traditional old world. Documentaries show Tuesdays at 7 p.m., at Kiggin's Theater, 1011 Main St., in Vancouver. "Local Color" will show on April 29, "Northeast Passage" on May 6, "Turbans" on May 13 and "American Gypsy" on May 20. For more information, call the Center for Columbia River History 360-258-3289.

The Magic Matrix, April 30
Magic, mayhem and mystery will pepper an evening of entertainment and dinner at Billy Reed's, 2808 NE MLK Blvd., on Wednesday, April 30. The main show from 6 p.m. through 9 p.m., is an all ages event with magic and dinner. Act two is a children's sideshow with juggling acts and a magic Mother Goose from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A late night show of magic and drinks for adults only begins at 9 p.m. For more information, call 503-493-8127 or online www.billyreeds.com.

Pinocchio, April 30 and May 1
Adapted from Carol Collodi's Pinocchio stories, the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center's "Pinocchio" will entertain with puppets, audience interaction and original song scores. The play is geared for ages preschool through third grade. The puppetry takes place at the IFCC, 5340 N Interstate Ave., with matinees scheduled for Wednesday, April 30 and Thursday, May 1. Doors open at 9 a.m. with a curtain at 9:45 a.m. Tickets are \$5 per person. For more information, call 503-823-4322.

The Jefferson Dancers, April 30 through May 3
Tap, jazz-funk, Bach, Mozart and an excerpt from "Passion" will fill the dance companies' concert chalk full of steps and tunes new and old for all ages. The concerts will take place at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, Newmark Theater, SW Broadway and Main. Concerts are Wednesday, April 30, May 1 through Friday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee on May 3 at 2 p.m. Tickets priced \$10.50, \$14.50 and \$16.50, available through Ticketmaster, 503-224-4400 or online www.ticketmaster.com.

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