

# Focus

## 50 Cent Steals the Show at Mega Hip-Hop Concert

Other artists like Lil' Kim were booted off the stage

(AP) — When 50 Cent's album debuted to record-breaking sales earlier this year, the rapper joked that mentor Eminem - rap's reigning sales king - was getting a little worried about his own status.

"He told me, 'Be easy money, you're up on my heels,'" laughed 50 Cent, whose debut album, "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," is the year's best-selling disc with almost 5 million copies sold. "I've got his mojo right now."

That couldn't have been more clear last Tuesday night, at arguably the largest rap concert of the year. The 10th anniversary of Summer Jam, sponsored by New York City radio station Hot 97, drew 60,000 fans to Giants Stadium.

Despite a bill that featured some of the biggest names in hip-hop,



Lil' Kim (left) performs during the 10th anniversary celebration of radio station WQHT's summer jam at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. on Tuesday. During her performance the crowd of Fifty Cent Fans shouted, "Bring on 50!" The summer jam, which drew a crowd of 60,000, also featured hip-hop rappers The Clipse, Fabolous, Nas, Busta Rhymes, Nelly, Sean Paul and Eminem (AP Photo)



50 Cent

Nelly, Busta Rhymes, P. Diddy, Nas and Lil' Kim, it was clear that 50 Cent was the star of the show, whipping the rain-soaked crowd into a frenzy as he paraded around stage in a bulletproof vest, with a posse of almost 50 in tow.

And when 50 Cent's performance was over, so, for many of the crowd, was the concert - despite the fact that Eminem was performing onstage. While there were still thousands of fans bopping their heads as the Oscar-winner performed hits like "Without Me," a stream of people headed to-

ward the exits. "The show is over, the whole audience is gone," said Chris Fox - with a bit of exaggeration - as he walked toward the exit.

"50 Cent is just off the hook," said Natasha Johnson. "(I'm leaving) because I don't think 50 is coming back."

In an interview with The Associated Press earlier this year, rapper Fat Joe said one of the main reasons 50 Cent has become so popular much is because he's a fresh face on a familiar rap scene.

"We all reach our peak, and hip-hop is youthful music," he said. "I think the reason why 50 Cent has blown up as big as he is because it's about time. People needed someone new."

But his gangsta lifestyle and raw charisma are also a major part of his popularity. Few on the bill at Summer Jam were able to get the crowd excited for any extended period of time; Some in the audience shouted "Bring on 50!" when Lil' Kim - silicone breasts almost popping out of her flimsy top - gave her lackluster performance.

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

IFCC June Artists

Visual artists, Bonnie Meltzer and Becca Bernstein are this month's Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center artists. Meltzer's work focuses on native icons of the Northwest. Bernstein's work is a series of textural paintings centering on the relationship between mothers and daughters. Simultaneously, both artists' exhibits begin June 5 with an opening from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The exhibits run through June 27 with a late reception June 26 at 7:30 p.m. The IFCC is located at 5340 N Interstate. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. through 6 p.m., Saturdays 12 p.m. through 4 p.m. No admission is charged, but donations appreciated. For more information, call 503-823-2072, 503-823-2071 or online: [www.ifcc-arts.org](http://www.ifcc-arts.org), [gallery@ifcc-arts.org](mailto:gallery@ifcc-arts.org).

Fashion Show: "From Hallways to Runways", June 14

The Art Institute of Portland presents "From Hallways to Runways" Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Smith Memorial Grand Ballroom, 1825 SW Broadway. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the show starts 7 p.m. The fashion show presents Art Institute students of Apparel Design's work to the public. General admission tickets are \$20, student tickets -with valid student identification- are \$15 and patron tickets are \$30 and front row seating is available. Proceeds benefit local-independent designers. Tickets are available by phone at 503-228-6528 or 1-888-228-6528.

Joel Preston Smith: "Portraits of Daily Life in Iraq" Lecture, June 11

Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N Interstate Ave., presents "Portraits of Daily Life in Iraq" Wednesday, June 11 in the IFCC theatre at 7:30 p.m. Smith discusses experiences in Iraq as a free-lance journalist for two months. Smith documented the lives of Iraqis living under the threat of war. General admission pricing is \$10, student and senior pricing is \$5. Ticket purchases are available by calling 503-823-4322.

African Film Festival's Listings for June 12

Throughout the month of June, The Film Center presents films from the African Film Festival. "100 Days" and "Mangwana" comprise the second day of films Thursday, June 12 beginning 7 p.m. at the Whitsell Auditorium, 1219 SW Park. General admission tickets cost \$6.50. Member, student and senior tickets cost \$5.50. The first film, "100 Days" centers on a young-Tutsi girl's family struggle to survive the Rwandan genocide. The film uses a church for the story's main setting - a church, which witnessed a genocide massacre. The evening's second film "Mangwa" is a film about a car crash and a chance encounter. The filming took place in Zimbabwe and the UK.

Children's African Dance Troupe: "Kukátónón", June 13

The dance troupe promises a celebration of energy, Friday, June 13 at 7 p.m., with leaps and spins to Djembe drums. Support of the event contributes to sustaining the after-school dance troupe through the 2003 and 2004 school year. The dance takes place at the SEI Auditorium, 3920 N Kerby Ave. Tickets for adults cost \$12.50 and tickets for children under 12 cost \$6.50. Call before the event for ticket information to 503-916-6282. Tickets are also available at the door.

African Film Festival's Listings for June 19

Throughout the month of June, The Film Center presents films from the African Film Festival. "Bronx-Barbes" and "The Father" complete the final day of films Thursday, June 19 beginning 7:30 p.m. at the Guild Theatre, 829 SW 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. Admission tickets cost \$6.50. Member, student and senior tickets cost \$5.50. The first film, "Bronx-Barbes" follows two accidental-murdering adolescent boys' adventures through an African shantytown where African gangs imitate New York Bronx gangs. The motion picture was filmed on the Ivory Coast. The evening's second film "The Father" is a film about an artist sheltering friends in Ethiopia during the 1974 Derg period. All locations were filmed in Ethiopia.

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